

**2014 - 2015 SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS  
PUBLIC LAW 110-343  
TITLE II PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM  
USDA FOREST SERVICE**

**Name of Resource Advisory Committee:**  
**Project Number** (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):  
**Funding Fiscal Year(s):**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>2. Project Name: Continuing Impacts Clean-up and Restoration in Remote Areas of Prince William Sound: Youth Stewardship Expeditions</b>                          | <b>3a. State: Alaska</b><br><b>3b. County(s): Unorganized Borough</b>   |
| <b>4. Project Submitted By: Ann Mayo-Kiely, Alaska Geographic; and Doug Penn, Chugach School District</b> (in partnership with USFS and Chugach-Alaska Corporation) | <b>5. Date: 6/14/2016</b><br><b>Revised Proposal date: 1/31/2017</b>  |
| <b>6. Contact Phone Number: 907-771-8466</b>  | <b>7. Contact E-mail:</b><br><a href="mailto:amayokiely@alaskageographic.org">amayokiely@alaskageographic.org</a> ;<br><a href="mailto:dpenn@whittier.csd.schoolaccess.net">dpenn@whittier.csd.schoolaccess.net</a> |

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| <b>8. Project Location: Western Prince William Sound</b>   |  |
| a. National Forest(s): Chugach                             | b. Forest Service District: Glacier District |
| c. Location (Township-Range-Section): Prince William Sound |  |

**9. Project Goals and Objectives:** Through teams of trained local youth volunteers, remediate resource impacts caused by recreation and other human use, naturalizing and protecting sites and removing trash in priority sites of Prince William Sound identified by the USFS, Chugach-Alaska Corporation, and State Parks.

**10. Project Description:**

a. Brief: (*in one sentence*)  
Alaska Geographic (AKGeo) and the Chugach School District (CSD) will work in close collaboration with the US Forest Service, Chugach-Alaska Corporation, and State Parks to remediate the impacts of recreation and commercial use and restore native habitats along coastal uplands, in ANCSA 14(h)(1) sensitive cultural sites, and within designated recreation sites of specific areas of Western Prince William Sound.

b. Detailed:  
Alaska Geographic, the Chugach School District, and Chugach National Forest Prince William Sound Zone (Glacier District) propose a continuation of a broad collaboration in Prince William Sound to complete high priority stewardship projects in remote areas of the Sound through volunteer youth crews. This collaboration was started in 2012 and extended with additional funding and stewardship projects in 2014 with approval by the PWS RAC. The primary focus of most of these trips has been removal of trash and debris, naturalizing coastal and upland areas, and improving designated trails,

hardened tent pads, and cabin sites, and they have visited 6 sites with known populations of invasive species several times while also monitoring additional areas of concern. Since 2012 120 youth have volunteered on these projects and 8 local youth have been hired to work on this project as program assistants. Youth volunteers have come from 13 communities--Cordova, Tatitlek, Valdez, Chenega Bay, Whittier, Girdwood, Anchorage, Eagle River, Palmer, Soldotna, Kenai, Seward, and Kodiak. Approximately 50% are from minority populations, including Alaska Native, Pilipino, Samoan, African American, Hmong, Mexican, and Dominican.

Specific accomplishments of these work crews since 2016 include:

