

# CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST

## SCHEDULE OF NEPA PROPOSED ACTIONS

April 1, 2000 – March 31, 2001

### SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

#### **Forest Plan Revision**

**Location:** Chugach National Forest, southcentral Alaska.

**Description:** The Forest is revising its Land Management Plan, from the original Plan completed in 1984. Changes to environmental, social, or legal conditions will be integrated into the revised Plan.

**Scoping Status:** Formal scoping commenced with the publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on April 21, 1997 (Volume 62, Number 76). Preliminary revision issues were identified in the first edition of the Revision newsletter. During the months of November and December 1997, public workshops were conducted throughout southcentral Alaska. Over 1,000 letters, containing over 3,000 comments, were received during the scoping period. Analysis of those comments was used to identify the significant issues. The significant issues have been described as 'situation statements' and 'Public/Agency Interests'. The Interest Statements are mutually exclusive, with a range of possible ways for resolution. A summary of public interest and situation statements was sent out to participants on the revision mailing list. Management Area Prescriptions were developed in response to the situation/interest statements. Collaborative Learning workshops were conducted in March 1999, to seek input from the public for formulating draft alternatives. The prescriptions were applied to various areas around the Forest to develop a range of alternatives.

**Analysis Status:** There were 30 alternatives developed by the Forest Service, other agencies, and groups and members of the public. The Forest Service Interdisciplinary Team created eight draft alternatives. Individuals and group representatives of the public submitted twenty-two alternatives. On December 19, 1999, the Chugach National Forest Supervisor Dave Gibbons approved a range of six alternatives A through F, with the existing "No Action" Alternative to be analyzed in detail. Alternatives 6 and 13 were to be included also, but not analyzed in detail. From this range of alternatives, a single preferred alternative is to be derived. A working draft of the developing preferred alternative is posted on the Chugach Forest Revision Website ([www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/revision/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/revision/)). The development of the draft Preferred Alternative Map will be complete in mid-April. A draft EIS and revised Forest Plan is expected to be available for distribution in the summer or fall of 2000.

**Decision Date:** The Draft Forest Plan and Environmental Impact Statement are scheduled for completion in June 2000, with the revised Forest Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement due for completion January 1, 2001. The Regional Forester is the Responsible Official on the Revision of the Forest Plan.

**Contact Person:** Gary Lehnhausen, Forest Supervisor's Office, (907)-271-2560.

CORDOVA RANGER DISTRICT

612 Second Street, Cordova, AK 99574-0280  
(907) 424-7661

CALVIN O. BAKER  
District Ranger

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2000

PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	SCOPING STATUS	ANALYSIS STATUS	DECISION DATE AND SIGNATURE AUTHORITY	CONTACT PERSON
<b>NEW PROJECT</b> Sheridan Creek Stream Restoration and Habitat Enhancement.	East end of Sheridan Glacier Lake, 15 miles east of Cordova.	An erosion control and stream bank vegetation project is proposed along a non-glacial stream flowing into Sheridan Glacier Lake. This will improve fish passage and habitat.	Scoping to begin April 2000	A biological evaluation is being completed. Archaeological surveys planned for May 2000.	June 2000 District Ranger	Merlyn Schelske (907) 424-4739 Ken Hodges (907) 424-4738
Million Dollar Bridge Recreation Site Plan. Environmental Assessment.	Milepost 48, Copper River Highway.	A recreation site plan for Childs Glacier and Million Dollar Bridge is being developed to incorporate and facilitate changes due to increasing tourism use.	Began 1/99. Additional public meetings TBA	In progress. Analysis will be conducted during winter 1999 to summer 2000.	September 2000 District Ranger	Bob Behrends Dixon Sherman (907)-424-7661
Issue and Reissue a Variety of Outfitter-Guide and other Special Use Permits.	Lands administered by the Cordova Ranger District, at various locations in eastern Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta.	Numerous special use permit applications and permit renewals such as commercial videography, temporary installations of monitoring equipment, navigational aids, geologic survey work, encampments, and outfitter and guide services.	As needed.	A "Recreation Use Carrying Capacity Analysis" (completed August 1994) is used to evaluate hunting outfitter and guide permit requests.	Decisions are made throughout the year as each application or request is evaluated.	Dixon Sherman Bruce Campbell (907) 424-7661
Bering Coalfields Access. (Carbon Mountain Road)  NEPA – EXEMPT  EASEMENT ISSUED MARCH 2000	The proposed road would originate at the Copper River Highway near milepost 41; and follow along the Martin River Valley, approximately 30 miles, connecting the Copper River Highway to CAC land on the eastern edge of the Cordova Ranger District.	Road access to the CAC land is guaranteed under the 1982 Settlement Agreement between the State and Federal Governments and Chugach Natives Inc. (now Chugach Alaska Corporation [CAC]). The proposed location generally follows a route identified in the settlement.	Began October 1996. Scoping concluded.	The USFS and CAC reviewed the proposed route in June 1998. The Forest Service used CAC environmental studies to specify location, timing and construction standards in the easements.	<b>DECISION</b>  An easement was issued to CAC March 2000.	Cal Baker, USFS (907) 424-7661 Rick Rogers, CAC 560 E 34th Ave. Suite 200 Anchorage, AK 99503 (907)-563-8866

