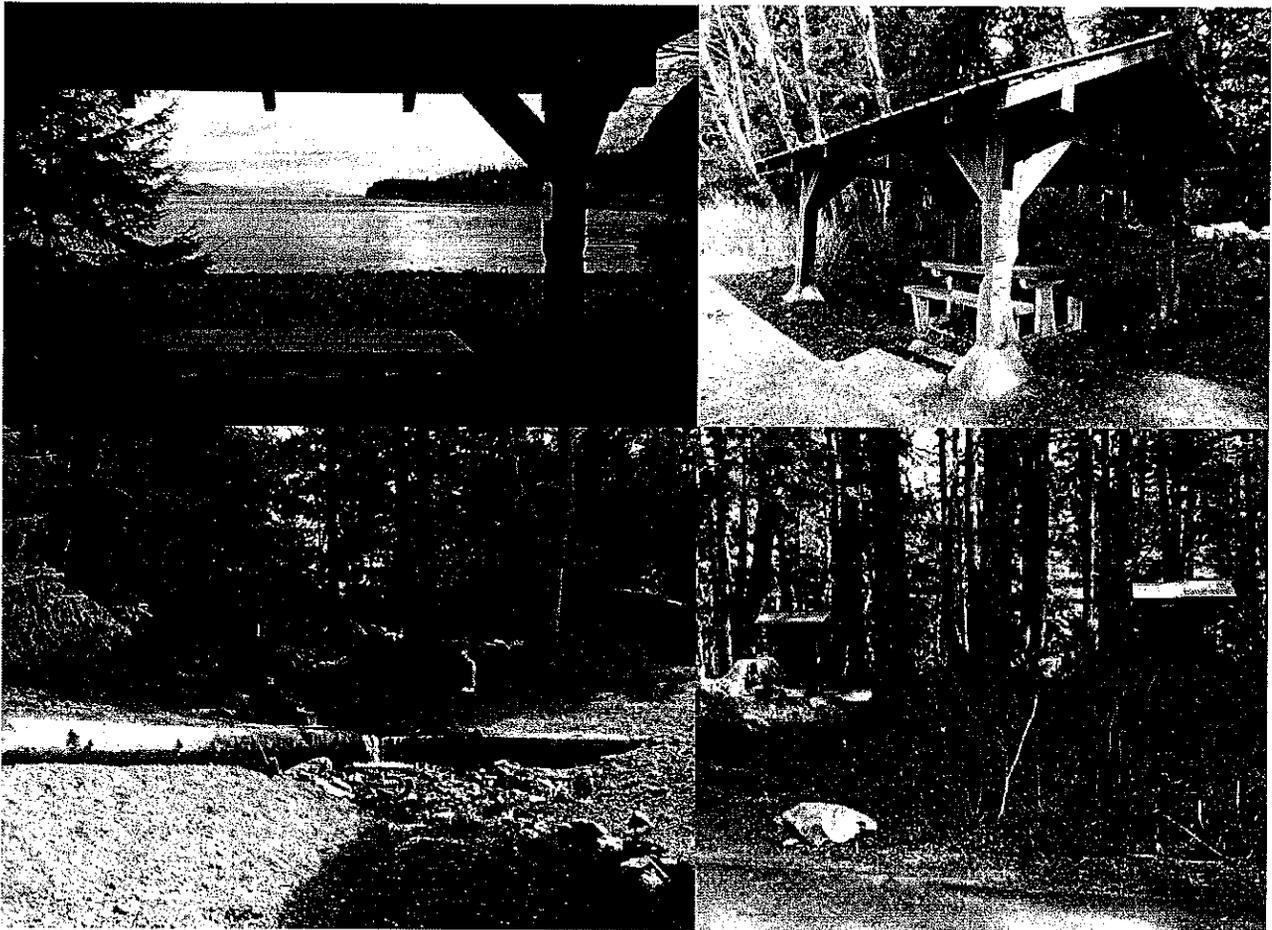




United States Department of Agriculture

# Lena Beach Recreation Area Renovation Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact



Forest Service  
Alaska Region

Tongass National Forest  
Juneau Ranger District

R10-MB-768c

June 2015

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

**To File an Employment Complaint:**

If you wish to file an employment complaint, you must contact your agency's EEO Counselor (PDF) within 45 days of the date of the alleged discriminatory act, event, or in the case of a personnel action. Additional information can be found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_file.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_file.html).

**To File a Program Complaint:**

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (PDF), found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

**Persons with Disabilities:**

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities and who wish to file either an EEO or program complaint, please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish).

Persons with disabilities, who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail directly or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).



