

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Friends of Chugach Nat Fst Avalanche  
Info Ctr****Federal Tax ID: 68-0578518****Project Title:****Project Type: Other**

# **Friends of Chugach National Forest Avalanche Information Center - International Snow Science Workshop 2012**

**State Funding Requested: \$10,000**  
One-Time Need**House District: Anchorage Areawide (16-32)****Brief Project Description:**

Funding of this request would help bring the International Snow Science Workshop (ISSW) to Anchorage. The ISSW is a biennial, multi-day conference for snow science and winter recreation professionals, with 600-800 anticipated attendees.
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**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$325,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$125,000)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$10,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$190,000

*Funding Details:*

*Conference fees and generated income is expected to be \$130,000, which would leave a projected deficit of \$60,000. Fundraising will be ongoing to meet financial obligations prior to the time these resources are needed.*

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

As one of the most active locations in the world for avalanches, Anchorage was given the opportunity to host the International Snow Science Workshop in 2012. The requested \$20,000 grant would make the State of Alaska a Presenting Sponsor of this biennial, multiple day conference, which will bring 600-800 participants from countries that host winter sports. The grant will ensure that registration fees will be kept affordable for local participants, meeting one of the local sponsor's primary goals of disseminating the most current winter recreation safety information, research and best practices to as many Alaskans as possible.

The ISSW moves around North America and Europe on a rotating schedule to different locations, but this is the first time Alaska will host the workshop. The host location is expected to provide the organization and funding support to ensure a comprehensive conference. The conference's theme is "A Merging of Theory and Practice." As such, it provides a forum for presenting the state-of-the-art in terms of avalanche science with the presentation of over 160 papers. It also provides an opportunity for both scientists and practitioners to mingle and communicate. One of the primary reasons for moving the conference around is to afford local practitioners a chance to attend a much higher level avalanche conference than current educational opportunities provide. This can only happen to the extent that registration fees are kept low enough to attract

**\$10,000  
Approved**

local participation, and thus the need for local funding support. Good attendance by locals will infuse more avalanche awareness into the local avalanche community, which can lead to better safety returns in the form of improved avalanche safety programs, and better backcountry recreational user awareness.

Of some importance to note is that every Alaskan company that has avalanche issues is donating substantially to hosting ISSW because they see the importance of the event. The list includes Chugach Electric, ALE&P, Alaska Railroad, Alyeska Resort, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, Chugach Adventure Guides, Concoco/Phillips, and other smaller entities. With three different agencies that have statutory obligations for avalanche issues, the State of Alaska is noticeably absent from this list even after numerous attempts to secure funding at the Governor and Commissioner level. The conference's purposes are best served by a broad coalition of private and public interests providing support.

### Project Timeline:

The conference will be held Sept. 16 to 21st, 2012 at the Denaina Conference Center in Anchorage. Most of the expenditures will occur during that time period.

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

N/A

### Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Skip Repetto  
 Title: President  
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 Anchorage, Alaska 99507  
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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No

# International Snow Science Workshop 2012

## Anchorage, Alaska

### Sponsorship Opportunities

#### WHAT IS THE ISSW?

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The International Snow Science Workshop (ISSW) is a biennial meeting of the professionals who work in the field of snow science and winter recreation. This is the only such conference which takes place and has been ongoing since 1976. It is truly international with participants from countries world wide where winter sports are popular. Professionals from Europe, Russia, Asia, Australia, New Zealand and North and South America are in attendance. The workshop is designed to bring together practitioners such as ski patrollers and mountain guides, forecasters who may work for ski companies, Departments of Transportation or the US Forest Service, engineers from mining companies, architecture firms or government, scientists who teach and research snow science and others who participate in the world of snow. In addition, it provides

an opportunity for local mountain user groups to participate in a higher level learning environment. The conference is designed to promote the exchange of ideas and research and introduce the latest forecasting tools and winter products.

