Welcome to the Chugach National Forest, the most northerly in the National Forest System!

Located in Southcentral, Alaska just 50 miles south of Anchorage, the Chugach forms a great arc around Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska. It stretches more than 200 miles from the Kenai Peninsula to the remote and wild Copper River Delta.

The Chugach National Forest seeks to engage diverse communities of interest in order to identify common goals. These alliances ensure our public land continues to provide the setting and resources the people of the area have enjoyed for thousands of years.

These ideas are something we heard a lot about as we began the first phase of a three year planning process to revise the 2002 forest plan under our 2012 National Forest System Planning Rule.

Now nearing completion, phase one, also known as the “Assessment,” identified and evaluated existing information about ecological, economic and social conditions and trends related to the Forest and Southcentral, Alaska. The resulting Assessment report, will provide a solid base of current information for phases two, developing the revised plan, and three, developing a monitoring strategy.

The Chugach has been working to develop and provide focused and meaningful opportunities for public participation in the Assessment process that recognized and built upon the public’s previous contributions to Forest collaborative processes. The Forest has developed a range of engagement opportunities from broad public forums to targeted youth activities in classrooms and outreach to new audiences. Planning meetings were also held with the State of Alaska, Alaska Native Tribes and Corporations and neighboring land managers.

A few highlights from public participation:
1. Eleven public forums in February-April of 2013
2. Eight public forums in September-November of 2013
3. Nine interactive youth sessions
4. Outreach sessions with new audiences

The final assessment report will outline both Forest Service findings and public feedback and is expected to be complete and posted to the Chugach website in September 2014.

When the Assessment is complete, the Forest will move into Phase 2: Developing the plan revision which includes the Forest framing the “Need for Change.” The 2012 Planning Rule requires me as the Forest Supervisor to review relevant information and public comments from the assessment and monitoring, to identify a preliminary need for change to the existing 2002 plan and to inform the development of new plan components and other plan content.

I look forward to you staying engaged with us as we continue this process. Watch for more information and next steps at: www.fs.usda.gov/chugach.

Terri Marceron
Chugach National Forest Supervisor

The Chugach National Forest
EST 1907

Roughly the size of New Hampshire, its 5.4 million acres serve as the backyard for half of Alaska's population. The forest has been continuously inhabited by Alaska Natives for more than 10,000 years; the first nations include the Chugach, Eyak, Athabascan.

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STATE OF THE CHUGACH

Forest Plan Revision Major Focus in 2013: Public forums and engagements attract hundreds of interested stakeholders

Forests provide food, shelter, fuel, and fiber. These are just some of the things forests do for us. They also provide habitat for a vast array of wildlife.

The Chugach National Forest has a mission to work with local communities to identify interests, needs, and resources. The assessment process is designed to continue this collaborative process.

The Chugach National Forest is committed to the stewardship of this land. We are committed to creating a partnership with the local communities and the people who live there. We believe this is the only way to ensure that the land is managed in a way that meets the needs of the present without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The assessment process is designed to continue this collaborative process. Public forums will be held to provide a platform for the public to share their thoughts and ideas. During these meetings, information about the assessment process will be provided and public input will be solicited.

The assessment process is an opportunity to bring together communities and connect them with the forest. It is an opportunity to listen to the public and to learn about their values and needs. It is an opportunity to identify areas of agreement and disagreement. It is an opportunity to identify priorities and risks.

The assessment process is an opportunity to build a foundation for the future. It is an opportunity to ensure that the forest is managed in a way that meets the needs of the present without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

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On September 3, 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Wilderness Act. This historic bill established the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) and set aside an initial 9.1 million acres of wildlands for the use and benefit of the American people. Over the past 50 years Congress has added over 100 million acres to this unique land preservation system.

The Chugach is home to the 2.1 million acre Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area (WSA) designated by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) in 1980. Located in western Prince William Sound, the WSA is managed to maintain its wilderness character consistent with the 1964 Wilderness Act and ANILCA.