Federal Recycling Program  
Printed on Recycled Paper

Cover: Existing shelters, outhouses, and culvert and fish pass at Lena Beach

## Introduction

This project is needed because the condition and design of the Lena Beach Recreation Area no longer provide a quality recreation experience or resource protection. The environmental assessment (EA) documents the analysis of three alternatives to meet this need. Lena Beach Recreation Area, also referred to as Lena Beach Picnic Site, is on a beach at the head of Lena Cove.

## Decision and Reasons for the Decision

Based upon my review of all alternatives, I select Alternative 3 from the February 2015 Lena Beach Recreation Area Renovation Environmental Assessment (Lena Beach EA) for implementation as the Selected Alternative (see Figure 1).

My decision includes implementing design elements, monitoring, and mitigation, and following Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) direction and Forest Service policy. These are important means of minimizing effects to resources and people and helping to maintain the resources and experiences the public values.

In this decision, we will:

- Change the road through the Lena Beach Recreation Area to a one-way road in a clockwise direction with one entrance and one exit; pave the road (to a width of about 16 feet to allow vehicles to safely pass pedestrians or bicyclists using the road) and parking areas; remove the rocks and install parking stops and speed bumps; paint diagonal parking lines; and adjust the alignment of the road at the turns and potentially at Picnic Creek to allow for bus and emergency vehicle access;
- Add only limited parking near the entrance to the area due to safety concerns and lack of space and add additional parking between Shelters 4 and 5; at all parking lots, we will add a gravel path along the “head” of the parking lot to funnel people away from the parking lot; we will also shift the entry drive to create more of a “T” intersection than currently exists;
- Remove the rocks and designate one parking site (the site with the natural hump/ramp) as a loading/unloading zone for kayaks, other small boats, and other uses and use signage to encourage only short-term use;
- Instead of a gate, install bollards (two posts, one on each side of the road that are designed to hold a removable/portable gate that can be attached between the posts) at the road entrance and exit; the portable gates will be used to close the road for safety and administrative needs;
- Reconstruct all shelters on concrete pads and turn 90 degrees to maximize views. The shelter locations and trails accessing them will be adjusted slightly in this alternative. Shelter 3 may be moved several feet to accommodate the fish passage adjustments at Picnic Creek and improve accessibility. Shelter 4 will be reconstructed about 60 feet northeast of its current location and made into a larger, more developed fee shelter available for reservations during the summer; Shelter 5 will be reconstructed and moved forward towards the water several feet; the fire ring at this site will also be moved and seating rocks added at the fire ring. Concrete pads will be added to all sites to improve accessibility;

## ***Lena Beach Recreation Area Renovation Project DN and FONSI***

---

- Replace six one-stall vault outhouses in three locations with three one-stall, fully accessible vault outhouses in three locations (see Figure 1); move them out of their proposed location in wetlands and closer to the road to improve maintenance and accessibility. Remove old outhouses, pump out and fill old vaults, and re-vegetate outhouse sites;
- Connect site features with fully accessible trails, where practicable, to meet standards and to protect tree root systems. An accessible ramp/access trail will be built from the new parking lot near Shelter 5 to the existing trail to Shelter 5 and the stairs at Shelter 5 may be adjusted by installing better handrails and improved landing;
- Replace one or more fire rings with larger fire rings;
- Level picnic sites and improve accessibility by adding minimal gravel and retaining stones; remove one picnic table on the highway-side of the road; the picnic table closest to Shelter 4 will be moved slightly to avoid the kayak launching area;
- Install bear-resistant garbage cans close to shelters and provide garbage removal service; two dog feces-removal bag dispensers will be included in the design for this site – but their installation and restocking will be based on availability of funding.
- Install three to four individual bike rack units parallel with or at an angle to the road set back far enough that parked bikes don't stick out into the driving lane. Bike rack capacity will total six to eight bikes;
- Improve fish passage by: installing a bridge or properly-sized culvert over the existing Picnic Creek channel, removing the fish ladder on Picnic Creek below the lower culvert, restoring the channel bed to a depth of the average channel slope line, removing some of the backed up sediment upstream of the culvert while allowing the remaining material to wash out naturally, and modifying the alignment of the channel downstream of the lower culvert. Survey and design will determine final alignment of the road and type of crossing. Location of the road and shelter 3 may change because of the adjustment to fish passage;
- Fabricate and install directional and informational signs, including signs to indicate shelter names. Replace the fisheries-related interpretive sign; and
- Close and convert one entrance off of Lena Loop Road to provide a parking pad for a host site; and install electricity at the host site. Install and provide water near the host site as the project and annual budgets allow.

Staffing the site with a summer-time volunteer host to provide maintenance, trash pick-up, visitor information, and a presence to deter vandalism is an action connected to this project. Ongoing maintenance of the site, including some tree and brush trimming or removal, grading and maintenance of trails, and structure maintenance, will occur and continue.

