Project Title: Kenai River Watershed and Kenai River Center

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or

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• Partners: Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Parks and Outdoor Recreation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Corps of Engineers, National Resource Conservation Service

• Location: Kenai River Center, in Soldotna, Alaska

• Description and/or Objective: Provide funding for habitat protection, research, public education, and continued operation of the Kenai River Center. Assure continued funding of current programs benefitting these projects, such as the 50/50 Cost Share Program jointly administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

• Federal Agency: EPA; NRCS; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; National Marine Fisheries Service

• Full Funding Request: $1,500,000, plus continued funding of current programs.
Kenai Peninsula Watershed & Kenai River Center

**Project Definition:**

The Kenai River Center is a nationally recognized multi agency organization working to maintain, develop, and protect the Kenai Peninsula Watersheds which includes 67 miles of the Kenai River. The organization has been in operation approximately six years with involvement by the Kenai Peninsula Borough, State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Recreation. An addition, two years ago, included the federal agency of EPA. Two federal agencies; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and NRCS, and a state agency, Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation has indicated an interest. A comprehensive management plan of the Kenai River watershed is necessary to provide consistent implementation of recreational and coastal management policies within the watershed area. Strategies would consider conservation issues, economic opportunities, recreational uses, resource management and social impacts.

**Objective:**

- To provide funding for continued operation of Kenai River Center / Watershed Center;
- To provide funding for educational opportunities and indoor and outdoor displays and pamphlets for the the Kenai River Center / Watershed Center

**Funding Requirements:**

The last year EPA received $500,000 dollars for research and related activities in the Kenai River Watershed. The Kenai Peninsula Borough has contributed $1.3 million to the Kenai River Center through FY02.

Current Operations and Maintenance expenses of the Kenai River Center are $70,000 annually. With the current fund balance, additional funds are needed to meet current and future needs of the Kenai River Center / Watershed Center. A transfer of $500,000 would sustain stable operations, research and provide educational displays and pamphlets.

Environmental Protection Agency
Kenai River Center

Project Definition:

The Kenai River Center is a nationally recognized multi agency organization working to maintain, develop, and protect the Kenai Peninsula Watersheds which includes 67 miles of the Kenai River. The organization has been in operation approximately six years with involvement by the Kenai Peninsula Borough, State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Recreation. An addition two years ago included a federal agency, EPA. Two federal agencies; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and NRCS, and a state agency, Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation have indicated an interest. A comprehensive management plan of the Kenai River watershed is necessary to provide consistent implementation of recreational and coastal management policies within the watershed area. Strategies would consider conservation issues, economic opportunities, recreational uses, resource management and social impacts.

Objective:

• To provide cost share and grant funding for continued public and private land restoration and protection.

Funding Requirements:

Two years ago, NRCS received $500,000 to assist the City of Soldotna in public land restoration and protection. A Kenai River Cost Share Program, jointly administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and ADF&G, reimburses landowners for up to 50% of the cost of a restoration project. In the last seven years, 210 projects have been completed with an estimated project cost of $1.8 million dollars. Reduced monies are currently available for this program in the FY02.

With the current fund balance, additional funds are needed to meet current and future needs of the Kenai River Center / Peninsula Watersheds. A transfer of $1 million dollars would sustain this cost share program on the Kenai River and expand it to other important watersheds within the Kenai Peninsula Borough. This cost share program has been a significant incentive to both public and private landowner participation in riparian habitat protection on the Kenai Peninsula.
Project Definition:

The Kenai River Center is a nationally recognized multi agency organization working to maintain, develop, and protect the Kenai Peninsula Watersheds, which includes 67 miles of the Kenai River. The organization has been in operation approximately six years with involvement by the Kenai Peninsula Borough, State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Recreation. An addition two years ago included a federal agency, EPA. Two federal agencies; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and NRCS, and a state agency, Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation have indicated an interest. A comprehensive management plan of the Kenai River watershed is necessary to provide consistent implementation of recreational and coastal management policies within the watershed area. Strategies would consider conservation issues, economic opportunities, recreational uses, resource management and social impacts.

Objective:

- To provide cost share and grant funding for continued public and private land restoration and protection.

Funding Requirements:

$14 million in funds have been directed to the State of Alaska through the National Marine Fisheries Service. Monies under the National Marine Fisheries Pacific Salmon Recovery Program could be directed to the Kenai salmon streams for habitat protection and restoration. A Cost Share Program, jointly administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and ADF&G, reimburses a homeowner for up to half the cost of a restoration project. In the last seven years, 210 projects have been completed with an estimated project cost of $1.8 million dollars. Reduced monies are currently available for this program in the FY02.

Funds are needed to meet current and future needs of the Kenai River Center / Peninsula Watersheds. A transfer of $5 million dollars through NOAA/NMFS would provide for a cost share program. This cost share program has been a significant incentive to both public and private landowner participation in riparian habitat protection on the Kenai Peninsula.

National Marine Fisheries Service

Kenai Peninsula Watershed & Kenai River Center

Project Definition:

The Kenai River Center is a nationally recognized multi agency organization working to maintain, develop,
and protect the Kenai Peninsula Watersheds which includes 67 miles of the Kenai River. The organization has been in operation approximately six years with involvement by the Kenai Peninsula Borough, State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Recreation. An addition two years ago included a federal agency, EPA. Two federal agencies; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and NRCS, and a state agency, Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation have indicated an interest. A comprehensive management plan of the Kenai River watershed is necessary to provide consistent implementation of recreational and coastal management policies within the watershed area. Strategies would consider conservation issues, economic opportunities, recreational uses, resource management and social impacts.

**Objective:**

- To provide cost share and grant funding for continued public and private land restoration and protection.

**Funding Requirements:**

Funding could be directed from the Coastal America program or from the Partners for Wildlife program from the Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for fish habitat protection and restoration. Monies through these programs could be directed to the Kenai salmon streams for habitat protection and restoration. A Cost Share Program, jointly administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and ADF&G, reimburses a homeowner for up to half the cost of a restoration project. In the last seven years, 210 projects have been completed with an estimated project cost of $1.8 million dollars. Reduced monies are currently available for this program in the FY02.

Funds are needed to meet current and future needs of the Kenai River Center / Peninsula Watershed. A transfer of dollars through USFWS would provide for a cost share program. This cost share program has been a significant incentive to both public and private land owner participation in riparian habitat protection on the Kenai Peninsula.

**Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**