To foster understanding and enjoyment of wilderness areas on the Chugach and Tongass National Forests, the Forest Service sponsored numerous events and products in 2014:

- The Voices of the Wilderness traveling art exhibit features a wide range of artwork, including photography, music, poetry, and paintings created by participants in artist-in-residence programs hosted by agencies that manage federally-designated wilderness. The show runs in Alaskan communities April-September.
- The annual Chugach and Tongass poster series highlights Forest Service wilderness in Alaska.
- A boat excursion explored the Nellie Juan-College Fiord WSA.
- Chugach Children’s Forest youth expeditions and teacher trainings took place in the WSA.
- In partnership with Alaska Geographic and the National Park Service, the Forest Service developed a wilderness radio series to debut September 2014.

To learn more about the Wilderness Act and events, visit:
- www.wilderness50th.org
- www.myalaskaforests.org
- www.fs.usda.gov/r10
- www.fs.usda.gov/chugach

IN 2013, THE CHUGACH HOSTED ITS first First Friday Art Show with Voices of the Wilderness Artist-in-Residence Susan Watkins. More than 60 people showed up during the Anchorage Fur Rondy Celebration, to view 20 paintings inspired by Prince William Sound. The show’s success and our desire to increase awareness of the Chugach National Forest has inspired us to plan more shows in 2014.

The first took place in May 2014 and featured student artwork highlighting bear awareness. Each year, Wild and Aware Girdwood Bear committee (www.wildaware.org) works with students, helping them create art, to draw awareness to bears, emphasizing healthy human-bear interactions.

In the fall, the Chugach will host another art show displaying artwork from Artist-in-Residence program and the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Art Show from a variety of artists.

A Forest Famous for our Fish

In Alaska, commercial, recreational and subsistence fisheries play central roles in the economy and culture of the entire state, which makes it all the more remarkable that some of the most renowned rivers and fisheries are concentrated in and around one place – the Chugach National Forest.

The Copper, Russian and Kenai Rivers that flow through the Forest provide for communities across Southcentral, Alaska and visitors from around the world. They’re joined by other popular and important systems that are prodigious producers of salmon, like the smaller coastal watersheds in Prince William Sound.

Together these rivers and surrounding habitat produce some 69.7 million salmon a year and host the largest recreation fisheries for Chinook, Sockeye and Coho salmon, and rainbow trout, in the State. A 2008 study identified by its famous fish and habitat. The forest reserve in Alaska – the Ahtna Forest and Fish Culture Reserve – was established in 1892 out of concern for salmon conservation. The reserve was eventually added to the Chugach National Forest (est. 1908) by executive order in 1908 by then President Theodore Roosevelt, bringing an important focus on salmon to the Forest’s mission.

Even with changing boundaries that removed Ahtna from National Forest System lands, an emphasis on salmon continues to define the Forest. This is underscored in numerous ways, including in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), which directs the Chugach National Forest to, “manage the watersheds of the Chugach National Forest. The Chugach National Forest has long been identified by its famous fish and habitat. The first forest reserve in Alaska – the Ahtna Forest and Fish Culture Reserve – was established in 1892 out of concern for salmon conservation. The reserve was eventually added to the Chugach National Forest (est. 1908) by executive order in 1908 by then President Theodore Roosevelt, bringing an important focus on salmon to the Forest’s mission.

An estimated 3,141 commercial seafood-industry related jobs are supported by Chugach National Forest produced salmon; within Alaska, 72% of recreational angler days take place in the southcentral region. At least 50% of all the fishing effort in this region is thought to occur within the Chugach National Forest watersheds. Within Alaska, 72% of recreational angler days take place in the southcentral region. At least 50% of all the fishing effort in this region is thought to occur within the Chugach National Forest watersheds.

From locals filling their freezers for the year to commercial boat operators working hard to make a living and tourists lining the stream banks for an adventure of a lifetime, hundreds of thousands of people depend on the Forest’s abundant fisheries and salmon stocks.

