

Completed Pittman Robertson Projects~ Northern Region Alaska State Parks

Project Title: Chena River SRA Trailhead Improvements

A. Need

Chena River State Recreation Area (SRA) is a popular destination for hunters harvesting moose, black and brown bears, caribou, wolves, furbearers, and waterfowl. Chena River SRA is located with Game Management Unit 20B with hunting opportunities taking place year-round. A recent special cow hunt in Game Management Unit 20B provided additional moose hunting opportunities from mid-August through mid-November, resulting in an increase in hunting activities in the area. Area-wide moose harvest data reveal an overall increasing trend from 2010 through 2014. Hunters are currently using three primitive trailheads as access points for backcountry hunting. The three primitive trailheads have become inadequate to meet the need for safe, sanitary, and accessible staging area for hunting activities.

B. Objectives

This project will develop the Compeau, Mastodon, and Upper Chena Dome trailheads to improve access by providing managed traffic flow, increased parking, sanitary facilities, informational signage, and other accessible trailhead amenities. Approximately 50 parking spaces and 3 vaulted toilets will be constructed over the three sites. Additionally, informational signs and kiosk will be installed to assist in communicating pertinent information for the area.

Project Title: Lower Chatanika River SRA Facility Improvements

A. Need

Lower Chatanika River State Recreation Area (SRA) is a popular staging facility and access point for hunters harvesting moose, bears, waterfowl, and grouse. The SRA is located within Game Management Unit 20B and offers moose and bear hunting opportunities by accessing the local trail system via all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). Additionally, the facility has two boat launches which are used to access the Minto Flats, a popular moose and waterfowl destination. Grouse hunters access berry-filled patches of boreal forest from this facility as well. Hunters have also been known to launch from this facility and float down the Chatanika River and taking out at Bennett Road on the backside of Murphy Dome.

B. Objectives

This project will improve the Olnes Pond and Whitefish facilities located within the Lower Chatanika River SRA to better accommodate the hunters using those facilities. The roads and campsites will be improved to meet current DNR-DPOR standards and accommodate the larger vehicles (RVs and trucks with trailer) and equipment currently used by hunters. Approximately 5,800 linear feet of circulation roadway and 20 campsites will be improved; a vaulted toilet will be constructed; and signage will be installed.

Project Title: Moon Lake SRS Facility Improvements

A. Need

Moon Lake State Recreation Site (SRS) is a very popular lakeside facility with moose, bear, sheep, and duck hunters. The SRS is located 15 miles northwest of Tok and within Game Management Unit 12. The facility is an ideal access point for nearby mountains, lakes, and the Tanana River drainage. The facility is situated at the base of the Alaska Mountain Range and part of the Tok Management Area, a very productive trophy sheep area. Moon Lake provides bush pilots and air taxi operators with mooring opportunities and a base of operations for ferrying hunters to and from numerous remote lakes. The facility is a hub of activity during hunting season which runs from mid-May through late September. 40-Mile Air, a longtime air charter service company, has expressed their support of this project and the importance of the Moon Lake facility to the hunting community.

B. Objectives

This project will improve the Moon Lake SRS facility to better accommodate the hunters using and staging out of that facility. The circulation road and campsites will be improved to meet current DNR-DPOR standards and accommodate the larger vehicles (RVs and trucks with trailer) and equipment currently used by hunters. Approximately 1,000 linear feet of circulation roadway, 13 campsites, and 4 picnic sites will be improved; and signage will be installed.

Pittman Robertson Projects~ Mat-Su Region Alaska State Parks

Denali State Park

Project Title: Curry Ridge to Kesugi Ridge Trail Project

(Palmer, Alaska) – Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation working with Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Wildlife Conservation (ADF&G DWC) and Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Recreation (DNR DPOR) will undertake a three-year project to connect the K'esugi Ken Campground to the K'esugi Ridge Trail. More opportunities for hunting, wildlife viewing, hiking, and extended overnight trips will be created as the K'esugi Ridge Trail is extended to about 45 miles total.

Proposed Pittman Robertson Projects~ Northern Region Alaska State Parks

36.4-mile Shooting Range Chena Hot Springs Road

Alaska State Parks is proposing to improve an existing rudimentary outdoor shooting range at Chena River State Recreation Area. The existing shooting range is located off Chena Hot Springs Road at MP36.4 and is one of three public outdoor shooting ranges that serve the greater Fairbanks-North Star Borough. It is an undeveloped shooting range with its origins as an unmanaged gravel pit range. Over the years DPOR actively managed the facility to provide a safe and serviceable shooting range. The range has grown in popularity attracting users to include recreational shooters, hunters, law enforcement personnel, and agency firearm training programs.

The purpose of this project is to provide an improved shooting range that conforms to current range standards, has environmental protection measures, is sustainable, is accommodating to a broader range of users, and meets user expectations. Additionally, the proposed improvements are intended to foster safe and respectful use of firearms by providing a clean, safe, and high-quality facility that promotes those positive values.

45.5-mile Pond Chena Hot Springs Road

This trailhead provides access to the middle fork of the Chena River along the East Fork Trail, a 30+ mile winter trail providing hunter access to the 40-mile caribou herd. The middle(east) fork of the Chena River also has a muzzle loader moose season running from November 10th through December 10th. Moose season for the middle (east) fork of the Chena River is from September 1st through the 25th. A special bow hunting season runs from September 26th through September 30th. In addition, the trailhead provides access to the Yukon Quest Trail for moose, bear, and small game. The Yukon Quest trail is within a quarter mile of the trailhead.

43-mile boat launch Chena Hot Springs Road

This river access point is a favorite for motorized boaters accessing the Middle fork of the Chena River. There is another boat launch at 44-mile Chena Hot Springs Road. Unfortunately, that site is above the middle fork and has a greatly diminished water flow making motorized and non-motorized access difficult or impossible. The middle fork of the Chena river is a popular and productive moose hunting area. The season runs from September 1st through the 30th. The 43-mile river access is also the furthest upstream put-in on the Chena River for float trips. This is very popular for hunters floating the Chena in search of moose and bear.

Chena Pump State Recreation Site

This river access location is a gateway to Unit 20A. This is a very busy year-round recreation site providing access to the Tanana river and beyond. This project will improve access by providing managed traffic flow, increased parking, sanitary facilities, informational signage, and other accessible trailhead amenities.

Statewide Pittman Robertson Projects~ Alaska State Parks

COMPLETED PROJECTS		
Project Name	Project Amount (Match + Grant)	Alaska State Parks Area
Chena River SRA Trailhead Improvements	\$1,915,000	Northern Area
Lower Chatanika River SRA Facility Improvements	\$800,000	Northern Area
Byers Lake Bridge Replacement	\$915,208	Mat-Su Area
Penguin Creek Bridge Replacement	\$377,475	Chugach Area
PROJECTS IN PROGRESS		
Project Name	Project Amount (Match + Grant)	Alaska State Parks Area
Chilkoot Lake Access Improvements	\$1,988,880	Southeast Area
Moon Lake SRS Facility Improvements	\$500,000	Northern Area
PENDING PROJECTS / CURRENT REQUESTS		
Project Name	Project Amount (Match + Grant)	Alaska State Parks Area
Chena River SRA: Stiles Creek Shooting Range Improvements	\$536,000	Northern Area
Oliver Inlet SMP Hunter Access Improvements	\$86,100	Southeast Area
Eklutna Lake Overflow Parking Expansion	\$240,000 (estimated)	Chugach Area