

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)

Grant Recipient: Kachemak Ski Club

Project Title:

Kachemak Ski Club - Olshon Mountain Ski Hill Improvements

House District: 35

Funding Amount: \$ 87,000

Brief Summary:

The Ohlson Mountain Ski Hill has been in operation since the 1950's and is in dire need of some basic capital improvements for the safety and functionality of this historic facility.

Funding Plan:

Type of Need: One-Time Need

Prior Funding to Date:

Local fundraising efforts: \$2,557 2006
 Youth Advisory Committee: \$1,500 2006
 Homer Foundation Grant: \$2,000 2006
 Homer Electric Association Grant: \$1,200 2006
 In kind Contributions (corporate and individual): \$10,590 2006

Other Funding Requests:

None

Project Description:

This project will preserve and upgrade a historic public recreational treasure on the Kenai Peninsula – the Ohlson Mountain ski facility. The Kachemak Ski Club, an all-volunteer non-profit organization, requests financial assistance to repair and replace equipment and improve access to the ski area which first began operation in the 1950s.

Local fisherman and homesteaders founded KSC in 1948, making it perhaps the oldest operational nonprofit in the Homer area. The Ohlson Mountain ski facility –“the westernmost ski resort in North America” – was originally established by families to meet school requirements for physical education. Since its inception, KSC has provided thousands of lower Kenai Peninsula youths, adults, and families with unique downhill skiing (and more recently snowboarding) opportunities through its 800 foot long tow rope. In addition to the tow rope, the facility includes a small lodge/warming hut and outhouse facilities. The KSC operates the Ohlson Mountain facility every Sunday during the winter months, conditions permitting. The ski area is the only facility offering downhill skiing and snowboarding in South central Alaska other than the Alyeska resort in Girdwood.

The ski area has weathered decades of harsh weather conditions and deterioration has reached the point where unless

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equipment is repaired or replaced very soon, the community will lose this historic facility.

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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