Fish Facts

Chugach National Forest watersheds supply, on average, 66.7 million salmon a year – 11% of Pacific salmon production; Chugach National Forest produced salmon; within Alaska, 72% of recreational angler days take place in the southcentral region. At least 50% of all the fishing effort in this region is thought to occur within the Chugach National Forest watersheds.

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Thanks to a partnership between the Chugach and the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department, the Anchorage Park Foundation, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), two young participants were selected for a new summer conservation crew experience sponsored by the Alaska Region of the Student Conservation Association (SCA). The crew, made up of participants aged 17-20, took part in a ten-week work experience on municipal and federal public lands to improve the quality and availability of outdoor recreation experiences.

Participant’s achievements included:
- Clearing hazard trees from popular recreation trails at BLM’s Campbell Track
- Repairing/retreading walking and hiking trails in Anchorage City Parks
- Assisted with invasive plant removal.
- Cleaned up along the river and trails in Anchorage City Parks
- Completed 4 miles of trail brushing and maintenance to the Spencer Bench Cabin site
- Adapted with invasive plant removal.

As a local reporter from the Alaska Public Radio Network (APRN) visiting the project, it was made possible in part by a nearly $40,000 More Kids in the Woods (MKIW)/Children’s Forest cost-share grant from the US Forest Service. Local partners recruited by the team added an additional $65,000 match to the grant.

Amanda Smith, head of partnership development for the Alaska Region of SCA said, “Youth are motivated and inspired to find work opportunities. A strong group of partners worked together to build a career pathway for youth who are already interested and experienced in natural resource management, but have limited options for their most resource management job. It’s nice to see these efforts recognized with Forest Service funding.”

A new recreational experience for participants also drew partners in. “We want to give YEP returning teens experience in public lands outside of Anchorage” said Beth , Executive Director of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department. “They have worked in urban parks for a summer, and now they’re working on spike crews, in some cases in the backcountry. So it’s a very different experience.”

State Sen. Kevin Meyer, R-Anchorage, said, “We want to give young people the opportunity to get involved in the parks system from a young age and give them some hands-on experience in what it takes to build a trail, so we will build all the trails the same way over again.” (APRN)

“It was made possible in part by a highly motivated and starved to find work experiences. Inspiring youth to enjoy the city’s neighboring public lands has been a focus for the Chugach Children’s Forest for many years, and in 2008, Forest leaders bolstered this commitment by launching the Chugach Children’s Forest with non-profit partner Alaska Geographic. Since then, over 20,000 youth, volunteers and educators have been engaged in outdoor education programming, career opportunities, stewardship expeditions and volunteer outings. Return to Chugach Children’s Forest main menu.
Children’s Forest Expeditions: Habitat Restoration Kayaking Expeditions 2013-2014

Kayaking expeditions focus on removing invasive species and trash at user sites in Harriman Fjord, Prince William Sound. The students cleaned up glass, nails, and other metal objects at abandoned cabin sites near Hobo Bay and Serpentine Cove, and removed invasive species around user areas from Oyster Catcher and Viewpoint beach. Rangers Barbara Lydon and Garrison Vizina met up with the students at Derickson Spit to educate the youth about wilderness stewardship by leading hands-on activities, such as collecting lichen samples and necropsying a sea otter.

Forest Service Rangers Tim Lydon, Barbara Lydon, and Garrison Vizina met up with the students at Derickson Spit to educate the youth about wilderness stewardship by leading hands-on activities, such as collecting lichen samples and necropsying a sea otter.

These ten-day trips were completed in partnership with: Alaska Geographic • Chugach School District • REI • Alaska Pacific University • Gulf of Alaska Keepers • Copper River Watershed Projects • Center for Alaska Coastal Studies • Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustees Council • Alaska Teen Media Institute • Anchorage School District.

Major funding came from Prince William Sound RAC with significant donations from REI, Chugach School District, and gear discounts from a variety of businesses.
Eagle Glacier: A World-Class training ground for US Olympic athletes

AMERICA’S ELITE, America’s Nordic skiers have a high-altitude secret they hope will give them an edge. Team members take a 10-minute helicopter ride from sea level up to Eagle Glacier on Alaska’s Chugach National Forest, the most northern national forest in the U.S. The environment there mimics snow conditions in competition.