## **Time and Duration of Activity**

Implementation is expected to begin in 2015 and last up to 2 years. In all cases, all or part of the site will be closed to public use during the construction as long as necessary to safeguard the public, personnel, and the contractor's equipment.

Best Management Practices (BMPs), Design Elements, and mitigation measures described here will apply to the Selected Alternative.

## Best Management Practices, Design Elements, Mitigation Measures and Monitoring

### Best Management Practices

Project design and implementation will adhere to the following Best Management Practices (BMPs) and site-specific design elements to avoid or reduce impacts of the Selected Alternative.

*12.5 Wetland identification, evaluation, and protection* - Identify wetland functions and value, and provide appropriate protection measures designed to avoid adverse hydrologic impacts. A Wetland Determination (delineation and classification) will be made prior to land disturbing activities for this project.

*12.6 Riparian Area Designation and Protection* - Special attention shall be given to land and vegetation approximately 100' from the edges of all perennial streams, lakes, and other bodies of water. No management practices causing detrimental changes in water temperature or chemical composition, blockages of water course, or deposits of sediment shall be permitted within these areas which seriously and adversely affect water conditions or fish habitat.

*12.8/12.9 Hazardous Waste Prevention and Pollution Contingency Plan* - Any fuels required to operate equipment needed for the project (chainsaws, generators, backhoes, fuel drums, etc.) should be stored and delivered as far away from ponds, creeks, and wetlands as feasible. Contractors should follow the guidelines in the Soil and Water Conservation Handbook (1996) regarding storage and servicing/refueling of oil and hazardous substances.

*12.17 Revegetation of Disturbed Areas* - Provide ground cover to minimize soil erosion. This practice is used to stabilize the surface of disturbed or barren areas by establishing vegetation. Site-specific erosion control plans will be developed by the contractor and the Contracting Officer.

*13.16 Stream Channel Protection* - Project design and construction activities will not interfere with natural flow regime or channel integrity. Riparian buffers will be maintained to filter sediment and other pollutants.

*14.2 Location of Transportation Facilities* - Ensure soil and water resources protection measures are considered when locating roads and trails. Avoidance of sensitive or fragile areas is a primary consideration incorporated into the location of transportation facilities. Avoid riparian areas, wetlands, and floodplains to the extent practicable.

*14.3. Design of Transportation Facilities* - Incorporate site-specific soil and water resource protection measures into the design of roads and trails. The trail should be designed to meet safety requirements and minimize soil movement and sedimentation. Trails should be designed to drain with the appropriate use of drainage structures.

*14.5 Road and Trail Erosion Control Plan* - Develop Erosion Control Plans for road or trail projects to minimize or mitigate erosion, sedimentation, and resulting water quality degradation prior to the initiation of construction and maintenance activities. Ensure compliance through effective contract administration and timely implementation of erosion control measures.

Sedimentation is minimized by effectively planning for erosion control. Roads and trails require a variety of erosion control measures. Many erosion control practices will not only protect water quality, but also maintain road prism integrity and reduce maintenance costs, and improve usability.

*14.6 Timing Restrictions for Construction Activities* - Minimize erosion potential by restricting the operating schedule and conducting operations during lower risk periods.

---

## ***Lena Beach Recreation Area Renovation Project DN and FONSI***

---

*14.9 Drainage Control to Minimize Erosion and Sedimentation* - Minimize the erosive effects of concentrated water flows from transportation facilities and the resulting degradation of water quality through proper design, and construction of drainage control systems. Stabilizing the road prism and adjacent disturbed areas to minimize degradation of water quality from sediment generated by the erosive effects of surface runoff.

*14.12 Control of Excavation and Sidecast Material* - Erodible material will not be deposited in surface waters. End-haul material away from site as designated by the Forest Service Administrator.

*14.17 Bridge and Culvert Design and Installation* - Structures shall be designed to minimize streambed and stream bank erosion to maintain water quality and fisheries resources. Bridges and bottomless arches are preferred structures on Class I and II streams.

*14.18 Development and Rehabilitation of Gravel Sources and Quarries* - Minimize sediment from borrow pits, gravel sources, and quarries, and to limit channel disturbance from gravel sources permitted for development within floodplains.

*16.1 Recreation Facilities Planning and Location* - Protect soil and water resources through appropriate planning, design and location of recreational facilities. Wetlands, meadows, and stream banks are particularly susceptible to damage from foot traffic and need special attention when constructing trails, campsites, and cabin sites. Trails are also susceptible to erosion from runoff that increases when hikers make shortcuts off the main trail (See BMP 16.4).

