

**Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act
 Reauthorized by Public Law 115-141
 Title II Project Submission Form
 USDA Forest Service**

Resource Advisory Committee

Project Number (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):

Funding Fiscal Year(s):

2. Project Name:

Shrode Lake Trail Restoration and Cabin Repairs

3a. State: Alaska

3b. County(s):

4. Project Submitted By: Prince William Sound
 Stewardship Foundation

5. Date: 01/26/2024

6. Contact Phone Number: 907-441-1477

7. Contact E-mail:

info@princewilliamsound.org

8. Project Location:

a. National Forest(s): Chugach National Forest

b. Forest Service District: Glacier Ranger District

c. Location (Township-Range-Section)

9. Project Goals and Objectives:

Goal:

- Restore and maintain the existing Shrode Lake Trail over a three-year period using citizen volunteer participation. Repair Shrode Lake cabin as needed.

Objectives:

- Conduct repairs and maintenance at the Shrode Lake cabin, which saves the U.S. Forest Service a mid-summer cabin visit.
- Enhance recreational access to the Shrode Lake basin by brushing and targeting areas of braiding and erosion.
- Address the new spurs and trail braiding that has stemmed from increase in pack raft use.
- Replace the oars of the jon boat, which are heavily weathered with missing hardware.
- Provide and enhance recreational opportunity in areas away from PWS shorelines that can possibly be affected by Barry Arm or other landslide/tsunami risks. Shrode Lake and other areas away from shorelines can attract visitors who may be staying away from the western Sound due to uncertainty surrounding Barry Arm landslide risks.
- Take pressure off of other lands where avoidance of Barry Arm/NW PWS has led to increased visitation and resource damage, such as areas in Port Nellie Juan.
- Support public use opportunities, including recreation, subsistence, hunting, fishing, hiking, solitude, and camping.
- Support the PWS recreation/tourism economy.
- Perform work that helps restore conditions in the Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area, which remains an Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council injured resource.
- Enhance opportunities for the Chugach National Forest to showcase public use opportunities in the spectacular Shrode Lake basin.

10. Project Description:

a. Brief: (*in one sentence*) The Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation will work in partnership with the Chugach National Forest over a three-year period to restore areas of the Shrode Lake Trail and associated spurs and make repairs at the Shrode Lake cabin, improving safe access to a popular national forest recreation area.

b. Detailed: The Shrode Lake Trail is among the most popular national forest system trails in the Wilderness Study Area of western Prince William Sound. It stretches approximately three miles from Three Finger Cove (Cochrane Bay) to Long Bay (Culross Passage), providing a rare connector route between two distinct PWS waterways. It provides access to Shrode Lake, Shrode Creek, and the Forest Service's Shrode Lake public use cabin. Within only 400 feet of elevation gain, the trail passes through ancient spruce-hemlock rainforest, open bogs, and subalpine meadows full of wildflowers. It offers exceptional solitude, scenery, hiking, camping, packrafting, and fishing for salmon and dolly varden. It is also among the most popular areas in western PWS for both cross-country and alpine skiing, making the trail an all-season recreation opportunity that creates both summer and off-season revenue for businesses in gateway communities such as Whittier. In short, the Shrode Lake Trail is a jewel of the national forest trail system in PWS.

In the last three years, with RAC support, PWSSF has made tremendous strides in restoring Shrode Lake Trail, while better understanding the area's conditions and outstanding restoration needs. Areas of overgrown brush, erosion, and fallen trees have been greatly improved, especially along the Long Bay section of trail. The trail is now easily navigable with more defined tread, improving both visitor experience and public safety. The annual brushing of salmonberry, ferns, and alder is becoming a progressively quicker task, as crews are now cutting back annual growth rather than old growth. The completion of this initial maintenance creates opportunity for USFS trail and cabin crews to focus time and resources toward other needs.

Additionally, in recent years, PWSSF crews have assisted the USFS in conducting repairs and maintenance at the Shrode Lake cabin. PWSSF has repaired the chimney, stove, and other critical equipment at the cabin, and relayed maintenance and supply needs to the Forest Service. This saves the Forest Service a mid-summer visit to the cabin, which ensures the cabin is functional at the height of the summer season. This gives the cabins crew the time and funding to provide repairs and maintenance needs at other cabins in the Sound. The need for PWSSF to assist in cabin repairs has become clear in the last three years and will continue during the next 3 years working at Shrode.

Additional outstanding needs include repair of the jon boat for public use. The oars and associated hardware need replacement due to extensive weathering and multiple repair attempts made by the public.

PWSSF has a comprehensive plan for priority needs moving forward:

Year 1

Growing popularity of packrafting has led to changes in use patterns around the two spur trails to the cabin. New spurs and braided trails have developed to access the river, while older routes have grown over with brush. PWSSF will brush one main route to clearly define the new trail, working to restore any braiding. This will reduce and prevent further soil erosion into the lake and stream. By making the trail more defined, new spurs will be less likely to develop.

