

**Snowmobile Trail Development and Program Grants****FY2010 Request: \$250,000****Reference No: 33690****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Parks / Recreation**Category:** Natural Resources**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Leta Simons**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)465-3379**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2009 - 06/30/2014**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Snowmobiling is one of Alaska's fastest growing outdoor recreation activities. Funds are needed to develop and maintain trails and trailheads to provide for safe riding opportunities and to educate riders about safety concerns. Funds for this program are provided by snowmobile registration fees paid by Alaskans. Funds are distributed in the form of matching grants for trail and trailhead development and maintenance, safety education, and trail identification. Grants are to organizations, businesses, agencies, local governments, and individuals.

<b>Funding:</b>	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	Total
VehRcpts	\$250,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$5,250,000
<b>Total:</b>	\$250,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$5,250,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

**Operating & Maintenance Costs:**

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
<u>One-Time Startup:</u>	0	
<b>Totals:</b>	0	0

**Additional Information / Prior Funding History:**

SLA2008/CH29	\$200,000	Grants are being awarded
SLA2007/CH30	\$200,000	Complete
SLA2006/CH82	\$200,000	Complete
SLA2005/CH3	\$200,000	Complete
SLA2004/CH159	\$200,000	Complete

**Project Description/Justification:**

This project provides pass-through funds to agencies and individuals for snowmobile trail and trailhead development, as well as safety education programs. It is funded through snowmobile registration receipts. Grant decisions are made in consultation with the Snowmobile Trails Advisory Committee (SnowTRAC), a citizen committee appointed by the Director of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation to assist in determining and selecting projects for funding.

Snowmobile users benefit from the registration fees they pay on their snowmobiles by having marked and maintained snowmobile trails, which provide safety benefits to riders. Alaskans die in snowmobile accidents at twice the rate of people in other states. This is in part due to the lack of signed and maintained trails.

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This project also has the potential of reducing search and rescue costs by reducing the chances of snowmobilers getting lost. Trespass is also reduced if snowmobilers have marked and maintained trails. Because this is a matching grant program, grantees provide cash, labor and equipment to match at least 25 percent of state provided grant funds, effectively stretching state funds. Anchorage Economic Development Corporation estimates that snowmobile sales and activity in Alaska results in approximately \$54 million in annual private sector expenditures.

It is anticipated that snowmobile registration fees will increase in subsequent years, at the request of the snowmobilers, to provide increased trail and education services through this grant program and cover increasing costs.

**Why is this Project Needed Now?**

Many of Alaska's snowmobile trails need to be groomed on a weekly basis to ensure the safety of riders. The grant program provides an opportunity to groom these trails and reserve existing recreational access throughout the state.

**Specific Spending Detail:**

One hundred percent of the requested funds will be spent as follows: 69% for direct grants to develop and maintain snowmobile trails; 17% for safety and education programs; and 14% for grant administration and support of the statewide Snowmobile Trails Advisory Committee

LINE ITEM	DOLLAR AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION (text)
Personal Services	\$ 30,000	State grant personnel
Travel	\$ 5,000	
Grants	\$ 215,000	Grants to federal and local governments and non profit agencies.

2008 Snowmobile Grants		
Grantee	Project Name	Grant Amount
GP Northern	Grooming Pool	\$ 37,000
GP Chugach	Grooming Pool	\$ 25,000
GP Matsu	Grooming Pool	\$ 105,000
GP Southwest	Grooming Pool	\$ 6,000
GP Southeast	Grooming Pool	\$ 2,000
GP - Kenai	Grooming Pool	\$ 25,000
Iron Dog, Inc	Tesoro Iron Dog Safety Inspection Festival	\$ 8,306
Mat-Su State Parks	Snowmobile Trail Sign Distribution	\$ 10,000
Willow Trail Committee	Willow Winter Trail	\$ 14,350

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	Maintenance	
Montana Creek Trail Grooming	Montana Creek Motor Musers	\$ 11,250
North America Outdoor Institute	Be Snow Smart – Hands-on Training	\$ 15,000
<b>Total Snowmobile Grants</b>		<b>\$ \$258,906</b>

**Project Support:**

Alaska State Snowmobile Association; Alaska Snowmobile Representatives Alliance; Anchorage Economic Development Corporation; Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau; Alaska Travel Industry Alliance; local snowmobile organizations and dealers; Division of Motor Vehicles.