
File Code: 1950, 2350
Date: August 1, 2017

Dear Interested Party:

The Sitka Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest (TNF) is seeking comments on the proposed *Sitkoh Lake Trail Reconstruction Project*. The purpose of this project is to improve the 4.5 mile National Forest System hiking trail on southeast Chichagof Island. Much of the trail is currently in poor condition with drainage problems and failing structures.

The east end of the trail starts in Sitkoh Bay and has an existing easement for approximately 0.25 miles through Sealaska land at the mouth of the creek. The trail follows the creek in a narrow valley/canyon for approximately 1.25 miles and then travels away from the stream as the topography opens up. Approximately 20% of the trail is through muskeg and other poorly drained soils.

The proposed project would fully reconstruct the entire length of trail from saltwater to the East Sitkoh Lake recreation cabin along the existing trail prism. Depending on the composition of the native surface, the tread will be a combination of native material, imported gravel, and boardwalk. Log stringer bridges and other failing trail structures will be reconstructed and additional drainage features such as waterbars and drain dips will be added where needed. A short (approximately 0.25 miles) user created spur route between the Sitkoh Lake trail and road 75443 in section 21 will be improved by hardening the tread with gravel and boardwalk.

Survey and design is scheduled for 2018 with construction to follow in 2019. The construction phase could last for more than one year and would be dependent on funding.

Regular updates to the project can be found at:

http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=52292

The purpose of this document is to provide an opportunity for meaningful input on a proposed action implementing a land and resource management plan prior to a decision by the Responsible Official. Written, oral and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted through August 31, 2017.

If you have any questions or comments about this project, please contact Mike Mullin at (907) 747-4274. You may also email us at FS-comments-alaska-tongass-sitka@fs.fed.us, or mail to 2108 Halibut Point Road, Sitka, AK 99835.

We look forward to your participation. Your input and ideas will help ensure a successful assessment.



Sincerely,

/s/ J. Perry Edwards
Sitka District Ranger

cc: Mike Mullin, Corrine Ferguson, Rebecca Peterman

Sitkoh Lake Trail Reconstruction

