

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

Wrangell/Petersburg/Kake Resource Advisory Committee

Project Number: 21-9 Updated

Funding Fiscal Year(s):

2. Project Name: Bear Science Symposium 2022-2024	3a. State: Alaska 3b. County(s): Wrangell Borough
4. Project Submitted By: Bearfest Committee (contacts: Sylvia Ettefagh and Carol Rushmore)	5. Date: 10/12/2021
6. Contact Phone Number: 907-874-2381	7. Contact E-mail: fun@alaskabearfest.org or ecodev@wrangell.com
8. Project Location: Wrangell, Alaska	
a. National Forest(s): Tongass National Forest	b. Forest Service District: Wrangell Ranger District
c. Location (Township-Range-Section): Wrangell Island and Anan	
<p>. Project Goals and Objectives: This funding will help support the Bearfest, a conservation education event held each summer in Wrangell. The Bearfest is a cooperative effort between the Bearfest Committee, Borough of Wrangell and the Forest Service. There are multiple objectives of the festival: 1) to provide educational opportunities to increase the understanding and appreciation about bear biology, behaviors, habitats, human/bear interactions, and other bear issues, 2) share and educate the public on the bear resources existing on the Wrangell District, the Tongass National Forest, and across the world, 3) share and educate visitors on the unique ecological aspects of Anan Creek, 4) educate the public through workshops on a variety of bear management issues and topics,</p> <p>Funding of this proposal will enable the Bearfest Committee, organizers of Bearfest, to 1) further develop the bear symposium by attracting qualified bear and wildlife experts to participate, 2) enhance the promotion of the festival activities and bear symposium, 3) Improve cooperative relationships among the people that use and care for the Federal land</p>	

<p>10. Project Description: a. Brief: <i>(in one sentence)</i> This funding will help support the conservation education efforts and natural resources stewardship through activities associated with Bearfest, a conservation education event held each summer in Wrangell, for the next three years.</p> <p>b. Detailed: The funding will be used to support the conservation education components of the Bearfest for speaker travel and honoraria, promotional services and educational materials. The funding is multi-year to support the Bearfest in 2022, 2023, and 2024. Bearfest is held annually in July in Wrangell. Funding will be used for travel and/or honoraria costs for guest artist and speakers to present talks and workshops, focusing on the ecosystem, habitats, flora or wildlife found within the Tongass National</p>
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Forest, including the cultural use of forest resources for food, art, and crafts to enhance the forest education opportunities of the festival. Funds would also be used for hall rental, promoting the festival activities and events including the design and print poster and/or media inserts for newspapers or travel guides distributed at terminals, visitor centers, travel planners, businesses throughout Alaska, festival guides, bear event sites, tradeshow and direct mailing and on the festival website www.alaskabearfest.org; and Public Service Announcements development and distribution for radio advertising, travel writers and print sources within the region and state.

<p>11. Types of Lands Involved? Not direct infrastructure, but indirectly the Tongass National Forest from an education and visitor use perspective as well as Anan Wildlife Observatory</p> <p>State/Private/Other lands involved? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Land Status:</p> <p>If Yes, specify: Indoor lectures and workshops in the Wrangell Borough Nolan Visitor Center</p>

<p>12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? (Check at least 1)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Restores and improves land health.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Restores water quality</p>
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<p>13. Project Type a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1)</p>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Road Maintenance	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Forest Health Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Restoration & Maintenance	<input 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): Outreach and conservation education, marketing for educational events, economic development.
b. Primary Purpose (select only 1 from above): Other	

<p>14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish:</p> <p>Miles of road maintained:</p> <p>Miles of road decommissioned/obliterated:</p> <p>Number of structures maintained/improved:</p>

Acres of soil productivity improved:
Miles of stream/river restored/improved:
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: Current jobs maintained and possibly created by increasing visitor overnights and activities they participate in while here.
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention): Residents and visitors to Wrangell and the Tongass National Forest. Goal is to see Festival participants increase 10% minimum per year over the next three years. Promotional materials and website will reach considerably more people estimated at a minimum of 6000 annually based on number of Wrangell Travel planners are mailed in response to community inquiries, but that does not include articles resulting from travel writers or public service announcements.
Direct economic activity benefit: Increase of visitors to Wrangell –specifically for SRBF and beyond the festival during the rest of the year.
Other:

15. Estimated Project Start Date: 2022	16. Estimated Project Completion Date: 2024
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17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities. Over the last several years, Bearfest partners and sponsors have grown to host a successful venture. It is a collaboration between the Bearfest Committee, the Wrangell Convention and Visitor Bureau, the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce, the Wrangell Arts Council, Wrangell Cooperative Association, the Nolan Center, the US Forest Service Wrangell Ranger District, the Wrangell Police Department, Wrangell Parks and Recreation Department, State Fish and Game, City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska Airlines and the more than 30 businesses that contribute cash, products, and in-kind services towards operations of the festival. There is still room to build and develop additional partnerships with other state and educational institutions and state and regional non-profit organizations to assist with activities, educational components, cost share travel expenses for speakers or musicians, and promotional events.

18. Identify benefits to communities.

Increased awareness will increase visitor overnights which increases local spending with merchants, lodging/restaurants, and outfitter guides. The Bear Symposium is an excellent opportunity for growth to encourage education and appreciation of bears (interactions, habitats, management) with the general public but also to encourage researchers to get together to share information. Workshops with educational components have been expanded to include other issues and subjects common to the Tongass National Forest – flora and fauna, edible plants etc which educate locals and visitors for a better understanding of the unique ecosystems of the Tongass. The Bearfest festival, already a busy time, renews a sense of cooperation and excitement in Wrangell and offers visitors new educational learning opportunity as part of their trip. The local business partnerships are being nurtured to grow to provide a stronger sense of partnership within the community.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources? The Bearfest is trying to provide a fun educational learning experience on a keystone resource of the Tongass National Forest – bears.

Included are other opportunities to facilitate understanding of the overall Tongass ecosystem. Wrangell residents and/or visitors utilize the Tongass for recreation, food, livelihood and by offering a fun venue to participate in celebrating a resource of the Tongass – educates everyone, but also supports the economy. The public outreach via print, radio, website (links to local, regional and state websites), and social media provides opportunities to promote the Tongass National Forest, to educate the public on its resources, and facilitate a greater understanding of bears and other resources of the Tongass

20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce
<input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input 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: \$30,000 (\$10,000 per year)
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding: The Wrangell Convention Visitors Bureau (CVB) has and will contribute to continue to support the Bearfest with a cash donation (minimum of \$500), but also provides in-kind services with links and pages on the community websites and social media and assists with promotional materials. The CVB contributes to the cost sharing of printing and advertising opportunities. The Bearfest Committee also will continue to pursue additional business sponsorship which included cash, products, and in-kind services. Alaska Department of Fish and Game has continued to be a sponsor assisting with the Bear Symposium, Wrangell Cooperative Association provides in-kind services hosting a salmon feed and Alaska Airlines provides airline tickets to raffle as a festival fundraiser. Other sources include potentially Alaska State Council on the Arts or Rasmuson Foundation grants.

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:

Monitoring of this project will be done in part through the Forest Service. Regarding conservation education and projects associated with grants and agreements, the Forest Service has an established accomplishment reporting protocol that will be utilized. In addition, any participation metrics associated with the festival will be useful in measuring potential effectiveness of this conservation education project.

- b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring: Primarily, the Forest Service will be conducting the monitoring of this project. Additional information is collected by workshop presenters and/or Bearfest Committee organizers overseeing the particular event.
- c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k): Monitoring tools on the website are existing. Bearfest Committee and Economic Development Director will monitor the numbers participating in events and beds filled as part of their responsibilities. No additional costs are required for monitoring.

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:

Project Approved By:

/s/ Patrick Fowler
/s/ Kimberly Powell
Chairpersons

/s/ (INSERT Signature)
Forest Supervisor

Wrangell-Petersburg Resource Advisory Committee

Tongass National Forest

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				
b. NEPA/CEQA				
c. ESA Consultation				
d. Permit Acquisition				
e. Project Design & Engineering				
f. Contract/Grant Preparation				
g. Contract/Grant Administration				
h. Contract/Grant Cost				
i. Salaries	2000			2000
j. Materials & Supplies				
k. Monitoring				
l. Other				30,000
1. Travel and honoraria (\$9000/year)		27,000		
2. Public Outreach (\$1000/yr)		3000		
m. Project Sub-Total		30,000		
n. FS Indirect Costs				
Total Cost Estimate	2000	30,000		32,000

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.