The glacier, 5,500 feet above Girdwood, Alaska, is home to the Thomas Training Center, operated under permit by the Alaska Pacific University Nordic Ski Center. The ski center was established in the late ’90s as a model for creating international success in American Nordic skiing.

Right now we have three ladies who have represented America in the Olympics. Brooks, who is fifth in the World Cup, and leader last year, and World Champion Holly Randall, who is the overall sprint World Cup director and head coach. “We have Kikkan,” said Erik Flora, center of the American Nordic skiing.

The glacier presents variable conditions like those that skiers are likely to encounter when they race overseas in the world championships or the Olympics. Whether it’s soft, slushy snow or hard snow, it all helps build technique and fitness. The regular presence of fog and clouds requires skiers to sharpen all of their senses.

Flora and his team have used those conditions to their advantage, re-creating the trails and experience that racers can encounter. Noah Hoffman, a member of the men’s team who competed in Sochi, skied in the top 10 in the World Cup. Right now we are one of the only clubs with three ladies in the top 10 in the World Cup. And a lot of that is due to skiing up here.”

“Noah Hoffman, a member of the men’s team who competed in Sochi, described the trails in Russia as some of the most difficult he has skied in the world, with the longest climb of any race course he has ever seen. Flora created a similar layout on the glacier.

“Is there no other place in the world that’s like Eagle Glacier,” said Olympic Holly Brooks, “This is the only place you can sleep right next to a glacier and train twice a day. You wake up in the morning and walk out on snow.”

Eight miles from Cordova lies the popular Ibeck Creek/Scott River Watershed home for black and brown bear, moose, and mountain goat. The Creek also supports one of the largest runs of coho salmon on the Copper River Delta, its braided forks offering ideal habitat. The watershed is open to motorized use and increasingly popular with recreational riders and subsistence users. Over 36 miles of user-created trails snaking through about 100 stream crossings are hurting salmon habitat. In addition to physically disturbing both adult and juvenile salmon, these crossings cause erosion and are changing the shape of the stream channel, affecting the hydrology of the system.

The objective of the project is to minimize damage to critical salmon habitat while providing motorized access routes.

Eagle Glacier: A World-Class training ground for US Olympic athletes

Ibeck Creek Off-Highway Vehicle Trail Re-Route & Watershed Restoration Project

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Copper River International Migratory Bird Initiative (CRIMBI) and Key Coastal Wetlands in the USFS Alaska Region partnerships have generated hundreds of future statewide collaboration. These Partners in Flight meetings assist in current Group. Additional attendance at the Boreal Venture, and the Alaska Shorebird Working Initiative (CRIMBI), the Pacific Coast Joint Copper River International Migratory Bird positions on the managing board of the Chugach National Forest currently holds concerns, the Cordova Ranger District on geese, cutthroat trout, and salmon. These Key Coastal Wetlands host a variety of water bird and fish species, such as western sandpipers, Aleutian terns, dusky Canada water bird and fish species, such as western sandpipers, Aleutian terns, dusky Canada.

In 2013, six CRIMBI/key coastal wetland-focused meetings resulted in a variety of partner-funded projects including: wetland pond succession, children’s wetland education, new duicky Canada goose nest islands, and shorebird education, to name a few. Additional meetings were attended for Boreal Partners in Flight and Alaska Shorebird Group. Forest Service personnel also assisted CRIMBI working group management and helped international partners such as Calidris, based out of Colombia, to develop a wetlands education program.

Five webcasts were broadcast, three in English and two in Spanish, from Boundary Bay, Canada, Panama City, Panama, and Cordova, Alaska. In recognition of its power as an education tool for wetlands conservation on an international level, WetlandsLIVE was awarded the North American Waterfowl Management Plan’s prestigious National Blue Wing Teal Award, in March 2014.