GLACIER RANGER DISTRICT  
P.O. Box 129, Girdwood, AK, 99587-0129  
(907) 783-3242

DEIDRE ST. LOUIS  
District Ranger

2<sup>ND</sup> Quarter, 2000

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>SCOPING STATUS</b>	<b>ANALYSIS STATUS</b>	<b>DECISION DATE AND SIGNATURE AUTHORITY</b>	<b>CONTACT PERSON</b>
Eagle Glacier Nordic Training Center. Decision Notice.	Eagle Glacier, approximately 7 miles northeast of Girdwood.	Reissue special use permit.	Began January 2000.	In progress.	May 1, 2000  District Ranger	Mary Kay Vandiver (907)-783-3242
Backcountry Freeskiing World Tour Recreation Event. Special Use Permit. Categorical Exclusion.	Two of the following slopes will be chosen based on snow stability and snow conditions: among three slopes between Placer River and Skookum Glacier, two slopes east of Bench Creek, one slope east of the Railroad tracks near Grandview, and one slope northeast of Bartlett Glacier.	Recreation event special-use permit for backcountry freeskiing recreation event for several days in March, involving up to 150 people. A Safety Director and safety crew of experts would be involved in avalanche control work, including use of explosives. The Alaska Railroad and helicopters would be used to transport people to the event.	Began January, 2000	Analysis suspended.	Project waiting submittal of out-year request. Activity not authorized at this time.  District Ranger	Shannon Skibenness (907) 224-4111 and Deidre St. Louis (907) 783-3242
Portage Valley Bunkhouse Construction. Environmental Assessment.	Portage Valley.	Construct a new Forest Service bunkhouse in Portage Valley near the Begich Boggs Visitor Center.	Began March 1999.	In progress.	2000  District Ranger	Cliff Fox (907) 783-3242
Alder Pond Day Use Recreation Site Development. Environmental Assessment.	Portage Valley.	Develop a shoreline trail, picnic area, parking area, and waste disposal site.	Began January 1999.	In progress.	2000  District Ranger	Dan Gillikin (907) 783-3242
Special Use Permit. Helicopter Skiing Glacier and Seward Ranger Districts. Environmental Assessment	Glacier/Winner Creek, Placer River Valley, Skookum Creek, Bench Peak, and Grandview.	Supplement 1999 EA as per 40 CFR 1502.9	In progress.	6/1/00 EA and supplement to be released for 30 day review.	8/1/00  District Ranger	Mary Kay Vandiver, 907-783-3242.

GLACIER RANGER DISTRICT

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2000

PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	SCOPING STATUS	ANALYSIS STATUS	DECISION DATE AND SIGNATURE AUTHORITY	CONTACT PERSON
Turnagain Pass Facility Reconstruction	Turnagain Pass	Replace toilets on east and west sides of highway, install picnic tables and trail, and reduce size of parking lot on east side.	Began April 2000	In progress.	5/1/00  District Ranger	Mary Kay Vandiver, 907-783-3242.
Issue and reissue a variety of outfitter-guide and other special use permits.	Lands administered by the Glacier Ranger District.	Numerous special use permit applications and permit renewals such as commercial filming, recreation events, and outfitter-guides.	Ongoing, as applications are received.	Ongoing.	Decisions will be made at various times by the District Ranger.	Mary Kay Vandiver, 907-783-3242.
Classroom addition Begich, Boggs Visitor Center Categorical Exclusion.	Portage Valley	The Forest received funding to build a classroom addition to accommodate school groups that visit the Center.	In progress.	In progress.	8/1/00  District Ranger.	Mary Kay Vandiver, 907-783-3242

SEWARD RANGER DISTRICT

334 Fourth Avenue, Seward, AK 99664-0390  
(907) 224-3374

MICHAEL R. KANIA  
District Ranger

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2000

Gravel & Rock Source Mineral Material Permits. Categorical Exclusion with Decision Memo	Mile 33, 35, 61, & 62 Seward Hwy, Mile 38 Sterling Hwy, Mile 2 Hope Hwy	Evaluate the impact to the existing mineral material source sites and pits as a result of issuing permits for the removal of gravel and rock. Determine whether to continue to issue permits for removal.	In Progress.	In Progress.	May 2000 District Ranger	Donna Peterson (907) 224-3374
Grant Lake Mine Exploration Project. Decision Memo or Environmental Analysis/Decision Notice depending on results of scoping.	Old Case Mine at Grant Lake, T5N, R1E, Sec 29, Sew Meridian, Moose Pass area	Evaluate exploration activities at the Case Mine. Bulk sampling and core drilling at up to 5 sites is proposed.	In Progress.	In Progress.	June or July 2000, District Ranger	Donna Peterson (907) 224-3374

