

Agency: Department of Natural Resources**Project Title:****Project Type:** Maintenance and Repairs

Nelson Logging Road

State Funding Requested: \$2,200,000
One-Time Need**House District: 2 / A****Brief Project Description:**

Funding to upgrade the state owned Nelson Logging Road and transfer ownership to the City & Borough of Sitka.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$2,200,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$2,200,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Project will fund upgrades to Nelson Logging Road in Sitka and transfer ownership and maintenance of the road to the City & Borough of Sitka.

Nelson Logging Road is currently owned by the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, but is maintained by the City and Borough of Sitka. The 1.2 mile road provides access to vital state and community facilities including the State Public Safety Academy Shooting Range, USDA Recreation and Logging areas, and upper Starrigavan Valley. The condition of the road has deteriorated overtime due to lack of maintenance. The City & Borough of Sitka is proposes pairing state funding to upgrade the road with a transfer of ownership to municipality for future up-keep.

Upgrading Nelson Logging Road is an important priority for the state. The State Public Safety Academy relies on the road for access to its facilities. State Troopers must have access to their shooting range year round for vital training classes. Additionally, thousands of other users also drive or walk Nelson Logging Road for selective logging, access to trails, access to the public shooting range, and enjoying the Tongass National Forest.

Recently the deteriorated condition of Nelson Logging Road has raised safety concerns. The road's connecting intersection with state highways is sloughing into a nearby estuary and poses nearly impassible ice conditions in the winter. The narrow stretches of the road have also caused an increasing number of accidents with vehicles running into stumps along the edge of the road. Bridges on the road are also in questionable condition and are in need a structural review.

Sitka seeks to work with state and federal agencies to improve Nelson Logging Road and ensure it remains a safe transportation corridor for the community. The City & Borough of Sitka has filed an application for the project to be considered for federal grant fund including a Forest Highway Route Nomination. Safety improvements would include upgrades to the Halibut Point Road/Nelson Logging Road intersection, widening the roadway to 28 feet for two-way traffic, and upgrading both inadequate bridges. After these upgrades are completed the City & Borough of Sitka will assume ownership of the road for future maintenance.

Sitka requests funding to upgrade Nelson Logging Road and further an active partnership with the Forest Service and several state departments to ensure access to important areas of the community. The project is a top community priority and will benefit state and local users.

Project Timeline:

Design / permitting FY 12; Construction FY 12-13.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

City and Borough of Sitka

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Marlene Campbell - City and Borough of Sitka
Title: Govt Relations Director
Address: 100 Lincoln St.
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Phone Number: (907)747-1855
Email: campbell@cityofsitka.com

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No

FY2012 CBS LEGISLATIVE CAPITAL PROJECT REQUEST

Project Title: STATE-OWNED NELSON LOGGING ROAD UPGRADE

Total project cost:	\$2,232,000 (100%)
Funding already secured:	\$ 0
FY2012 State and/or Forest Hwy Program funding request:	\$2,232,000 DOTPF (100%)
Additional funding required:	\$ 0
City and Borough of Sitka Federal Tax ID Number: 92-0041163	

CBS has applied for Nelson Logging Road Forest Highway Route Nomination and Project Support in the amount of \$2,232,000 in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service. The State of Alaska and DOTPF is encouraged to support this application or provide direct State funding to upgrade Nelson Logging Road and transfer it to City and Borough of Sitka for permanent ownership and maintenance.

