

## **Kenai Winter Access Workshops: The Collaborative Learning Approach**

This workshop offers concerned citizens with an opportunity to generate, discuss, and debate ideas that should be considered in USDA-Forest Service decisions about winter access on the Kenai Peninsula. The Seward Ranger District and Chugach National Forest have arranged for this workshop because:

1. The winter access situation is both complex and controversial. It involves:
  - multiple parties
  - multiple issues
  - deeply held values,
  - scientific, technical, social, and economic uncertainty
  - a need for meaningful communication and learning opportunities
  
2. This workshop attempts to provide an opportunity for innovation and collaborative discussion. Frequently, public views appear as positions opposed to one another. Citizens may attempt to convince a decision-maker, like the Forest Service, to favor their particular "side." This type of communication, in effect, asks the decision-maker to "arbitrate" the situation, the result of which may be a "compromise" that no one really prefers. This workshop uses *Collaborative Learning*, a method that encourages people to talk with one another about concerns, issues, and improvements. Through face-to-face discussions, people can learn about the Kenai winter access situation and refine their views. The workshop allows people to work through differing perspectives, to learn about the views of others, to locate areas of common ground, but also identify issues on which agreement does not seem likely.
  
3. The evaluation of planning factors, identification of winter recreation values, and development of specific Kenai winter access management improvements are major workshop goals. To promote the discussion and debate about these topics, workshop participants are asked to follow a number of guidelines:
  - (1) Listen openly and actively.
  - (2) Withhold judgment until the other person's view is understood.
  - (3) Ask questions for understanding before responding.
  - (4) Give everyone equal opportunity to speak.
  - (5) Focus on concerns and interests rather than positions.
  - (6) Examine future improvements rather than dwelling on the past.
  - (7) Address the feasibility of improvements as well as their desirability.
  - (8) Emphasize the problem situation rather than people.
  - (9) Value disagreement and constructive argument.
  - (10) Look for ways to achieve mutual gain.
  - (11) Regard one another's views as legitimate and deserving respect.
  - (12) Commit to giving the Collaborative Learning workshop process a chance to succeed.

# Kenai Winter Access Workshop

Seward Ranger District  
Chugach National Forest

Moose Pass, AK - 23 February 2005

Seward, AK - 24 February 2005

Soldotna, AK - 24 February 2005

1830-2100

## Approximate Schedule

1800	Registration and refreshments
1830	Welcome and Focus
1845	Plan for the evening and basics of the Collaborative Learning Workshop Approach
1900	Review of Forest Plan History
1915	Review of Planning Constraints and Assumptions
1955	Break
2010	Winter recreation values related to Kenai Peninsula public lands including Carter-Crescent
2040	Sharing a Key Point and Next Steps
2100	Thank you and safe travels!

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