

1/29/2022

Cathy Tighe
3031 Tongass Ave.
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Ms. Tighe,

I'm mailing this because I tried to submit my comments regarding future planning of the Ward Lake Recreation Area online, but was unable to access the site (see error message below). I tried several different ways, but was never successful.

My comments:

- Provide winter road maintenance to Ward Lake and Frog Ponds when icy conditions persist. During our recent month-long cold weather the road was glare ice with only a single track in and out. The lake and ponds are an unusual source of winter recreation in Ketchikan, but they are absolutely treacherous and impossible to safely access during icy conditions.
- I'm not sure if this is a potential issue, but make sure Connell Lake road remains accessible to the public. I know there's been a change of ownership in the surrounding area, with the Ward Cove Group now, controlling some areas. I'm not familiar with who owns what in that area, or who controls the road and access, but with the WCG developing tourism activities in the area, I worry public access could be restricted to Connell Lake, and subsequently the Talbot Lake trail.
- Consider the possibility of acquiring public access to the Talbot Lake road from Cape Fox Corp. and a subsequent trail around Talbot Lake. With a trail around the lake, one could start at Talbot Lake and hike the entire existing trail system out to the Frog Ponds. I think there's some historical evidence of an old trail/boardwalk on the northwestern side of the lake.
- Limit commercial tourism activities to a minimum in this entire area. I completely support the tourism industry, but many in Ketchikan, including myself, are fed up with the busloads of people flooding the few recreation areas available to residents.

- Ban trapping within close proximity to roads and trails. I have no objection to trapping, but as Ketchikan has grown, spread out and developed more recreation areas, there's no reason traps should still be located in areas that are now within reach of kids or dogs.
- Develop a tribute and educational materials for the Aleut relocation camp at Signal Creek. I lived here for years and years, and always heard about the "Ward Lake relocation camp," but had no idea where it was exactly until I asked a local historian.
- I've seen online suggestions for dog parks and playgrounds in the area. I would prefer that the area remain in its more natural state and habitat.

Thank you so much for the chance to submit comments on this project. If you can direct me to a better way to submit comments online I'd be happy to re-submit in this manner.

Sincerely,

Heidi Ekstrand

(Faint, illegible text)

