

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks****Federal Tax ID: 920096061****Project Title:****Project Type: Equipment and Materials**

Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks - Trail Maintenance and Grooming Equipment Purchase

State Funding Requested: \$31,500**House District: Fairbanks Areawide (7-11)**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

The Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks (NSCF) maintains Fairbanks North Star Borough and Fort Wainwright area nordic ski trails for public use. These funds will allow the club to purchase two new 2011 Skandic snow machines and a grader attachment for use in repairing trails utilized by area schools, UAF, community groups and local skiers, as well as the 2014 Arctic Winter Games which will be held in Fairbanks.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$31,500
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$31,500)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

FY2012

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

This specific request is for the purchase of 1) one new 2011 Versa Blade 6-way dozer blade/grader/leveler 90" attachments and 2) two new 2011 Skidoo Skandic snow machines for use by the NSCF. This equipment would be used in conjunction with the NSCF's existing CAT 257B Multi Terrain Track Loader for the purpose of upgrading and improving the NSCF's ability to efficiently groom and maintain the current and anticipated Nordic ski trails that are the responsibility of the NSCF on more than 1500 acres of the combined Birch Hill Recreation and Fort Wainwright Joint Use License Areas located in the Fairbanks North Star Borough near Fairbanks, Alaska.

The NSCF (a community volunteer organization) is solely responsible (tasked) with handling an increasing number of users on an expanding number of trails and an escalating number of competitive and community events. The NSCF currently maintains approximately 35km of skate and classic ski trails at the Birch Hill Complex. The current snow machines owned and operated by the NSCF require constant repair and or many dollars in maintenance costs to make them function reliably.

The proposed equipment would be new and of the same make and model as the newest of our old machines and would operate the same as the best of our older Skandics currently in use by the NSCF. As mentioned above, we own a CAT 257B Multi Terrain Track Loader with a front snow/dirt bucket. The current trail maintenance methods of the NSCF do not allow us to easily and professionally repair ruts and erosion to existing trails. The proposed equipment is considered essential in order to allow us to make the fine bladed repairs to damaged sections of the trails so that the high quality of the trails surface remains consistent from year to year. The Birch Hill Complex trails are built to a high enough standard that we

can set the trails and start the Nordic ski season with as little as 3" of snowfall. This standard can only continue if the trail surface is consistently smooth.

This consistency of operation and maintenance would make it easier to train and retain our groomers, and to maintain the daily requirements for high quality grooming over the long (6 month) window of use of the Birch Hill facilities each winter. Snow machines are used by the NSCF at the Birch Hill Complex for all manner of activities, from grooming, setting up for races, transporting Nordic related equipment, non life threatening injuries, first aid, trail inspection and cleanup, etc... They provide us the ability to act quickly and spontaneously when required. Their reliability is essential for our activities. The NSCF currently owns two four year old Skandics.

- Increasing kilometers of ski trails maintained: In 2009/10 the NSCF maintained 35km of skate/classic trails. With trails currently built, approved and/or under construction, by 2014 we anticipate being responsible for the maintenance of 60-70km of skate/classic trails (see attached map).
- The dirt blade work required to maintain trail quality can now only be accomplished by the rental of equipment that has a 6-way dirt blade. This creates an additional expense for the NSCF that could be avoided if we owned a blade for the CAT257B. This blade would be used primarily for summer time activities. We currently own a 4-way snow blade for the CAT 257B.
- The NSCF has been tasked with hosting an increasing number of important competitive racing events. The Senior National Championships (2008-2009), Junior Olympics (2003, 2013), Arctic Winter Games (2014), ASAA State Championships (2002-05, 2009-11), Regional High School and Besh Cup races are some of the weekly winter events regularly hosted at the Birch Hill Recreation Area. This schedule requires reliable, efficient methods for providing yearly maintenance of the trails. We believe the acquisition of a Versa Blade 6-way dozer blade/grader/leveler 90" attachment will help the NSCF to maintain the high race trail standards we are known for with respect to these events.
- Community users will benefit from increased frequency and quality of trail maintenance. Recent years have resulted in quite an increase in use by elementary and middle schools directly bringing their students to Birch Hill, as well as an increase in enrollment in the Junior Nordics programs offered by the NSCF. Being able to maintain the trails in top condition is an asset for the community.

