

# Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation

*House Resources – Finance Subcommittee*

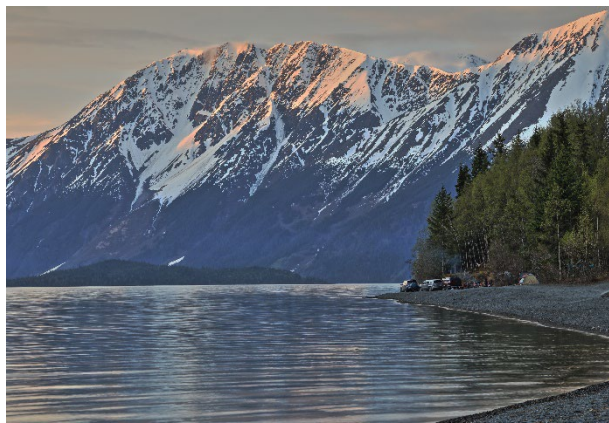
Ricky Gease, Director

Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Theresa Cross, DNR Administrative Services Director



Alaska Department of Natural Resources, February 14, 2022





# DIVISION OF PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION



## **Mission Statement:**

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation provides outdoor recreation opportunities and conserves and interprets natural, cultural, and historic resources for the use, enjoyment, and welfare of the people.



# FY2023 GOVERNOR'S OPERATING BUDGET CHANGES



## **Vehicle Rental Tax Authority Increase for Parks Management and Sanitation - \$1,045.1 (DGF)**

- VRT Receipts are Split Between DNR and DOT:
  - FY22 Split: **DNR - 40%, DOT - 60%**
  - FY23 Proposed Split: **DNR - 50%, DOT - 50%**
- Law Enforcement Program
- Increased Expenses for Facilities Sanitation, Maintenance and Staffing
- Visitor Safety and Park Resource Protection
- 20% Increase in Overall Visitor Rate
- 157 Park Units Statewide

## **Fund Change from UGF to Vehicle Rental Tax - \$198.7 (DGF)**

- Eliminates UGF footprint for the Parks Management Budget Component
- Based on the Department of Revenue FY23 Projections