Wetlands are an important link between water and land and more than half of America’s original wetlands have been destroyed. Educating students about the important ecological role of wetlands is the first step towards protecting these vital fish and wildlife habitats. WetlandsLIVE provided a year-long emphasis on wetlands around the globe through three free educational webcasts. This was a multi-year project and 2013 was the culminating year, with a focus on outreach and broadcasts.

The Programs

On location in Boundary Bay, Canada, Panama City, Panama, and Cordova, Alaska, each program had a different focus:

- Boundary Bay’s “Wading into Wetlands” was aired live in October 2012 and addressed what wetlands are and why they are important.
- Panama City’s “Wetlands Connections” aired on March 2013. This program built upon students’ prior knowledge of wetlands and explored topics on the importance of maintaining a healthy string of wetlands for migratory species.
- Cordova’s “Discovering Wetlands” was broadcast in May 2013 with a focus on wetlands exploration through student projects. It included topics ranging from wetlands restoration to the invertebrates and fish that make up shorebird food webs.

WetlandsLIVE was awarded again with the North American Waterfowl Management Plan’s prestigious National Blue Wing Teal Award, recognizing it as a powerful educational tool for wetlands conservation at an international level.

The program could participate by submitting questions that would be answered by wetlands experts. Over 150 questions from about 30 schools were submitted during the webcasts, reaching an estimated audience of over 165,000 students watching these programs through the website alone.

In May 2013, in acknowledgement of excellent programming, WetlandsLIVE received the Silver Communicator Award from the International Academy of the Visual Arts. Then, in March 2014, WetlandsLIVE was awarded again with the North American Waterfowl Management Plan’s prestigious National Blue Wing Teal Award, recognizing it as a powerful educational tool for wetlands conservation at an international level.

WetlandsLIVE was designed to include live elements through webcast or webchat for an interactive experience. Students watching the program could participate by submitting questions that would be answered by wetlands experts. Over 150 questions from about 30 schools were submitted during the webcasts, reaching an estimated audience of over 165,000 students watching these programs through the website alone.

Two Spanish language programs of WetlandsLIVE (Humedales en Vivo) were filmed and webcast. Caminando en los Humedales (Wading into Wetlands), filmed in Cordova, Panama City, covered topics similar to those addressed in the Boundary Bay webcast. Descubriendo Humedades (Discovering Wetlands) filmed in Cordova, featured children exploring wetland habitats and participating in a wetlands restoration project. Both Humedades en Vivo programs were aired in May 2013 via the WetlandsLIVE website.

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Partners


In May 2013, in acknowledgement of excellent programming, WetlandsLIVE received the Silver Communicator Award from the International Academy of the Visual Arts. Then, in March 2014, WetlandsLIVE was awarded again with the North American Waterfowl Management Plan’s prestigious National Blue Wing Teal Award, recognizing it as a powerful educational tool for wetlands conservation at an international level.
TO VISIT A MUSHROOM HARVESTING spot outside of Girdwood last week, I had to promise Chugach National Forest mushroom expert Kate Mohatt I would take the coordinates of our location with me to my grave.

"Your slips sink my ship," she told me as I followed her down the mossy trail with her basket and mushroom knife.

Girdwood sits in a rainy sweet spot where the boreal forest of Southcentral meets the rainforests of coastal Alaska. That makes it excellent for fungi – that's pronounced Fun-JEYE.

More territorial than berry-pickers or fishermen, Alaska's mushroom people are zealots. When Mohatt first came to Girdwood and started organizing the Fungus Fair, an event that draws about 800 people during a weekend to listen to mushroom lectures and take forays into the woods, there was some grumbling from the locals. Her posters were torn down around town.

Then, she was hunting some giant boletes, big yellow spongy mushrooms that turn blue where they are handled, when she discovered someone has sent her messages scratched in the fungi flesh.

"Down with Mohatt," they said. "No more fungus fairs." Mohatt is very cautious now about protecting locals' spots. Her mushroom nemesis eventually confessed and apologized, she said.

