

Cooperative Resource Program**FY2010 Request: \$455,000****Reference No: 47021****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Equipment / Commodities**Category:** Natural Resources**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Kerry Howard**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)465-3176**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2009 - 06/30/2014**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This project allows the Department of Fish and Game to accept funds from the private sector, and local governments and to pass those funds through to U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as part of a funding agreement for cooperative water resource programs. Industry and local government often requests and pays for the USGS and NRCS to install and operate equipment to obtain hydrologic data. The information is necessary for resource development and for permitting projects such as mining, hydroelectric, or public water supply. If gaging funding is passed through a state agency, the funds can be matched up to 100% by the federal government.

Funding:	<u>FY2010</u>	<u>FY2011</u>	<u>FY2012</u>	<u>FY2013</u>	<u>FY2014</u>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>Total</u>
Stat Desig	\$455,000	\$455,000	\$460,000	\$460,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$2,830,000
Total:	\$455,000	\$455,000	\$460,000	\$460,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$2,830,000

<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
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

Note: This project was previously shared with DNR Mining Land and Water while Habitat was in DNR

SLA08/CH29 \$300.0 Ongoing
 SLA07/CH30 \$545.0 Completed
 SLA06/CH82 \$501.0 Completed
 SLA05/CH03 \$501.0 Completed

Project Description/Justification:

Funding for this program will come from state and local governments, native associations, and the private sector. In many cases stream gaging is required under federal law for a development project. This program allows the funds used for gaging to be matched by the federal government, reducing the cost to state, local government and the private sector. Because the gaging is done by a federal agency, the program and funding must interface with the federal fiscal year. No new positions will be required. The USGS and NRCS require a state partner for this program to continue in Alaska, a role served by the Department of Fish and Game. The funds passed through to USGS and NRCS must

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be received and spent in the same federal fiscal year. This program requires no general funds now or in the future.

The Department of Fish and Game, Division of Habitat (Habitat) has a longstanding and beneficial relationship with the USGS and NRCS. The continuation of this program would benefit the state, local governments, native associations and the private sector by allowing them to participate with the state, USGS and NRCS with matching funds provided by the cooperative program. If the program is not approved the developers cost of gaging for existing or new projects where USGS and NRCS gaging is required, will be much higher since the federal matching funds would not be available. There are currently 24 major stream gages and three meteroburst telemetry stations funded through this program. Projects currently included in this statewide program are: Teck-Cominco Red Dog Mine; Pebble Mine Corporation; Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.; Teck Pogo, Inc.; Dorothy Creek Hydro, SE Alaska Greens Creek Mining, SE Alaska; Falls Creek Hydro, Gustavus; Soule River, Hyder; and the 4 Dam Pool hydroelectric projects. Each of these projects accomodate multiple gaging stations. In addition, there are over 17 proposed hydroelectric project sites for which gaging will be required within the next five years. This program has the potential of saving developers and the state hundreds of thousands of dollars, at a minimal cost to the State of Alaska.

Why is this Project Needed Now?

This project is needed in order to participate in the USGS and NRCS cooperative water resource programs and to provide data necessary for Habitat to continue monitoring studies which enables state and federal agencies to understand and manage effects of mining and/or other development activities on aquatic communities and to permit and report on these activities. If authority to accept funds for pass through purposes to USGS and NRCS is not approved, many current and future resource development projects involved with this program would have to bear the burden of funding the gaging at full cost.

LINE ITEM	DOLLAR AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
Services	\$455,000	Pass through funds to USGS and NRCS for hydrologic data collection.

Project Support: State agencies; USGS; NRCS; Environmental Protection Agency; Teck-Cominco, Inc.; Pebble Mine Corporation; Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.; Teck Pogo, Inc.; Kennecott Greens Creek Mining Co.; Lake Dorothy Hydro, Inc.; Alaska Electric Light & Power Co.; 4 Dam Pool Agency; Chugach Electric, Inc.; other resource developers and environmental groups.

Project Opposition: None