

**File Code:** 1350**Date:** April 8, 2021**Route To:****Subject:** Wrangell-Petersburg Resource Advisory Committee 2020 Project**To:** Ted Sandhofer, DFO and Clint Kolarich, DFO

I approve funding for the following projects as recommended by the Wrangell-Petersburg-Kake Secure Rural Schools Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) in May and June, 2020. These projects meet the intent of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act legislation as well as our own sustainability requirements for all new project submissions.

Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act (the Act) requires that Title II projects should enjoy broad-based support, and have objectives that may include:

- road, trail, and infrastructure maintenance or obliteration;
- soil productivity improvement;
- improvements in forest ecosystem health;
- watershed restoration and maintenance;
- the restoration, maintenance, and improvement of wildlife and fish habitat;
- the control of noxious and exotic weeds; and
- re-establishment of native species.

Section 202 of the Act specifies that project funds may be used for protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and other resource objectives consistent with the purposes of the Act on Federal land and on non-Federal land where projects would benefit the resources on Federal land. Section 204 of the Act sets forth conditions for approval of proposed projects. A project submitted by a Resource Advisory Committee may be approved only if the proposed project satisfies each of the following conditions:

- The project complies with all applicable Federal laws (including regulations).
- The project is consistent with the applicable resource management plan and with any watershed or subsequent plan developed pursuant to the resource management plan and approved by the Secretary concerned.
- The project has been approved by the Resource Advisory Committee.
- A project description has been submitted by the Resource Advisory Committee.
- The project will improve the maintenance of existing infrastructure, implement stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems, and restore and improve land health and water quality.



**The following projects are approved at the funding level displayed below:**

Project # 19-14	Kupreanof Dock Improvements	\$40,000
Project # 19-12 revised	Kaatslitaan Culture Camp	\$8,200
Project # 19-15	Nemo Saltwater Trail Repair	\$27,500
Project # 19-16	Rainbow Falls High Country Trail System	\$14,500
Project # 19-11A	Stikine LeConte Etolin Invasive Plant Control	\$9,200
Project # 20-1 revised	PRD Invasive Plant Control	\$18,450
Project # 20-2 revised	PC-DSC Invasives	\$21,200
Project # 20-3 revised	Invasive Plant Interpretive Signs	\$2,350
Project # 20-4 revised	Etolin Island RCG Control	\$15,152
Project # 20-5	Sandy Beach Interpretive Signs	\$14,000
Project # 20-7	East Ohmer Creek Restoration	\$155,000

**Additional Direction**

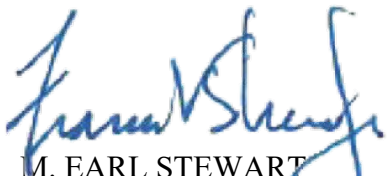
***Project #20-5, Sandy Beach Interpretive Signs***, is approved with conditions. This project, located on Petersburg Borough land, is proposed by the Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition. Four interpretive signs would be placed at Sandy Beach Park to educate users on the site's natural and cultural history. My approval of this project is contingent on Forest Service review and approval of the content and placement of the signs. An emphasis on stewardship and protection of natural and cultural resources common to the site and the surrounding National Forest resources would ensure that the project has a direct benefit to National Forest resources and fully meets the intent of the Title II legislation to implement stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems.

***RAC Administrative Support***

Based on national Forest Service budget direction received in 2020, the Forest Service did not anticipate needing RAC funds to provide administrative support to the RAC. The committee recommended returning the portion of the administrative support that had been intended for staff salary (\$24,635) to the RAC for redistribution to projects. Since that recommendation was made, the Forest Service has learned that RAC funds can be used for staff salary. Therefore, I am deferring action on this recommendation at this time. The RAC Coordinator will submit a new proposal for administrative support for consideration at the next RAC meeting.

It is important that you do not begin work or incur any costs on any projects until the requisite financial paperwork is in place. All RAC projects require a job code developed by the Forest Budget Officer and a work plan and advanced acquisition plan (if applicable) developed by the project managers in conjunction with appropriate program leaders. Please work with Lisa Fluharty and appropriate Staff Officers to clarify program assistance for each project.

It is also important to remember that all Title II funds must be obligated by September 30, 2023. I encourage you to monitor project implementation closely to ensure that these funds are expended in a timely manner to maximize their benefit to the communities within the RAC boundaries.

 for  
M. EARL STEWART  
Forest Supervisor, Tongass NF

Enclosures  
RAC Recommendation Letters  
Recommended RAC Project Proposals