## SEWARD RANGER DISTRICT

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2000

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Outfitter/Guide 1 year Special Use Permit for 2000 season. Categorically Excluded Action, with Decision Memo.	Godwin Glacier near Seward, T1S, R1E, sec. 3.	Permit renewal for Godwin Glacier Dogsled Tours involving summer base camp on Godwin Glacier, dog sled tours, and helicopter trips providing transportation to and from the base camp.	Began September 1999.	In Progress.	April 2000 District Ranger	Shannon Skibeness (907) 224-4111
Outfitter/Guide 1 year & 5 year Special Use Permits for 2000, and 2001 - 2005 seasons. Categorically Excluded	Sixmile Creek, along the Seward & Hope highways.	Permit renewal, from limited number of permits for whitewater rafting and kayaking, and assigned site near mile 1, Hope Highway.	Began September 1999.	In Progress.	April 2000 District Ranger	Shannon Skibeness (907) 224-4111
Lost Lake Alpine Trail Construction. Categorically Excluded Action with Project File.	In alpine area near Lost Lake, approximately 10 miles north of Seward.	Reconstruct up to 2,000 feet of alpine trail in the alpine area between the Primrose and Lost Lake Trails. The trail in the alpine is often saturated with water due to late snowmelts and heavy rainfall. Natural timber boardwalks, gravel raised causeways, and rock or wood steps will be constructed.	April 2000	In Progress.	June 2000	Irene Lindquist (907) 288-3178
Outfitter/Guide 5 year Special Use Permit for 2000 - 2004 seasons. Categorically Excluded.	Various locations on the Seward and Glacier Ranger Districts.	Permit renewal for the following companies: Alaska Clearwater Sportfishing Adventures, Alaska Driftboaters, Alaska River Adventures, Alaska Rivers Company, Alaska Wildland Adventures, Big Sky Charter & Fishcamp, Bob's Walkabout Fly Fishing, Cooper Landing Floating & Fishing, Great Alaska Fish Camp, Great Alaska Safaris, Hope Fishing Charters, Hope Trading Post, Resurrection Fly Fishing, and Wilderness Ventures.	Began September 1999.	In Progress.	April 2000 District Ranger	Shannon Skibeness (907) 224-4111
Outfitter Guide Special Use Permits. Categorically Excluded Action, with Decision Memo.	Resurrection Pass, Devil's Pass, and Summit Creek Trails.	Decide whether to authorize additional guided use, including hiking, mountain bike riding, horses, and llamas. If decision is made to authorize additional use, interested outfitter guides will compete for limited permits.	Scoping on issues began 1/19/99 and was completed 3/10/99.	In Progress.	May 2000 District Ranger	Shannon Skibeness (907) 224-4111

## SEWARD RANGER DISTRICT

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2000

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Kiosk Construction. Categorically Excluded Action, with Project File.	Resurrection Pass Trail South, Cooper Landing.	Construct interpretive trailhead kiosk for "Leave No Trace" camping program.	Began January 1999.	In Progress.	Spring 2000 District Ranger	Irene Lindquist (907) 224-3374
Backcountry Designated Campsites. Categorically Excluded Action, with Decision Memo.	Ptarmigan Lake Trail, Mile 6; Lost Lake Trail, Mile 4.5-5; Crescent Lake Cabin.	Develop 5-20 tent camping sites.	Began October 1998.	Complete.	Spring 2000 District Ranger	Irene Lindquist (907) 224-3374
Lost Lake Trailhead Construction. Environmental Assessment.	Seward Highway, Mile 5, Lost Lake Subdivision.	Construct a trailhead to provide for parking on National Forest System land.	Began March 1998.	Complete.	April 2000 District Ranger	Pat O'Leary (907) 224-3374
Resurrection Pass Trail Reconstruction. Categorically Excluded or EA depending on scoping.	Mile 5, north end of Resurrection Pass Trail to Mile 3, Devils Pass Trail.	Reconstruct deteriorating trail tread and realign segments of the trail at various locations.	January 2000.	In Progress.	Winter 2001 District Ranger	Pat O'Leary or Irene Lindquist (907) 224-3374
District Campgrounds Rehabilitation and Upgrade. Categorically Excluded or EA depending on scoping.	Cooper Creek, Ptarmigan Creek, Trail River, Tenderfoot Creek, Primrose Creek, Porcupine Creek, and/or Coeur d'Alene Campgrounds.	The 30+ years old facilities will be evaluated for improvements including upgrades for accessibility, expansions to increase available sites on the Kenai Peninsula, and to accommodate current and future larger camping vehicles.	Begin January 2000.	In Progress.	September 2000 District Ranger	Karen O'Leary (907) 224-3374
Primrose/Lost Lake Trail Reconstruction. Categorically Excluded.	Lost Lake & Primrose Alpine Areas – Mile 6 to Mile 8	Reconstruct approximately 2000 feet of alpine trail in various locations near Lost Lake installing natural timber boardwalk, graveled raised causeways, and rock or wood steps.	Begin July 2000	In Progress.	June 2000 District Ranger	Irene Lindquist (907) 288-3178
Reconstruct Rainbow Lake Trail. Categorically Excluded	Cooper Lake/ Snug Harbor Road	Reconstruct trail to an accessible standard.	Begin January 2000.	In Progress.	July 2000 District Ranger	Pat O'Leary (907) 224-3374