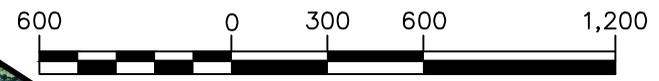
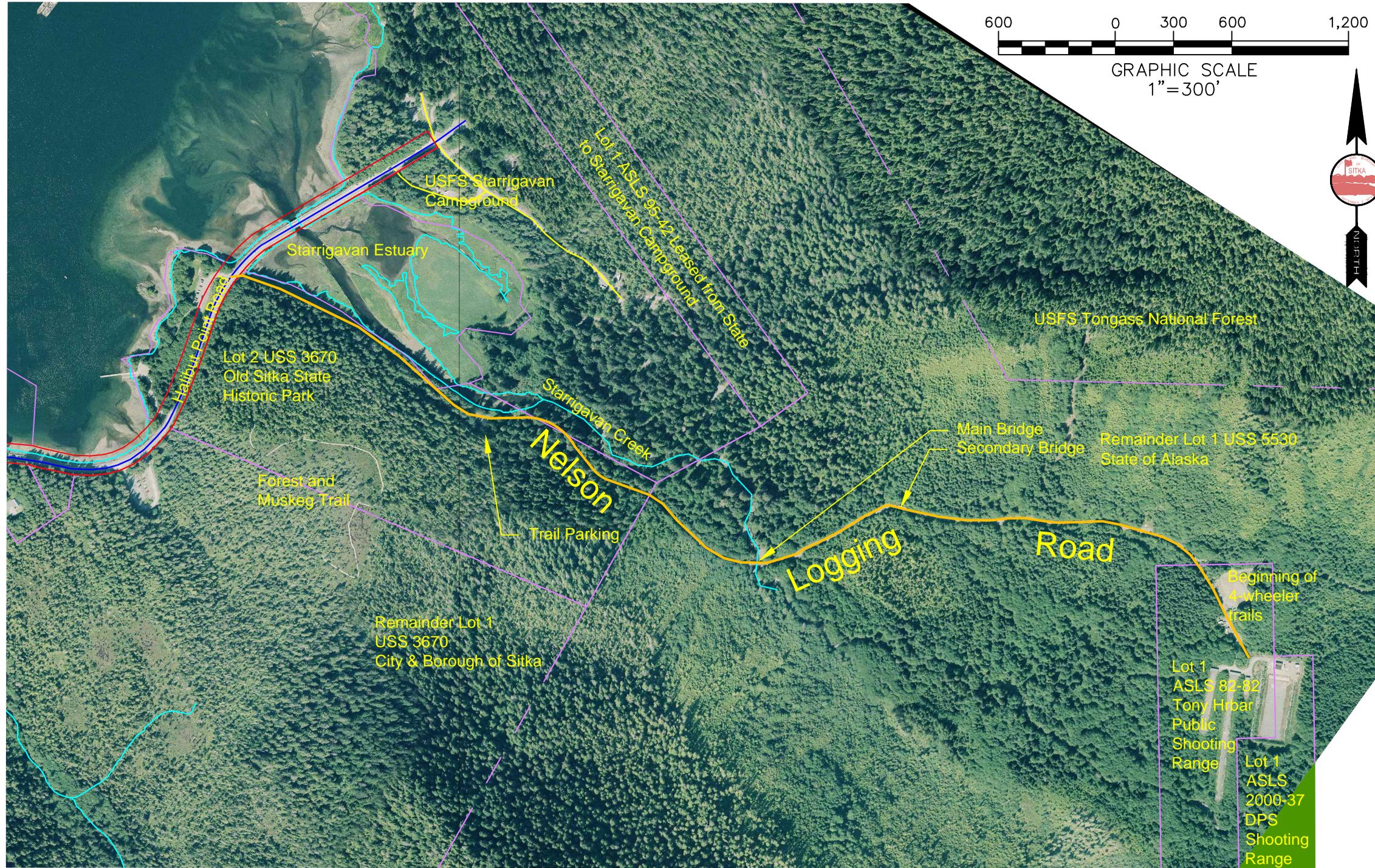
Nelson Logging Road is owned by the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources but currently maintained by the City and Borough of Sitka. The road is 1.2 miles long and runs from Halibut Point Road alongside the Starrigavan estuary and creek to the City and Borough's Tony Hrebar Shooting Range, State Public Safety Academy Shooting Range, USDA Forest Service Off-Road Vehicle Recreation Area and logging areas, and upper Starrigavan Valley in the Tongass National Forest. CBS has repeatedly asked the State to upgrade this road.

This project includes safety improvements to the Halibut Point Road/Nelson Logging Road intersection, upgrading the roadway to 28 feet for two-way traffic, and upgrading both inadequate bridges. The roadway is also to be moved toward the south to raise the roadway above the winter and spring flooding at the Strarrigavan Creek estuary and eliminate sloughing off of the roadway into Starrigavan estuary. The project also includes three parking areas, at the Tony Hrebar shooting range, at the head of the USDA Forest Service Off-Road Vehicle Recreation Area, and at the State Park Forest and Muskeg Trailhead.