*16.4 – PRACTICE: Trail Construction and Maintenance* - Minimize soil erosion and water quality problems originating from trails and their drainage structures. Use standard engineering practices (see BMP 14) that include location, construction, maintenance, restriction of use, relocation, and so forth. A variety of techniques can be used to harden trails and campsites in wet areas, and to reduce erosion on hillslopes. Techniques are likely to include:

1. Overlay on filter fabric
2. Water bars
3. Railings
4. Public Education/Interpretation

Each District will develop a trail maintenance plan that determines level, timing, and frequency of maintenance.

### **Design Elements**

In addition to BMPs, the following site-specific design elements will be used in project design and implementation to avoid or reduce impacts of the Selected Alternative.

- 1) New and redesigned Federal facilities must meet accessibility standards as outlined for outdoor recreation areas in the USDA publication, Accessibility Guidebook for Outdoor Recreation and Trails (Aug 2012, 1223-2806P-MTDC) and the Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines. This project was designed to meet those standards. Each site feature in the Selected Alternative will be selected or designed to provide accessibility to the greatest extent practicable within its given setting.
- 2) Project design will strive to borrow from colors and textures found in the natural landscape (USDA 2008, p. 4-58), meaning that subdued shades of greens, browns, and grays, and flat, non-reflective textures will be used. Proposed structures will present an architectural style compatible with the character and climate of the Pacific Northwest.
- 3) In accordance with the Forest Plan standards and guidelines, if a new eagle nest is discovered, the Forest Service will follow the US Fish and Wildlife Service National Bald Eagle Management Plan, and avoid habitat alterations and disturbance (including repeated human activity) within 330 – 660 feet of all bald eagle nests.
- 4) Instream work in Picnic Creek would be best from June 1 through the end of July. Work

## ***Lena Beach Recreation Area Renovation Project DN and FONSI***

---

- outside these dates could negatively impact smolt outmigration (spring), and the return of adult salmon (pink salmon in August followed by coho in September/October).
- 5) Conduct removal of backed up sediments upstream of the lower culvert during low tide. This will allow beach gravels to filter and settle sediments prior to reaching salt water, minimizing disturbance to marine fish.
  - 6) Use coconut fiber (coir) matting for erosion control as an alternative to straw bales when available and practical.
  - 7) Avoid spreading invasive plants by ensuring road and trail materials are free of invasive plant seeds and/or parts.
  - 8) Prevent invasive plant establishment during construction by washing tools and equipment prior to first entering an un-infested area, or when re-entering an un-infested area from an area infested by invasive plants.
  - 9) Areas suitable for staging construction materials and equipment will be identified on-site.
  - 10) If a previously unidentified archaeological or historic site(s) is encountered, the contractor shall discontinue work in the general area of the site(s) and notify the contracting officer immediately. The contracting officer will notify a Forest Service archeologist to determine further action.
  - 11) If trail is construction other than overlay on filter fabric and water bars are needed, a District Archaeologist will be consulted.
  - 12) If any previously undiscovered endangered, threatened, proposed, or sensitive species or key habitats for any Management Indicator Species or other species identified in this document are encountered at any point in time prior to or during the implementation of this project, a District Biologist will be consulted and appropriate measures would be enacted.
  - 13) The district will create a sign plan, for directional, shelter identification, information, and one interpretive sign, to assure signs and their locations meet Department of Transportation and Forest Service specifications.
  - 14) All-terrain vehicle use is not allowed in the area; their access at the kayak/dog ramp site will be blocked by a few large rocks placed on the beach side.

### **Mitigation Measure**

The following mitigation measures will be used to reduce impacts of the Selected Alternative:

- 1) Prior to commencing road construction activities, the "bishop's weed" infestation will be treated by digging out the entire infestation to a depth of at least 30 cm. This may be accomplished using powered equipment such as a backhoe. All plant material and soil will be bagged and properly disposed in a designated landfill. Replacement fill material will be free of invasive plant seeds or parts (see design element 7). The treatment will be conducted under the supervision of a Forest Service botany specialist or designated representative.
- 2) Work with district fisheries personnel to install block nets and trap and relocate fish near the creek/road crossing during instream construction. This will minimize direct impacts to resident and rearing fish from mechanized damage and excess siltation during ground disturbing activities.
- 3) Minimize stream crossings with motorized equipment. Use temporary planks during construction where feasible to minimize damage to the stream channel and stream banks.
- 4) Install a temporary diversion during the fish ladder removal and construction of the new stream channel below the crossing.

- 5) Re-vegetate bare soil resulting from project activity if prompt natural regeneration is not expected. Use native material when available. See current seeding guidelines (FSM 2080 TNF Supplement, Exhibit 2) for detailed procedures and appropriate mixes.

