Settlers Cove Federal Land Access Program | **FY2020 Request: $703,000**
Reference No: 62526

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Natural Resources
Location: Ketchikan

Project Type: Renewal and Replacement

House District: Ketchikan/Wrangell/Metlakatla/Hydaburg (HD 36)

Impact House District: Ketchikan/Wrangell/Metlakatla/Hydaburg (HD 36)
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2019 - 06/30/2024

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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:
The heavily used Settlers Cove State Recreation Site and Lunch Creek Trail are in need of improvements to address safety concerns, upgrade parking accommodations, and enhance site signage. The department will address those items in partnership with Western Federal Lands Highway Division through their Federal Land Access Program, a federal-aid grant program.

Funding:	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	Total
1002 Fed Rcpts	$703,000						$703,000
Total:	$703,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$703,000

☐ State Match Required ☑ One-Time Project ☐ Phased - new ☐ Phased - underway ☐ On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required ☐ Amendment ☐ Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	Amount	Staff
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Project Description/Justification:
The proposed work can be categorized into one of the following project elements:

Trailhead Improvements
The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) will pave the parking areas at the two trailheads located within Settlers Cove and the access road leading to the day use trailhead. Paving the road and parking areas will improve drainage, control airborne dust, reduce maintenance, provide a firm and stable surface for accessibility, and increase serviceability. The existing road and parking embankment were constructed using structural fill and therefore, earthwork will be limited to importing base course material, mainly for leveling purposes, and grading the areas for positive drainage. Once the desired grades have been established the road and parking areas will be ready for pavement. The finished paved surface will be striped for parking management.

A 12- to 14-stall parking area will be constructed at the northwest side of the North Tongass Highway cul-de-sac. The expansion for the parking area will require structural fill to build up the embankment to match the existing road. The built-up embankment will be topped with a layer of base course and then paved to match the existing road. Concrete parking bumpers will be installed to clearly delineate the parking stalls along with striping. The parking stalls will be a minimum of 11-feet wide by 30-feet long to accommodate the standard passenger car design vehicle. One stall will be designated for accessible parking and will have an 8-foot wide aisle for van accessibility.

Safety Improvements

Through this project, DPOR will install much needed handrails along the existing earthen stairway. The handrails will be designed in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility and International Building Code (IBC) standards for guardrail and handrail criteria. The boardwalk walking surface will be reconstructed, possibly with slip-resistant material such as textured fiberglass reinforced plastic grating.

Trail Improvements

The proposed trail improvements consist of constructing interpretive sites, or trail waysides, at two locations along the Lunch Creek Trail. The intent of these interpretive sites is to create a space for people to get off the main trail to view interpretive displays, rest, take in the scenery, or present oral interpretation to a small group without impeding traffic flow on the main trail. The two locations identified are already being used in that manner however, they lack the necessary infrastructure to be accessible and accommodating. The figure below is a picture of one of those interpretive sites. This site offers a magnificent view of cascades along Lunch Creek as well as access into the creek itself. The location also has ample space for installing an interpretive display and to facilitate small groups such as guided hikes. The other interpretive site identified is slightly smaller but offers similar opportunities.

Trail improvements also include repairing portions of trail that have eroded resulting in reduced usable trail width and potential hazards. DPOR will repair those portions of trail by rebuilding the trail embankment to its original tread width. The embankment will consist of structural subbase topped with an engineered surface course. The rebuilt embankment will be graded to ensure adequate drainage to prevent future erosion. At this point, culvert installation does not appear to be necessary.

Interpretive and Informational Signage

DPOR is planning to install a total of nine standalone interpretive displays, two interpretive kiosks, and one orientation kiosk at this site. The interpretive kiosk at the ADA trailhead and the orientation kiosk near the North Tongass Highway cul-de-sac will display maps of the area to include all the vicinity trails, land ownerships, and other recreational opportunities in the vicinity. The second interpretive kiosk will be located at the boundary of the Tongass National Forest and will also include orientation maps and signage, notifying hikers that they are entering or leaving federal lands.

The nine standalone interpretive displays will highlight the diverse ecosystems of the area and its past and present human uses. The interpretive program will touch up on the coastal ecosystem, muskeg ecosystem, riparian ecosystem, forest ecosystem, the 2,400-year-old fish weir, and the second growth forest. The panels will be located strategically, in the vicinity of their respective topics and at

key stopping points along the trails. The interpretive displays may be mounted on existing structures such are the bridge over Lunch Creek or the viewing deck.
DPOR's Interpretation and Education Unit (I&E) will develop all maps and panels for the kiosks and interpretive displays. I&E will perform the research work, writing, and graphic design to develop uniquely individual panels. I&E has the experience to deliver the high-level interpretation program needed to parallel the richness of the site. Their pamphlet resume is included in this proposal for reference. The panels will be fabricated professionally by DPOR's term contract holder, Fossil Industries. DPOR has been using the same fabricator for the past 5 years and their product have a proven track record for withstanding the Alaskan elements.

DPOR will also replace or install new directional signs to assist in wayfinding. An existing Recreational and Cultural Interest Area (RCIA) highway sign (D7-2) will be replaced to reflect DPOR's new logo and to ensure that the posts and foundations meet current crashworthy requirements. The new sign will conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Trail signs will be installed to help guide hikers to their intended destination. Trail signs will be in accordance with DPOR standards which consist of heavy timber posts and aluminum placards.

A project proposal has been submitted to Western Federal Lands Highway Division under the Alaska Federal Land Access Program. The project proposal was selected and funding awarded.

Line Item	Amount
1000 - Personal Services	$8,500
2000 - Travel	
3000 - Services	
4000 - Commodities	
5000 - Capital Outlay	$694,500
7000 - Grants	
Total Request	$703,000

Project will partially fund existing positions:
(10-5153) Engineer IV, Full-time, Anchorage
(10-5045) Engineer I/II, Full-time, Anchorage
(10-5273) Engineer I/II, Full-time, Anchorage
(10-5056) Natural Resource Manager II, Full-time, Anchorage
(10-5128) Environmental Impact Analyst III, Full-time, Anchorage
(10-5263) Engineering Assistant I/II, Full-time, Anchorage
(10-5030) Engineering Assistant III, Full-time, Anchorage
(10-5123) Engineering Assistant I/II/III, Full-time, Anchorage
(10-5245) Engineering Assistant I/II, Full-time, Anchorage
(10-5032) Engineering Assistant I/II, Full-time, Anchorage
(10-5261) Natural Resource Specialist II, Full-time, Anchorage
(10-5250) Publication Specialist II, Full-time, Anchorage
(10-5266) Publication Specialist I, Full-time, Anchorage