

National Recreational Trails Federal Program

FY2001 Request: \$710,000
Reference No: 6854

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Development

Project Type: Construction

Location: Statewide

Contact: Nico Bus

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact Phone: (907)465-2406

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2000 - 06/30/2003

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Funds will be distributed in the form of 80-20 matching grants for recreational trail and trailhead development and maintenance, and for education programs relating to trail safety and environmental protection. Grants are awarded to organizations, businesses, agencies, and local governments. Grant applications are advertised statewide in the Fall and awards made to successful applicants in February.

Funding:	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$710,000	\$710,000	\$710,000	\$710,000	\$710,000	\$710,000	\$4,260,000
Total:	\$710,000	\$710,000	\$710,000	\$710,000	\$710,000	\$710,000	\$4,260,000

<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:

The first recreational trails grant funds, originally called Symms Grants, were available in 1993 through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. Alaska received \$110,000. The program has subsequently been funded in slowly increasing amounts each year from 1996 to the present. Applications for 2000 grants are currently being evaluated and grants will be made in February, 2000 to successful grantees.

Project Description/Justification:

Description of Work to be done: Matching grants will be given for development and maintenance of recreational trails and for development of educational programs relating to trail safety and environmental protection.

Project Benefits: State funds are saved by the availability of these federal grant funds for development and maintenance of Alaska's public recreational trails. Public safety is improved by having well maintained trails. Trespass is reduced by securing trail easements with grant funds and by having well marked and maintained trails that are easy to follow.

Economic Development: Because this is a matching grant program, grantees provide cash, labor and equipment to match at least 20 percent of grant funds, effectively stretching state funds. Public recreational trails contribute to Alaska's economy by providing construction and maintenance jobs, attracting tourists and visitors, and by stimulating the business of outfitters, guides and tour companies.

Projected Revenue to the State: With approximately \$700,000 available to the state in federal matching grant funds, at least \$250,000 in matching funds are raised and donated by grantees toward the improvement of public trails. The Department of Natural Resources receives 7%, or approximately \$50,000 of the total federal receipts for administration of

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the Recreational Trails Program.

Project Support: This program receives between 50 and 60 applications each year from communities across Alaska. Approximately 25 grants are given each year. Every community and organization receiving a Recreational Trails Grant benefits and supports this program.

Project Opposition: None

Specific Spending Detail: One hundred percent of the grant amount will be spent as follows: 7% for program administration; 5% for education; and of the remainder, 30% is available for non-motorized trail projects, 30% for motorized trail projects, and 40 percent for projects with both motorized and non-motorized trail uses.

Does this project leverage other funding for the state? Yes. Grantees are required to provide a minimum of 20% match. The actual match often reaches 50%.

Alternative Approaches/Financing Considered: The state's Snowmobile Trail grant program provides limited funding for trails, but it is specifically for snowmobile trails. Limited funds are available through the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities for trail staking in the Bush which benefits rural Alaska only. Public agencies and local governments provide some very limited funding for recreational trail development and maintenance within their jurisdictions as priorities allow, but outside their jurisdictions, limited or no funding is available for the development and maintenance of recreational trails.