## **Monitoring**

The following monitoring is expected to occur to assure that effects are limited.

- 1) The project manager will ensure that botany mitigation measures are implemented. A Forest Service botany specialist or designated representative will monitor implementation and effectiveness of these measures within 3 years of project completion.
- 2) When possible, inspect areas where gravel or other materials (including seed) have been imported for 2-3 years afterwards to ensure no invasive plants are present. See item number 10 in FSM 2080 TNF Supplement, Exhibit 1.

## **Permits and Other Requirements**

The Forest Service will obtain concurrence from Alaska Department of Fish and Game for in-water work in fish bearing streams, including bridge replacement and culvert removal. No permit for fill will be needed for the Selected Alternative since wetlands will be avoided.

## **Rationale for the Decision**

I chose this alternative because it best meets the purposes and needs for this project. This decision will allow us to resolve safety concerns and provide a quality recreation experience in the Lena Beach Recreation area by:

- Improving the quality of the Lena Beach road and reducing congestion.
- Increasing capacity and options for parking and better meeting the demand for both automotive and bicycle parking needs at the site.
- Improving trail and outhouse accessibility and conditions.
- Providing improved conditions at picnic shelters and filling the need for a larger, reservable shelter during the summer.
- Providing better access for kayaks and small boats while retaining the character of the site.
- Reducing vandalism and improving upkeep, maintenance, and education at the site.
- Providing a means of physical road closure during maintenance, and for other administrative needs which require periodic temporary road closure for safety.
- Improving fish passage habitat and water quality.
- Leveraging Forest Service funds with Federal Highway Administration to renovate this site.

Of the alternatives analyzed, the Selected Alternative is the most responsive to the concerns raised in this project.

- The Selected Alternative addressed all the needs identified for the project while also addressing all concerns related to the Proposed Action:
- The new shelter locations provide for greater accessibility (for those with disabilities) because the grades on the trails will be less steep. At the same time, we designed this alternative to largely avoiding removing large trees to avoid changing the character of the site.
- The sharp turns and parking at the entrance to the recreation area were redesigned in the Selected Alternative to remove the safety concern and reduce the number of trees that will need to be removed.
- Installing the bollards and using portable gates instead of the gate proposed in Alternative 2 will make this closing structure less noticeable and less expensive to maintain in this area where gate use is expected to be limited.
- The three equally-spaced, single-room toilet facilities in the Selected Alternative will provide less capacity, but be more equally distributed within the site and be smaller in size than the two-room facilities proposed in Alternative 2. Three toilets are expected to fulfill the needed capacity at the site based on current and expected use. The smaller toilets can also be placed to avoid wetlands, thus avoiding the need for a wetlands permit.
- The Selected Alternative was designed to provide for more flexibility in road alignment and shelter location allowing the best choice for fish passage to be selected.

The review by resource specialists in the EA acknowledges that the Selected Alternative addresses concerns raised in Alternative 2.

### **Other Alternatives Considered and Why They Were Not Selected**

In addition to the selected alternative, I considered two other alternatives. A description of the alternatives can be found in the EA on pages 6-7.

#### **Alternative 1**

The No Action Alternative (Alternative 1) was not selected because the No Action alternative would result in no change to the existing facilities and management in the Lena Beach area and would not meet the needs for the area.

The developments at Lena Beach Recreation Area would continue to present safety concerns, environmental issues, and not meet functional requirements such as providing accessibility. Dedicated funding would not be spent to correct deferred maintenance needs. In addition, the culverts and fish ladder on the anadromous stream at the site would continue to be partial barrier for fish passage.

#### **Alternative 2**

While the Proposed Action (Alternative 2) would improve safety and the recreation experience, and address the undesirable conditions in the Purpose and Need, it would not resolve concerns about the outhouse locations, accessibility of existing shelters, safety concerns in regard to parking, the acceptability of permanent gates, and the lack of flexibility in road alignment and shelter location. Additionally, one of the locations proposed in Alternative 2 for the outhouses is within a wetland and would require a fill permit.

## Public Involvement and Scoping

The Forest Service mailed a scoping letter requesting scoping comments on this project in February 2014. The letter was mailed to over 200 individuals via email and postal mail. A public open house meeting about this and two other Juneau recreation projects was held on March 10, 2014.

Approximately 40 members of the public attended the meeting to learn and ask questions about the projects.

The Douglas Indian Association and Goldbelt Incorporated were sent the scoping letter. Government-to-Government consultation was initiated via the scoping letter. The Douglas Indian Association, the federal recognized tribe for the Juneau area, was also offered ongoing, informal opportunities to discuss and consult on this project during tribal updates on July 25, 2014, March 31, 2014, and February 11, 2014. No formal consultation has been requested and no tribal comments have been provided to this point. Consultation and discussion have occurred with State of Alaska agencies.

