

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

DIVISION OF SPORT FISH

FY2025 Non-Boating Angler Access Projects

Project Description

*** Total Estimated Cost**

REGION 1: SOUTHEAST

Fish Creek Pond improvements (Juneau) \$750,000

Fish Creek Pond is part of the Fish Creek stream and estuary system located at the northern end of the road system on Douglas Island in Juneau. It is a longstanding Division of Sport Fish (DSF) stocking location for king salmon and is a very popular shoreside fishing location. A recently implemented creel survey project at this location estimated over 1,000 king salmon harvested and over 6,000 hours of fishing by sport anglers in 2022. Also in 2022, an area planning project was completed for the Fish Creek Estuary area by the Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition and the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ). DSF contributed to this plan which identified specific angler access improvements, including grading and trail improvements, shore stabilization and improvement, and installation of vault latrine. CBJ expressed support for these improvements and has indicated matching funds would be available. These improvements would greatly enhance the angling experience and accessibility of this popular shoreside salmon fishing location in Juneau.

Carlanna Lake Fishing Platforms (Ketchikan) \$100,000

In 2007, DSF worked with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to construct access trails and fishing platforms at Carlanna Lake in Ketchikan. Carlanna Lake is a current DSF stocking location for rainbow trout and is easily accessible due to its central location in Ketchikan near a residential neighborhood. The platform and trail structures have degraded over time and need repair and renovation. This project would repair and reconstruct the trail and fishing platform structures as needed to maintain and improve sport fishing access at this important stocking location. Collaboration with USFS would likely be necessary since Carlanna Lake trail is a USFS facility.

Maggie John trail improvements (Yakutat) Scoping needed

Trail hardening and other improvements to angler access trail on lower Situk. USFS land and trail maintenance and would need to work with USFS like the Carlanna lake fishing platform improvements.

Wayside Float Improvements (Juneau) Scoping needed

Improvement and dredging to Wayside Float near DIPAC hatchery. More information is needed from CBJ, and CBJ may have matching funds available.

Harriet Hunt Ramp Improvements (Ketchikan) Scoping needed

Improvement to Lake Harriet Hunt gravel ramp. DSF stocking location. Private property and would need to work with local native corporation.

Lost River Angler Access (Yakutat) Scoping needed

Trail improvements, signage, education, potential easement. Private property issue with existing trail.

Walker Lake Angler Access (Haines) Scoping needed

Trail development to Walker Lake. Scalable project to provide access to lake.

Dredge Lake Fishing Platforms (Juneau) Scoping needed

Fishing platforms for stocked lakes. Large USFS Mendenhall project planning is underway.

REGION 2: SOUTHCENTRAL

Ninilchik Scenic Overlook Trail Renovation & Vault Latrine Replacement (Lower Kenai Peninsula) \$500,000

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Potential collaborative project with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) and Kenai Watershed Forum with DSF for the removal / replacement of the existing vault latrine ~ \$145,000 (old and in a state of disrepair), and renovation of existing angler access trail and fencing \$355,000. Two of the four vault latrines are closed due to the ground heaving making doors unable to open and the potential of contamination of soils near the river. Fencing and trails renovation will include installing elevated light penetrating board walks to better direct foot traffic to the river and reduce social trails and streambank erosion. This is a Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) owned facility that has a reimbursable services agreement (RSA) with State Parks that collects fees for basic operations and management of the facility. The Ninilchik River is an enhanced king fishery that remains open when wild stocks are restricted or closed.

Sheep Creek Trail Renovation & Vault Latrine Replacement (Upper Cook Inlet) \$500,000

ADF&G project for the removal/replacement of the existing vault latrine ~ \$145K (old and in a state of disrepair), and renovation of existing angler access trail, retaining walls, fencing, elevated light penetrating walkways \$355K. In the past several years heavy rains have eroded the existing trail and have undermined the retaining wall and fence. The structures are presently falling apart and create unsafe/hazardous access conditions especially in inclement weather. The regional access program has completed a 3-year Streambank Rehabilitation Program with RTS to rehabilitate 360 feet of riparian habitat along the shoreline of Sheep Creek but the access trail from the parking lot remains a hazard. This is an ADF&G owned and managed facility.

Slikok Creek (Kenai River) \$250,000

This is a DPOR site that provides day-use parking and two trail systems approximately 500' long each leading from the parking area to platforms and stairs positioned along the Kenai River at the Slikok Creek confluence. The existing trails to the river have degraded over the years, and the platforms and stairs have been damaged by ice and are hazardous to bank angling sport fisherman. DPOR has closed over 75% of the platforms and stairs to the river due to safety concerns. Improvements to the trails, and removal of damaged platforms and staircases and redesigning a shorter linear footage of platforms is needed for safe entry into the river while protecting the streambanks.

Ship Creek ADA (Sarah Bidwell) Fishing Platform Replacement (Anchorage) \$200,000

The platform was installed in the 90s, but no data has yet been found verifying when it went in. The Kiwanis Club was asked to look for documentation but has not found any. The Habitat Section was contacted to see about possible permits issued. The platform has not been maintained, and the public has started asking questions about future plans. Parks and Recreation contacted ADF&G staff asking for information and removal or replacement was recommended. It is not safe in the current state. Ship Creek is an enhanced fishery that remains open when wild stocks are restricted or closed.

