

Byron Glacier Road improvement and recreation facilities enhancement project

July 1, 2004

Dear Planning Participant,

The Forest Service is seeking your involvement regarding a proposal to stabilize and improve the road surface and enhance recreation opportunities along Begich Boggs Visitor Center Road and the Byron Glacier Road, in the Portage Valley area of the Glacier Ranger District, Chugach National Forest. Upon completion of this proposal, the Glacier Ranger District hopes to maintain public health and safety for visitors, while also increasing and diversifying recreation opportunities along this scenic route traveled by hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

The proposed action for this Byron Glacier Road improvement project includes:

- Construction of a picnic area, accessible trail and parking area by the Portage Pass Interpretive sign (#1 on map). Site will include four picnic tables and a short accessible trail leading from the interpretive sign down to the picnic tables.
- Construction of an elevated viewing platform to provide scenic views of Byron Glacier, along with the installation of benches, viewing/spotting scopes and an interpretive sign (#2 on map).
- Selective thinning and clean up of dead and down material near trails and viewing sites.
- Repaving of the entire road surface and conducting edge repairs along the road at various locations within the project area. Widening an approximately 75' section of road at the Byron Glacier Road "T" to maintain public health and safety (#3 on map).
- Removal of two existing turnouts through rehabilitation and revegetation to enhance public health and safety.
- Expansion of the Byron Glacier Trailhead parking area to meet current standards and future recreation demand (#4 on map).
- Paving the parking areas at the picnic site and elevated viewing platform site along with the construction of a pedestrian walkway from the elevated viewing platform to the Byron Glacier Trailhead.
- Installation of a gate at the beginning of the Byron Glacier Road for winter road closure.

We are now in the scoping stage of completing our analysis. Scoping, or public participation, is the first formal step in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Scoping identifies your potential issues, concerns, and opportunities associated with the proposed project.

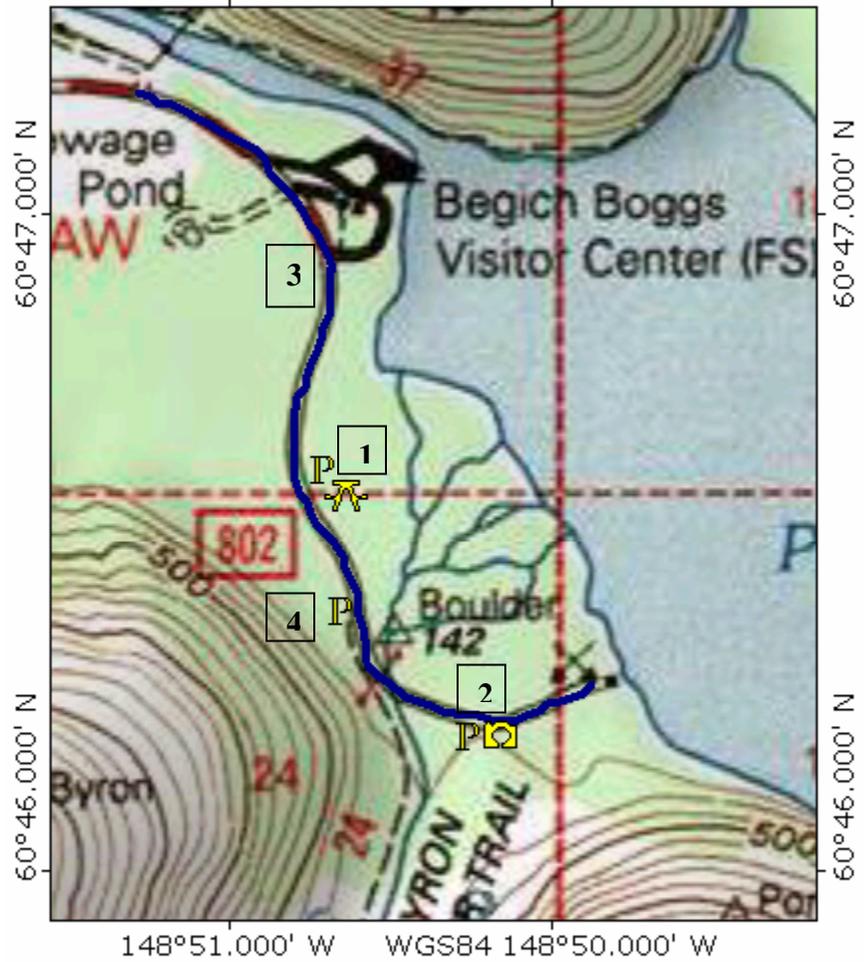
Please examine the proposed action and send us any comments you feel are important for this project. It is helpful when comments include specific issues to be considered or suggestions to improve or change the project, as well as your ideas for alternatives to the proposed project. We have provided forms on which to write your comments, or you may use your own format to write, call, email or fax your comments to us. Email comments should be directed to: amccclory@fs.fed.us. Remember, in order to be most useful to the planning team, your comments should be received by July 31, 2004.

We look forward to receiving your comments and thank you for participation in this project. Your views are important to us as we develop a strategy to ensure public health and safety and provide recreation opportunities to users of the Chugach National Forest.

JAMES M. FINCHER
DISTRICT RANGER

TOPO! map printed on 06/23/04 from "byron_road_nepa_map.t

148°51.000' W WGS84 148°50.000' W



TN MN
21 1/4°
0.0 0.5 1.0
0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 km
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