



File Code: 2310/1950

Date: May 31, 2012

Dear Friends of the Chugach National Forest,

The Forest Service is proposing to reconstruct facilities at the Russian River Campground to meet the objectives of providing a high quality recreation facility with a safe and efficient transportation system and an ecologically sensitive infrastructure to handle the intensive visitor use. We will be conducting an environmental assessment to identify effects of these proposed actions. The purpose of this letter is to provide you the opportunity to give me comments and concerns on these proposed actions.

Project Area: The project area is located at mile 52.5 of the Sterling Highway, 3 miles west of Cooper Landing, AK. The project area encompasses the entire Russian River Campground complex, including the entrance road and overflow parking, the contact station, the Russian Lakes Trailhead parking and up through the first mile of trail (where the trail crosses under the powerline), the dump station, and all campground loops. It does not include the stairs leading down to the Russian River Angler Trail or the Angler Trail system. Please see the attached map. The legal description is T.5N., R.4W., Sec 33, 34, 35, Seward Meridian.

Proposed Action: Specific elements of the proposed action include:

- 1) ***Improving year round pedestrian and vehicular circulation in and around the campground***
 - a. Modify campground loop roads and site spurs to accommodate a variety of camping vehicles
 - b. Stabilize the slope beyond the contact station to protect the road infrastructure
 - c. Redesign campground entrance/exit points, overflow parking, and the contact station for improved traffic flow and provide an adequate queue for those waiting to enter
 - d. Provide pedestrian/bike pathway between entrance/overflow parking area to points of interest in campground
- 2) ***Providing visitors with improved opportunities for interpretive and educational experiences and universal accessibility to facilities***
 - a. Redesign pavilion area for improved functionality in providing visitor education, interpretive services, and storage of Stream Watch Volunteer program materials
 - b. Redesign campground sites and replace toilets to provide universal accessibility
 - c. Formalize short access trails between sites, loops, parking areas and angler access trails to accessible standards



3) *Improving functionality of trailhead facilities and campground administrative facilities (host site)*

- a. Redesign campground host site for efficient public interaction, provide physical separation between administrative facilities and public camping areas, and storage of equipment and supplies
- b. Redesign sewage waste dump station
- c. Relocating and redesigning the Russian Lakes Trailhead to more efficiently accommodate visitors using the trail
- d. Provide site for concessionaire/volunteers to use, protected from outdoor elements

4) *Construct a facility (or design an area for a vendor to provide an opportunity) where visitors would be able to safely clean and store harvested fish and dispose of fish waste.*

The purpose of this comment period is to provide an opportunity for the public to provide meaningful input on a proposed action implementing a land and resource management plan prior to a decision by the Responsible Official. Individuals or non-federal organizations who submit written comments or otherwise express interest in this particular action during the comment period specified at 36CFR 215.6 have standing to appeal this decision.

Written, oral and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publications of a legal notice in the Anchorage Daily News, the newspaper of record for the Chugach National Forest. The publication date in this newspaper is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this analysis. Publication is scheduled for June 1, 2012. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Persons submitting comments must provide the following information:

1. Name and Address, (telephone number if possible);
2. Title of the proposed action: Russian River Campground Reconstruction Project;
3. Substantive comments on the proposed action, along with supporting reasons that the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision (36 CFR 215.2), and
4. Signature or other verification of identity upon request; identification of the individual or organization who authored the comment(s) is necessary for appeal eligibility. An electronic username is insufficient for electronic comment submittals. Scanned electronic signatures will be accepted.

Comments must be sent to the Responsible Official at the following address:

**Seward Ranger District
Attn: Russian River Campground Reconstruction Project
P.O. Box 390
Seward, Alaska 99664**

Comments may also be submitted electronically to the following e-mail address:

kkromrey@fs.fed.us

Electronic comments shall be in a format that is compatible with the current version of Microsoft Word. Hand delivered written comments will be accepted at the Seward Ranger District during normal business hours Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM, excluding holidays.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Karen Kromrey, Public Service Staff Officer, at 907-288-7745 or John Eavis, Recreation Staff Officer, at 907-288-7701.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Stovall

For

TRAVIS G. MOSELEY
Seward District Ranger

Attachments