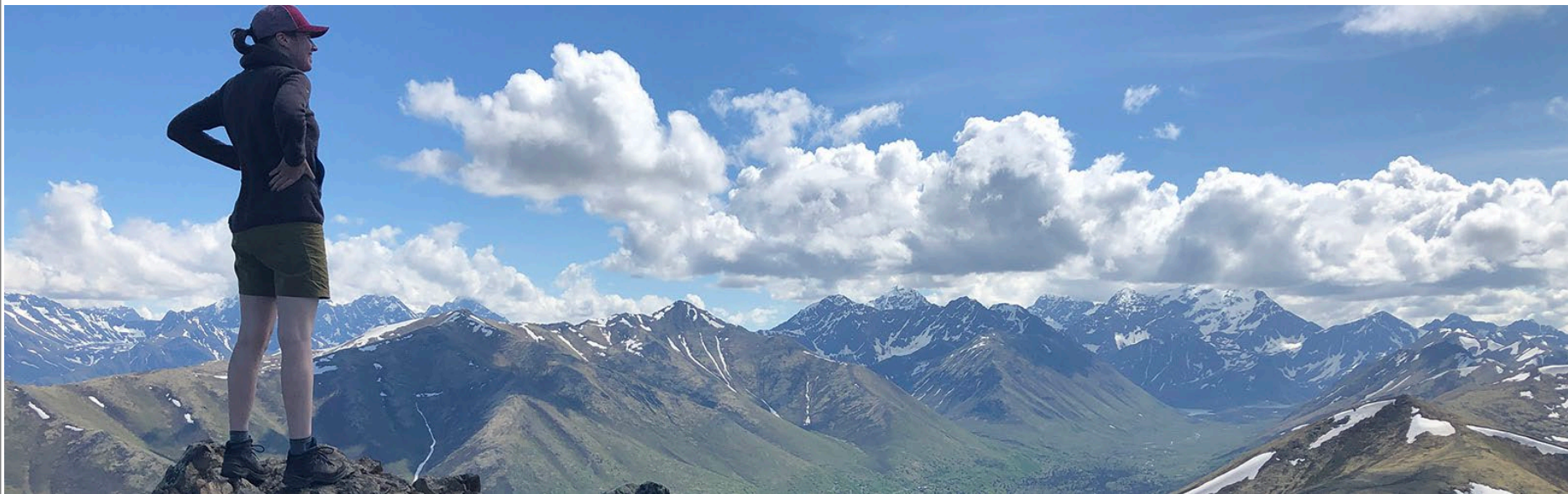


# DIVISION OF PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION

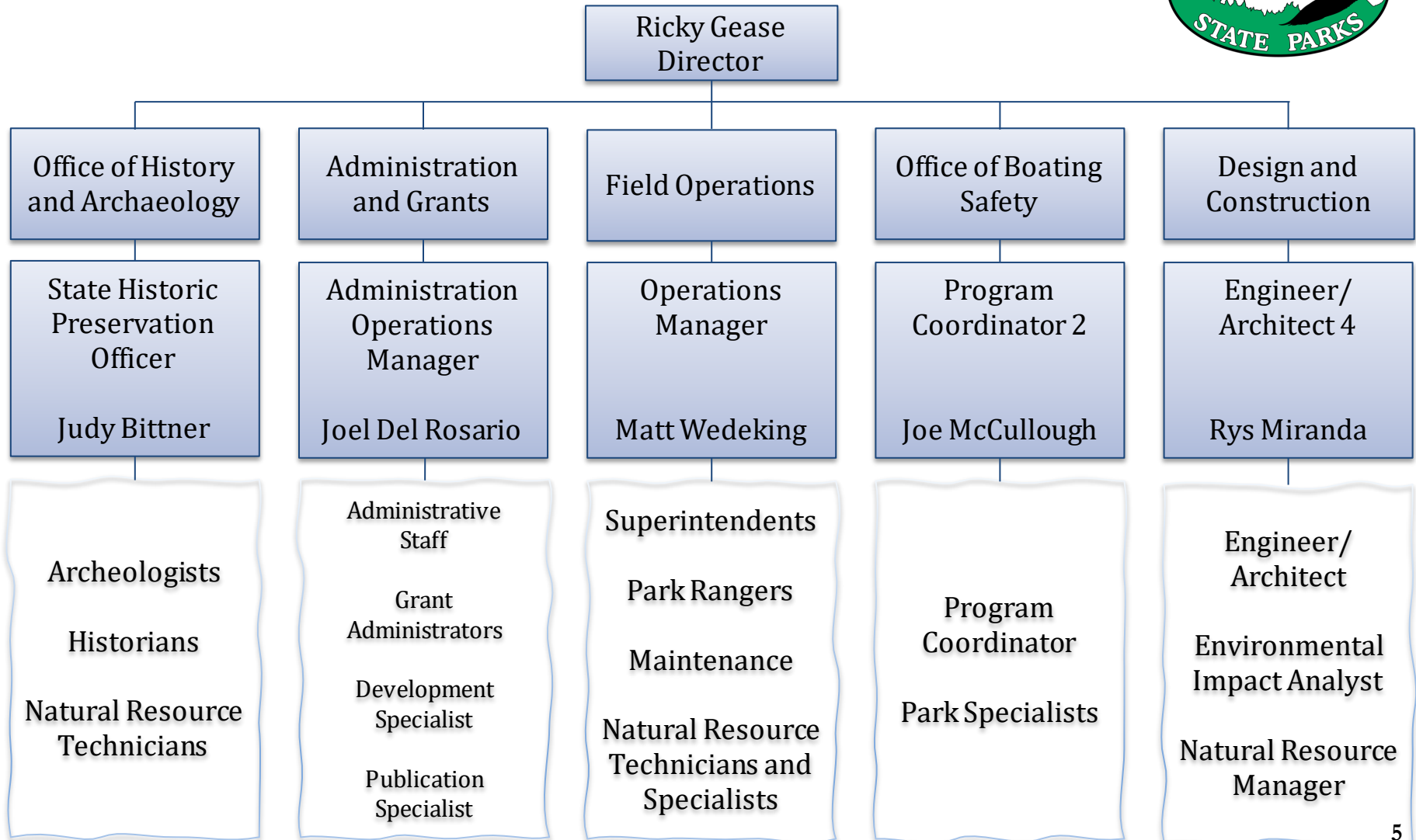


FY2022 Management Plan Budget					
PCN's	UGF	DGF	Fed	Other	Total
153	928.1	9,369.1	2,469.3	4,211.9	16,978.4

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) operates the nation's largest state park system containing 157 park units. DPOR is the state's lead agency for technical expertise on outdoor recreation, boating safety and historic preservation. User fees, federal grants and inter-agency receipts fund approximately 60 percent of the division's costs.



