

Emergency Title Defense-Prince William Sound**FY2002 Request: \$120,000****Reference No: 33970****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Planning**Category:** Development**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Bob Loeffler**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)269-8600**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2001 - 06/30/2002**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

BLM indicates that in the next year they will finish federal conveyances in Prince William Sound without recognizing many thousands of acres of state-owned tidelands that were pushed up during the 1964 earthquake. This CIP provides funds to contract for surveyors to comprehensively determine from air photos the state lands that were uplifted in Prince William Sound. This will provide the state the information needed to require that BLM recognizes the state's entitlement in its conveyances. Without it, thousands of acres in the Copper River Delta and elsewhere in the Sound will be forever lost to the state.

| Funding: | <u>FY2002</u> | <u>FY2003</u> | <u>FY2004</u> | <u>FY2005</u> | <u>FY2006</u> | <u>FY2007</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Gen Fund | \$120,000 | | | | | | \$120,000 |
| Total: | \$120,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$120,000 |

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|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project | <input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new | <input 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: | 0 | 0 |
| One-Time Startup: | 0 | 0 |
| Totals: | 0 | 0 |

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

This is a new project request.

Project Description/Justification:

Native Corporations are pressuring BLM to convey title to their ANCSA selections. BLM has indicated that in the next year they will begin issuing federal conveyances based on surveys that erroneously ignore state-owned uplifted tidelands. The passage of time has destroyed much of the physical evidence of where the upland boundary was at the time of the earthquake. This project will allow DNR to enter into a professional services contract for the acquisition of historical aerial photography and mapping to research and identify areas of uplift. DNR can then provide BLM with the evidence necessary to correct the federal surveys so that state ownership rights and title are protected. Without this project, thousands of acres of state land will be conveyed away and the only recourse will be to protect state title through title recovery by costly and lengthy litigation.

Specific Spending Detail:

| | |
|--|---------|
| Purchase historical aerial photography | \$20.0 |
| Professional Services Contract | \$100.0 |

Project Benefits: The state will not have to defend its title to erroneously conveyed uplifted tidelands. This long standing issue will be fully and finally resolved.

Project Support: BLM, Chugach Alaska, Inc. and ADF&G

Project Opposition: None known.

Does this project leverage other funding for the state?

No direct funding for the state but with the project BLM will commit resources to participate in the solution.

Project History:

No specific appropriations have occurred to resolve this problem but some operating budget resources annually have been committed on an ad hoc basis as problems arise.