



# Forest Highway 43 Road Improvements Project

## Issue

The Forest Service is working with the Federal Highway Administration and Alaska Department of Transportation to make major improvements to 12.5 miles of road on Prince of Wales Island. The project will last for three years, from August 2011 to September 2014, employ up to 50 people, and increase access to forest resources, recreation, and other communities for local residents.

## Background

Forest Highway 43 is located on Prince of Wales Island, between the Coffman Cove road junction and the Deweyville Trail head. The road will be upgraded to a two-lane, 24-foot wide, paved road that meets current safety standards and improves the transportation opportunities for rural communities and access to forest resources. Positive economic impacts beyond the approximately 50 jobs created will manifest on Prince of Wales Island for the duration of the three-year project.

The project is funded by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and administered by the Forest Service. At the end of the project, the road will be transferred to the State for future maintenance and administration. The estimated cost of the project is \$47 million, as advertised on the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) website.

## Current Situation: Timeline

- August 19, 2011: Bid opening
- August 26, 2011: Contract awarded
- September 30, 2014: Contract completion date
- Post-September 30, 2014: Forest Service transfers road easement and maintenance responsibilities to Alaska Department of Transportation.

## More Information

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