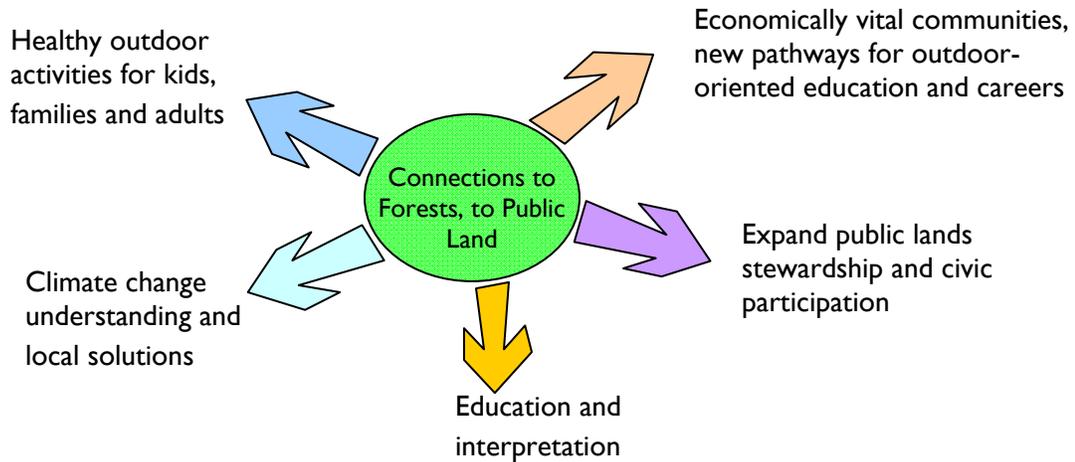


CHUGACH CHILDREN'S FOREST STRATEGIC PLAN

The Chugach Children's Forest is a new approach, sponsored by the USFS and a range of partners, to better connect kids (and their kids too) with everything National Forests and the outdoor world have to offer.



WHY NOW? A RESPONSE TO:

- Increasing disconnect between kids and the natural world
- A need to strengthen the understanding of the value of forests
- Changing demographics – needs for new kinds of recreation & education
- Changing technologies – new options, new distractions
- New economic and environmental challenges – increasing need for collaborative approaches, for shared stewardship

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE? WHERE IS IT?

WHY THE USFS?

- Large blocks of natural areas in the backyard of major cities
- Lands managed for multiple use, and to serve diverse users
- Staff provides skills and knowledge across a wide range of disciplines

BENEFITS FOR THE USFS?

- Expand the base of partners and resources supporting the USFS mission
- Make USFS more relevant to the life of communities in and around the Forest
- Build staff morale and avoid staff burnout

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

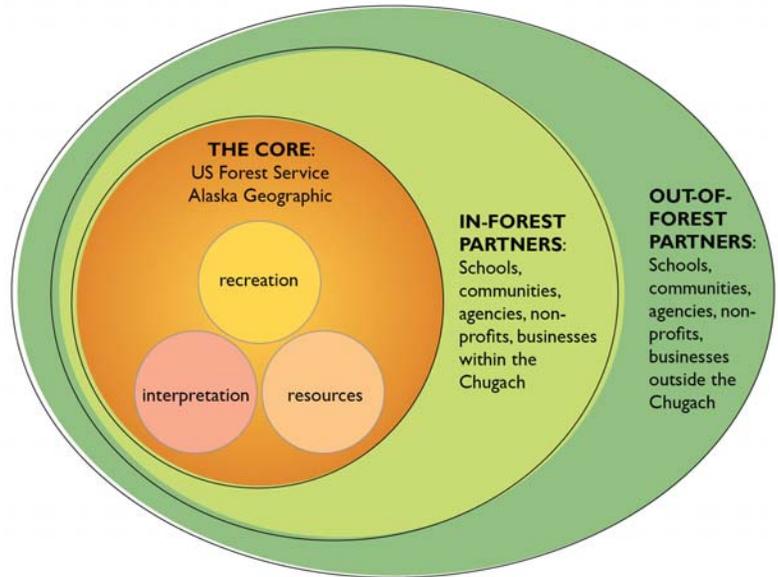
- The USFS in partnership with a wide range of businesses, non-profits, schools and other organizations
- In South Central Alaska, the USFS is partnering with Alaska Geographic who brings skilled staff as well as financial resources to this effort

WHERE WILL THE CHILDREN FOREST PROGRAMS AND PRINCIPLES APPLY?

