

Plant Material Center Deferred Equipment Replacement

FY2008 Request:

\$465,000

Reference No:

45250

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Equipment

Category: Natural Resources

Location: Mat-Su Areawide

Contact: Leta Simons

House District: Matsu Areawide (HD 13-16)

Contact Phone: (907)465-2400

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2008 - 06/30/2009

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The PMC's field equipment is mostly original stock purchased at start-up in 1972. Reliability for future seasons is in question for many of the implements. OSHA requirements for safety features such as ROPS and physical guarding of moving parts were not on much of the older equipment. Safety protocols have dictated the removal from service of many of the old machines. Modern technology has drastically improved the efficiency and safety of farm equipment. Productivity needed to meet the mission would increase if downtime due to equipment failure was reduced. In some cases replacement parts are not available. Specific equipment needs are:

Combine \$200,000; 450 class dozer \$180,000; other equipment \$85,000

Funding:	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	Total
Gen Fund	\$465,000		\$100,000	\$50,000			\$615,000
Total:	\$465,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$615,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input checked="" 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:

New Project - No Prior Funding History

Project Description/Justification:

The Alaska Plant Materials Center's (PMC) primary mission is to produce high quality foundation class grass and grain seed. The facility also develops new native species cultivars and is on the forefront of invasive species control. As a production farm, the PMC relies on specialized planting, cultivating and harvest equipment. The ability to accomplish these practices depends on efficient and safe equipment. The equipment used in day-to-day farm practices is the basis of efficiency. Presently the old combine requires, on average, an annual expenditure of \$10,000 in parts and labor to keep it marginally functional through the growing and harvest season. That is one of a number of primary pieces of farm equipment the PMC relies on to meet its mandated mission. This is a 1972 combine. It has been used well beyond its intended life and technological abilities. The same can be said for the remainder of the PMC's equipment save a few items purchased with federal funds.

The act of repair becomes problematic when parts are no longer available through standard aftermarket sources and salvage yards/antique dealers become the primary suppliers for parts.

Safety also is a critical item of concern for the PMC as much of the old equipment does not meet modern standards for safety. Rollover protection and hazard shielding was not a primary concern when the PMC equipment was built. These

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are no longer appropriate for use on a state facility. The bottom line is without new equipment the PMC will not be able to do its assigned mission of producing seed, and developing new crops for Alaska industry.

Why is this Project Needed Now?:

This expenditure is needed now because the equipment that needs replaced will not last another field season.

Specific Spending Detail:

<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>DOLLAR AMOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u> <u>(text)</u>
Capital Outlay	\$ 465,000	*

- *Combine \$200,000
- 450-Class dozer with attachments \$180,000
- Shielded spray rig \$15,000
- Land Plane \$18,000
- Irrigation pump with Chemigation injector \$18,000
- Medium Tractor \$34,000

Project Support:

This project will be supported by the Alaska Seed Growers Association and other Alaska based agriculture groups.

Project Opposition:

Not known.