

Cooperative Water Resource Program - Office of Habitat Management & Permitting

FY2009 Request: \$300,000
Reference No: AMD 45693

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Construction

Category: Natural Resources

Location: Statewide

Contact: Leta Simons

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact Phone: (907)465-2400

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2008 - 06/30/2013

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This CIP allows DNR to accept funds from the private sector, and local governments and to pass those funds through to US Geological Survey (USGS) and US Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as part of a funding agreement for cooperative water resource programs. Industry, and local government often requests and pays for the USGS and NRCS to install and operate equipment to obtain hydrologic data. The information is necessary for resource development and for permitting projects such as mining, hydroelectric, or public water supply. If gaging funding is passed through a state agency, the funds can be matched up to 100% by the federal government.

| Funding: | FY2009 | FY2010 | FY2011 | FY2012 | FY2013 | FY2014 | Total |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Stat Desig | \$300,000 | \$300,000 | \$300,000 | \$300,000 | \$300,000 | \$300,000 | \$1,800,000 |
| Total: | \$300,000 | \$300,000 | \$300,000 | \$300,000 | \$300,000 | \$300,000 | \$1,800,000 |

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <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 checked="" 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:

Note: this project is amended to reflect the amount needed for the Division of Mining, Land and Water (MLW) separate from the Office of Habitat Management and Permitting, in anticipation of implementing the Executive Order #114 transferring Habitat to the Department of Fish and Game. This project has previously been shared by MLW and Habitat within DNR.

| | | |
|-------------|---------|-----------|
| SLA07/CH30 | \$545.0 | Ongoing |
| SLA06/CH82 | \$501.0 | Completed |
| SLA05/CH03 | \$501.0 | Completed |
| SLA04/CH159 | \$230.0 | Completed |

Project Description/Justification:

Funding of this program will come from state and local government, native associations, and the private sector. In many cases stream gaging is required under federal law for a development project. This program allows the funds used for gaging to be matched by the federal government, reducing the cost to the state, local government and the private sector. Because the gaging is done by a federal agency, the program and funding must interface with the federal fiscal year. The administration of the pass through money will require a portion of an existing administrative position. No new positions will be required. The USGS and NRCS require a state partner for this program to continue in Alaska, a role served by

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DNR. The funds passed through to USGS and NRCS must be received and spent in the same federal fiscal year. This program requires no general funds now or in the future.

The Department of Natural Resources, Office of Habitat Management & Permitting (OHMP) has a longstanding and beneficial relationship with the USGS and NRCS. The continuation of this program would benefit the state, local governments, native associations and the private sector by allowing them to participate with the state, USGS and NRCS with matching funds provided by the cooperative program. If the program is not approved the developers cost of gaging for existing or new projects where USGS and NRCS gauging is required, will be much higher since the federal matching funds would not be available. There are currently 24 major stream gages and three meteorburst telemetry stations funded through this program. Projects currently included in this statewide program are: Teck-Cominco Red Dog Mine; Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.; Teck Pogo, Inc.; Dorothy Creek Hydro, SE Alaska; Greens Creek Mining, SE Alaska; Falls Creek Hydro, Gustavus; Soule River, Hyder; and the 4 Dam Pool hydroelectric projects. Each of these projects accommodates multiple gauging stations. In addition, there are over 17 proposed hydroelectric project sites for which gaging will be required within the next five years. This program has the potential of saving developers and the state hundreds of thousands of dollars, at minimal cost to the State of Alaska.

Why is this Project Needed Now?:

This project is needed in order to participate in the USGS and NRCS cooperative water resource programs and to provide data necessary for DMLW to continue monitoring studies which enable state and federal agencies understand and manage effects of mining and/or other development activities on aquatic communities and to permit and report on these activities. If authority to accept funds for pass through purposes to USGS and NRCS is not approved, many current and future resource development projects involved with this program would have to bear the burden of funding the gaging at full cost.

Specific Spending Detail:

| <u>LINE ITEM</u> | <u>DOLLAR AMOUNT</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION (text)</u> |
|------------------|----------------------|---|
| Services | \$ 300,000 | Pass through funds to USGS and NRCS for hydrologic data collection. |

Project Support: State agencies; USGS; NRCS; Environmental Protection Agency; Teck-Cominco, Inc.; Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.; Teck Pogo, Inc.; Kennecott Greens Creek Mining Co.; Lake Dorothy Hydro, Inc.; Alaska Electric Light & Power Co.; 4 Dam Pool Agency; Chugach Electric, Inc.; other resource developers and environmental groups.

Project Opposition: None