## SEWARD RANGER DISTRICT

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2000

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Juneau Lake Cabin access trail. Categorically Excluded.	Juneau Lake/ Resurrection Pass Trail	Reconstruct cabin access trail to accessible standard.	Begin January 2000.	In Progress.	June 2000  District Ranger	Pat O'Leary (907) 224-3374
Hardwood Regeneration Project. Categorically Excluded Action, with Decision Memo.	Snow River Highway Bridge, T3N, R1E, Sect. 19, 30 and 31; Cooper Landing, T5N, R4W, Sect. 25 and 30; Hope, T10N, R2W, Sect. 34; and T9N, R2W, Sect. 3.	Mature stands of birch, willow, and aspen up to 10 acres in size, will be felled to improve habitat for bald eagles, northern goshawks, snowshoe hares and moose. Sites may be scarified, planted, or burned after felling.	September 1999.	In Progress.	Winter 1999-2000  District Ranger.	Susan Howell (907) 224-3374
Reforestation of Spruce Bark Beetle impacted stands in riparian areas. Environmental Analysis depending on results of scoping.	Areas identified in Spruce Bark Beetle Management Plan. includes riparian areas district wide.	Hand planting or seeding riparian areas where spruce mortality is high. Some sites may require scarification or site prep prior to planting.	Begin May 2000	In Progress.	August or September 2000, District Ranger	Mark Kromrey (907) 288-3178
Hemlock Firewood Area. Categorically Excluded Action, with Decision Memo.	Hope Highway, Mile 14.	Live hemlock trees will be thinned and bark beetle infested spruce cut.	Began October 1998.	Will be included in analysis of the Hope Highway (project to be announced in July 2000 SOPA).	Delayed until Hope Highway Analysis is done.	Karen Kromrey (907) 224-3374
Special Use Permits. Categorically Excluded.	Various locations on the Seward District.	Several new and existing special use permit applications for such activities as log storage sites, outfitter/guide operations and recreation events will be evaluated.	Ongoing, as applications are received.	Ongoing.	Decisions will be made at various times by the Seward District Ranger.	Karen O'Leary or Shannon Skibeness (907) 224-3374

## SEWARD RANGER DISTRICT

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2000

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Mining Plans of Operation. Categorically Excluded with Project File or Decision Memo. Type of document depends on results of scoping.	Various locations on the Seward District.	Evaluation of mining plans for small placer and hardrock operations. The activity usually occurs in the following drainages: Quartz, Canyon, Mills, Juneau, John's, Primrose, Porcupine, Victor, Falls, Sixmile, Crescent, Stetson, Bear, Gulch, Diane, Cooper, Silvertip, Palmer, Pass Fresno, Resurrection and Lynx.	Scoping is continuous as plans are received.	Ongoing.	Decisions will be made at various times by the Seward District Ranger.	Donna Peterson (907) 224-3374.
East Kenai Lake Prescribed Burn. Categorically Excluded Action, with Decision Memo.	Cooper Landing area T4N, R2W, sect. 6, 7, 8 and 17.	Burn approximately 200 acres of bark beetle infested and dead white spruce to reduce wildfire potential and improve wildlife habitat. An additional 300 acres of mixed spruce, alder and alpine may also be burned within the project boundary.	In progress.	In progress.	Winter 2000.  District Ranger	Susan Howell (907) 224-4122.
Fuller Prescribed Burn. Categorically Excluded Action, with Decision Memo.	Cooper Landing area T5N, R4W, sect. 28.	Burn approximately 120 acres of bark beetle infested and dead white spruce to reduce wildfire potential and improve wildlife habitat.	In progress.	In progress.	Winter 2000.  District Ranger	Susan Howell (907) 224-4122.