LB&A Committee Member;

At the LB&A Committee Meeting on Monday, September 28th State Parks will be asking for an RPL that will give us receipt authority for federal funding to go toward the Alaska Trails Initiative grant program.  This has been a tremendously successful program that has distributed millions of dollars to groups, organizations, local governments and agencies to build and improve trails across the state.  This competitive grant program is overseen by the Outdoor Recreation and Trails Advisory Board (ORTAB).

This request was not included in our 2010 budget because we felt it was unlikely to be included in the federal Omnibus bill due to the political challenges at the time.  It is essential to get these funds now to finish projects that are already underway and keep projects like the adjudication of the Iditarod trail corridor going forward while qualified staff are available.  Recipients need to be completing National Environmental Policy Act requirements, public process and permitting now in order to get this money on the ground next summer.  In addition, the longer it takes to get these dollars on the ground the poorer we look as a recipient agency and the greater chance of a rescission or take-back by the feds.

Attached is a list of projects that will be funded pending final review and permitting.  I would be happy to answer any further questions or concerns you may have.  Thank you for considering this request.

Regards,

James King,

Director, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

269-8701

632-2336