- Removed several hundred pounds of trash along more than 200 miles of coastline primarily in Knight Island Passage, Culross and Nellie Juan, Blackstone Bay, and Port Wells. Some of these sites were visited multiple years to address recurring impacts. Where significant amounts of trash and human debris were removed the youth crews accumulated the debris where it was easy for the USFS to make a quick stop for pickup with a boat. Crews have removed several hundred pounds of trash in areas where the USFS would not have had time to complete the clean-up.
- Naturalized more than 50 dispersed campsites, completing campsite surveys at some of these, as directed by the USFS.
- Improved the Coghill Lake Trail.
- Cleaned up cabin sites, including at Serpentine Cove, Shrode Lake, and Harrison Lagoon.
- Cleaned up trash, controlled erosion, maintained trails and improved State Park campgrounds and USFS sites (including Squirrel Cove, Ziegler Cove, Hobo Bay, and hardened sites in Blackstone Bay).
- Removed trash and marine debris from Applegate and Crafton Islands and reported on conditions (under the direction of Chugach-Alaska Corporation).
- Removed debris and improved conditions at the historic Granite Mine (ongoing work needed).
- Continued a years-long project to document and remove non-native dandelions in Barry Arm and Harriman Fiord, Icelandic Poppies in Pigot Bay, and European black slugs in Eshamy Bay.

These crews have proven very effective at surveying for and documenting invasive species and high human impacts in areas the USFS is not able to visit frequently. With more information on the specific locations and extent of invasive species infestations the USFS is able to develop more effective plans for removal and eradication, and focus on locations most in need of attention. Since this effort began in 2012 it has become clear that there is a need to return to many sites more than once, because of 1) the difficulty of limited USFS crews reaching these sites, 2) recurring recreation impacts, 3) the fact that some of the invasive species are very well-established. Also, sites like historic Granite Mine will require extensive labor hours to complete clean-up and restoration work.

The Chugach National Forest, Glacier District and Chugach-Alaska Corporation have identified 5 priority areas of Prince William Sound in need of restoration work and clean-up of recreational impacts in 2017 and 2018. Project locations and areas were identified by partners based on known existing impacts in need of remediation, as well as being better suited to volunteer crews traveling by kayak than boat-based USFS crews. These project locations were also identified based on complementing projects worked on since 2012. The projects will be completed by 2 crews of 12-15 high school students and trip leaders traveling by sea kayak and wilderness camping for approximately 10 days each, with water taxi support for drop off and pick up from Whittier at the start and end of the trip. Collected debris and trash will be stashed in areas reachable by boat and removed

by USFS vessels. Youth volunteers will be recruited from all Prince William Sound communities, Anchorage, and the Kenai Peninsula.

Project needs and details were provided by Tim Lydon and the Glacier Ranger District.

### **1. West Knight Island Passage**

West Knight Island Passage is an area of heavy commercial fishing and is popular among boaters, kayakers and hunters. USFS has documented abandoned commercial fishing gear, abandoned camps, litter, unauthorized structures, and impacts to soils, invasive species, and impacts to wetlands, soils, and vegetation. In recent years, AKGeo-CSD Youth Expeditions visiting parts of this region have restored sites, notified USFS of abandoned/unauthorized structures, removed garbage, and significantly improved USFS understanding of non-native European black slug infestations.

The area includes state lands, several 14h1 heritage sites under Chugach Alaska Corporation ownership, and approximately 20,000 acres of national forest acquired through the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill settlement and intended for management for conservation and wilderness values. Most of the area is within the Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area. Volunteer youth crews in 2017 and 2018 will visit the area in conjunction with work in Culross Passage. Work priorities will be informed by USFS, Chugach Alaska Corporation, and Alaska State Parks. Duties will include coastal uplands garbage removal, restoration of impacted areas, reporting on invasive species and resource conditions. The work will improve heritage values, water quality, recreation opportunity and economy, wildlife habitat, and wilderness character.

### **2. Culross Passage to Blackstone Bay**

Culross Passage sees some of the heaviest recreational boating traffic in Prince William Sound, with many visitors stopping ashore for dog walks, bathroom breaks, or sightseeing. It is also popular among bear hunters, fishers, campers, and kayakers. It is an area of persistent resource damage, including garbage, unauthorized structures, improperly disposed human waste, improper food storage, and damage to vegetation and soils. Blackstone Bay is among the most popular areas in western Prince William Sound for independent and commercial kayak camping. Other uses include recreational boating, fishing, jet-ski tours, tour boat visits, and bear hunting. Trash, damaged soils and vegetation, improperly disposed human waste and associated litter are common resource concerns.

