



**File Code:** 1350

**Date:** March 3, 2017

**Route To:**

**Subject:** Prince William Sound RAC Funding

**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 September 24, 2016 to evaluate thirty-one (31) submitted proposals and to make a recommendation for the distribution of funds, as provided for under Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-determination Act of 2008. The current estimate of available funds is \$826,014.07. The thirty-one submitted proposals totaled \$1,778,369. The PWS RAC recommendation made at the end of the September 24, 2016 meeting included the following projects:

Project Name	Proponent	Funds Requested	PWS RAC Recommended funding	Watershed/ Road Improvements (% contributions)	Project Products
	USFS	\$25,000	\$25,000	0%	FS Administrative RAC costs
Recreation Equipment for Water Quality Protection	USFS	\$6,680	\$6,680	100%	Materials to implement Wag Bag Backcountry Clean Toilet System



<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Proponent</b>	<b>Funds Requested</b>	<b>PWS RAC Recommended funding</b>	<b>Watershed/Road Improvements (% contributions)</b>	<b>Project Products</b>
Copper River Delta Restoration at Snag Lake	Prince William Sound Science Center	\$20,543	\$20,543	100%	10.5 acres wildlife habitat restored, 1 ac native species established; 0.5 mi unauthorized road decommissioned
AK Geo Youth Stewardship Expeditions	AK Geographic,  Chugach School Dist.	\$136,242	\$80,000	25%	1,011 acres forest health/wildlife habitat improvement (PWS: Western Knight Island Passage & Culross to Blackstone)
Pipeline Lakes & McKinley Lake Trail Bridge Deferred Mtce	USFS	\$55,100	\$55,100	75%	Replace 6 bridges (3 on each trail)
Invasive Weeds Control in Whittier	Copper River Watershed Project	\$9,300	\$9,300	25%	Re-establish 10 acres of native species, 5 acres noxious weed control
Elodea Treatment on the Copper River Delta	USFS	\$60,122	\$60,122	100%	Remove elodea from 3 ponds (45 acres) along with effectiveness monitoring
One Eyed Pond Recreation Site Rehabilitation Project	USFS	\$41,637	\$41,637	10%	Improvements to 3 picnic sites and 3 tent sites
Granite Mine Historical Trail Restoration	USFS	\$23,630	\$23,630	50%	Re-establish 1.5 miles of trail back to historic corduroy roadway

Project Name	Proponent	Funds Requested	PWS RAC Recommended funding	Watershed/ Road Improvements (% contributions)	Project Products
Fleming Spit Access to CNF and PWS	Copper River Watershed Project	\$119,255	\$80,000	0%	Improve access by designing/ installing one ramp and platform
Fox Farm Trail Deferred Mtce	USFS	\$56,480	\$56,480	50%	0.8 miles of trail maintenance
Sheridan Glacier Trail Culvert Installation	USFS	\$36,400	\$36,400	50%	Install culvert and crossing
Invasive Plant Control & Mitigation in Cordova/Copper River Delta	Copper River Watershed Project	\$130,335	\$65,166	25%	8 acres of weed control/soil improvement, 1 mile stream improvement
Eyak River Cemetery Shore Restoration	Native Village of Eyak	\$21,048.07	\$21,048.07	100%	100 feet of river bank restoration
Mile 18 Lake Road Deferred Mtce Project	USFS	\$57,950	\$57,950	100%	Restore 1.2 miles of road maintained
Valdez Invasive Plant Survey & Rapid Response	Copper River Watershed Project	\$16,023	\$16,023	10%	Invasive plant survey, control 3 acres targeting 6 high priority invasive species.
Horsetail Falls Gate Improvement	City Of Whittier	\$15,000	\$15,000	0%	Replace gate
Alaganik Slough Road Deferred Maintenance	USFS	\$173,250	\$132,122	100%	Reconstruct .1 mile road
Whittier & Valdez Kiosk Replacement	USFS	\$39,626	\$23,813	0%	Replace Whittier Kiosk
<b>Total</b>		\$1,043,621.07	\$826,014.07		

Based on the RAC bylaws and recommendation from the Forest Service, the PWS RAC recommendation included up to \$25,000 for administrative expenses to the forest leaving \$801,014.07 for distribution to projects. In addition, the PWS RAC recommended and prioritized contingency funding for six projects should additional funds become available within the existing allocation or in future allocations. As prioritized, these projects are:

1. Horsetail Falls Parking Lot (\$25,225)
2. Goat Camp Road Deferred Maintenance (\$87,000)
3. Alaska Geographic Youth Stewardship Expeditions (\$56,242 to fully fund the project)
4. Invasive Plant Control & Mitigation in Cordova/Copper River Delta (\$65,166 to fully fund the project)
5. Flemming Spit Access to CNF/PWS (\$39,255 to fully fund the project)
6. Alaganik Slough Road Deferred Maintenance (\$41,128 to fully fund the project)

