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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Firstly, heartfelt gratitude to the stewards of such a treasured resource. Mere words are inadequate to express the value of these lands on multiple levels to so many. Many users view the trails literally as a lifeline-- emphasis on life. From the perspective of a regular trail user, top priority should be given to safety, meaning secure footing on established trails. Some area trails have been allowed to remain in serious disrepair, which has been exacerbated season after season. Pertinent issues include:

1. (Kudos first:) ) The Ward Lake trail culverts have greatly reduced the flooding in that area.
2. The Perseverance Trail has been in need of many repairs for years to. a) The culvert at the first switchback on the ridge below the lake has been plugged for years. b) Trail .1 mile past the muskeg lakes is badly in need of a culvert to prevent flooding and thus icing. This stretch also needs improvements for safe footing. c) Many other areas along the trail need to be repaired for the sake of safety. d) Boardwalk repairs are badly needed, with consideration given to handrails on the brief section that spans the junction to the Minerva Mountain Trail. Handrails should also be considered on the brief but steep section of wooden steps perhaps 3.5 miles in but prior to the descent back to the lakeshore and bend towards Ward Mountain far ahead. e) Much of the trail leading from the lake to Ward Mountain is in extreme disrepair.
3. Many repairs are needed on the Connell Lake Trail.
4. Carlanna-Minerva Mountain Trail: a) Many washouts along the sections below the avalanche chute; b) Safety enhancements needed in many rocky, muddy, gnarly spots between the avalanche chute and the end of the gravel trail; c) The "muck hole" part way up the ridge should be filled in; d) Many stretches leading up the face of Minerva Ridge could be improved for better safety; e) After crossing the ridge, the base of Juno Mountain has many muddy, slippery spots that compromise safety.
5. The unlisted trail leading towards the Ketchikan Lakes side is used by many and is largely passable much of its length. I would request consideration of extending this trail formally down to the bypass where it originates.

Regarding other issues:

It is my sense that the vast majority of users prefer restrictions on motorized vehicles remain in place to maintain the pristine, stress-free atmosphere they have come to enjoy.

Likewise, it is hoped that the Borough could be explored for activities such as Frisbee, hockey, golf and children's mechanized vehicles such as are already occurring on school grounds.

I agree with those who wish to limit further formal tour groups while of course welcoming independent visitors.

I agree with those who request the agency to work with the State Board of Fish and Game to further limit trapping in these areas.

I would suggest involvement possibly by local churches, community service groups or perhaps even local government for input on the 3Cs memorial site.

Please post vandal-proof signs where appropriate to remind owners to leash pets for their safety and for that of others.

Thank you again for making it possible for so many to enjoy these very special places. P.S. Please excuse any typos. Tiny font and need new glasses :)