- Within the National Forest and National Forest communities
- Outside the Forest, in natural areas around Alaska and the nation
- Opportunities to expand to other public lands and collaboration between other federal lands agencies

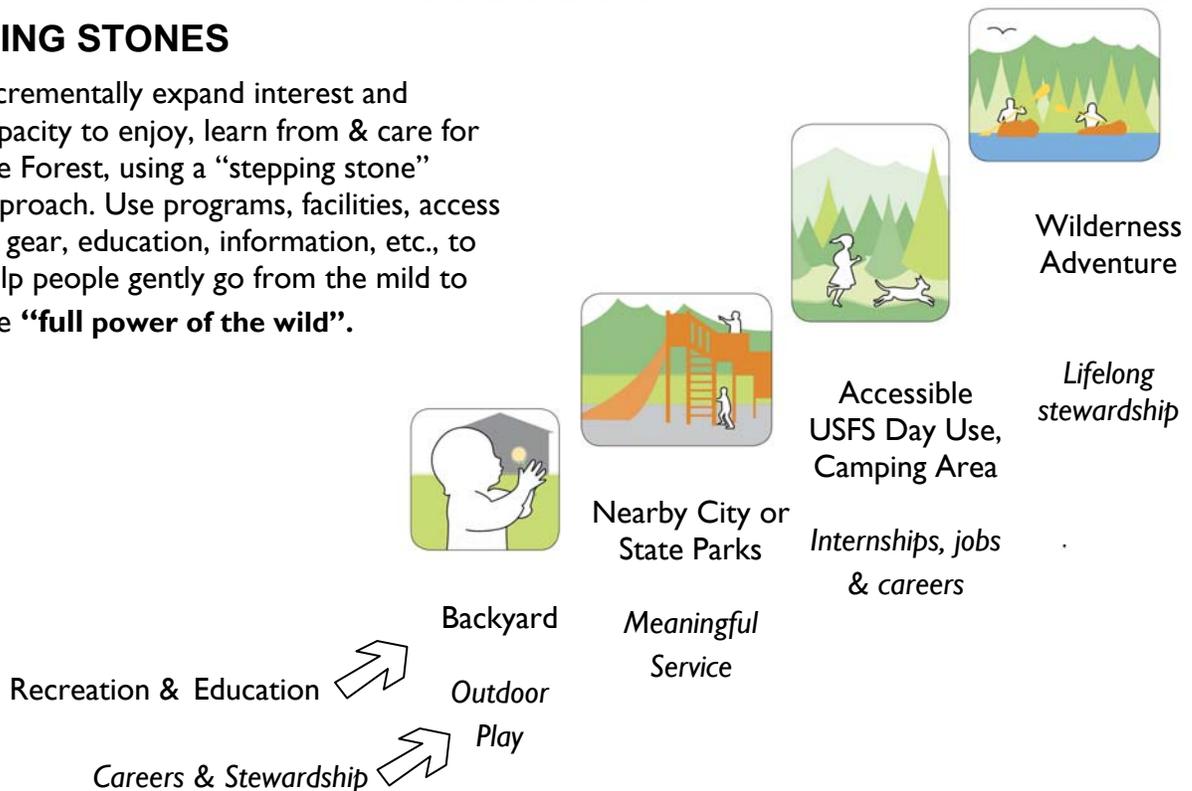
OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES

- **WHY A STRATEGIC PLAN?** To establish a 3 year program, including a “big picture” vision, roles of partners, funding needed and funding sources. The plan must be practical *and* visionary: establishing ambitious goals *and* specific achievable actions to reach those goals.
- **EXISTING STAFF & PROGRAMS** Children’s Forest builds from existing USFS staff, programs and facilities. Much of what makes up the Children’s Forest is already underway.
- **PARTNERSHIPS** Be entrepreneurial: bring in new partners and more resources
- **FLEXIBLE & DYNAMIC** Encourage programs to evolve and change over time
- **SUSTAINABLE** Ensure the Children’s Forest effort takes root; that it is durable & sustainable



STEPPING STONES

Incrementally expand interest and capacity to enjoy, learn from & care for the Forest, using a “stepping stone” approach. Use programs, facilities, access to gear, education, information, etc., to help people gently go from the mild to the “full power of the wild”.



EVALUATION

- Establish clear, objective qualitative and quantitative evaluation criteria
- Use criteria to demonstrate effectiveness to funders, partners & within the agency