After the September 24, 2016 PWS RAC meeting, the Designated Federal Official (DFO) Robert Skorkowsky proposed a modification to the Alaganik Slough Road Deferred Maintenance project based on the concern that the reduced funding recommendation could not implement the .1 mile road work. The modification proposed was to complete 3.22 miles of road reconditioning which is less intensive work than the .1 mile original proposal and would uniformly treat the road surface for \$52,680. The email also acknowledged that if the PWS RAC recommended the Alaganik Slough Road Deferred Maintenance modification that there would be funding available for the next contingency projects (fully fund Horsetail Falls Parking Lot; partially fund Goat Camp Road Deferred Maintenance). The DFO asked for a response by February 22, 2017 and all PWS RAC members confirmed their review, concurrence and recommendation of replacing the original partially funded Alaganik Slough Road Deferred Maintenance project (\$132,122) with the modified project (\$52,680). This revised recommendation on the Alaganik Slough Road Deferred Maintenance project resulted in the availability of funding for Horsetail Falls Parking Lot (\$25,225) and partial funding for the Goat Camp Road Deferred Maintenance (\$54,217).

**PROJECT APPROVAL based on PWS RAC Recommendations:**

Based on the PWS RAC recommendation provided at the September 24, 2016 and the modification to the Alaganik Slough Road Deferred Maintenance project, I am approving funding for RAC administration and twenty (20) projects as described in the table below:

Project Name	Amount	Status	Notes
Horsetail Falls Parking Lot	\$25,225	Approved	
Goat Camp Road Deferred Maintenance	\$54,217	Approved	
Alaganik Slough Road Deferred Maintenance	\$52,680	Approved	
Alaska Geographic Youth Stewardship Expeditions	\$56,242	Approved	
Invasive Plant Control & Mitigation in Cordova/Copper River Delta	\$65,166	Approved	
Flemming Spit Access to CNF/PWS	\$39,255	Approved	

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Proponent</b>	<b>Funds Requested</b>	<b>APPROVED Project funding</b>	<b>Watershed/ Road Improvements (% contributions)</b>	<b>Project Products</b>
	USFS	25,000	\$25,000	0%	FS Administrative RAC costs
Recreation Equipment for Water Quality Protection	USFS	\$6,680	\$6,680	100%	Materials to implement Wag Bag Backcountry Clean Toilet System
Copper River Delta Restoration at Snag Lake	Prince William Sound Science Center	\$20,543	\$20,543	100%	10.5 acres wildlife habitat restored, 1 ac native species established; 0.5 mi unauthorized road decommissioned
AK Geo Youth Stewardship Expeditions	AK Geographic, Chugach School Dist.	\$136,242	\$80,000	25%	1,011 acres forest health/wildlife habitat improvement (PWS: Western Knight Island Passage & Culross to Blackstone)
Pipeline Lakes & McKinley Lake Trail Bridge Deferred Mtce	USFS	\$55,100	\$55,100	75%	Replace 6 bridges (3 on each trail)
Invasive Weeds Control in Whittier	Copper River Watershed Project	\$9,300	\$9,300	25%	Re-establish 10 acres of native species, 5 acres noxious weed control
Elodea Treatment on the Copper River Delta	USFS	\$60,122	\$60,122	100%	Remove elodea from 3 ponds (45 acres) along with effectiveness monitoring
One Eyed Pond Recreation Site Rehabilitation Project	USFS	\$41,637	\$41,637	10%	Improvements to 3 picnic sites and 3 tent sites

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Granite Mine Historical Trail Restoration	USFS	\$23,630	\$23,630	50%	Re-establish 1.5 miles of trail back to historic corduroy roadway
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Horsetail Falls Gate Improvement	City Of Whittier	\$15,000	\$15,000	0%	Replace gate

Project Name	Proponent	Funds Requested	APPROVED Project funding	Watershed/ Road Improvements (% contributions)	Project Products
Alaganik Slough Road Deferred Mtce (modified)	USFS	\$52,680	\$52,680	100%	Recondition 3.22 miles road
Whittier & Valdez Kiosk Replacement	USFS	\$39,626	\$23,813	0%	Replace Whittier Kiosk
Horsetail Falls Parking Lot	City of Whittier	\$25,225	\$25,225	100%	Repair/add to existing parking area
Goat Camp Road Deferred Mtce	USFS	\$87,000	\$54,217	100%	Road mtce on first 2 miles inc. replace culvert; limited clearing/brushing in easement on remaining 4.5 miles
<b>Total</b>		\$1,130,846.07	\$826,014.07		

Should additional funds become available, the contingency projects are prioritized consistent with the PWS RAC recommendation as follows:

1. Goat Camp Road Deferred Maintenance (\$32,783 to fully fund the project)
2. Alaska Geographic Youth Stewardship Expeditions (\$56,242 to fully fund the project)
3. Invasive Plant Control and Mitigation in Cordova/Copper River Delta (\$65,169 to fully fund the project)
4. Fleming Spit Access to CNF/PWS (\$39,255 to fully fund the project)

Timing for project implementation will be in FY 2017 and 2018 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 thirty-one proposals for funding.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terri Marceron". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

TERRI MARCERON  
Forest Supervisor