USFS does not have the staff to keep up with the issues, but in recent years AKGeo-CSD Youth Expeditions have removed garbage, restored sites, and provided USFS with improved understanding of visitor trends and impacted areas. These volunteer youth crews will visit the area in 2017 and 2018 to perform coastal uplands clean-up and restoration and maintenance of four USFS hardened campsites in the area. Clean-up will include improperly disposed human waste and associated trash, which are common in this area, often in or close to streams. The work will improve public health and safety, water quality, recreation experience and economy, and wilderness character in the Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area.

The area includes two 14h1 heritage sites under Chugach Alaska Corporation and the Surprise Cove State Park. Both sites are among the most popular recreation sites in western Prince William Sound and are areas in need of regular clean-up and restoration. Work priorities will be informed by USFS, Chugach Alaska Corporation, and Alaska State Parks.

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| <b>11. Types of Lands Involved?</b>  |
| State/Private/Other lands involved? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  |
| <b>Land Status: State Parks, Chugach-Alaska Corporation</b>  |
| If Yes, specify: Coastal clean-up may include areas within the boundaries of State Park lands (e.g. Point Nowell, Granite Bay, Surprise Cove) and Chugach-Alaska Corporation lands (e.g. Crafton Island, Applegate Island), with this work on their lands being completed under their direction. |

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| <b>12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation?</b> (Check at least 1)         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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  |

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| <b>13. Project Type</b>   |  |
| a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1)   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Road Maintenance   | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Maintenance   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Road Decommission/Obliteration   | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Obliteration  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify): maintenance of designated campsites and cabin sites |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Productivity Improvement  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest Health Improvement                                    |
| <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Project Type (specify): ANCSA 14(h)(1) site protection |
| b. Primary Purpose (select only 1): Forest Health Improvement   |  |

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| <b>14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish</b>   |
| Miles of road maintained:  |
| Miles of road decommissioned/obliterated:  |
| Number of structures maintained/improved: 4 established hardened campsites maintained and improved |
| Acres of soil productivity improved:   |
| Miles of stream/river restored/improved:   |

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| 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): <b>1,011 acres</b> --- 909 acres of coastal uplands (75 miles coastal uplands x 100 feet deep) plus 2 acres (cabin + campsites) |
| Acres of rangeland improved:   |
| Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved: <b>1,011 acres</b> --- 909 acres of coastal uplands (75 miles coastal uplands x 100 feet deep) plus 2 acres (cabin + campsites)                 |
| 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: <b>0.5 FTE paid position, 1600 volunteer labor hours</b>                                     |
| People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention): 30 directly, 5,000 through associated public outreach, presentations, and communications.                             |
| Direct economic activity benefit: Creation of non-federal jobs, support for local businesses and organizations, jobs skills training for local youth.  |
| Other:   |

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| <b>15. Estimated Project Start Date: 9/1/2016</b> | <b>16. Estimated Project Completion Date: 12/31/2018</b> |
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**17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.**

Committed partners involved in project identification and planning for this project include Alaska Geographic, the Chugach School District, Chugach National Forest, and Chugach Alaska Corporation. Alaska State Parks will continue to be involved in directing work that happens on their lands. Additional partners involved in project implementation include Anchorage School District, Cordova School District, Valdez School district, Kenai Borough School District, and local water taxi businesses. We are also coordinating with other organizations working on stewardship projects and job skills training for youth in the region, including Copper River Watershed Project, Student Conservation Association, Youth Employment in Parks, and local universities.

**18. Identify benefits to communities.**

Since the beginning of this program in 2012, 120 youth from 13 different Southcentral communities have been involved, gaining valuable job skills training and experience, forming a deep personal connection with Prince William Sound and the Chugach National Forest, earning valuable school credit, and entering a pathway to higher education and career opportunities. Additionally, this program has employed 8 local youth as program assistants and other related roles.