Project Timeline:

FY2012

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

Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Bruce Jamieson
 Title: President
 Address: PO Box 80111
 Fairbanks, Alaska 99708
 Phone Number: (907)479-4673
 Email: bjamieson@acsalaska.net

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

NSCF Legislative Capital Budget Request #2

Request Title: The Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks (NSCF) is requesting a grant from Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds through this 2011 Legislative Capital Budget Request. This specific request is for the purchase of one **new 2011 Versa Blade Grader Attachment** for the purpose of grading and repairing the current and anticipated Nordic ski trails that are solely maintained by the NSCF at the Birch Hill Recreation and the Fort Wainwright Joint Use License Areas located in the Fairbanks North Star Borough near Fairbanks, Alaska.

Who is Requesting the grant: The Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks (NSCF) is a non-profit organization with Federal Tax ID _____.

What is the physical location of the project: The Equipment will be used at the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) owned Birch Hill Recreation Area and the Joint Use Recreation License Area located within the boundaries of Fort Wainwright and the FNSB (see attached trails map).

What is the project title: Purchase of new Versa Blade Grader Equipment for the NSCF.

Has the project gone through a local public review and approval process: This project has been approved by the NSCF board of directors and is listed in their 2011 priority level 1 Capital Projects Priority List. Letters of support have also been provided from the FNSB Mayor's Office, the FNSB Parks and Recreation Department (who manage the Birch Hill Recreation Area) and members of the FNSB Assembly.

What is the project description and objective: This specific request is for the purchase of one new 2011 Versa Blade Grader Attachment for the purpose of improving the NSCF's ability to efficiently regrade and repair the current and anticipated Nordic ski trails that the NSCF maintains on more than 1500 acres of the combined Birch Hill Recreation area and the Fort Wainwright Joint Use License Area located in the Fairbanks North Star Borough near Fairbanks, Alaska.

Top-Level Project Funding Table:

A. Total Project Cost	\$6,500.00
B. Funding Already Secured	\$0.00
C. FY11 State Funding Requested	\$6,500.00
D. Other Funding Requests (local funding sources)	\$0.00
E. Additional Funding Required	\$0.00

If you receive the funding you've requested from the state in this year's budget, will you be requesting additional state funding for this project in the future: No.

Detailed Project Description: See attached specifications, pictures brochure and trails map.

This specific request is for the purchase of one new 2011 Versa Blade 6-way dozer blade/grader/leveler 90" attachments by the NSCF. This equipment would be used in conjunction with the NSCF's existing CAT 257B Multi Terrain Track Loader for the purpose of repairing and improving the anticipated and existing trails at the Birch Hill Complex near Fairbanks. We need the ability to efficiently regrade and maintain the current and anticipated Nordic ski trails that are the responsibility of the NSCF on more than 1500 acres of the combined Birch Hill Recreation and Fort Wainwright Joint Use License Areas located in the Fairbanks North Star Borough near Fairbanks, Alaska. The NSCF (a community volunteer organization) is solely responsible (tasked) with handling an increasing number of users on an expanding number of trails and an escalating number of competitive and community events. The NSCF currently maintains approximately 35km of skate and classic ski trails at the Birch Hill Complex. As mentioned above, we own a CAT 257B Multi Terrain Track Loader with a front snow/dirt bucket. The current trail maintenance methods of the NSCF do not allow us to easily and professionally repair ruts and erosion to existing trails. The proposed equipment is considered essential in order to allow us to make the fine bladed repairs to damaged sections of the trails so that the high quality of the trails surface remains consistent from year to year. The Birch Hill Complex trails are built to a high enough standard that we can set the trails and start the Nordic ski season with as little as 3" of snowfall. This standard can only continue if the trail surface is consistently smooth.

- Increasing kilometers of ski trails maintained: In 2009/10 the NSCF maintained 35km of skate/classic trails. With trails currently built, approved and/or under construction, by 2014 we anticipate being responsible for the maintenance of 60-70km of skate/classic trails (see attached map).
- The dirt blade work required to maintain trail quality can now only be accomplished by the rental of equipment that has a 6-way dirt blade. This creates an additional expense for the NSCF that could be avoided if we owned a blade for the CAT257B. This blade would be used primarily for summer time activities. We currently own a 4-way snow blade for the CAT 257B.
- The NSCF has been tasked with hosting an increasing number of important competitive racing events. The Senior National Championships (2008-2009), Junior Olympics (2003, 2013), Arctic Winter Games (2014), ASAA State Championships (2002-05, 2009-11), Regional High School and Besh Cup races are some of the weekly winter events regularly hosted at the Birch Hill Recreation Area. This schedule requires reliable, efficient methods for providing yearly maintenance of the trails. We believe the acquisition of a Versa Blade 6-way dozer blade/grader/leveler 90" attachment will help the NSCF to maintain the high race trail standards we are known for with respect to these events.