Upgrading Nelson Logging Road should be a State priority due to the mandatory use of the road year-round by the Public Safety Academy. This road is increasing in year-round use, but no funds have been committed for a substantial safety upgrade. The Alaska State Troopers must have access to their shooting range year round for their Public Safety Training classes. Thousands of other users also drive or walk Nelson Logging Road for selective logging, access to trails, and access to the public shooting range and the Tongass National Forest.

The deteriorated condition of the road is causing both safety (The Sitka Police Department has a record of four traffic accidents in the last five years) and maintenance issues. There is inadequate sight distance at the intersection with Halibut Point Road, and the road is sloughing off into the estuary. It is especially dangerous in winter when ice makes it nearly impassable. It is so narrow in places that vehicles run into stumps along the edges of the road. Driving an ambulance to provide emergency services on Nelson Logging Road is almost impossible under icy winter conditions. The bridges also have safety concerns which should be rectified.

CBS requests active partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and Sate of Alaska Departments of Natural Resources, Transportation and Public Facilities, and Public Safety to keep Nelson Logging Road open year round until the entire upgrade and transfer of ownership to CBS can be achieved.



GRAPHIC SCALE
1" = 300'



DRAWN:	TAD	SCALE:	1" = 600'
CHECKED:	S. Weatherman	DATE:	July 2010
DRAWING NAME:	NelsonLRMap		
SHEET NO.:	1		1

Location Map
Nelson Logging Road
Sitka, Alaska

City and Borough of Sitka
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
100 LINCOLN STREET • SITKA, ALASKA 99835
TEL (907) 747-1804 FAX (907) 747-3158

Lot 2 USS 3670
Old Sitka State
Historic Park

Forest and
Muskeg Trail

Remainder Lot 1
USS 3670
City & Borough of Sitka

USFS Starrigavan
Campground

Starrigavan Estuary

Starrigavan Creek
Nelson

Trail Parking

Lot 1 ASLS 82-82 Leased from State
to Starrigavan Campground

USFS Tongass National Forest

Main Bridge
Secondary Bridge

Remainder Lot 1 USS 5530
State of Alaska

Logging Road

Beginning of
4-wheeler
trails

Lot 1
ASLS 82-82
Tony Hrbar
Public
Shooting
Range

Lot 1
ASLS
2000-37
DPS
Shooting
Range

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION 2010-32

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA (CBS)
SUBMITTING CBS 2012 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
TO STATE OF ALASKA AND 2011 LEGISLATURE

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Sitka advocates cooperating and sharing resources with the State of Alaska to maximize public infrastructure and services for the citizens of Alaska in the most efficient, cost effective manner; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has inadequately maintained State owned facilities and passed unfunded mandates on to municipalities; and

WHEREAS, municipalities have suffered major budget impacts from State management of the PERS/TRS system, State harbors, State roads and utilities, and other State responsibilities which should be compensated;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, adopts the following FY2012 State Legislative Priorities and urges the Alaska State Legislature to support them to the maximum extent possible:

- **State Revenue Sharing/Local Tax Relief** – The City and Borough of Sitka supports the State Revenue Sharing provided on a sustainable basis to equitably compensate Alaska communities for providing local services.
- **Education** – State funding should be increased to cover escalating transportation expenses, the rising costs of fuel and energy, and reasonable new costs to improve the quality of education.
- **Local Control and Maximum Local Self-Government Guaranteed by the Alaska Constitution** – The Legislature should defeat any legislation that creates new unfunded mandates or takes away existing powers of local governments. The State should fund existing unfunded State mandates.
- **Deferred Maintenance of Harbors** – The State should fully fund the deferred maintenance of State harbors transferred to local governments. In addition, the State should fully fund the 50 percent matching grants legislated by SB 291, the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Fund, to assist with future harbor upgrades.

NOW FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly submits the enclosed FY2012 City and Borough of Sitka Legislative Priorities, CBS Legislative Capital Project Requests and CBS Requests for State Funding for State Facilities in priority order to the 2011 Session of the Alaska State Legislature and State of Alaska.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, on this 30th day of November, 2010.


Cheryl Westover, Mayor

ATTEST:


Colleen Ingman, MMC
Municipal Clerk