Through these volunteer projects, local youth will receive credit for public land corps experience through the 21CSC program (of which AKGeo is a partner), as well as high school credit. Training for the youth will include job skills, safety, recreation, and leadership, making them more qualified for jobs with the many agencies and natural resources and recreation businesses in the region. Several alum of these programs have returned to work as assistant trip leaders and interns and been hired in related jobs, while others have started college programs related to public lands conservation. Additionally, in the past we have been able to hire trip leaders from communities like Whittier and Cordova, providing valuable employment for local residents, as well as working with small local businesses like water taxis and boat charters and school districts, providing valuable economic support and other resources. We will continue efforts to hire local residents and work with local businesses for these projects.

People who recreate in Prince William Sound benefit directly from this project with more natural conditions and healthier forests and wildlife in the places they camp, hike, hunt, fish and boat in the Sound.

By completing these projects in collaboration with local organizations we further build capacity and leverage valuable resources within the communities of Prince William Sound to collectively be more successful in completing important stewardship projects, supporting local youth, and supporting local businesses. Community partners have committed \$69,975 in matched for 2017-2018, with additional contributions of USFS staff time and other resources. An extension of this program includes public presentations by the youth volunteers, including presentation to school boards, public events in their communities, and media and outreach posted to partner websites and social media. This adds an additional educational benefit for local communities, as well as reaching a much broader audience with stewardship messages and promotion of responsible recreation in Prince William Sound (for examples of youth media and outreach, see [www.chugachchildrensforest.org](http://www.chugachchildrensforest.org) and Chugach Children's Forest Facebook and YouTube channel.

This program has become a model to National Forests and youth organizations across the country. Alum and USFS and partner staff have been invited to present at regional and national conferences to help guide others in replicating our success.

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

This project addresses the highest priorities for the Chugach National Forest. In addition to accomplishing measurable improvements in cultural, natural, and recreation resources associated with managing for ecosystem health, we address high priorities identified by the USFS in their "Leaders' Intent" for the Chugach—maintaining the Wilderness Character of the Chugach through collaboration with partners and citizen stewards. It also achieves the priorities of the Chugach Children's Forest by engaging diverse local youth as stewards of the Forest, and fostering future employees for the agency. USFS funding for the maintenance of recreation facilities and stewardship of wilderness character in the Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area is no longer sufficient to keep up with stewardship needs. A priority for the USFS is to foster collaborative partnerships like this one to foster citizen stewards and greater assistance from community partners.

An additional benefit to the National Forest is the success this program has had in inspiring stewards in younger generations—both rural and urban in the Chugach region. National trends raise concerns that diverse younger generations are increasingly disconnected from nature and public lands—this program is proving successful in raising awareness and participation of diverse local youth in public lands stewardship and recreation.

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| <b>20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment?</b> (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 type="checkbox"/> Grant  | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): non-federal workforce |

**21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Timber?**     Yes         No

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| <b>22. Anticipated Project Costs</b>   |
| a. Title II Funds Requested: \$80,000 (\$69,975 match from non-USFS partners)                                |
| b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

