

Wildlife Conservation Response Team**FY2010 Request: \$750,000****Reference No: 47023****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Life / Health / Safety**Category:** Natural Resources**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Doug Larsen**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)465-4190**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2009 - 06/30/2014**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This project adds teams of trained wildlife technicians to take responsibility for the public education, proactive enforcement, and incidence responses regarding the increased interactions with wildlife in populated areas of the state. A Wildlife Conservation Response Team will be piloted for Anchorage, Kenai/Soldotna, Palmer, and Southeast communities beginning during the spring of 2010. The goal of the team is to save wildlife and work with the public to reduce inappropriate behaviors and practices that serve to entice wildlife into populated areas.

Funding:	<u>FY2010</u>	<u>FY2011</u>	<u>FY2012</u>	<u>FY2013</u>	<u>FY2014</u>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gen Fund	\$750,000	\$1,637,000					\$2,387,000
Total:	\$750,000	\$1,637,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,387,000

<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
<u>One-Time Startup:</u>	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

No prior appropriations for wildlife/human interaction response projects.

Project Description/Justification:

The primary mission for the Division of Wildlife Conservation relates to the scientific study of wildlife populations. Professional biologists use techniques to determine the health of a population and the changes over time. The distribution of the division's professional staff includes two biologists (sometimes one) for each of the 26 Game Management Units.

The Alaskan public is experiencing increased interactions with wildlife in populated areas of the state. Professional biologists are pulled away from their primary job function to respond to urban wildlife crisis situations. Scientific management suffers and staff are only able to address the highest profile crises. The incidents are not confined to regular business hours and require extensive logistics to maintain control. Report of bears and moose roaming into populated areas are seen on the nightly news from May to October. Several mauling incidents were documented in Anchorage and Kenai during the summer of 2008.

This project adds a team of trained wildlife technicians to take responsibility for the public education, proactive enforcement, and incidence responses. The nature of an Alaskan summer necessitates staff be available longer than normal business hours. The area management biologist will no longer

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be solely responsible for wildlife responses in addition to wildlife population, inventory, and management. A Wildlife Conservation Response Team will be piloted for Anchorage, Kenai/Soldotna, Palmer, and Southeast communities beginning the spring of 2010. The goal of the team is to save wildlife and work with the public to reduce inappropriate behaviors and practices that serve to entice wildlife into populated areas.

A five-year duration is necessary to assess the effectiveness of this intervention approach for a total projected cost of \$2.387 million. It will be managed with a report of outcomes prepared after the third summer of the program's emphasis, 2012. This timing will permit evaluation of the effectiveness of targeted education and responses. An evaluation will also note the increased level of scientific analysis completed by the area biologist as they will be able to dedicate effort toward their primary function of population monitoring. The CIP request will support funding for nine seasonal positions in the targeted locations. The positions are authorized to ADF&G and are not new positions. The positions are found in the Wildlife Conservation Special Projects component.

The appropriation request for FY10 includes funding for two years at \$750.0. The balance of funding necessary to complete the project is estimated at \$1,637.0.