

Wildlife Habitat Management in Interior Alaska

FY2002 Request: \$100,000

Reference No: 33994

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Renewal and Replacement

Category: Natural Resources

Location: Fairbanks Areawide

Contact: Wayne Regelin

House District: Fairbanks Areawide (HD 29-34)

Contact Phone: (907)465-4190

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2001 - 06/30/2006

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Improve habitat quality for wildlife through the use of prescribed fires, felling of mature aspen and birch groves, and thinning of trees in mature forest to promote re-vegetation. Past wildland fire suppression efforts, current fire protection needs near valuable properties, and relatively modest timber harvests have resulted in reduced amounts and distribution of early to mid-growth forest which are essential components of diverse productive wildlife habitats. Projects using these habitat enhancement activities have been conducted and/or planned for Thomas Bay (north of Petersburg), Trapper Creek (Palmer area), Tanana Flats (Fairbanks area), and Nenana Ridge (ruffed grouse project).

Funding:	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	Total
Fish/Game	\$100,000						\$100,000
Total:	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000

<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	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

Work under this CIP will continue habitat enhancement work begun under the Demonstration Project/Post-Logging Revegetation and Wildlife Enhancement CIP \$600.0 authorized under SLA96/CHP123/PG52/LN35. Projects completed to date under this CIP include habitat management to benefit primarily moose, grouse, and bison in Southeast, Southcentral, and Interior Alaska. On-going projects will consume all remaining funds in the SLA96 appropriation.

Project Description/Justification:

Funds requested under this CIP will support habitat management projects and experiments in boreal forest ecosystems in Interior and Southcentral Alaska. The objective of these projects is to promote habitat diversity on a large geographic scale by manipulating habitat on a local scale to provide areas where earlier successional stages occur. This work is planned in areas where wildland fires, which provide this diversity naturally, have been suppressed, and is most important in areas where wildfire will continue to be suppressed for public safety. Each of these projects has specific measurable objectives to provide important forage and habitat types for certain species including grouse, moose, or bison.

The ADF&G and cooperating land managers have prepared or are currently preparing plans for five or more landscape-scale prescribed fires near Delta, Fairbanks, McGrath, Tok, and Glennallen. In the past three years we have conducted three landscape-scale prescribed fires totaling approximately 89,500 acres.

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The ADF&G will conduct mechanical crushing of old decadent willow stands to promote sprouting of new willows at sites where prescribed fire is not feasible and access for heavy equipment is logistically feasible. Mechanical crushing is conducted with a crawler tractor when the ground is frozen. To date we have conducted three willow crushing projects near Fairbanks and Tok totaling about 650 acres.

The ADF&G will treat sites recently logged primarily for white spruce in the Tanana Valley to encourage seeding and sprouting of forage species most valuable to wildlife. These treatments will include prescribe fire to burn undisturbed organic materials and debris and/or scarification with heavy equipment to disturb or remove organic materials and debris in patches to expose mineral soils. We will also plant felt-leaf willow on an experimental basis on logged sites. To date we have treated about 176 acres near Fairbanks.

The ADF&G will treat mature aspen stands with mechanical methods and prescribed fire to promote sprouting of young aspen shoots and other early succession forage plants. Treatments will include shearblading (with a blade attached to a crawler tractor) when the ground is frozen, felling with and without subsequent burning, and prescribed burning of standing aspen. To date we have treated about 536 acres near Fairbanks, Nenana, and Tok.