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HB61
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January 12, 2001

The Honorable Brian Porter
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Porter:

To continue our efforts to protect and enhance Alaska's natural resources, I am transmitting this bill authorizing the commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game to award grants for habitat restoration activities.

Under this bill, the commissioner would have express authority to directly award grants to restore and improve fish and wildlife habitats in Alaska. Current law necessitates the department to channel money through other agencies which causes delay and adds considerable administrative cost.

An increasing amount of federal funding is available to restore fish habitat and passage. We have many opportunities to use these funds, particularly in the more developed areas of the state. Many of these opportunities are found on private land on some of Alaska's most productive fish streams, such as the Kenai River.

Since the inception of the Kenai River 50/50 Cost Share project in 1995, the department has approved 160 projects to rehabilitate some 9,600 feet of riverbank and protect more than 15,700 feet of the Kenai River. But more money could have been directly targeted to these projects if we did not have to pay the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service its 11 percent administrative cost for channeling these funds to the state. Direct grant authority for the department will eliminate the need to use the federal agency in this way.

This legislation provides a more cost-effective way to continue efforts on private and public land to rehabilitate, improve, and protect Alaska's valuable fish and wildlife habitats. I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,


Tony Knowles
Governor

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FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: HB 61
(H) Publish Date: 1/16/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
Title: Authority to issue grants BRU: Habitat
Sponsor: Rules Committee Component: Special Projects
Requester: Governor Component Number: 487

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Fiscal year funding is dependent upon successfully competing for federal grants for habitat restoration. Costs for administering a grant program from federal receipts will be funded by a portion of those federal receipts. This program will be administered by existing staff.

Prepared by: Ken Taylor Phone 465-4105
Division: Habitat and Restoration Date/Time Jan. 5, 2001
Approved by: Gordy Williams for Commissioner Frank Rue Date Jan. 5, 2001
Agency: Department of Fish and Game

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HB 61 ~ HABITAT RESTORATION/ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

TO: House Special Committee on Fisheries
DATE: February 5, 2001

Alaska Conservation Alliance and Alaska Conservation Voters are sister nonprofit organizations dedicated to protecting Alaska's environment through public education and advocacy. Our 44 member organizations and businesses represent over 35,000 registered Alaskan voters, who take pride in our state's abundant fish and wildlife resources. As hunters, fishermen and wildlife watchers, we recognize the great importance of habitat protection, restoration and improvement.

Because HB 61 will streamline the granting of federal money for habitat restoration and improvement by giving the ADF&G commissioner express authority to directly award grants and thereby making the process more time- and cost-effective, we support this legislation and encourage the committee to do likewise.

Susan Schrader
Susan Schrader, Conservation Advocate

Conserve Alaska. It's Only Natural.