Pillar Creek Road & Parking Area Improvements (Kodiak) \$50,000

Cooperative project with Kodiak Island Borough and the Department of Transportation with ADF&G funds to hire a local contracting firm to complete improvements or possibly complete the project internally to improve road access and parking to the mouth of Pillar Creek. Presently, the road is impassible for most vehicles, and there is very limited parking. Pillar Creek supports a highly popular fall Coho fishery as well as a late summer saltwater pink salmon fishery and the occasional king salmon. Expecting stocked returns of Coho salmon to attract many anglers in the future. Pillar Creek is a highly popular location on the road system, and road and parking improvements would help access to the fishery.

Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon ADA Ramp and Retaining Wall Renovation (Homer) \$50,000

Provide funding for the City of Homer to reduce the footprint of the recreational Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon (NDFL) ADA Ramp, located on the Homer spit. The existing ramps were poured in August 1999, and the engineered useful life of the ramps has been exceeded. The status of the northern ADA ramp is in a state of disrepair and not usable. This project would demo and remove the northern ramp and renovate the southern ramp. The Fishing Lagoon is an enhanced fishery that remains open when wild salmon stocks are restricted or closed.

REGION 3: INTERIOR

Donna / Little Donna Lakes Trail Renovation (Delta Junction) \$550,000

The Donna Lake trailhead is located at MP 1391.9 Alaska Hwy. The trail then runs approximately 3.75 miles south to the north shore of Donna Lake. Both Donna Lake and Little Donna Lake have a public use cabin located on their shorelines and are popular stocked lakes in the area. As with most trails in the area, this one has been degraded over time due to increasing ATV use. This degradation is causing multiple areas of "spider webbing" effect as users continually keep branching out creating new trails around the degraded sections. This project would fund the evaluation and rehabilitation (including possible new construction / trail relocation in spots) of the trail from the highway pullout to the shore of Donna Lake. The improved "sustainable" trail should

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require little to no ongoing maintenance once completed. Ideally this project would also improve the approximately 1.3 miles of trail continuing from Donna Lake to Little Donna Lake. This section of trail has the same issue of being degraded over time due mostly to ATV usage. The wet, boggy sections create areas of substantial damage resulting in great inconvenience, additional environmental damage from rerouting of the trail around the worst spots, and safety concerns.

Sculpin Lake trail upgrade (MP 12 McCarthy Road)

\$40,000

The Sculpin Lake trailhead is located at MP 12 McCarthy Rd. The trail then runs approximately 0.25 miles south to the north shore of Sculpin Lake. Sculpin Lake is a popular stocked lake in this area. Access to this lake is via a pedestrian only easement granted to ADF&G for public use across private land. Most of the trail is fine until you get very near the lake at which point it becomes a thigh deep bog for approximately 60 feet before ending on the solid lakeshore. This project would fund the purchase and delivery of floating dock sections to span this bog. The walkway would then be installed by ADF&G staff and should require little to no maintenance after installation.

Gergie Lake Trail Rehabilitation (MP155 Glenn Highway)

\$150,000

The Gergie Lake trailhead is located at MP 155 Glenn Hwy. The trail then runs approximately 0.75 miles south to the north shore of Gergie Lake. Gergie Lake is a popular stocked lake in the area. As with most trails in the area, this one has been degraded over time due to increasing ATV use. This degradation is causing multiple areas of "spider webbing" effect as users continually keep branching out creating new trails around the degraded sections. This project would fund the evaluation and rehabilitation (including possible new construction / trail relocation in spots) of the trail from the highway pullout to the shore of Gergie Lake. The improved "sustainable" trail should require little to no ongoing maintenance once completed.

Tolsona Mountain Lake trail easement acquisition (MP 170 Glenn Highway)

\$25,000

The Tolsona Mtn. Lake trail is located at MP 170 Glenn Hwy. Tolsona Mtn Lake is a popular stocked lake in the area. The trail to Tolsona Mtn Lake currently crosses state land but has no legal protection in the event of any land status change (DNR staking programs, University land grab, etc). This project would fund survey and public easement acquisition to protect this access in perpetuity.

Cushman & Chena Lakes fishing docks (Fairbanks & North Pole)

\$50,000

Cushman Lake is located directly south of downtown Fairbanks and Chena Lakes is located approximately 3 miles east of North Pole. These lakes are two of the most popular enhanced fisheries due to their proximity to the population centers. This project would be a cooperative effort between ADF&G and the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB). It would include purchase and delivery of floating dock pieces and associated amenities to Fairbanks. Docks would be installed by FNSB Parks & Recreation with possible assistance from ADF&G staff.

Jan Lake site upgrades (MP1353.5 Alaska Highway)

\$260,000

The Jan Lake trail is located at MP 1353.5 Alaska Hwy. Jan Lake is a popular stocked lake in the area. This project would be a cooperative effort between ADF&G and Dot Lake Native Corporation. It would include the installation of a pre-cast concrete vault latrine, parking upgrades (grading existing gravel and possibly hauling in new top gravel) and delineating the public access easement to and along the lakeshore.

TOTAL

\$3,475,000

*Cost estimates for projects listed are not engineer's estimates but are approximations based on similar projects; true estimates cannot be obtained until an engineered preliminary design concept is completed.

**Projects are continually added and prioritized based on need; projects will be completed as funding is available.