

Federal and Local Government Funded Forest Resource and Fire Program Projects

FY2011 Request: \$1,800,000
Reference No: 37769

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Life / Health / Safety

Category: Natural Resources

Location: Statewide

Contact: Leta Simons

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

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Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2010 - 06/30/2013

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This project provides receipt authority for federal and local government funded projects. These projects include competitive grant awards for hazardous fuels reduction, Firewise education, fire prevention, Community Wildfire Protection Planning, forest health disease/pest survey, forest restoration, biomass inventories, community forestry, and agreements for implementation of local government funded projects including fuels mitigation. This project meets the mission of continued protection, development and management of the State's natural resources, by enlisting cooperation at the local level throughout Alaska.

Funding:	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$1,000,000						\$1,000,000
Stat Desig	\$800,000						\$800,000
Total:	\$1,800,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$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 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	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

SLA09/CH15	\$3,500,000	5% Complete
SLA08/CH29	\$3,000,000	20% Complete
SLA07/CH30	\$2,800,000	60% Complete
SLA06/CH82	\$4,600,000	75% Complete
SLA05/CH3	\$4,900,000	95% Complete

Project Description/Justification:

This project supports the Department's mission to develop, conserve and enhance natural resources for present and future Alaskans by delivering federally and local funded forest management, development and wildfire programs. The Department of Natural Resources manages state forests as per AS 41.17.030, which gives management of state forests to the Department of Natural Resources. This funding will enable the Division to meet specific program deliverables with federal and local support, including, but not limited to, the responsibility of providing wildland fire protection services on state, private and municipal lands as mandated in AS 41.15.010 – 170.

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Federal funds will allow the Division of Forestry, in concert with federal and local governments, to improve and enhance wildland fire mitigation programs that benefit the citizens and resources of Alaska. The threat of catastrophic wildland fires in the urban interface areas in the state is increasing as Alaskans continue to move into the forested areas of the state and drought conditions persist. Specific projects will support hazard fuels mitigation work such as thinning of hazardous fuels, creating fire breaks, Firewise education, prevention and Community Wildfire Protection Planning throughout the state as well as providing a source of wood fuel from biomass resulting from hazard fuel removal. Funding improves forest conditions and creates jobs for vendors, contractors and local governments, supporting local economies.

Forest health projects identify invasive insect species, target high-risk sites, develop a geographic information system (GIS) database of location and species, and provide for sharing of project information with organizations and the public. Forest restoration projects include thinning and planting on State forest lands to mitigate the damaging effects of forest pests on high-value young-growth timber stands. Forest stewardship targets forest landowners including native corporations, providing technical assistance in their planning efforts to sustain their healthy forest lands.

Biomass inventories, such as those for the Tok and Talkeetna areas, will identify acreage and volume of biomass. Biomass projects are an ideal opportunity for Alaska to start moving away from non-renewable resource dependency, diversifying into alternative energy sources. Community forestry efforts support enhanced community environments, healthy trees in urban settings, and natural resource inventories at a local level.

Why is this Project Needed Now:

Authorization of this federal receipt authority will allow DNR to accept and expend federal funds that will be available during FY11 that will help address increasing forest health needs. Benefits include increased local security from fire losses, strengthening of local communities, improving climate for residential expansion and business opportunities, and enhancing local community infrastructure (trees).

Specific Spending Detail:

LINE ITEM	DOLLAR AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
Personal Services	\$ 600,000	Foresters for site layout, inventory, project management, administrative support, fuels mitigation by non-perms and extended seasonals, reporting.
Travel	\$ 50,000	Travel to unit locations for site inspections.
Services	\$1,100,000	Contractual services for vendors for hazard fuel mitigation,
Commodities	\$ 50,000	Office supplies, flagging, postage, vehicle costs, oil, traps, chainsaws, brush cutters, work gloves, goggles, chaps

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Project Support:

Broad support is anticipated from the general public, local government, volunteer fire departments and numerous state and federal government cooperating agencies.

Project Opposition:

No opposition is anticipated.