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First name: Jessica

Last name: Davila

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a Ketchikan resident and frequent recreation user of the ward lake project area. I few suggestions and words of support for the project are the following

*I support the need for maintenance and repair of facilities, shelters, signs, bridges, and trails in the area.

*A drive up to ADA compliant cabin. The settlers cove cabin on the state grounds is rented year-round, there is need for additional opportunities for year-round cabin rental on the road system. Consider building more than one cabin and allowing the ward lake camp host ability to stay at cabin if one needed more recruitment options.

*Speaking of year-round, please consider the options to maintain safe travel to the ward lake rec area in winter months. Ward lake rec area is one of the only ice-skating opportunities to residents, if not the only one. People are accessing the lake regardless of road conditions and hazards. There must be a way to partner for funding and share plowing to one of the access roads to ward lake to allow for a safe winter rec location.

*Consider commercial options for the sale of firewood at the ward lake area. Users are scavenging wood damaging trees and eroding stream banks. This might be an excellent opportunity for someone if the Forest Service is unable to provide firewood. Consider making it available to the three shelters as well that have fire pits within the structures.

*Developing signage to acknowledge the World War II Aleut Relocation Camp in ward lake. See this link for more details <https://www.nps.gov/articles/aleu-mobley-ch-7.htm>

*Install an ADA fishing platform off Ward Lake to provide more fishing opportunities to all users. Consider naming it after former FS fisheries biologist James Beard and working with local non-profits on accessibility such as SAIL or Community Connections.

*Consider removing Connell lake damn. It is withholding sediment and fish passage from downstream ward creek and possible flooding signal creek campground. This 60 foot damn blocks fish passage and there are no current efforts to power it back up. More recreational fishing opportunities could occur if the damn was removed as well as supporting sediment movement to lower reaches of ward creek, a hot spot for recreational steelhead fishing in the area.