We threaded through the trees until we saw what she was looking for. Fungi shaped like huge chicken's combs hung from the bark of a dying tree. It was the color of orange Tic Tacs. She sliced off a nub and handed it to me. It was firm and damp and smelled like earth. The mushroom was called "chicken of the woods," she said. It wasn't too flavorful but it would go great in a stir-fry.

Mushroom people break down into three camps, she told me. There are the academics, many of whom don't eat mushrooms at all. Then there is the "Can I eat it?" crowd, serious mushroom hunters who want meaty boletes, ethereal-looking white angel's wings, and the Holy Grail of Alaska mushroom hunting, the rare, beautiful blue chanterelle. And then there is the "Can I trip on it?" crowd, looking for hallucinogenics. Those people are the ones most likely to get themselves into trouble.

Fungi are essential to forest survival, Mohatt told me. Many fungi have a companion tree species that depends on them. Fungi might gather moisture at the roots or break down decomposing wood. Mushrooms are the fruit of fungi, like apples off a tree, she said. Most often the fungi is underground.

Identifying mushrooms is tricky even for an expert, Mohatt said. There are an estimated 40,000 species and more get discovered all the time.

Mohatt picked a small reddish mushroom off the ground and sliced off a piece of the cap.

"Want to try it?"

I could tell by the look in her eye that it wasn't going to be delicious. Mushrooms of the same species can vary in color, which is one reason that it's hard to just identify them from a picture. Instead, you have to ID them by smell, taste and the pattern their spores make when you leave a mushroom cap on a piece of paper. I took the mushroom she handed me. Chew it up, she said, then spit it out.

The taste in my mouth started out woody and then went habanero-hot. I spit it out. My tongue burned. The mushroom was called a "red hot milky cap," she said. If ingested, it causes gastrointestinal distress.

"But, you'll be fine." Mohatt tastes non-edible mushrooms all the time for identification purposes and has never been sick.

Lots of times when people eat wild mushrooms and get ill, she said, they are not being poisoned, they just allergic or having difficulty digesting it. Morel mushrooms, which grow in burn areas the spring, are edible but cause reactions in a surprising number of people, she said.

The most poisonous mushroom in Alaska is the galerina, a small, brown mushroom with gills under the cap. Some people pick it and eat it thinking it will cause hallucinations.

"It causes liver failure," she said. "And a long, torturous death."

Cooking mushrooms makes many species less toxic (but not the galerina), she said. Even commercial mushrooms have some carcinogenic qualities, but they disappear with cooking.

We didn't see anyone for almost two hours along our trail. Then we ran into a grandmother and her granddaughters with their baskets. We were pleasant to each other as we passed but I noticed they stood still until we were out of sight, careful not to reveal which way they were headed.

Excerpted from a story written by Julia O'Malley and originally published in the Anchorage Daily News.

Secrets of the Fungi Forest

STATE OF THE CHUGACH

G L O B A L & LOCAL
Stream Watch has been very busy the past few seasons, with nearly 60 Stream Watch Ambassadors, dozens of Stewardship Work Days, participation in outreach events, and local presentations. Lisa Beranek managed the lower river program and covered Bings Landing, Moose Range Meadows, Centennial Park, and the Kasilof River. Remy McBride managed the upper river program and covered Russian River Falls, Russian River Campground, and the Russian River/Kenai River Confluence.

Stream Watch Volunteer Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Volunteer Hours</th>
<th>Public Contacts</th>
<th>Trash Collected (Lbs)</th>
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<td>2338</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1497</td>
<td>4150</td>
<td>2953</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes the weight of fishing line, fish passage barrier and litter. Numbers for 2014 not available until October.

The event was sponsored by Alaska Fly Fishers, the United States Forest Service, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Stream Watch, Kenai Watershed Forum, Alaska-Wide Adventures, and ConocoPhillips.