Because the outhouse was relocated years ago, there are now two outhouse trails that braid together while crossing a wetland. This should be addressed to reduce further erosion. PWSSF will install check-dams to drain runoff, improve durability of the trail, decommission trail braids, and re-route tread onto durable surfaces where rain currently overflows the trail.

Year 2

The Shrode Lake Portage Trail near Three Finger Cove is overgrown and has become eroded and braided in places. Restoration will prevent soil erosion into wetlands and the lake. Brushing a clearly defined trail while restoring braids will protect fragile wetland meadows crossed by the trail. This work will also benefit public opportunities to enjoy national forest system lands and to do so more safely.

Year 3

In the course of work in recent years, stashes of old trail boardwalk, including treated lumber, have been found in the woods along the trail. PWSSF and CNF work to restore trail tread has also led to decommissioning sections of boardwalk. Stashes of old material need to be hauled off site. This will require a crew of volunteers to make multiple trips to bring the materials to tide water, which will be removed for disposal by Forest Service vessel.

The PWS Stewardship Foundation is well positioned to accomplish this work. With previous RAC funding, the Foundation has worked with the Chugach National Forest to greatly improve vast sections of trail and service essential components of the cabin. This has been done with volunteer labor by community members and coordination by the PWSSF’s executive committee, at very little cost to the Forest Service. But while the work has improved conditions, there are areas that need additional attention to prevent future resource damage. With RAC investment, the Foundation would be able to commit the time, recruitment, materials, and expertise from additional partners to restore the entire trail to Class II standard.

Among the Chugach National Forest’s other in-kind contributions, the Forest Service will make the Shrode Lake Cabin available to volunteer crews during each summer’s restoration project.

11. Types of Lands Involved?

State/Private/Other lands involved? Yes No

Land Status: State of Alaska has jurisdiction on navigable waterways, including Shrode Lake.

If Yes, specify:

12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? (Check at least 1)

Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure.

Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems.

Restores and improves land health.

Restores water quality

13. Project Type

a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1)

Road Maintenance

Trail Maintenance

Road Decommission/Obliteration

Trail Obliteration

Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify):

Soil Productivity Improvement

Forest Health Improvement

Watershed Restoration & Maintenance

Wildlife Habitat Restoration

Fish Habitat Restoration

Control of Noxious Weeds

<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish Native Species	<input type="checkbox"/> Fuels Management/Fire Prevention
<input type="checkbox"/> Implement CWPP Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Project Type (specify):
b. Primary Purpose (select only 1 from above): Trail Maintenance	

14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish
Miles of road maintained:
Miles of road decommissioned/obliterated:
Number of structures maintained/improved:
Acres of soil productivity improved: 1
Miles of stream/river restored/improved: <1
Miles of fish habitat restored/improved:
Acres of native species reestablished:
Acres of hazardous fuel treatment
Miles of trail maintained: 3
Miles of trail obliterated:
Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction):
Acres of rangeland improved:
Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved:
Acres of noxious weeds controlled:
Timber volume generated (mbf):
Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty hour weeks:
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention):
Direct economic activity benefit: Cabin maintenance needs, trail overgrowth, downed trees, damaged boardwalk, and bridges adversely impact safe and enjoyable use of the cabin, trail, jon boat, fishing opportunities, and reservations at the public use cabin. Restoration of the trail, a well-maintained cabin, and a functional jon boat, has the direct benefit of attracting increased public awareness and use, which brings economic benefit to water taxis, outfitters, and others in gateway communities such as Whittier.
Other:

15. Estimated Project Start Date: 05/15/2024	16. Estimated Project Completion Date: 08/31/2026
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17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.

PWSSF has partnered with the Chugach National Forest in the area. Other partnership opportunities include outreach to Alaska Trails, Alaska Geographic, Student Conservation Association, and Alaska Native communities/other interests in the PWS region.

18. Identify benefits to communities.

Restoring trail, cabin, and jon boat conditions at Shrode Lake maintains and enhances opportunities for local water taxis, outfitters, and other ancillary businesses in gateway communities like Whittier. Restoring the Shrode Lake Trail improves public access, encourages use and enjoyment of national forest lands, and fuels economic activity for water taxi and ancillary services in gateway communities and beyond.

Additionally, in recent years uncertainty about a possible Barry Arm landslide has created trepidation about visitation to some areas of PWS. Restoring the Shrode Lake Trail offers a renewed opportunity in an area far from landslide/tsunami risks and may attract visitors wishing to capitalize on recreation sites away from ocean waters.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources?

Accomplishing this work would improve recreational experience, improve access to the Forest Service public use cabin, support water taxis and other local businesses, and provide opportunities for the Chugach National Forest to outreach to the public about the area’s recreational opportunities. It would also benefit wildlife by creating more visibility for hikers in bear habitat and improve the condition of soils, streams, and vegetation currently affected by erosion.