#### WHY IS THE ISSW IMPORTANT?

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With winter sports in the backcountry growing each year, the hazard to enthusiasts is increasing. Snowboarding, hi-tech snow machines and fat skis have all contributed to the popularity of winter recreation. This is no longer the sole domain of a small group of telemarkers. Heli skiing and Cat skiing have grown in popularity and the terrain being accessed is steeper and more remote than ever before.

In Alaska industrial activities are common in mountainous environments with avalanche risk. Additionally, it is common in Alaska for workers to engage in off-time recreational activities that expose them to avalanche risk. Many companies are proactive in terms of providing educational opportunities to employees because of this off-shift risk.

While avalanche injuries and fatalities continue on the rise, the vast majority of these incidents are preventable. The professionals who attend the ISSW have dedicated their lives to education, forecasting, and communication with the backcountry using public. Their work saves lives and promotes safe winter backcountry travel for winter enthusiasts. Not only is ISSW an opportunity for peer to peer interaction, but also an opportunity for backcountry users to interact with the leading professionals in the industry.

#### SPONSORING THE ISSW

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We are all in this together. The companies who are affected by avalanches in some form, those who manufacture the products used by winter sports enthusiasts, the buying public and the professionals who try to keep them safe have a common goal which is to safely and enjoyably promote and use the vast winter resources available to us. Avalanche injuries and fatalities negatively affect all of us. Obviously devastating to family and friends, these incidents also give rise to a general feeling of danger and discomfort sometimes associated with winter backcountry recreation. The industry benefits by supporting those who are dedicated to keeping the public safe through science, research, forecasting and communication.

The ISSW 2012 is taking place in Anchorage, Alaska. The venue is the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center in downtown Anchorage. Previous ISSW conferences have attracted almost 1,000 registrants. Because of our location, we expect ISSW 2012 to attract between 600 and 800 participants.

For local Anchorage companies, particularly those who are affected by avalanches, ISSW is an opportunity to assist in raising awareness and professionalism levels for avalanche workers actively involved in avalanche risk mitigation. It is also an opportunity to help keep the registration price to the lowest possible amount, which will allow more locals to participate in the unique offerings and opportunities the conference presents by gathering so many professionals into a single location.

This core group of winter recreation leaders are who the public looks to for guidance in product use. Whether it is clothing, camping, skiing, snow boarding, instrumentation, measuring equipment or avalanche mitigation systems, an outdoor related company needs to be in front of this group. Members of this group often decide on the purchase of anything from uniforms for a ski area to weather instrumentation, from rental equipment to outfitting heli

operations. Almost any product being used by winter recreationists is being tested and used by members at this conference.

Any contributions for ISSW 2012 are being earmarked specifically for ISSW and channeled through the Friends of the Chugach National Forest Avalanche Center, a 501(c) non-profit corporation incorporated in Alaska. Your sponsorship may well qualify as a tax deductible gift because of this arrangement.

Your company logo and tag line will get maximum exposure on our web site linked to both the Canadian and American Avalanche Associations. Many premier companies have been supportive of the ISSW over the years. We hope you will choose to join these companies in supporting the ISSW and safety in the back country.

**PRESENTING SPONSORS \$20,000**

**SUPPORTING SPONSOR \$10,000 (plus \$2,000 in product for product exhibitors)**

Arcteryx Equipment, Inc.; MND America Corp; Mammut

**CONTRIBUTING SPONSOR \$5,000 (plus \$1,000 in product)**

Alyeska Resort; Alaska Railroad; CIL/Orion; Backcountry Access; RECCO; ABS; Concoco/Phillips; Chugach Electric; Friends of Chugach Avalanche; Alyeska Pipeline Service Company

**SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS \$1,000**

Condor; Geobruugg AG; The North Face; Alaska Airlines; Black Diamond Equipment Ltd.; Canadian Ski Guides Association; State of Alaska Emergency Management.

All inquires should be directed to David Hamre, ISSW Chairman, [hamred@akrr.com](mailto:hamred@akrr.com), cell phone# 907-223-9590