The Friends of the Chugach National Forest Avalanche Information Center contributes: $78,971.36 (2014 numbers not yet available)

**CNFAIC Basics 2013/2014**

- 5 PFT/part-time staff
- Advisories from November 17-April 28, 2013 - 179 total advisories (153 in Turnagain; 26 in Summit)
- Advisories from November 21-April 27, 2014 - 172 total advisories (150 in Turnagain; 22 in Summit)
- 276,000 total website visits/15% increase in 2014
- 200 subscribers to email service/366 email subscribers-2014
- 1500+ Facebook followers/1800+ followers-2014
- Contributed to or directly provided more than 30 educational opportunities for the public each year
- Friends of the Chugach National Forest Avalanche Information Center contributions: $78,971.36 (2014 numbers not yet available)

Portage Valley Recreation Plan

Sustainable Recreation

Work continues on the development of a shared vision for Portage Valley. The Forest Service and several interested stakeholders have been working on developing several strategies and action items to help achieve this vision.

Interpretive Planning & Design

The new interpretive plan for Portage Valley is currently undergoing review by the Forest. This plan will include site specific interpretive treatments, as well as, way finding recommendations and designs for several new orientation and interpretive panels in the valley.
STATE OF THE CHUGACH

ON FRIDAY, JULY 12TH, 2013, Forest Supervisor Terri Marcenon participated in a ceremony at Chugach Alaska Corporation (CAC) to formally transfer a National Historic Landmark plaque to the corporation. The plaque had been provided to the Forest in 1963 by the Secretary of the Interior in recognition of the national significance of Palugvik, a prehistoric Chugach Eskimo long-term occupation site in Prince William Sound. The site had been conveyed in May per ANCSA 14(h)(1) to the Forest in 1963 by the Secretary of the Interior in recognition of the national significance of Palugvik, a prehistoric Chugach Eskimo long-term occupation site in Prince William Sound. The site had been conveyed in May per ANCSA 14(h)(1). The site was so inspired by her experiences that she is interested in future employment with the Forest Service. In fact she said, “Being chosen by the USDA Forest Service to live and learn in Alaska is the greatest experience of my life. I feel like I won the jack pot of all internships!”

Fior Calderon
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)

Flor Calderon, a student from Los Angeles, California studying Wildlife Conservation Biology worked with the Girdwood Ranger District this summer as the HACU Intern. During her 10-week internship, Flor learned the protocols for conducting bird, goshawk, and bat surveys and taught others about bear awareness and safety. She learned how to identify and remove invasive plants, and how to create habitat for fish in stocked lakes and perform salmon surveys. During her week shadowing interpreters, she boarded four different vessels that provide guided glacier tours and was able to view wildlife and the beautiful landscape of Prince William Sound. Flor also helped a trail crew construct new trail, conducted tree surveys, translated a brochure into Spanish, surveyed visitors, and shadowed biologists – all of which gave her a greater understanding of the large spectrum of duties performed by the Forest Service. Flor was so inspired by her experiences that she is interested in future employment with the Forest Service. In fact she said, “Being chosen by the USDA Forest Service to live and learn in Alaska is the greatest experience of my life. I feel like I won the jack pot of all internships.”

Lesly Caballero-Garcia
Environment for the Americas Intern

Lesly came to the Cordova Ranger District from California studying Wildlife Conservation. Lesly participated as a wildlife crew member and lead shorebird surveys during peak migration. Lesly participated in owl surveys, worked on planning and program development for Wetland Week, and provided local outreach and education, to the Spanish speaking community in particular. She volunteered with the fish crew for Kids Fishing Day and Kids Hike and Fish. During the summer months, Lesly participated as a wildlife crew member and worked on projects including dusky Canada goose artificial nest island monitoring and maintenance, Ibeck Creek trail re-route and invasive weed removal. Lesly returned home to Petaluma, California to continue working toward her degree in Environmental Science.