20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce
<input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volunteers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreement
<input type="checkbox"/> Americorps	<input type="checkbox"/> YCC/CCC Crews
<input type="checkbox"/> Job Corps	<input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Contract
<input type="checkbox"/> Merchantable Timber Pilot	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):

21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Timber? Yes No

22. Anticipated Project Costs	
a. Title II Funds Requested: \$23,677.50 to be spent over three years	
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	b. multi-year

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding:

24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment)

- a. Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this project on your environmental and community goals outlined above.
- b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring:
- c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k):

25. Identify remedies for failure to comply with the terms of the agreement.

If project cannot be completed under the terms of this agreement:

- Unused funds will be returned to the RAC account.
- Other, please explain:

Project Recommended By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

Chairperson

Resource Advisory Committee

Project Approved By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

Forest Supervisor

_____ National Forest

Budget Description

Column A

Row a. Chugach National Forest provides a total in-kind contribution of \$4,200.00 (2 days annually each for recreation planner and WSA/trails specialist for pre- and post-season visits to assess conditions and annual needs).

Row e. Chugach National Forest provides in-kind contribution of \$900.00 for trails specialist for project design.

Row i. Chugach National Forest provides 6 days total (2 days/yr) in project planning by recreation planner and 15 days (5 days/yr) for WSA/trails specialist to accompany the annual work trip: \$6,900.00.

Row j. USFS vessel/fleet costs over 3 years for site visits: \$3,000.00

Column B

Row a. Field Surveys

PWSSF requests \$1,800.00 for 4.5 days/year of PWSSF staff time for trail assessment field trips.

Row i. Salaries

PWSSF requests \$9,000.00 for 22.5 days/year of program coordinator for volunteer recruitment, partnership development, and project implementation.

Row j. Materials and Supplies

PWSSF requests:

- \$6,000.00 for water taxi to transport volunteer crews to/from Shrode Lake Trail from Whittier. (\$2,000 x 3 round trips)
- \$2,250.00 for tools and camping supplies
- \$1,875.00 for volunteer food and supplies

Row k. Monitoring

PWSSF requests \$600.00 for 0.5 day/year for three years for monitoring.

Row l. Indirect Costs

- o 10% indirect cost rate = \$2,152.50 for tunnel fees, overhead, transportation and equipment rental

Project Cost Analysis Worksheet

Worksheet 1

Please submit this worksheet with your proposal

Item	Column A Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution	Column B Requested Title II Contribution	Column C Other Contributions	Column D Total Available Funds
a. Field Work & Site Surveys	\$4,200.00	\$1,800.00		\$6,000.00
b. NEPA/CEQA				
c. ESA Consultation				
d. Permit Acquisition				
e. Project Design & Engineering	\$900.00			\$900.00
f. Contract/Grant Preparation				
g. Contract/Grant Administration				
h. Contract/Grant Cost				
i. Salaries	\$6,900.00	\$9,000.00		\$15,900.00
j. Materials & Supplies	\$3,000.00	\$10,125.00		\$13,125.00
k. Monitoring		\$600.00		\$600.00
l. Other ex. Partner Indirect Cost		\$2,152.50		\$2,152.50
m. Project Sub-Total				
n. FS Indirect Costs				
Total Cost Estimate	\$15,000.00	\$23,677.50		\$38,677.50

NOTES:

Col. A: FS costs incurred as part of proposal implementation. Coordinate with FS to identify any FS cost for items in Col. A.

Col. B: Title II funding requested to implement the proposal.

Col. C: Matching funds being contributed by proponent or third parties. Proposals funded with a Participating Agreement will require a minimum 20% match.

Col. D: Sum of columns A, B, and C for each individual row.

Row A: Costs associated with project planning, not project implementation, such as assessment of miles of trail needing maintenance. Assessments and planning needed to develop a specific proposal. For Col. B: proponents must request permission in advance to request Title II funds to complete NEPA/CEQA analyses, as this is expected to be completed prior to proposal submission.

Rows B, C, D, and E: cost associated with environmental compliance and project design. Proponents must request permission in advance to request Title II funds to complete NEPA/CEQA analyses, as this is expected to be completed prior to proposal submission.

Row G: Costs associated with preparation of contract or agreement instruments used to implement the proposal. Contracts used to complete projects have special provisions; contact the FS to identify these early in the process.

Row G: Costs associated with administration of contract or agreement instruments used to implement the proposal.

Row H: Estimated value of any contracts/agreements used to implement proposal. Contracts/agreements used to complete projects have special provisions; contact the FS to identify these early in the process.

Row I: Cost of salaries to implement project

Row L: Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.

Row K: Costs associated with performing monitoring described in Items 24a, 24b, and 24c. Amounts should be similar between Item 24 and Row K.

Row N: Forest Service indirect costs, including contracting/grant officer costs if needed.