

**Public Access and User Facilities Improvements at the Mouth of the Kasilof River Phase 2**

**FY2015 Request: \$1,400,000**  
**Reference No: 51197**

**AP/AL:** Appropriation

**Project Type:** Renewal and Replacement

**Category:** Natural Resources

**Location:** Kasilof

**House District:** Homer/South Kenai (HD 30)

**Impact House District:** Kenai Areawide (HD 28-30)

**Contact:** Jean Davis

**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2014 - 06/30/2019

**Contact Phone:** (907)465-2422

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This project addresses urgent problems needing immediate attention where the Kasilof River flows into the Cook Inlet. Unstructured access and parking, camping, and a lack of solid and human waste facilities have resulted in serious environmental, social, and natural resource impacts. Additionally, public safety, emergency, and law enforcement services are hindered. The impacts being addressed result from the highly popular personal use fisheries. The number of Alaskans participating in this unique program continues to grow annually resulting in ever increasing impacts to the area's natural resources.

<b>Funding:</b>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>	<u>FY2017</u>	<u>FY2018</u>	<u>FY2019</u>	<u>FY2020</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gen Fund	\$1,400,000						\$1,400,000
<b>Total:</b>	\$1,400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,400,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input 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:	50,000	1
One-Time Startup:	0	
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>1</b>

**Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**

Sec1 Ch16 SLA2013 P72 L15 SB 18 \$1,400,000

**Project Description/Justification:**

**What is the issue or problem to be solved?**

Intense human use of this area has created unforeseen consequences and impacts to the environment that are socially unacceptable. These include: degradation of sensitive coastal dunes and wetlands; insufficient sanitation facilities; unimproved parking and camping areas; water quality degradation; insufficient access for emergency and sanitation services; and trespass onto private property.

This capital project will help to address public health and safety issues while protecting the affected resources from continued impacts. The negative impacts described above were brought to the attention of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by community members, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and a variety of interest groups. Most of the requests to DNR are to implement a proactive land management approach in order to address these ever increasing impacts.

**What is the scope of the project to be performed?**

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Phase one of this project was funded in FY2014 and creates access and parking facilities on both the north and south sides of the Kasilof River near the river mouth to alleviate congestion, improve safety, and provide sanitation facilities. Phase two of this project will create additional parking, pedestrian and motorized access routes, and a camping area.

**Phase 1 improvements funded in FY2014 include:**

- Developed parking area for 120 vehicles.
- Designated drop-off and turn around areas.
- Two double-vaulted toilets within the designated parking areas.
- Staging areas for portable toilets and dumpsters.
- Informational kiosks and interpretive signs.

**Phase 2 improvements include:**

- Developed parking area for 93 vehicles.
- Camping area and designated RV sites.
- Gravel loop road joining the main parking area and camping area.
- Additional staging areas for portable toilets and dumpsters.
- Maintenance and repair of the existing dune fencing.

**What results will be achieved or products produced?**

The immediate result will reverse a dangerous trend of public safety concerns. The general public will benefit by improved access, designated parking areas, and additional sanitation facilities. Public safety and emergency services will become more reliable thereby increasing overall public safety.

**Why is this project needed now – What is the impact of remaining status quo?**

The current unstructured access and parking situation at the two main access routes to the Kasilof River mouth will continue to significantly restrict public access, continue public safety concerns for emergency and law enforcement personnel, and challenge DNR's abilities to handle the increased impacts to the area's natural resources. Unimproved access will perpetuate trespass by the general public onto surrounding private lands for parking and camping purposes elevating animosity between locals and personal use fishery participants. This undesirable situation will continue if not managed to accommodate the approximate 10,000 users that enjoy this area each year.

**Specific Spending Detail:**

LINE ITEM	DOLLAR AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
Personal Services	\$ 25,000	Project Manager Costs
Travel	\$ 20,000	Airfare, Lodging, Vehicle Use, Gas
Services	\$ 430,000	Design/Engineering, Construction
Commodities	\$ 25,000	Operations/Maintenance Support
Capital Outlay	\$ 900,000	Physical Improvements
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$1,400,000</b>	

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**Personal Services Detail:**

Number of new position(s) :  Type of Position(s): PFT   NP  NP  
Number of existing position(s):  Type of Position(s): PFT   NP  NP

(10-1574) Natural Resource Manager III, Anchorage  
(10-1375) Natural Resource Manager II, Anchorage  
(10-1816) Natural Resource Specialist II, Anchorage  
A new part-time PCN will be included in the FY2016 budget request for this project to provide on-site staff support and management of the new facilities.