

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: Derickson Hiking and Camping Area Restoration

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 hiking and camping areas at Derickson Spit using citizen volunteer participation.

Objectives

- Clearly define hiking routes at Derickson Spit to mitigate future resource damage.
- Reduce braiding across sensitive wetlands and soil erosion into stream.
- Restore and enhance Chugach National Forest 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.

10. Project Description:

a. Brief: (*in one sentence*) Over a three-year period, the Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation will work in partnership with the Chugach National Forest to treat trail braiding, soil erosion, and vegetation loss at hiking and camping areas on Derickson Spit in Port Nellie Juan, which will help maintain wetland meadows, water quality, and public enjoyment of the area.

b. Detailed:

Derickson Spit is one of the most popular areas of western Prince William Sound for camping, picnicking, boating, and kayaking. Approximately 10 outfitter/guides are authorized to bring clients to the area. The area consists of a network of frequently used campsites and hiking areas focused on and around a terminal moraine. A popular hiking area rises 200 feet over .5 mile to spectacular views of

the tidewater Nellie Juan Glacier. It passes through wetland meadows and an early successional forest that has developed since the glacier receded from the moraine nearly 100 years ago.

As the site's popularity has grown, visitors have cut down approximately 75 alder, spruce, and hemlock trees to establish routes into the uplands. Mature trees have also been blazed with chainsaws. Increased traffic has led to trail braiding across sensitive wetland meadows adjacent to an anadromous stream, creating vegetation loss and soil erosion.

Additionally, the half-mile Derickson Spit is popular for camping and can accommodate large groups. Chugach National Forest monitoring shows the area has lost vegetation and thin soils as popularity grew in the last decade. Improperly exposed human waste, trash, and an abundance of fire rings are also common.

PWSSF will conduct the following work over a three-year period and under the guidance of Chugach National Forest staff. Each year will entail one scouting trip with Forest Service staff and one four-day trip with PWSSF volunteers, which will be led by a Forest Service specialist.

Year 1: Volunteers with the PWSSF will naturalize braided hiking areas, including where soil is eroding into salmon-bearing streams, focus hiking on a durable tread, cut stumps down to ground level where visitors have removed trees, and re-direct hikers away from sensitive wetlands. While this prioritizes work on the hiking areas around the spit, if time allows the group will also begin restoring the most heavily impacted camping areas on the spit.

Year 2: Volunteers will complete restoration of the hiking areas in the uplands above the spit, picking up where the work left off the previous year. The priority will then shift to restoring camping areas on the spit. This will entail focusing camper use on the most durable surfaces over an area of roughly ½ mile of beach. In more sensitive areas, volunteers will restore vegetation and mitigate soil erosion. Redundant fire rings or fire rings in sensitive vegetation will be removed, while fire rings will be maintained on durable surfaces near camping areas.

Year 3: Volunteers will complete restoration of the camping areas.

The Glacier Ranger District trails program devotes time and energy during the short summer season to system trails along the road system between Girdwood, Portage, Whittier, and Turnagain Pass. Expenses and travel time to Derickson Spit pull trail crews away from these other areas. Partnering with PWSSF leverages volunteer labor to maximize Chugach National Forest staff resources. The expenses associated with this project are primarily water taxi costs and PWSSF coordination, as the site is remote and can take up to 90 minutes by boat to access.

11. Types of Lands Involved?

State/Private/Other lands involved? Yes No

Land Status:

If Yes, specify:

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

Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restores and improves land health.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restores water quality

13. Project Type	
a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Road Maintenance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trail Maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/> Road Decommission/Obliteration	<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Obliteration
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Productivity Improvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest Health Improvement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watershed Restoration & Maintenance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Habitat Restoration
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish Habitat Restoration	<input type="checkbox"/> 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):	

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:
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:
 The restoration of hiking and camping areas will enhance the visitor experience by improving vegetation and creating more durable and better defined recreational opportunities. The improvements will support the area's recreation and tourism economy by providing outfitter/guide companies and independent travelers with reliable, safe, and attractive opportunities for hiking and camping. The area's popularity already supports regular water taxi and guiding services, which will be maintained by the restoration work.

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.

PWS Stewardship Foundation 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.

When trail and recreation site conditions are poor, PWS residents and visitors alike are less likely to spend their time, money, and other resources accessing that area. This could decrease the number of locations that residents and visitors request transport to by local water taxis. As a result, outfitters and other ancillary businesses could lose revenue opportunities. Restoring hiking and recreation sites at Derickson Spit improves public access to a popular area, encourages use and enjoyment of national forest lands, and fuels economic activity for water taxi and ancillary services in gateway communities and beyond.

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

Accomplishing this work would improve recreational experience, support water taxis and other local businesses, and restore conditions in the Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area. It may 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: \$18,920.00

b. Is this a multi-year funding request? Yes No

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 (3 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 \$1200.00 for trails specialist for project design.

Row i. Chugach National Forest provides 9 days total (3 days/yr) in project development by recreation planner and 12 days (4 days/yr) for WSA/trails specialist to accompany the annual work trip: \$7,200.00.

Row j. USFS vessel/fleet costs over 3 years for site visits: \$2,000.00

Column B

Row a. Field Work & Site Surveys: 3 days PWSSF staff hours at \$400/day

Row i. Salaries: 21 days (7 days/year for 3 years) PWSSF staff hours at \$400/day

Row j. Materials & Supplies: \$1,000.00 volunteer tools and backcountry supplies, \$6,000 water taxi (\$1,300 x 3 roundtrips)

Row k. Monitoring: 1.5 days (0.5 days/year for 3 years) PWSSF staff hours at \$400/day

Row l. Partner indirect cost: 10%

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	\$1,200.00		\$5,400.00
b. NEPA/CEQA				
c. ESA Consultation				
d. Permit Acquisition				
e. Project Design & Engineering	\$1,200.00			\$1,200.00
f. Contract/Grant Preparation				
g. Contract/Grant Administration				
h. Contract/Grant Cost				
i. Salaries	\$7,200.00	\$8,400.00		\$15,600.00
j. Materials & Supplies	\$2,000.00	\$7,000.00		\$9,000.00
k. Monitoring		\$600.00		\$600.00
l. Other ex. Partner Indirect Cost		\$1,720.00		\$1,720.00
m. Project Sub-Total				
n. FS Indirect Costs				
Total Cost Estimate	\$14,600.00	\$18,920.00		\$33,520.00

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.