

Snowmobile Trail Development and Program Grants**FY2007 Request:****\$200,000****Reference No:****33690****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Health and Safety**Category:** Transportation**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Nico Bus**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)465-2406**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2006 - 06/30/2008**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Snowmobiling is one of Alaska's fastest growing outdoor recreation activities. Funds are needed to develop and maintain trails and trailheads to provide for safe riding opportunities and to educate riders about safety concerns. Funds for this program are provided by snowmobile registration fees paid by Alaskans. Funds are distributed in the form of matching grants for trail and trailhead development and maintenance, safety education, and trail identification. Grants are to organizations, businesses, agencies, local governments, and individuals.

Funding:	<u>FY2007</u>	<u>FY2008</u>	<u>FY2009</u>	<u>FY2010</u>	<u>FY2011</u>	<u>FY2012</u>	<u>Total</u>
VehRcpts	\$200,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000		\$1,100,000
Total:	\$200,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$0	\$1,100,000

<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
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

FSSLA05/CH3 - \$200,000 (RSS)

SLA03/CH82 - \$200,000 Receipt Supported Services (RSS)

SSLA02/CH1 - \$200,000

SLA01/CH61 - \$200,000

SLA00/CH135 - \$188,800

Project Description/Justification:

These are funds paid by snowmobile registrations that were promised by both the administration and the legislature for snowmobile trail and trailhead development and safety education programs. This promise was made during the legislative discussion that led to passage of the point-of-sale snowmobile registration bill. In the five years since snowmobile registration began an average of \$179,000/year has been collected. Parks has provided these grants for five years now...this request is for the program's seventh year. Grant decisions are made with the consultation of a Snowmobile Trails Advisory Committee (SnowTRAC), a citizen committee appointed by the Park Director, to assist in determining which grants to fund.

Snowmobile users benefit from the registration fees they pay on their snowmobiles by having marked and maintained snowmobile trails. This provides safety benefits to riders. Alaskans die in snowmobile accidents at twice the rate of any other state. This is in part due to the lack of signed and maintained trails. It also has the potential of reducing search and rescue costs by reducing the chances of snowmobilers getting lost. Trespass is also reduced if snowmobilers have marked and maintained trails to stay on. Because this is a matching grant program, grantees provide cash, labor and

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equipment to match at least 25 percent of state provided grant funds, effectively stretching state funds. Anchorage Economic Development Corporation estimates that snowmobile sales and activity in Alaska results in approximately \$54 million in annual private sector expenditures.

Project Status:

The theme for FY2005 was Snowmobile Safety. In light of that the following projects were funded for a total of \$180.8:



2005 Funded Snowmobile Trails Grant	Funding Amount	Area/location
Be Snow Smart	\$15,000	Statewide
Northwest Circumnavigation Expedition	\$15,000	Interior
Willow Safe Crossing	\$6,350	Mat-Su
Northwest Arctic Borough Shelter Cabins	\$16,778	Kotzebue
On Track For Life	\$9,832	McGrath
2005 Grooming Season	\$10,755	Chugach
Big Lake Area Safer Trails	\$9,550	Mat-Su
Turnagain Snow Trails	\$15,000	Chugach/Kenai
Rescue Deployment Vehicle	\$7,500	Dillingham
Mat-Su Pilot Program	\$75,000	Mat-Su

In addition to awarding the above grants the following grants were closed out during FY2005:

Completed in 2005 Snowmobile Trail Grants	Funding Amount	Area/location
Lake Louise Recreation Trail Survey Phase II	\$15,000	Interior
Project Kids	\$15,000	Kenai Peninsula
Klehini Valley Backcountry Rescue	\$15,000	Southeast
Snowmobile Safety for Middle & High School Students in NSBSD	\$15,000	North Slope Barrow
Operation Safe Trail	\$14,286	Western - Dillingham
Avalanche Awareness & Hazard Recognition	\$15,000	Interior
Snowmobile & Avalanche Safety	\$5,996	Western – Dillingham
Petersville Rd. Trail Grooming & Signage	\$15,000	Mat-Su
Snowmobile Trail Improvements	\$9,689	Western – Dillingham
Wolf Pack Snow Machine Safety Program	\$5,250	Interior
Snowmobiles & Related Equipment	\$38,000	Western/Interior
Purchase Snowmobile	\$7,523	Mat-Su
Kroto Creek Snowmobile Trailhead Sanitation	\$9,800	Mat-Su
Youth Snow machine Safety Awareness	\$15,000	Kenai Peninsula
Dillingham Search & Rescue Team	\$4,248	Western - Dillingham

Specific Spending Detail: One hundred percent of the requested funds will be spent as follows: 69% for direct grants to develop and maintain snowmobile trails; 17% for safety and education programs; and 14% for grant administration and support of the statewide Snowmobile Trails Advisory Committee.

Line Item Detail:

Personal Services:	\$30.0
Travel:	\$2.0
Contractual Services:	\$3.0
Grants:	\$165.0

Project Support: Alaska State Snowmobile Association; Alaska Snowmobile Representatives Alliance; Anchorage Economic Development Corporation; Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau; Alaska Travel Industry Alliance; local snowmobile organizations and dealers; Division of Motor Vehicles.

Project Opposition: None