



File Code: 1350

Date: January, 24th, 2022

Route To:

Subject: Prince William Sound RAC Funding FY22

To: District Ranger, Cordova RD; District Ranger, Glacier RD; & PWS RAC Chair

I have reviewed the projects that the Prince William Sound Resource Advisory Committee (PWS RAC) has recommended for funding under the Secure Rural Schools and Self-determination Act of 2008, also known as the Payments to States Legislation. I have reviewed these projects to determine that they meet the intent of the Act. For each project this evaluation determined if:

- The projects comply with all applicable Federal laws and regulations;
- The projects are consistent with the applicable resource management plan and any subsequent plan developed pursuant to the resource management plan;
- The projects have been approved by the resource advisory committee in accordance with section 203;
- The projects meet the Secure Rural Schools criteria.

The PWS RAC met on November 20, 2021 to evaluate twenty-six (26) submitted proposals and to make a recommendation for the distribution of funds, as provided for under Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Self-determination Act of 2008. The current estimate of available funds is \$1,254,675. The twenty-six submitted proposals totaled \$2,561,306. The PWS RAC recommendation made at the end of the November 20, 2021 meeting included the following prioritized list of projects:

Project Name	Proponent	Funds Requested	PWS RAC Recommended Funding		Project Products
Recreation Equipment Investment to Support Water Quality and Wildlife Protection	USFS	\$4,000	\$4,000	50%	Purchase 20 bear-proof food canisters and WAG bags
Shrode Lake Trail Restoration	PWS Stewardship Foundation	\$24,108	\$24,108	50%	Restore 3 miles of trail
Mike O'Leary Trail Reconstruction	PWS Economic Development District	\$82,678	\$82,678	59%	Restore 1.2 miles of trail



Henev Ridge Trail Deferred Maintenance	USFS	\$71,000	\$71,000	58%	Reconstruct trail tread & improve 3.9 miles of trail
Western PWS Site Restoration and Clean Up	USFS	\$12,900	\$12,900	50%	Restore/cleanup 7 remotes sites
Sustaining Eyak Lake Salmon Habitat	Copper River Watershed Project	\$48,715	\$48,715	100%	Collate/organize data; restore/stabilize streambanks
Invasive Species Management in Whittier	Kenai Watershed Forum	\$15,647	\$15,647	25%	Control/eradicate invasives (5 acres)
Sand Trail Deferred Maintenance	USFS	\$80,000	\$80,000	55%	Improve 12 miles of trail
Portage Pass Culvert Repair and Road	USFS	\$75,000	\$75,000	100%	Improve 0.32 miles of road; repair 2 culverts
Blackstone Bay Campsite Restoration and Enhancement	USFS	\$20,000	\$20,000	50%	Improve 0.25 mile trail; install 3 food lockers; restore 2 campsites; remove windfall
Restoration and Maintenance of State Lands in PWS	PWS Stewardship Foundation	\$34,468	\$34,468	10%	Restore recreation site; move outhouse
Alaganik Slough Road Culvert Repair or Replace	USFS	\$282,000	\$66,000	100%	Repair 11 culverts in 3 miles of road
Million Dollar Bridge Aircraft Landing Area/Public lands Access	Recreational Aviation Foundation	\$50,000	\$50,000	50%	Improve aircraft landing area
Community-led Removal of Targeted Marine Debris in PWS	PWS Stewardship Foundation	\$75,600	\$75,600	25%	Remove 5 tons debris from 300 miles shoreline
Sheridan Glacier Road Resurfacing	USFS	\$207,500	\$207,500	100%	Resurface 4 miles of road
Area 51-Jack Bay Trail	AK Guide Company	\$25,000	\$25,000	34%	Restore 8 miles of trail
Childs Glacier Recreation Area Road and Trail Deferred Brushing	USFS	\$51,000	\$51,000	75%	Brush/Clear 2.5 miles of road & 2.3 miles of trail
Cordova Invasive Plants	Copper River Watershed Project	\$462,950	\$237,718	25%	Control & eradicate invasives (17.7 acres)
Copper River Delta & PWS Recreation Signage Replacement	USFS	\$105,000	\$73,341	0%	Replace 25 signs at 6 kiosks
Total		\$1,727,566	\$1,254,675		

Based on the RAC bylaws and recommendation from the USDA Forest Service, the PWS RAC recommendation included up to \$75,000 for administrative expenses to the forest leaving \$1,254,675 for distribution to projects.