Fourteen individuals and one agency provided comments on this project during scoping.

A 30-day comment period was provided to the public after the Lena Beach EA was released. The legal notice announcing the 30-day comment period was published in the Juneau Empire on February 27, 2014. This gave the public the opportunity to learn more about and comment on the proposals. Four individuals and one agency provided comments on this project during the 30-day comment period.

Comments received during scoping and the 30-day comment period provided the public a chance to gain standing to participate in the predecisional review and objection process (36 CFR 218 – Project- Level Predecisional Administrative Review Process).

As discussed in the EA under Agencies and Persons Contacted, some input on the project was used to determine alternatives. Other comments and concerns were not used to develop alternatives.

Whenever possible, we used comments and concerns on the project to improve the project or the analysis or used the comments in making or refining this decision. The EA contains a summary of other comments and concerns and how they were treated and used through this analysis. A document summarizing the comments we received and how we dealt with those comments is available on the project website at <http://go.usa.gov/Bdyd> and in the Project Record.

## Finding of No Significant Impact

The following is a summary of the project analysis to determine significance, as defined by Forest Service Handbook 1909.15\_05. “Significant” as used in NEPA requires consideration of both context and intensity of the expected project effects.

Context is the geographic, social, and environmental setting and timeframe within which the project may have effects. Intensity is a measure of the severity, extent, or quantity of effects, and is based on information from the effects analysis of this EA and the references in the project record. The effects of this project have been appropriately and thoroughly considered with an analysis that is responsive to concerns and issues raised by the public. The agency has taken a hard look at the environmental effects using relevant scientific information, GIS analysis, and knowledge of site-specific conditions gained from field visits. My finding of no significant impact is based on the context of the project and intensity of effects using the ten factors identified in 40 CFR 1508.27(b).

- 1) Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on the balance the effects will be beneficial.** My finding of no significant environmental effects is not biased by the beneficial effects of the action. I have considered both the negative and beneficial effects. Negative effects on resources such as the

spread of invasive weeds and effects on aquatic habitat and fish species are minimal if mitigation measures, best management practices, and design criteria are properly implemented.

- 2) **The degree to which the proposed actions affects public health or safety.** Safety concerns and the functionality of the high use Lena Beach Recreation Area will be addressed by this alternative. Under the Selected Alternative the Lena Beach area will provide a healthier and safer location for all users, a more barrier-free, accessible location and will provide a higher quality recreation experience for all users. The road and parking will be improved and made safer through designation of parking spots, installation of speeds bumps to slow traffic, and the change to a one-way road. Removing the old outhouses, cleaning and filling and re-vegetating the old vaults will help protect users and water quality. Reducing the number of parking spaces and adjusting the road and parking configuration at the entrance will improve safety. And with the ability to close the gate, Forest Service personnel will better protect public safety as they will be available to do standard duties like cut and remove hazard trees without having to staff or patrol the closure.
- 3) **Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.** There will be no significant effects on unique characteristics of the area because design elements and mitigation measures will protect or mitigate effects to Lena Beach, wetlands and historic resources, and because no other unique characteristics or ecologically critical areas are connected to the area.
- 4) **The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.** The effects on the quality of the human environment are not likely to be highly controversial, because there is no known scientific controversy over the impacts of the project.
- 5) **The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.** The effects analysis shows the effects are not highly uncertain, and do not involve unique or unknown risk. Additionally, my decision includes design elements, mitigation measures, and BMPs to minimize potential negative resource effects and reduce risk.
- 6) **The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.** The action is not likely to establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects, because future actions are not dependent on this action.
- 7) **Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.** The cumulative impacts of this action are not significant. Cumulative impacts were considered in the EA. Based on known past, current, and reasonably foreseeable actions, cumulative effects are expected to be negligible or minor for all resources and opportunities (see Cumulative Effects sections in the EA).
- 8) **The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant cultural or historical resources.** The action will have no significant adverse effect on Districts, highways, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places because those resources were not present. Lena Beach Recreation Area was determined eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, but the archeological review has resulted in a determination of “no adverse effect” for the Selected Alternative. While the recreational area will be updated and made

more current and will be affected by the proposed changes, the changes will not be adverse. The recreation area will continue to have the same layout and design as before this renovation, and its setting, location, and design will not be adversely affected. The feeling and association will not be changed. The design of the shelters will be somewhat effected by the proposed renovations, as will the workmanship of the shelters, but again the changes will not be adverse. The recreation area will retain integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, and materials.

**9) The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act.**

The analysis concluded that no threatened or endangered species will be affected by the Selected Alternative. Biological Evaluations for threatened, endangered, proposed, and sensitive species are available in the Project Record for this project.

