

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**

**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)**

**Grant Recipient: Alaska Association of Conservation**

**Federal Tax ID: 92-016947**

**Districts**

**Project Title:**

**Project Type: Other**

# Alaska Association of Conservation Districts - Land Development and Project Management

**State Funding Requested: \$1,500,000**

**House District: Statewide (1-40)**

Future Funding May Be Requested

**Brief Project Description:**

Coordinate District work in the execution of statewide natural resource concerns, such as invasive plants, and provide financial accountability, training, and administrative support for the 12 Alaska Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

**Funding Plan:**

**Total Cost of Project: \$1,500,000**

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
Federal Funds	\$3,984,993	2003 - 2008				
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,984,993</b>					

*Explanation of Other Funds:*  
*Program management and administrative support*

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

This project seeks funding to support the work of the 12 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Alaska. The soil and water conservation districts, authorized in AS 41.10, provide services to private landowners in all Senate and House Districts in the state. They are the critical infrastructure that provides on-the-ground natural resource conservation and public information about statewide natural resource and environmental issues.

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts seek practical solutions for private and public landowners to conserve soil, water, wetlands, forestry, and wildlife resources. They also assist landowners in developing their lands with the least amount of impact to their resources and the surrounding areas. In many cases, this improves the areas' water quality and habitat, while still allowing for human productivity. Alaska is changing rapidly in terms of population, climate, invasive plants, animal habitats, and increased traffic across fragile lands. All of these issues can be addressed by Soil and Water Conservation Districts in partnership with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the State Department of Natural Resources.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts also provide a critical link to the public for natural resource education and outreach, which translates into action that keeps public resources intact.

*For use by Co-chair Staff Only:*

\$300,000  
 Approved

**Project Timeline:**

FY 2011

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Alaska Association of Conservation Districts

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name: Steve Hicks, Executive Director  
Address: 1700 E. Bogard Road, Ste. 203  
Wasilla, AK 99654  
Phone Number: 373-7923  
Email:

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No

*For use by Co-chair Staff Only:*

4:30 PM 5/4/2010



Alaska Association of Conservation Districts  
Conservation • Development • Self-government  
[www.alaskaswcds.org](http://www.alaskaswcds.org)

February 15, 2009

To: Alaska State Senators and Representatives:

This letter is written on behalf of the twelve Soil and Water Conservation Districts governed by Alaska State Statute 41.10. Since 1965, the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) has helped the 12 Alaska districts complete cooperatively what they could not accomplish independently. AACD has put conservation on the ground and jobs in the communities. We are asking you for continued support for funding of conservation programs, along with funding of the needed technical resources to implement these very important programs that work directly with landowners and land users on conservation practices.

The fiscal year 2010 budget is important to the continuation of programs that currently cover the 40 legislative districts, as well as implementing new important initiatives. These conservation programs are critical in working with farmers, ranchers, forest landowners and other land users (including the tourism and recreation industries) to undertake or improve conservation practices in their operations. The benefits to the producers are through improved soil quality and productivity of their land, and also to the broader community through improved water and air quality, healthy habitats, and increased resource development.

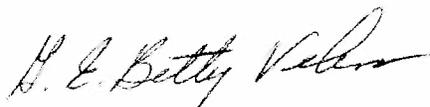
Implementation of conservation programs depends upon technical resources to work with landowners and land users in addressing their unique environmental concerns while aiding in the wise development and use of resources. Resource concerns and conservation practices vary throughout Alaska, and the technical assistance provided to program participants is necessary to address specific environmental concerns.

Sufficient funding of AACD is also critical in addressing local conservation priorities, which may not be addressed through Farm Bill conservation programs. Your continued support of Alaska's conservation districts will provide the technical expertise that enables the districts to leverage funding, and to work with partners that assist in the delivery of programs and technical assistance directly to the landowners and land managers. This is very necessary for the adoption and maintenance of the conservation practices that we all desire, as we strive for the economic development of Alaska.

We request your continued support in funding AACD the amount of \$750,000, the same amount requested for the years 2008 & 2009. Your support of conservation programs will continue to provide the technical resources to implement the ongoing programs in your district. Alaska's Soil & Water Districts work with many organizations, partners, and cooperators throughout the state. A partial list has been included for you.

Sincerely,

Steve Hicks, CAO

  
G. E. Betty Vehrs, President

1700 E. Bogard Rd. Suite# 203 • Wasilla, AK 99654  
907-373-7923 • fax 907-373-7928



## Alaska Association of Conservation Districts

Conservation • Development • Self-government

[www.alaskaswcds.org](http://www.alaskaswcds.org)

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	Alaska Moose Federation	Alaska Farmland Trust
U.S Fish & Wildlife	Sheesh'na Tribal Council	Boy Scouts
National Assn. Conservation Districts	AHTNA Native Corporation	Y Community Council
National Resource Conservation Service	Shee Atika Corporation	Ducks Unlimited
Environmental Protection Agency	Cape Fox Corporation	Mat-Su Borough
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture	Fairbanks School District	FFA
AK Dept. of Fish & Game	Tanana Valley Fair	National Park Service
AK State Dept. of Transportation	AK Dept. of Natural Resources	AK Division of Forestry
U.S. Dept. of Defense	University of Alaska-Fairbanks	Cannon Envirothon
AK Dept of Environmental Protection	Cooperative Extension Service	Kodiak Island Borough
Alaska Dept of Environmental Protection	AK Dept. of Natural Resources	
AK Division of Parks & Recreation	Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge	

1700 E. Bogard Rd. Suite 203 • Wasilla, AK 99654  
907-373-7923 • fax 907-373-7928

**Jody Simpson**

**From:** Hopkins, Julie - Palmer, AK [julie.hopkins@ak.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2009 10:58 AM  
**To:** Jody Simpson  
**Subject:** RE: Alaska Association of Conservation Districts  
**Attachments:** AACD annual Earmarks.xls

Hello Jody,

This is a listing of the earmarked funds that came to NRCS for allocation to the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts. Please let me know if you need additional information.

<b>Alaska Association of Conservation Districts</b>		
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>NRCS Agreement No.</b>	<b>Total Appropriated Amount</b>
FY03	68-0150-3-006	\$ 285,000.00
FY04	68-0150-4-023	\$ 82,500.00
FY05	68-0150-5-008	\$ 1,488,000.00
FY06	68-0150-6-013	\$ 1,473,120.00
FY07	n/a	\$ -
FY08	68-0150-8-007	\$ 656,373.00

Julie A. Hopkins  
 State Administrative Officer  
 USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
 Alaska State Office  
 800 West Evergreen Ave. - Suite 100  
 Palmer, Alaska 99645-6539

Phone: (907) 761-7776  
 Fax: (907) 761-7790

**From:** Jody Simpson [mailto:Jody\_Simpson@legis.state.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2009 10:13 AM  
**To:** Hopkins, Julie - Palmer, AK  
**Subject:** Alaska Association of Conservation Districts

Julie,

2/20/2009

Thank you for calling back. I would appreciate receiving the funding spreadsheet you mentioned on the phone. We are doing some background work on the AACD's \$750K funding request this year.

Thank you.

jody

Jody Simpson

Staff to Senator Charlie Huggins  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 119  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Phone: (907) 465-2661  
Toll Free: 1-800-862-3878  
Fax: (907) 465-3265

[Jody\\_Simpson@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Jody_Simpson@legis.state.ak.us)