# ORGANIZATION CHART



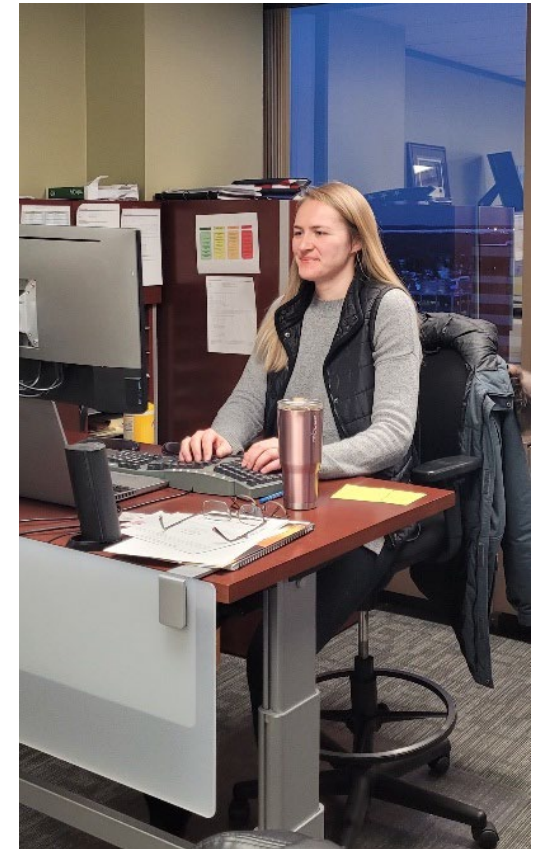
# DIRECTOR'S OFFICE ADMINISTRATION



FY2022 Management Plan Budget					
PCN's	UGF	DGF	Fed	Other	Total
13	447.1	2,156.2	121.5	226.1	2,950.9

## Critical Functions:

- Oversees operating and capital budgets
- Monitors revenue collection from state park fees
- Supervises region managers and section chiefs
- Manages statewide park use permitting
- Coordinates law enforcement program
- Handles division social media
- Programs and maintains electronic fee stations
- Administers:
  - Reserve America reservation contract
  - Merchandise and marketing contract





# DIRECTOR'S OFFICE GRANT ADMINISTRATION



## Land Water and Conservation Fund (LWCF)

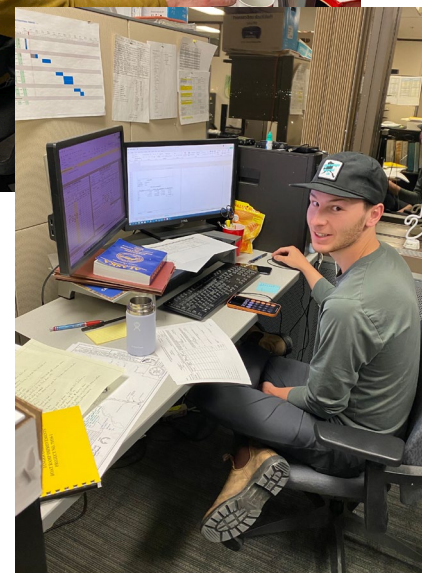
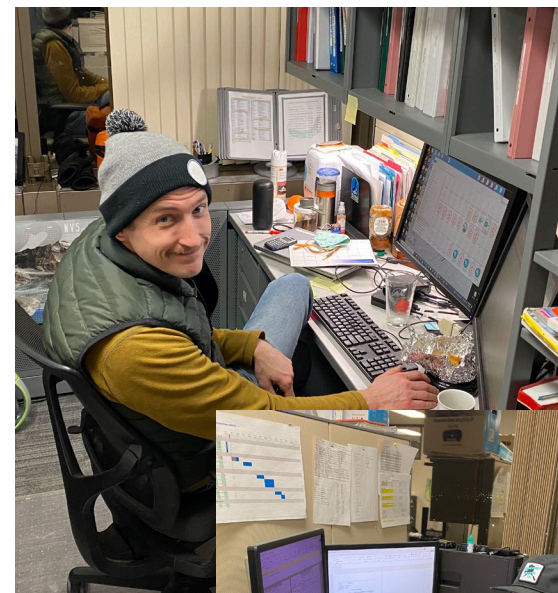
Federal 50/50 matching grant program for development or acquisition of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Available to state and local governments (cities, boroughs, or tribes)

## National Historic Preservation Fund (NHPF)

Federal 60/40 matching grant program for historic preservation programs and projects executed through cooperative agreements or grants with federal and local agencies.

## Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

Federal 90/10 matching grant to government and community organizations for trail development and improvement projects statewide.



# ALASKA STATE PARKS FIELD OPERATIONS



FY2022 Management Plan Budget					
PCN's	UGF	DGF	Fed	Other	Total
97	0.0	6,719.6	0.0	852.9	7,572.5

**Critical Function:** Manages all facilities in the largest park system in the country, including many of the most-accessible public recreation lands in Alaska.

- 3.6 million acres of park land
- 157 park units
- 76 campgrounds
- 52 picnic shelters
- 90 public use cabins
- 24 developed boat launches
- 900 miles of trails
- 316 annual volunteers
- 12 local Citizen Advisory Board's





# FIELD OPERATIONS LAW ENFORCEMENT



25 State Park Rangers are the front-line field personnel for the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. They deter crime, promote public safety and protect public resources through presence and actions as a peace officer.

Rangers participate in the overall mission of the Division by providing public education and enforcing state laws pertaining to park lands and waters, Alaska's fish, wildlife, criminal and traffic laws.

Rangers are called upon for emergency response to urgent public safety issues such as Search and Rescue (SAR) missions and natural disaster response. Park Rangers responded to over 65 SAR missions in CY2021.



# DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SECTION



FY2022 Management Plan Budget					
PCN's	UGF	DGF	Fed	Other	Total
15	0.0	177.2	83.7	2,109.8	2,370.7

## Critical Function:

Provides professional design and construction services to responsibly develop facilities that are safe, sanitary, functional and enjoyable to the benefit of Alaskans and tourists.

## 2021 Accomplishments:

- 14 Construction-related contracts awarded totaling \$8.8M.
- Completed the Chilkoot Lake SRS Road Corridor Improvements project in partnership with DFG and USFWS.
- Completed earthquake damage repairs at three park units and began repairs in two other park units.
- Completed three trail guide videos for Chugach State Park.





# OFFICE OF HISTORY AND ARCHEOLOGY



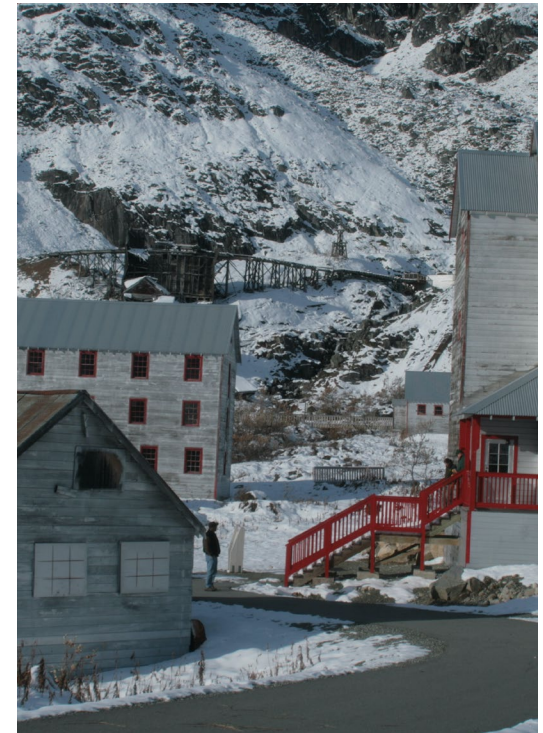
FY2022 Management Plan Budget					
PCN's	UGF	DGF	Fed	Other	Total
18	481.0	16.1	1,168.1	1,023.1	2,688.3

## Critical Function:

This section contains the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) which is the gateway for every federal dollar spent in Alaska via the Section 106 review process.

## OHA functions include:

- Reviews development projects; develops agreement documents for projects with adverse cultural and historic impacts.
- Maintains and manages the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) a restricted statewide inventory of reported cultural resources.
- Issues cultural resources permits for investigations on state land.
- Administers the Alaska Historical Commission's programs, including the Geographic Names Board.
- Serves as SHPO to implement federal programs for project review.
- Coordinates for National Register of Historic Places, historic preservation planning, Historic Preservation Fund administration, local government programs, and historic preservation tax credits.



