

National Recreational Trail Grants Federal Program

FY2010 Request: \$900,000
Reference No: 6854

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Natural Resources
Location: Statewide
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2009 - 06/30/2014

Project Type: Parks / Recreation
Contact: Leta Simons
Contact Phone: (907)465-3379

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Alaskans rely on trails for recreation, subsistence and travel between communities. These trails need maintenance to allow for safe passage. Recreational Trail Grant funding is used to ensure that trails remain open and available for the public to use. Money is distributed through the program by providing 80-20 reimbursable match funding for recreational trail construction and maintenance, as well as trailhead development. Funds are also used for educational programs relating to trail safety and environmental protection. Awards are made to non-profit organizations, governmental agencies and native corporations.

Funding:	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$900,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$7,150,000
Total:	\$900,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	\$7,150,000

<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:

SLA 2008/CH 29	\$1,500,000	8% complete
SLA2007/CH30	\$850,000	50% complete
SLA2006/CH82	\$695,000	80% complete
SLA2005/CH3	\$695,000	90% complete
SLA2004/CH159	\$695,000	95%Complete

Project Description/Justification:

As more and more residents and visitors turn to Alaska's vast trail system for recreation, subsistence and basic transportation between communities, the need for a more extensive and well-maintained trail system continues to grow. The growing population is also putting development pressure on the existing trail system and many trails are being lost as property is subdivided or sold to private owners. We can assist in slowing the loss of our existing trail system through this granting program and will sustain and improve that system as well.

State funds are saved by the availability of these federal grant funds for development and maintenance of Alaska's public recreational trails. Public safety is improved by having well maintained trails. Trespass is reduced by securing trail easements with grant funds. Search and

rescue costs are reduced by having well marked and maintained trails that are easy to follow. Because this is a matching grant program, grantees provide cash, labor and equipment to match at least 20 percent of grant funds, effectively stretching state funds. Public recreational trails contribute to Alaska's economy by providing construction and maintenance jobs, attracting tourists and visitors, and by stimulating the business of outfitters, guides and tour companies. In addition, the Recreational Trails Program ensures that:

- Grantees obtain legal access
- Projects are consistent with Federal, State and local land use plans
- Social and economic impacts are analyzed
- Archeological and historical resources are protected
- The project is analyzed for any impact on threatened or endangered species
- The project is analyzed for any impact on fish and wildlife
- The project is analyzed for its affect on wetlands, flood plains and bodies of water
- Water quality is maintained
- Hazardous waste is checked for and identified
- Air quality is checked
- The noise resulting from the project is analyzed
- There is public involvement

Why is this Project Needed Now?

Alaska's trails are gradually being lost due to community expansion and development pressure. The grant program provides an opportunity to establish new trails and reserve existing recreational access throughout the state.

Specific Spending Detail:

LINE ITEM	DOLLAR AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
Personal Services	\$ 160,000	State Trails Office
Travel	\$ 15,000	
Services	\$ 342,500	Grants (RSA's) to state agencies
Commodities	\$ 40,000	
Grants	\$342,500	Grants to federal and local governments and non profit agencies.

Match is provided by the grantees.

Project Support:

In addition to all the grantees listed above dozens of Alaska communities, agencies and trail user groups have received grants and support the program.

Some of the communities that have received grants include: Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, City of Wasilla, Native Village of Fort Yukon, City of Kotlik, City of

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Homer, City of Barrow, City of Galena, City of Cordova, City of Aleknagik and the Circle Village Council.

Some of the user groups include: Boy Scouts, Trail Mix Inc., Fairbanks Snow Travelers, Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers, Fairbanks Nordic Ski Club, Peninsula Sled Dog Racing Association, Sitka Recreational Riders, Norton Sound Sled Dog Club, Alaska Botanical Gardens and the Goldstream Valley Trail Users Assn.

State agencies receiving grants have included the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, and, within DNR, the Divisions of Parks and Mining, Land and Water.