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The Summer Bridge Program is aimed at recent high school graduates who will be attending the university in the fall. The Summer Bridge component solidifies the students’ vision of a career in the sciences. The nine week program includes living on UAA’s campus during the first five weeks and completing a field science internship during the last four weeks. All students must successfully complete federal safety training including bear safety, firearms, first aid and CPR, ethics and conduct, federal safety training including bear safety, firearms, first aid and CPR, ethics and conduct, aviation, watercraft and cold water submersion in underwater egress. The nine week program includes living on UAA’s campus during the first five weeks and completing a field science internship during the last four weeks. All students must successfully complete federal safety training including bear safety, firearms, first aid and CPR, ethics and conduct, aviation, watercraft and cold water submersion in underwater egress.

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Begich, Boggs Visitor Center

From May till September...

Opened to the public in 1986, and rededicated with new exhibits in 2001, the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center is built upon the terminal moraine left behind by Portage Glacier in 1914. The Visitor Center offers an unique opportunity to learn about the Chugach National Forest. Award-winning exhibits, educational presentations, the recently completed film ‘Retreat and Renewal: Stories from Alaska’s Chugach National Forest,’ interpretive services, and an Alaska Geographic bookstore are available to serve the public.

The new film allows you to get more familiar with the Chugach National Forest through dramatic human and natural stories that illustrate this landscape’s continuity and resilience.

In the fall of 2013 the Chugach National Forest and the USDA Creative Media & Broadcast Center finished production on the new movie “Retreat and Renewal: Stories from the Chugach National Forest.”

In April, 2014 the movie premiered at the Bear Tooth Theater in Anchorage to great acclaim. Local community showings have taken place this summer and it is available for viewing at the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Catch a sneak peak of the movie trailer at myalaskaforests.com

BBVC Details
Entry Fees
$5.00 for adults. Includes admission to film and exhibits. Children 15 and younger are free!

We honor Interagency Passes
• Senior Pass, Access Pass
• Annual Pass
• Military Pass
• Golden Age/Access Passport

Contact us:
• (907) 783-2326 May-Sept
• (907) 783-3242 Oct-April

The Pacific North West is an area of outstanding natural beauty where the salmon, bears, eagles and other wildlife are a living reminder of the importance of the environment. The Visitor Center is a place to learn about the history and culture of the Alaska Native people and the impact of human activity on the forest.

The film provides a unique perspective on the Chugach National Forest, showcasing the beauty and diversity of the landscape. It is an opportunity to experience the forest from the air and on the ground, gaining a deeper appreciation for the challenges and opportunities facing this region.

The film also features interviews with Alaska Native leaders and community members, providing a glimpse into the cultural heritage and traditional knowledge that is integral to the management of the forest.

From the Russian River
From the Russian River Campground there is a fully accessible trail that makes for a great hike for the whole family.

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From the Russian River
Enjoy a hike on the Jordan McKinley Lake Trail or a trip to K’Beq’ interpretive site.

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The Delta is a mecca for anglers, hunters and wildlife watchers, but it is best known for birds—from stately trumpeter swans presiding over their cygnets to thousands of sandpipers digging for food along the beaches and mudflats.

Eastern Kenai Peninsula
Russian River draws visitors between June and September for world-class red and silver salmon and rainbow trout fishing. 110 road miles south of Anchorage, visitors enjoy diverse recreational activities while visiting the Russian River campground, Ferry Access Site, Russian River Falls, Russian Lakes Trail and cabin system, and the Kenaite K’Beq’ interpretive site. The Russian River is in the heart of bear country and visitors need to be “bear-aware” at all times in both the developed and undeveloped areas of this site.

Copper River Delta
Each year, around May 1, Cordova welcomes 12-14 million shorebirds to the Copper River Delta, the largest contiguous wetlands complex on the Pacific Coast.

Prince William Sound
Kayaking is a wonderful way to be on the water and check out some of the 200 seabird colonies. Prince William Sound’s more than 3,500 miles of intricate coastline, tidewater glaciers and bountiful marine life, are an open invitation to kayakers to explore this remote area.

Plan a multiple day trip to access remote campsites or one of 14 cabins in the Sound. All campsites are primitive.

Enjoy a hike on the Jordan McKinley Lake Trail or a trip to K’Beq’ interpretive site.

From the Russian River
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