# OFFICE OF BOATING SAFETY



FY2022 Management Plan Budget					
PCN's	UGF	DGF	Fed	Other	Total
10	0.0	300.0	1,096	0.0	1,396.0

## Critical Function:

Promote safety of persons and property in and connected with the use, operation, and equipment of boats on the water of the state and to promote uniformity of laws relating to boat safety.

- Administers Kid's Don't Float© Life Jacket Program which has helped save at least 38 documented lives to date with 686 active loaner boards in 270 communities.
- Conducts comprehensive social marketing campaigns in collaboration with the *Pledge to Live* Campaign.
- Trains, certifies, and supports boating safety instructors via the *Alaska Water Wise* Program.
- Supports the Alaska Boating Safety Advisory Council.
- Prior to the Alaska Boating Safety Act of 2000, Alaska's boating fatalities averaged 30 per year—dropping to an average of 15 per year since.



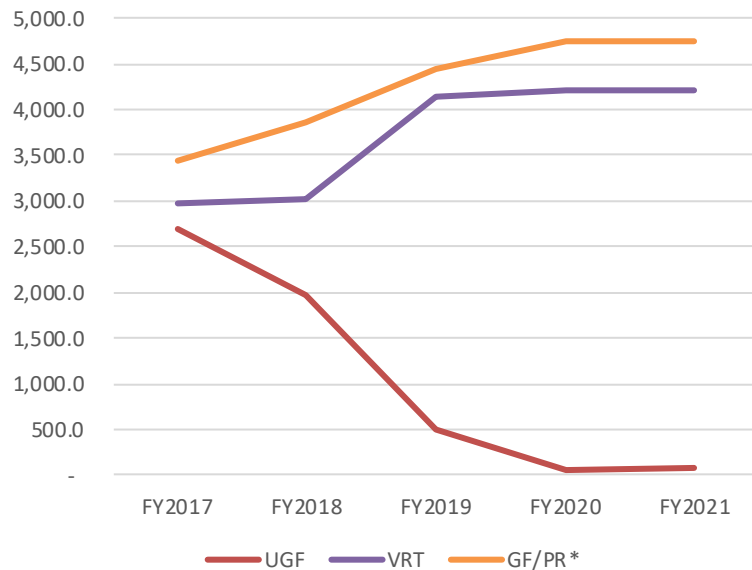


# PREVIOUS DPOR FUNDING



	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022
UGF	2,694.2	1,977.1	494.2	53.0	73.1	447.1
VRT Authority	2,979.6	3,013.2	4,142.0	4,200.9	4,214.7	4,265.1
GF/PR Authority	3,429.9	3,858.9	4,434.2	4,740.5	4,748.9	4,787.9
Grand Total	<b>9,103.7</b>	<b>8,849.2</b>	<b>9,070.4</b>	<b>8,994.4</b>	<b>9,036.7</b>	<b>9,500.1</b>

Parks UGF, Program Receipt / GFPR, and VRT Authority Trends



AS 41.21.026 (d) allows DNR to issue free of charge to disabled veterans of this country an annual state park developed campsite permit. This equates to a value of around \$300.0 in free services to our nation's disabled veterans.



# REVENUE GENERATION



	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022
DPOR Revenue Gen.	3,670.7	3,808.5	4,170.6	4,103.5	4,307.7	Ongoing

57% of DPOR's operating budget is collected in user fees.

Fees are collected from:

- Fee Stations
- Camping & RV sites
- Daily Parking & Annual Passes
- Boat Launch & Annual Passes
- Reservations
  - Public Use Cabins
  - Pavilions/ Rentals
  - Campsites (25% of inventory)
- Historic Park Admissions
- Commercial Operator Fees
- Special Use Permits
- Firewood and RV Dump Stations
- Donations
- Merchandise Contract





# PROJECTS UNDERWAY



- Cashless Fee Collection
  - Electronic fee stations
  - Point of sale systems
- Online permit system development
- Explore options with new merchandise contract
- Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
- New Public Use Cabins
  - Woody Island State Recreation Site
  - Pasagshak State Recreation Site
- Boat Ramp Improvements
  - Finger Lake State Recreation Site
  - Bing's Landing, Kenai River Special Management Area



# THANK YOU QUESTIONS?



**Happy Valentines Day!**