

Agriculture/ North Latitude Plant Material Center

Operating Budget (CCS HB 256)

58. *It is the intent of the legislature that the Division of Agriculture's Plant Material Center evaluate its programs to determine which of its functions can be performed by other entities, such as the private sector or non-profits. Programs should also be evaluated to determine if there are additional cost-recovery methods that can be implemented, such as additional fees or fee increases.*

The Division of Agriculture is creating a committee to evaluate Plant Materials Center (PMC) programs for privatization, and additional cost recovery methods, and will include representation from industry, state and federal partners, university staff and other non-traditional user groups.

The division evaluated its fees for services against a national average of similar services and deemed it necessary to increase fees by 20 percent at the beginning of FY2017. The committee will evaluate fee schedules for further increases.

Agriculture/ Agriculture Revolving Loan Program Administration

Operating Budget (CCS HB 256)

59. *It is the intent of the legislature to allow for a one-time increment funding of Mt. McKinley Meat & Sausage (MMM&S) with the purpose of allowing appropriate time for negotiations between a private entity and the Board of Agriculture for the lease or sale of MMM&S.*

The Board of Agriculture and Conservation (BAC) issued an initial request for proposal for Lease with Option to Purchase in May 2016 with the stipulation that the facility remain a USDA inspected slaughter facility. The BAC declined the only proposal received and is in the process of reissuing an RFP that will not require the property remain a USDA inspected slaughter facility or have specific lease terms. The BAC will consider the lease proposal with the best terms. If a buyer is not found, the plant is anticipated to close no later than July 1st, 2017. This property is an asset of the Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund, any proceeds from the sale of the property will become available to finance new loans.

Legislative Fiscal Analyst Comment: The department sold the McKinley Meat and Sausage plant to a private buyer in December of 2016.
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Parks & Outdoor Recreation / Parks Management & Access

Operating Budget (CCS HB 256)

60. *It is the intent of the legislature that the Department of Natural Resources work with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game to identify qualifying projects and non-federal matching funds for Pittman-Robertson monies. If not all Pittman-Robertson funds are expended through DNR partnerships, it is further the intent of the legislature that DF&G partner with municipalities and nonprofit outdoors, sporting, and trail organizations to identify qualifying projects and nonprofit sector matching funds to expend remaining Pittman-Robertson monies. It is intent of the legislature*