

Tighe, Cathy - FS, AK

From: Mary L Stephenson , <[REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 10:22 AM
To: KGBAK 1 Rodney Dial Mayor.; KGBAK 2 Kacie Paxton Borough Clerk.; KGBAK 3 Ruben Duran Borough Manager.; KGBAK 4 Glenn Brown Boro Attorney; KGBAK 5 Alethea Johnson Assistant Planning Director; KGBAK 5 Richard Harney Planning Dr.; KGBAK 6 Jonathan Lappin Planning.; KGBAK 7 Morgan Barry PW; KGBAK 9 Cynna Gubatayao Finance Director; KGBAK 9 Finance Charlanne Thomas Acct Supervisor; KGBAK AM1 Jeremy Bynum Assembly; KGBAK AM2 Grant EchoHawk Assembly; KGBAK AM4 Austin Otos Assembly; KGBAK AM5 Judith McQuerry Assembly; KGBAK AM6 Glen Thompson Assembly; KGBAK AM6 Jaimie Palmer Assembly; KGBAK AM7 Amanda AJ Pierce Assembly
Cc: City KTN 1 Dave Kiffer Mayor; City KTN 2 Kim Stanker City Clerk .; City KTN 4 Delilah Walsh City Manager; City KTN 4 Lacey Simpson Assistant City Manager; City KTN 5 Michelle Johansen Finance; City KTN 2a Taylor Lee Clerk Assistant; City KTN 7 Mitch Seaver City Attorney; City KTN CM1 Abby Bradberry; City KTN CM2 Jai Mahtani; City KTN CM3 Lalette Kistler; City KTN CM4 Mark Flora; City KTN CM5 Janalee Gage; City KTN CM6 Riley Gass; City KTN CM7 Jack Finnegan; Tighe, Cathy - FS, AK
Subject: [External Email]Fwd: Ward Lake Recreation Area Improvements project, USDA Forest Service Update
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Good morning everyone...

cc: Borough, City, USDA Forest Service

bcc: Media and residents

Why do I send this to you when its USDA Forest Service land that is sending out the press release today... because borough land surrounds it and egress to it. USDA Forest Service assessment link is below for public review and comments.

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Recapping USDA Forest Service is updating its land usage north of Ketchikan city limits after last years' public vetting. A lot is at stake here with Ward Cove Group, vowing to access North Tongass Highway public and private lands for their shore excursion experience.

Buzz word "economic development" encourages business endeavors selfishly for the taxes governments earn from ticket sales and commercial property and for percentage of residents thinking it will be fun to experience. They may even purchase e-bikes online or locally from dealership for pleasure thereafter.

E-bikes are a new trend and companies will have e-bikes (noise, emissions, reckless drivers, liability) for rent either from Ward Cove The Mill and home of Norwegian Cruise Lines or nearby properties. Be assured e-bikes will appear on city streets if tour company has permit use .

Currently, no enforcement/regulation codes prevent e-bikes from operating on this island. Yet be advised, other cities who do permit e-bikes are getting complaints from hikers who want a quiet walk through parkland, in this case owned by USDA Forest Service.

NCL shore excursions are promoting paddle boarding, paddle cycling, hiking, day campground with fire and favorite s'mores in a serene eco-friendly environment with passive wildlife. Approved e-bike on back roads and trails nearby was not mentioned in sales promotion.

Ketchikan and Borough prides itself for the trail network and protects them equally as they do residential usage on Third Avenue overpass with municipal ordinances. Both are sacred. The Industry of Tourism free enterprise is wanting to use e-bikes for transportation and recreational use.

Not sure where the City and Borough Strategy Plan fits this into future development, however cities are always in a reactionary mode when competing with new trends that gains public support. Delaying discussion (first season or third year of operations) brings very angry investors heavily in debit with business plan and commitments to the podium. Politics stinks.

USDA Forest Service sets their guidelines that could allow such business to operate makes it difficult for local municipalities to write and enforce with its left hand while collecting tax revenue with its right hand. Just saying.... MLS

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:Ward Lake Recreation Area Improvements project, USDA Forest Service Update

Date:Wed, 05 Apr 2023 12:01:34 +0000

From:USDA Forest Service <forestservice@public.govdelivery.com>

Reply-To:forestservice@public.govdelivery.com

To:[\[REDACTED\]](#)

You are subscribed to the Ward Lake Recreation Area Improvements project for USDA Forest Service. This information has recently been updated and is now available.

Dear Ward Lake Recreation Area Supporter:

The Ward Lake Recreation Area Improvements Project Environmental Assessment (EA) is now available for review and comment. The Ketchikan Misty Fjords Ranger District is proposing several actions at the Recreation Area over the next 5 years to improve recreation experiences, safety, and habitat. Proposals include: a new cabin at both Signal Creek Campground and Perseverance Lake; repairs to roads, trails, signs, and shelters; stream and native vegetation restoration; and a new day use shelter at the Last Chance Campground. Full descriptions of each component are included in the EA.

To review the EA and additional information, visit the project webpage at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=61319>

How to Comment and Timeframe

Specific written comments on the proposed project will be accepted for 30 days following publication of a legal notice in the *Ketchikan Daily News*, the newspaper of record for this project. The publication date in the newspaper

of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for a proposed action documented in an EA. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. Persons submitting comments must provide the following information: name and address; title of the proposed project; specific written comments; and signature or other verification of identity upon request. Other requirements to be eligible to submit an objection are listed at [36 CFR 218.25](#). It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted.

Specific written comments for the Responsible Official may be submitted via online form, mail, delivery service, in person, or fax to:

Online (preferred): <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public//CommentInput?Project=61319>

Postal Mail, Delivery Service, or Hand-delivery: Cathy Tighe, 3031 Tongass Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901;
or **Fax:** 907-225-8738

I look forward to hearing from you.

Cathy Tighe, District Ranger
Ketchikan Misty Fjords Ranger District

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