After my review I have determined that two projects do not comply with or meet the intent of the criteria under the Secure Rural Schools and Self-determination Act of 2008. While the RAC recognized the value and merit, I will not be approving the two projects below at this time based on the following:

1. Area 51 – Jack Bay Trail: This is non-existing infrastructure and does not comply with SEC. 2. (b) (2) where the purpose of the Act is to make additional investments in, and create additional employment opportunities through, projects that improve the maintenance of existing infrastructure.
2. Restoration and Maintenance of State Lands in Prince William Sound: This project is on State land and does not meet the intent of the criteria under Title II – Special Projects on Federal Lands, SEC. 202. General limitation on use of project funds where projects that are on non-Federal land need to directly benefit resources on Federal land.

After further discussion with the Designated Federal Official (DFO) Steven Namitz regarding the additional funds available from Area 51-Jack Bay Trail (\$25,000) and the Restoration and Maintenance of State Lands in Prince William Sound (\$34,468) projects, the following modifications were requested:

1. Copper River Delta & PWS Recreation Signage Replacement: \$105,00 to fully fund the project.
2. Mile 18 Lake Road Deferred Maintenance: \$27,809 to partially fund the project. Since this project was previous approved for Prince William Sound RAC funding on March 3, 2017 and has ongoing needs, the DFO requested additional funding.

PROJECT APPROVAL based on PWS RAC Recommendation:

Based on the PWS RAC recommendation provided on November 20, 2021 and discussion with the DFO regarding the requested modification, I am approving funding for eighteen (18) projects as described in the table below:

Project Name	Proponent	Funds Requested	PWS RAC Recommended Funding	Watershed/ Road Improvements (% Contributions)	Project Products
Recreation Equipment Investment to Support Water Quality and Wildlife Protection	USFS	\$4,000	\$4,000	50%	Purchase 20 bear-proof food canisters and WAG bags

Shrode Lake Trail Restoration	PWS Stewardship Foundation	\$24,108	\$24,108	50%	Restore 3 miles of trail
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Sand Trail Deferred Maintenance	USFS	\$80,000	\$80,000	55%	Improve 12 miles of trail
Portage Pass Culvert Repair and Road	USFS	\$75,000	\$75,000	100%	Improve 0.32 miles of road; repair 2 culverts
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Alaganik Slough Road Culvert Repair or Replace	USFS	\$282,000	\$66,000	100%	Repair 11 culverts in 3 miles of road
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Community-led Removal of Targeted Marine Debris in PWS	PWS Stewardship Foundation	\$75,600	\$75,600	25%	Remove 5 tons debris from 300 miles shoreline
Sheridan Glacier Road Resurfacing	USFS	\$207,500	\$207,500	100%	Resurface 4 miles of road
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Copper River Delta & PWS Recreation Signage Replacement	USFS	\$105,000	\$105,000	0%	Replace 25 signs at 6 kiosks
Mile 18 Lake Road Deferred Maintenance	USFS	\$57,950	\$27,809	%100	Improve 1.2 miles of road, 3 fords & 5 miles of stream
Total		\$1,726,048	\$1,254,675		

Timing for project implementation will be in FY 2022 and FY 2023 and will be informed by the completion of environmental (NEPA) analyses, developing and amending grants/agreements or contracts, and USFS staff capacity.

I appreciate the time and effort of the PWS RAC members in reviewing and recommending projects as well as the forest and community engagement in submitting twenty-six proposals for funding.

X

JEFF SCHRAMM
Forest Supervisor