**10) Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.**

The Forest Service will obtain concurrence from Alaska Department of Fish and Game for in-water work in fish bearing streams, including bridge replacement and culvert removal. No permit will be needed for the Selected Alternative since wetlands will be avoided.

## Conclusion

After considering the environmental effects described in the EA and specialist reports, I have determined that the Selected Alternative will not have significant effects on the quality of the human environment considering the context and intensity of impacts (40 CFR 1508.27). Thus, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

## Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations

**National Forest Management Act** – The Selected Alternative is consistent with all Forest Plan standards and guidelines, and all proposed activities are allowable as described above under Semi-remote Recreation Land Use Designation (LUD). The BMPs and design elements included in this decision will help to protect resources in the LUD. No Forest Plan amendment is required to meet the conditions set for this area.

**Endangered Species Act** – Biological evaluations were completed for threatened, endangered, proposed, and sensitive animal and plant species. No threatened and endangered animal or plant species will be affected by the Selected Alternative.

**Bald Eagle Protection Act** – Management activities within bald eagle habitat will be in accordance with the US Fish and Wildlife Service National Bald Eagle Management Plan. No bald eagle nests are known in the project area.

**ANILCA Section 810, Subsistence Evaluation and Finding** – No significant change in deer distribution or abundance is expected to result from implementing the Selected Alternative. Access to the project area will remain unchanged. This project will not cause an increase in harvest of deer by non-rural residents over rural residents. For these reasons, this alternative will not result in a significant possibility of a significant restriction of subsistence use of wildlife, fish, or other foods.

**National Historic Preservation Act of 1966** –The Forest Service program for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act includes locating, inventorying and nominating all cultural sites

that may be directly or indirectly affected by scheduled activities. This activity has been reviewed by a qualified archeologist and a determination has been made that the Selected Alternative will have no adverse effects to historic properties. Implementation of design features and monitoring in this EA will ensure that the project will have no adverse effect to properties eligible for inclusion on the National Register and that heretofore undocumented properties are not inadvertently disturbed. While the recreational area will be updated and made more current and will be affected by the proposed changes the changes will not be adverse. The recreation area will continue to have the same layout and design as before this renovation, and its setting, location, and design will not be adversely affected. The feeling and association will not be changed. The design of the shelters will be somewhat effected by the proposed renovations, as will the workmanship of the shelters, but again the changes will not be adverse. The recreation area will retain integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, and materials.

**Floodplain Management (E.O. 11988), Protection of Wetlands (E.O. 11990)** – With implementation of design elements, this activity will not impact the functional value of any floodplain as defined by Executive Order 11988. Executive Order 11990 requires Federal agencies to avoid, to the extent possible, the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the destruction or modification of wetlands. The selected alternative avoids wetlands and streams by placing the vault toilets in uplands.

**Executive Order 12898 – Environmental Justice** – Implementation of this project is not anticipated to cause disproportionate adverse human health or environmental effect to minority or low-income populations because the proposed activities are expected to benefit human health and are not expected to result in meaningful adverse environmental consequences.

**Executive Order 13112 – Invasive Species** – Invasive species populations will have potential to spread beyond their current locations in the project area. However the current infestations consist of species that are not high priority for treatment on the Tongass National Forest and design elements and mitigation should greatly reduce the risk of introduction and spread of invasive species. Findings and recommendations are incorporated into this project design and decision.

**Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act** – The Selected Alternative will have “no adverse effect” on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The affected area does not contain unique habitat, nor is it considered to be limited in availability. This alternative proposes to move Shelter 5 closer to the saltwater, but will still remain within the beach fringe and above mean high tide. The Selected Alternative could generate short-term increases in sediment levels during the construction phase. However, in the opinion of the Forest Service, there will be no significant adverse effects to EFH and the fishery will not be impacted such that sustainability or ecosystem health would be impaired.

**Executive Order 75 - Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments** – The following federally recognized tribal governments and organizations were contacted via the scoping letter and briefed by the District Ranger during monthly coordination meetings:

- Douglas Indian Association
- Goldbelt Incorporated

No formal consultation has been requested and no tribal comments have been provided to this point.

## Administrative Review Opportunities

This decision was subject to administrative review (objection) pursuant to 36 CFR Part 218. Individuals who submitted specific, written comments during either 30-day comment period or the August 2012 scoping period had standing to participate in the predecisional review and objection process.

After the EA and draft decision were made available to the public, a legal notice announcing the objection period for this project was published in the Juneau Empire, the newspaper of record on May 6, 2015.

No objections were received during the objection period which ended on June 22, 2015.