- Community users will benefit from increased frequency and quality of trail maintenance. Recent years have resulted in quite an increase in use by elementary and middle schools directly bringing their students to Birch Hill, as well as an increase in enrollment in the Junior Nordics programs offered by the NSCF. Being able to maintain the trails in top condition is an asset for the community.
- On-going labor, operating and maintenance expenses will be provided by the NSCF.
- The project timeline calls for order placement with the Versa Blade 6-way dozer blade/grader/leveler 90" distributor, Attachments Direct, located in Alexandria, Minnesota by July of 2011 with delivery to Fairbanks, Alaska by no later than November of 2011.
- Current Financial Statement Information for the Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks is attached.

Still to be determined or provided by NSCF or others:

- Grant Administrator Contact is: (club treasurer or Bruce Jamieson? tbd).
- NSCF Board of Directors approval letter.
- Current NSCF Financials and federal tax number.
- Current and anticipated Birch Hill/Ft Wainwright trails map (from Parks & Rec).
- Versa Blade 6-way dozer blade/grader/leveler 90" cost quote (email from Attachments Direct sales rep Todd Westlund).
- Versa Blade Brochure (from Attachments Direct website).
- Letters of support from P&R, Mayor's Office and FNSB Assembly members (all have agreed to provide).
- Letter of support from major local and state impacted organizations
- Email and phone call support from major and minor supporters in Fairbanks to be arranged.



SALES QUOTE

P.O. BOX 128
ALEXANDRIA, MN 56308
866-428-8224

SALES QUOTE Number AAAQ52567

SALES QUOTE Date 01/25/11

SOLD NORDIC SKI CLUB OF FAIRBANKS
TO PO BOX 80111
FAIRBANKS, AK 99708

SHIP NORDIC SKI CLUB OF FAIRBANKS
TO PO BOX 80111
FAIRBANKS, AK 99708

SHIP TO BRUCE JAMIESON
PHONE (907)479-4673

PRODUCT SPECIALIST	TODD WESTLUND	CONTACT NAME	BRUCE JAMIESON
SHIP VIA	TRUCK	PHONE NUMBER	(907)479-4673
PO NUMBER		FAX NUMBER	
TERMS		CELL PHONE	
E-MAIL:	BJAMIESON@ACSalaska.net	SOURCE	

ITEM	Qty	Description	Sale Price	Direct Price	Ext. Price
900514	1	VERSA BLADE 6-WAY DOZER BLADE/GRADER/LEVELER 90"	\$5,895.00	\$4,695.00	\$4,695.00
320257	1	CAT "B" SERIES AND "C" SERIES 8 PIN WIRE HARNES	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$140.00
320057	1	FASTER - FACTORY INSTALLED COUPLERS	\$95.00	\$95.00	\$95.00
	1	SHIPPING ESTIMATE FROM MINNESOTA TO FAIRBANKS	\$0.00	\$964.37	\$964.37
	1	PROPOSAL DISCOUNT	\$0.00	-\$214.37	-\$214.37
				SubTotal	\$5,680.00
				Sales Tax	\$0.00
				Shipping	\$0.00
				Total	\$5,680.00

BRUCE, THIS 6-WAY DOZER BLADE COMES WITH A FULL ONE YEAR WARRANTY.

THANKS,
TODD

Jeff Jacobson DOT -



Fairbanks North Star Borough

Parks and Recreation

1920 Lathrop Street PO Box 71267 Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267 (907)459-1070 FAX 459-1072

February 9, 2011

Senator Joe Thomas
AK State Capitol, Room #514
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Thomas:

The Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) Parks and Recreation Department enthusiastically supports the Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks' (NSCF) 2011 Capital Improvement Project Funding Requests for a PistenBully Panna with grooming attachments, two Skidoo Skandic snowmachines, and a 6-way dozer blade for a Cat 257B skid-steer track loader.

