

March 24, 2014

HAINES BOROUGH PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PARC) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE HAINES STATE FOREST (HSF) FIVE YEAR FOREST MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE 2014-2018 (FYFMS)

PARC has reviewed the FYFMS and the Haines Borough Comprehensive Plan (HBCP). We would like to forward the following recommendations to the Haines Borough to adopt and submit to the Alaska Division of Forestry (DOF) prior to the March 31, 2014 deadline.

PARC supports the proposals for recreational development as listed in the FYFMS.

PARC recognizes and supports the development of other recreational opportunities within the HSF boundary as well. Future recreation needs such as new trails and cabins, supported by the community and recreation groups may be determined in the future and implemented as possible. Some suggestions for development are referenced in the HBCP or suggested by organized recreation groups, such as Haines Alpine Touring Society (HATS), Ski and Hike Club, and/or Sportsman Association. These suggestions will support a variety of uses including skiing, hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, and snow-machining. Recommendations for recreational development and maintenance are listed below.

CABINS:

Chilkoot Lake – This cabin would be easily accessible and potentially generate high use. This cabin could be used for ice skating, fishing, canoeing, hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, etc. (Though not within the HSF boundary, Battery Point or the existing cabin at Chilkat State Park are other possible locations for a high use cabin).

Future cabins which are more remote could include the following:

Seven Mile Saddle

Ferebee Drainage-Cabin (and trail) - the first leg linking Haines to Skagway

Kicking Horse at the toe of the Glacier

Flower Mtn. at the head of Porcupine Creek

Haska Creek above tree line

Witch's Tit above tree line

TRAILS:

Develop an alternate route to the scenic overlook on the Race Trail

2014 - Survey alternate routes to scenic overlooks from existing Ripinsky Trail and create a trail that will draw more people in

2015 - Construct new route

Additional trails are needed in the Haines area. New trails are listed in the HBCP and have been suggested by residents:

Hut-to-hut system along the old Dalton Trail

Hut-to-hut system within the Takshanuk Mountains

Hut-to-hut trail system between Haines and Skagway

Trail to Rainbow Glacier from a beach landing

MAINTENANCE:

The Ripinski Trail system includes Skyline Trail, Race Trail and Piedad Trail, as well as the trails to Seven Mile Saddle, Peak 3920 and the ridge trail between Peak 3920 and Mt. Ripinski. All of these trails need repair, maintenance, and signage as indicated in the HBCP. The majority of the people who required rescue have been in this area. This great trail system is part of the recreation opportunities that makes Haines one of the top places for recreation.

2014 - Install reflective trail markers on all of Ripinsky trail system

Conduct previously identified maintenance on 20% of the trail.

2015-2018 - Conduct 20% of Ripinsky trail maintenance annually - complete by 2018

Note: Brush along trail on slope below Seven Mile Saddle to be trimmed annually.

These proposals provide for a variety of user groups and are just a few of the many potential sites that could be developed and managed by a government entity, a non-profit/profit organization, or a community group. This type of development is identified in the HBCP and will enhance the recreational opportunities for the community of Haines and as well as the people who visit here. Therefore we advise the Borough to recommend the above for the FYFMS.

Sincerely,

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

RELEVANT REFERENCES TO THE HAINES BOROUGH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ARE LISTED BELOW:

ACTION SUMMARY

GOAL 1 – Page 7

Sustain the Quality of Life that Haines residents rate as Excellent, based on the:

1. Outdoors and natural beauty

GOAL 2 – Page 7

2D - “Review current and future land use plans and projects proposed by state and federal landowners/managers within the Haines Borough to identify opportunities or areas of concern, or inconsistency with the Haines Comprehensive and other adopted plan”

2E - Promote a strong positive Haines image within or outside of Haines specific Target publics that are vital to the community’s economic well being.”

3D - Action Summary” Capitalize on Haine’s existing rep and brand as a recreation destination and “adventure capital of Alaska.””

Parks, Recreation and Open Space

GOAL 14 – Page 26

Provide a diversity of parks, recreation facilities, trails, and open spaces to foster the health and wellness of Haines residents. Focus on recreation facilities that capitalize on the unique setting and natural beauty of Haines, create economic development opportunities, and benefit residents and visitors.

Objective 14A

Provide regular maintenance for Borough-owned recreation facilities. Expand opportunities in a coordinated and efficient way.

1. Use Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee to help guide Borough decisions on priority improvements to local recreation facilities and facilitate communication between Borough staff, community members, and the Assembly on recreation issues.
2. Support community groups and volunteers in their efforts to develop new recreation opportunities.

Objective 14D – Maintain existing trails. Be pro-active to prevent trail use conflicts and ensure continued satisfactory experiences for all trail users.

1. Complete an inventory and condition assessment of trails, start with those most heavily used. Also evaluate signage leading visitors to trailheads and quality of hiking brochures.
2. Create system and management for area trail maintenance.

Objective 14E - Prioritize recreation investments that maintain current facilities and assets, expand opportunities that will be accessible and used by many numbers of residents and visitors, and that fill gaps in recreation opportunities. Implement projects and actions that have been endorsed in community-adopted plans,

6. Maintain and repair Mt. Ripinski Trail System.
12. Construct trail and hut-to-hut system in the Takshanuk Mountains or along Dalton Trail.