

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/26/2022 9:46:34 PM

First name: Marlene Kuehl

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I appreciate that the forest service is entertaining comments to improve many trails in Ketchikan. As we have struggled through a pandemic, the trails are even more important, especially to the locals as they look for activities in which to recreate safely. My husband and I as well as many of our friends hike the trails in the Ketchikan Ranger District on a daily basis.

The trail that I would like to see improvements on, in particular, is the Minerva Trail. I've wanted to do the hike up Perseverance Trail and traverse to the Carlanna Lake Trail, but I'm concerned that it would be difficult to do safely without getting lost. I understand the trail is flagged but wildlife trails going in many directions can make a hiker get disoriented easily. I realize this is a big undertaking that would likely need to be done in stages. Initially, I would like to see just a clearer direction of the trail of the underdeveloped stretch, possibly by whacking bushes to make a roughly defined trail. Any improvements to this trail would be greatly appreciated.

Additionally, I've hiked the many trails around the Ward Lake area. With cruise ships docking nearby, I hope the Forest Service will continue the practice of not allowing commercialized hiking tours in the area.

Thank you for your time and consideration.