The Borough has partnered with NSCF to maintain trails at the Birch Hill Recreation Area and Fort Wainwright Joint Use License Area. The club is a highly professional organization that invests countless hours every season grooming and maintaining approximately 35km of Nordic ski trails to a world-class standard. In addition, they host competitions and administer the Junior Nordic program. Trail grooming is a very labor-intensive process given the club's fleet of snowmachines and single-purpose trail maintenance implements. Fairbanks' subarctic climate means that the dedicated group of operators are often out grooming in harsh winter conditions. Specialized grooming equipment will ensure that trails will be groomed and tracks will be set more efficiently. The two new Skandics will replace aging snowmachines used for setting tracks on narrower classic trails where smaller equipment is needed. The 6-way dozer blade will allow their operators to achieve greater precision when conducting summer maintenance activities on the trails.

The club is embarking on a plan to significantly expand and improve the trail network at Birch Hill for the first time in many years. An estimated 30km of new trails have been proposed. In preparation for hosting premier events such as the 2013 Junior Olympics and the 2014 Arctic Winter Games, NSCF will also be upgrading several existing trails. Much of this work will be done by volunteers.

The NSCF provides a valuable service to Borough residents and visitors. New and more efficient grooming equipment and a 6-way dozer blade will enhance the NSCF's success in expanding and maintaining the trail network and ability to continue attracting world class competitions. The FNSB Parks and Recreation Department urges your support of this capital improvement project funding request.

Sincerely,

Michael Cox, Director
Department of Parks & Recreation

cc: Jeff Jacobson, FNSB Chief of Staff



Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks

Box 80111, Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

February 12, 2011
Senator Joe Thomas
AK State Capitol, Room #514
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Thomas:

The Board of Directors of the Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks strongly support the 2011 Capital Improvement Projects Funding Requests made by our club: a Pistenbully Panna with grooming attachments, two Skidoo Skandic snowmachines and a six-way blade for a Cat 257B skid-steer trackloader.

The Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks (NSCF) has partnered with the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department to maintain the 35-kilometer Nordic trail system at the Birch Hill Recreation Area. The non-profit club works hard to maintain these trails to a world-class standard. We raise more than \$25,000 per year to support grooming, as we employ professional groomers. Summer trail maintenance involves many club volunteers.

The trail system benefits club members, numbering 800 – 1000, as well as many other Borough residents of all ages. There are over 300 skiers in the club's youth programs this year and several hundred student users from area schools. The club's adult lessons program has had over 800 participants since inception. Community programs and statewide competitions are offered throughout the winter on the Birch Hill trails.

With a significant expansion of trails anticipated in the next few years, we are eager to improve the capacity and quality of grooming at the Birch Hill Recreation Area. Our current equipment requires multiple passes on each trail for complete grooming. The two Skandic snowmachines (purchased new in 2008) have logged over 10,500 kilometers of use, which equals over 300 times around the trail system. We anticipate approximately doubling the number of kilometers of trails by 2014. The specialized grooming equipment would greatly improve the efficiency of the process.

Our carefully planned and maintained trails have earned us the opportunity to host multiple national and international events, including the 2013 Junior Olympics and 2014 Arctic Winter Games. This positively impacts our region economically and serves as a motivational experience for our young local skiers.

The more efficient grooming equipment and the 6-way dirt blade will significantly improve our club's efforts to expand the trail network and continue to provide the highest quality of grooming. This service benefits Borough residents of all ages, visitors and the local economy. The NSCF Board of Directors urges your support of this capital improvement project funding request.

Sincerely,

Aelin P. Allegood, Secretary
Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks



Fairbanks North Star Borough

Office of the Mayor

809 Pioneer Road

P.O. Box 71267

Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267

907/459-1300

Fax: 907/459-1102

Email: mayor@co.fairbanks.ak.us

February 10, 2011

Senator Joe Thomas
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

Re: Letter of Support
Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks Capital Improvement Project Funding

Dear Senator Thomas:

I am writing this letter in support of the Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks's (NSCF) three 2011 Capital Improvement Project Funding Requests for a PistenBully Paana with grooming attachments, two Skidoo Skandic snow machines, and a 6-way dozer blade for their CAT 257B track loader. This equipment would be used primarily at the Birch Hill and Fort Wainwright Joint Use License Areas (Birch Hill Complex).

The Borough has partnered with the NSCF to maintain trails at the Birch Hill Complex and they have provided the grooming for the community and competition trails in this complex on a volunteer basis since 1984. During this time, the NSCF has done an excellent job of both maintaining and improving the Nordic ski trails at the Birch Hill Complex. The club is a highly professional organization that invests countless hours every season grooming and maintaining approximately 35km of Nordic ski trails to a world-class standard. In addition, they host competitions and administer the Junior and Senior Nordic programs. Access to this trail system has allowed many children and adults to enjoy a better and healthier quality of life in the community. This effort has in turn resulted in a continual increase in the number of users and competitive events for the interior region. Through the NSCF initiatives along with local government efforts, major trail expansion projects will occur at the Birch Hill Complex during the next few years. The club's volunteer efforts will allow the community to significantly increase its year round use and enjoyment of this area as well as to host major winter Nordic skiing events such as the 2013 Junior Olympics and 2014 Arctic Winter Games. These are events that will have a very positive economic impact on the the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) and the state of Alaska in general.