## Implementation

Since no objections were received, the decision notice may be signed as soon as five (5) business days after the close of the objection filing period. Implementation may begin immediately after this decision notice is signed, pursuant to 36 CFR 218.12.

For further information concerning the Lena Beach Recreation Area Renovation Project, contact:

Michelle Putz, Project Team Leader Tongass National Forest  
204 Siginaka Way  
Sitka, AK 99835  
907-747-4278  
[mputz@fs.fed.us](mailto:mputz@fs.fed.us)

Approved by:



---

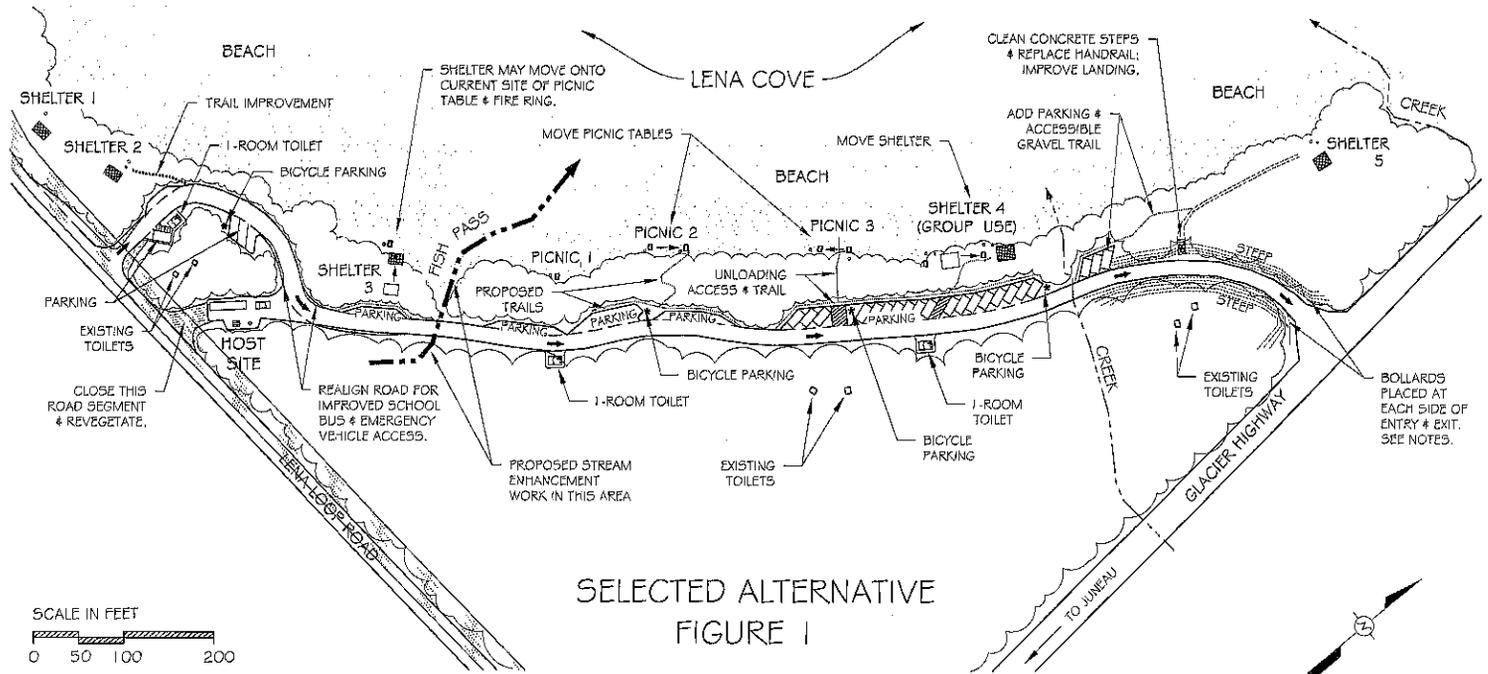
BRAD ORR

Juneau District Ranger Tongass  
National Forest



---

Date



SELECTED ALTERNATIVE  
FIGURE 1

### LENA BEACH RECREATION AREA RENOVATIONS

**NOTES:**

- BOLLARDS WOULD BE PLACED AT ENTRY AND EXIT; PORTABLE GATE DEVICES WOULD BE USED IF ADMINISTRATIVE CLOSURE IS NECESSARY (I.E., HAZARD TREE REMOVAL).
- LOCATIONS OF BICYCLE PARKING MAY CHANGE IN FINAL DESIGN. PARKING WILL BE PROVIDED IN LOCATIONS THAT BEST FIT WITH DETAILED SITE DESIGN. EACH PARKING SITE WILL CONSIST OF ONE OR TWO SINGLE LOOP STANDS THAT HOLD 2 BIKES EACH.