



# Proposed CBJ Snow Disposal Site

May 2011



Tour buses near existing snow disposal site.



Tour buses at Mendenhall Glacier.

## COMMENTS REQUESTED

For more information visit the project website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/projects/projects.shtml>  
You can e-mail comments to: [comments-alaska-tongass-juneau@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-alaska-tongass-juneau@fs.fed.us) by June 20, 2011.



U.S. Forest Service  
Tongass National Forest  
Juneau Ranger District  
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road  
Juneau, AK 99801-9218

## INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is conducting public scoping on a proposal by the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) to construct and operate a snow disposal site in the tour bus parking area at the USFS Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area.

Public scoping is a process which allows interested members of the public to provide input on the proposed project, alternatives that should be considered, potential environmental effects of the proposed project, and potential mitigation measures that should be incorporated into the project.

## PURPOSE AND NEED

CBJ has requested a permit from USFS to develop and operate a snow disposal site at the tour bus parking area of the USFS Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area.

Snow management in the Juneau area is particularly challenging given the community's location between the mountains and the Gastineau Channel and the shortage of developable lands in the community.

The need for the project is:

- to dispose of snow that must be removed from public roads and sidewalks to ensure public safety; and
- to provide a snow disposal site that is environmentally sound and fiscally prudent.

CBJ has been using a portion of the USFS Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area tour bus parking area for snow disposal for several years. The size of the snow pile and the length of time that the snow is present has at times conflicted with other uses of this area, including tour bus parking and Gastineau Aeromodelers Society activities (a club runway is in the tour bus parking area).

CBJ completed a snow management study in 2010 that evaluated several alternative snow disposal sites in the valley, as well as potential improvements to the existing site. All of the alternative sites have substantial drawbacks including costs (acquisition, construction and operation), zoning restrictions, access, wetlands, anadromous streams, and incompatible adjacent land uses.

Given the constraints on alternative sites, CBJ has applied for a permit from USFS to construct an improved snow disposal site at the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area tour bus parking area. The new site would be designed to provide better access for more efficient operations, provide for state of the art water quality treatment for the snow melt, and minimize conflicts with other uses.

## PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

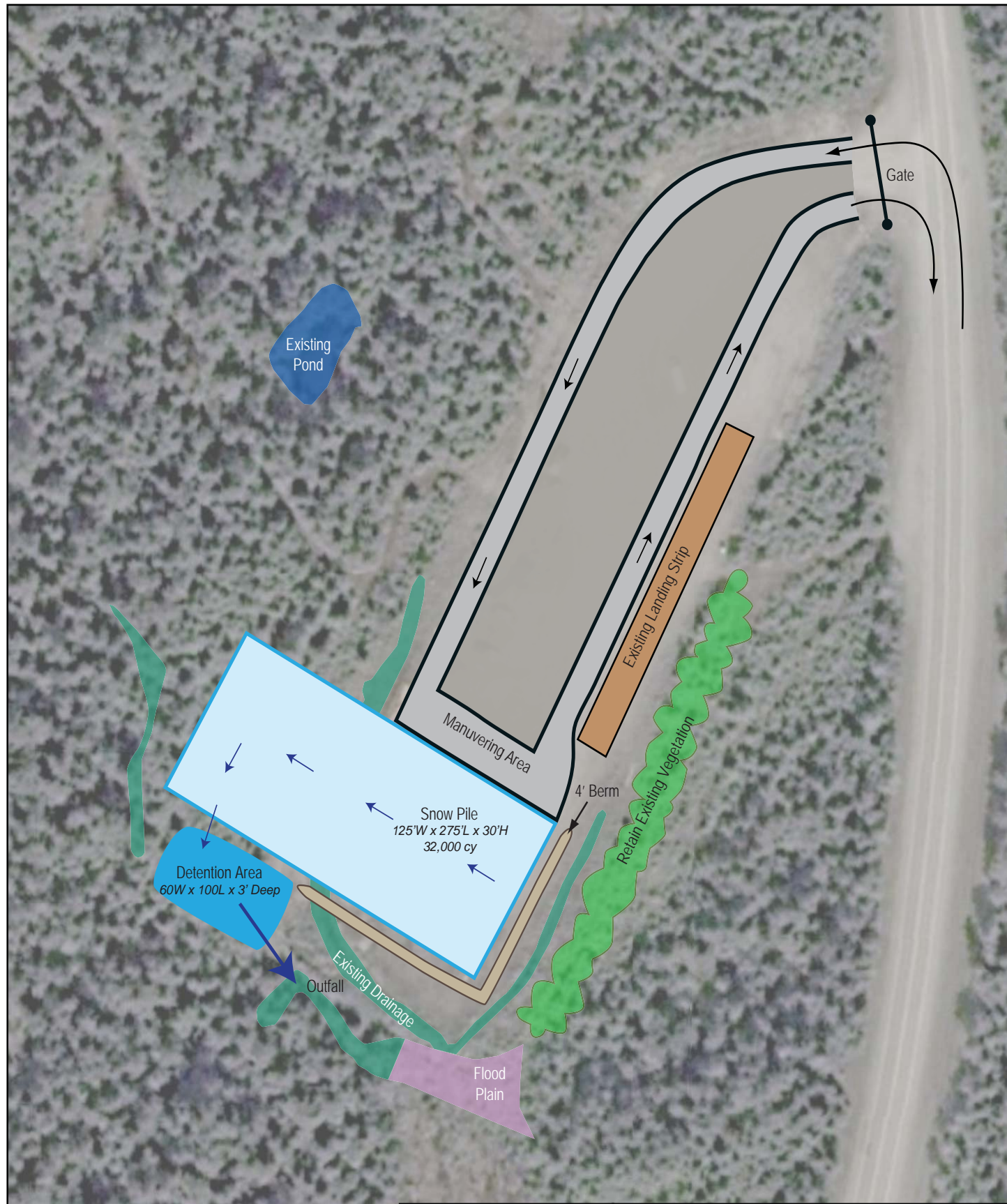
The Juneau Ranger District proposes to grant the City & Borough of Juneau a permit to construct and operate a snow disposal site for snow generated in the Mendenhall Valley. The Proposed Action will allow trucks to haul snow from around the Mendenhall Valley to the site and to dispose of the snow in a manner that is environmentally sound and fiscally prudent. The proposed storage site is located at the tour bus parking area within the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area. It is anticipated that the decision will be completed in time for use during the winter 2011-12. The permit would be issued for 5 years with renewals based on re-evaluation of site operations and effects.

## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

Thursday, June 2  
5:30 pm-8:00 pm  
Thunder Mountain High School



Marti Marshall, District Ranger  
USFS Tongass National Forest, Juneau Ranger District Office  
[mmarshall01@fs.fed.us](mailto:mmarshall01@fs.fed.us) • 907-586-8800 • 907-586-8808 (fax)



Proposed snow disposal site layout (conceptual level).

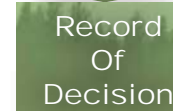
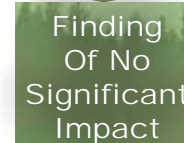
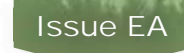


Existing snow pile in tour bus parking area in May 2011.

### POTENTIAL ISSUES

Some of the issues likely to need consideration are:

- wetland impacts
- water quality treatment
- traffic patterns
- visual impacts
- upland vegetation impacts
- fish and wildlife habitat impacts
- recreation impacts



Generalized Environmental Review Process.



View from road into tour bus parking area in May 2011.

### NEXT STEPS

#### Spring 2011

- Public Scoping
- Determine NEPA Level Required

#### Summer 2011

- Develop Alternatives
- Analyze Potential Effects

#### Fall 2011

- Draft Environmental Document