**23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding:**  
Alaska Geographic and Chugach School District

**24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment) – attached.**

- 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

# Project Cost Analysis Worksheet

## Worksheet 1

Please submit this worksheet with your proposal

| Item  | Column A<br>Fed. Agency<br>Appropriated<br>Contribution | Column B<br>Requested<br>Title II<br>Contribution | Column C<br>Other<br>Contributions | Column D<br>Total<br>Available<br>Funds |
|---|---|---|------------------------------------|---|
| a. Field Work & Site Surveys  |   |   |                                    | \$0                                     |
| b. NEPA/CEQA  |   |   |                                    | \$0                                     |
| c. ESA Consultation   |   |   |                                    | \$0                                     |
| d. Permit Acquisition   |   |   |                                    | \$0                                     |
| e. Project Design & Engineering   |   |   |                                    | \$0                                     |
| f. Contract/Grant Preparation   |   |   | \$2,400                            | \$2,400                                 |
| g. Contract/Grant Administration  |   |   | \$6,000                            | \$6,000                                 |
| h. Contract/Grant Cost  |   |   |                                    | \$0                                     |
| i. Salaries (USFS)  | \$9,537   | \$0   | \$0                                | \$9,537                                 |
| i. Salaries (AKGeo)   |   | \$46,400  | \$25,000                           | \$71,400                                |
| j. Materials & Supplies (USFS)  |   | \$1,000   | \$0                                | \$1,000                                 |
| j. Materials & Supplies (AKGeo)   |   | \$4,000   | \$16,500                           | \$20,500                                |
| k. Monitoring   |   |   | \$4,000                            | \$4,000                                 |
| l. Other  |   | \$16,188  | \$7,500                            | \$23,688                                |
| 1. Travel (water taxis, vans, tunnel fees, participant transportation, lodging, and food) |   |   |                                    |   |
| 2. USFS Vessel  | \$500   | \$500   | \$0                                | \$1,000                                 |
| 3. Partner Indirect Cost (17.5% of non-USFS expenses)                                     | \$0   | \$11,912  | \$8,575                            | \$20,487                                |
| m. Project Sub-Total  | \$10,037  | \$80,000  | \$69,975                           | \$160,015                               |
| n. FS Indirect Costs  |   |   |                                    |   |
| <b>Total Cost Estimate</b>  | <b>\$10,037</b>   | <b>\$80,000</b>                                   | <b>\$69,975</b>                    | <b>\$160,015</b>                        |

### Monitoring Plan

- 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.

As part of annual reporting, Alaska Geographic will track measurable accomplishments, including:

- Exact locations and descriptions of site impacts and stewardship actions completed.

- Number of volunteers involved, including communities represented, volunteer hours, and demographics.
- Measurable impacts to youth volunteers, both immediate and longer-term—measurements include changes in awareness, understanding and interest in public lands, recreation, and natural and cultural resources stewardship.
- Employment opportunities created, job training completed, number of local residents filling jobs, and number of youth moving into additional paid or volunteer positions.

Project accomplishments and progress toward goals and objectives will be reported to the USFS through an annual debrief meeting, with progress reports communicated through additional planning meetings between partners. In addition to reporting to project partners, we will share project accomplishments with a broader audience through multimedia storytelling with youth volunteers, public presentations, and social media outreach with educational and stewardship messages.

b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring:

Alaska Geographic and the Chugach School District will be responsible for monitoring effects of these projects on forest health, cultural resources, partners, local communities, and the local youth volunteers. Both partners have extensive experience with grant management and reporting, as well as measuring impacts to youth and partners. We will work closely with the US Forest Service to track measurable resource accomplishments, using their protocols for measuring and monitoring effects on forest and wildlife health, and improvements to recreational facilities—as well as coordinating with their field crews who complete this type of resource monitoring as a part of their field duties.

c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks:

Precise funding needs for long-term monitoring is difficult to calculate because it will be completed in coordination with future programs, rather than run independently as monitoring trips.

Monitoring beyond the timeframe of this RAC funding (after 2018) will be incorporated into ongoing Alaska Geographic and Chugach School District programs in Prince William Sound, as well as being completed in collaboration with USFS field crews. In the past we have successfully worked with the US Forest Service on kayaking and boat-based expeditions with youth to re-visit high priority sites for monitoring, and we have every intention of continuing these programs beyond the life of this RAC project. For example, through a partnership with PWSRCAC, and the Copper River Watershed Project we have run a boat-based expedition with the means to revisit high priority stewardship sites to monitor long-term impacts of remediation efforts. We will also continue to work in collaboration with the USFS to most efficiently revisit sites through a combination of their field crews and our volunteer youth expeditions.