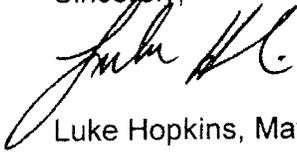
The FNSB offers one of the most conducive, consistent and lengthy winter climates found in North America, providing six months of outstanding Nordic skiing conditions. The reliability of great ski trails at the Birch Hill complex are an asset that allows Fairbanks to not only attract large winter events, but to act as a backup for events scheduled in other parts of the state that would otherwise have to be cancelled due to poor snow conditions. Trail grooming is a very labor intensive process given the club's

Letter to Senator Joe Thomas
February 10, 2011
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fleet of snow machines and single-purpose trail maintenance implements. Fairbanks's subarctic climate means that the dedicated group of operators are often out grooming in harsh winter conditions. The specialized grooming equipment requested will ensure that trails will be groomed and tracks will be set more efficiently. The two new Skandics will replace aging show machines used for setting tracks on narrower classic trails where smaller equipment is needed. The 6-way dirt blade will allow their operators to achieve greater precision when conducting summer maintenance activities on the trails.

The NSCF provides a valuable service to Borough residents and visitors. New and more efficient grooming equipment and a 6-way dirt blade will enhance the NSCF's success in expanding and maintaining the trail network and ability to continue attracting world class competitive events. The CIP funding requests for grooming equipment are an important part of the equation to allow them to continue to provide these services. I ask that it be established as a high priority by the interior legislative delegation for this year's CIP funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luke Hopkins", written in a cursive style.

Luke Hopkins, Mayor

Nordic Ski Club Proposed Trail Development Plan

1. **Lower Relay - South Tower Improvements**
Brush and/or construct a 9-meter wide climbing bypass to the Tower Loop. The new trail will create a better racing experience by decreasing the grade of the climb. This is a high priority in preparation for the 2013 Nordic Ski Junior Olympics.
2. **White Bear cut-offs and widening**
Two cut-offs are needed to eliminate flat terrain ("wasted space" with respect to International Ski Federation race course design standards) in the 2013 race course. Uphills will be widened to 9-meter. This project is a high priority.
3. **Challenging downhill trail (Tower to Bear)**
This project involves brushing and constructing a technically challenging sustained downhill, the likes of which do not exist in the Birch Hill trail system. Local youths are currently at a disadvantage as they do not have an opportunity to practice downhill skills prior to competition at other venues around the nation.
4. **Dirtwork on the Sonot-River Connector Trail**
The connector needs dirtwork to achieve appropriate cross-section slopes. A small portion of this connector lies outside the existing license area.
5. **Mountain Bike/Classic Ski trail joint venture**
The Nordic Ski club would like to collaborate with the Mountain bike proposal to create multi-use trails which are accessible to classic skiing in the winter.
6. **Formal Authorization to develop in "Trail corridor"**
The club received preliminary authorization to construct a trail west of the Birch Hill Alpine area and brushed the corridor approximately 15 years ago. In order to reduce the potential for motorized use of the trail, a spill-grade crossing (bridge or large culvert) is optimal where the trail intersects the tank farm road. Dirtwork will also be required to complete the trail. Eventually, the club would like to link the trail with the Alpine day lodge to promote use of the café facility. This trail would serve the military community.
7. **Re-route trails to provide access to ENSB parcel**
The club has initiated the process to rezone 120 acres of borough land for outdoor recreation. The plan is to create approximately 10K of beginner trails and 5K to 7K of classic trails. The project will involve dirtwork in some areas to construct a product that can be easily groomed. These trails would be ideal recreation and learning grounds for military families.
8. **Authorization to develop "triangle" south of lower**
The triangle of area within the lease represents the last area of potential expansion for Nordic trails. The slopes are generally south facing and relatively gentle, thus ideal for trail development.
9. **White Bear Beginner Trail**
This trail has been cleared and received approval for dirtwork. It is the first step to provide beginner access to the trail plans described in #7.

