

**South Fork Eagle River Trailhead Improvements**

**FY2007 Request: \$316,000**  
**Reference No: 41496**

**AP/AL:** Allocation

**Project Type:** Deferred Maintenance

**Category:** Natural Resources

**Location:** Anchorage Areawide

**Contact:** Nico Bus

**House District:** Anchorage Areawide (HD 17-32) **Contact Phone:** (907)465-2406

**Estimated Project Dates:** 03/15/2006 - 06/30/2008

**Appropriation:** Agency Wide Deferred Maintenance

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

South Fork Trailhead: The existing trailhead is unpaved and can accommodate ten autos at most. Trailhead counts have shown as many as 43 cars parked in and near the trailhead on busy weekends. A series of phone and e-mail complaints from nearby residents have indicated that neighbors are concerned about the following issues:

- 1) Uncontrolled parking on the roadway may prevent easy egress by construction vehicles, fire trucks, ambulances, and residents.
- 2) Driveways may be blocked or used as turnarounds by park visitors, causing erosion and potholes.
- 3) Roadside parking takes place on a steeply banked roadside.
- 4) Winter roadside parking is limited by snowbanks, and a consequent narrowing of the open roadway.

<b>Funding:</b>	<u>FY2007</u>	<u>FY2008</u>	<u>FY2009</u>	<u>FY2010</u>	<u>FY2011</u>	<u>FY2012</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gen Fund	\$316,000						\$316,000
<b>Total:</b>	\$316,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$316,000

<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
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Additional Information / Prior Funding History:**

This is a new project request.

**Project Description/Justification:**

Alaska Statute 41.21.020 states that one of the duties of the Department of Natural Resources is to maintain state parks and recreation areas for the general health, welfare, education, and enjoyment of Alaskans and visitors to the state. While Parks is able to do minor repairs and painting to annually maintain Park facilities, these facilities have been steadily declining. Rehabilitation of this trailhead parking site requires specific funding through the capital process.

**Why is this Project Needed Now:**

This particular trailhead is used by many different user groups. The user demographics for South Fork can be generally broken down into:

- 1) Moose hunters, usually with horse trailers. The parking lot is too small to accommodate more than one truck-trailer combination. There are usually at least six to ten hunting parties using this access per season.

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Hunters without horses usually park their trucks or SUVs on site for six to ten days. There are usually at least 20 such hunters per season.

2) Summer hikers. This access is the route to Eagle and Symphony Lakes, a premier alpine day hike or overnight. There are often 25-40 such hiking parties parked at or near the trailhead on a sunny weekend.

3) Berry pickers. Because of the quick access to the alpine terrain, this user group overlaps with summer and fall hikers. This area is rich with blueberries and crowberries.

4) Winter skiers. This demographic is similar to summer users. On sunny winter weekends, the overcrowding is similar to summertime hiking use, with at least 25-40 autos parked at or near the parking lot.

5) Alpine climbers, small game hunters, weekday hikers, and neighborhood dog walkers constitute a small but regular set of user groups.

This parking lot is in dire need of being expanded so that the various users do not trespass on private property and degrade the road.

**Specific Spending Detail:** This project will begin to address the specific maintenance and repair needs of South Fork Eagle River Area:

Type of Repair	Project Name	Description
Trails & Trailheads	Parking Lot	Upgrade and expand
Other	ADA Compliance	Modify park facilities for ADA access.
Trails & Trailheads	Vaulted Latrine	Build Double Vaulted Latrine

Repairs will be accomplished by force account using State Park maintenance staff and procured materials, and by construction contracting. Force account work is typically 50 percent labor and 50 percent materials. Construction contracting is typical 20 percent design, procurement, and contract administration and 80 percent contractual cost.

Line Item Expenditures:

Personal Services	\$ 63.2	State Park maintenance staff performing force account work and State Park development staff performing design and contract administration.
Travel	\$ 0.0	State Park staff travel for project sites that require travel.
Services	\$ 234.8	Construction contracting using small procurement procedures
Commodities	\$ 18.0	Materials for force account work.
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.0	None
	\$316.0	

**Project Support:** State Park visitors, Alaska Travel Industry Alliance, South Fork Community Council, Alaska Wilderness Recreation Tourism Association, State Park Advisory Boards, local Chambers of Commerce, recreational user groups, and highway travelers, 78.7% of the individuals surveyed statewide for the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.