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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Considerations for Ward Lake:

Stewardship responsibility fulfilled in maintenance of Ward Lake Nature Trail and adjacent sites protect this natural habitat and secures our continued local use while supporting our community in many positive ways. With respect for the Aleut American citizens who were interned at Ward Lake, on-site memorial interpretive information is important for their significant history, and I think a good basis for preserving the lake area the way it is. For the long term, if we keep the lake area within its capacity, larger groups could be redirected away from Ward Lake to a future recreation site. Locals want to know they can depend on Ward Lake to picnic, hike, fish, and camp.

Trail Extension to Connell Lake from Perseverance Lake Trail End:

Across the bridge at northern end of Perseverance Lake, an extension of the Perseverance Lake Trail could start from end of boardwalk and go north along the hillside contour before descending to Connell Lake. For safety, trail being above and away from Perseverance Creek's upper steep banks may also avoid wetland drainage areas and downed trees. Use switchbacks along upper hillside before descending to the lower flows of Perseverance Creek where hikers and runners could follow along the creek and enjoy the open viewpoints at Connell Lake. Exploring a new destination from Perseverance Trail would increase day and overnight use. Extending trails used by cross-country and running clubs could add safe routes that are also off-road.

Access to Ward Mountain:

The Ward Lake Road off North Tongass Highway may have the potential for expanded parking (adjacent to Ward Creek Industrial Supply) necessary for increased recreation. If future developments in a Ward Mountain recreation site can fulfill needed demands, location of parking is critical to pedestrian safety. This parking is near current fishing of Ward Creek where it enters Ward Cove. There is potential for a viewing platform overlooking the creek expanse. From the parking area, a pedestrian path leading towards a new recreation site could provide new trailhead access for Ward Mountain.

The last 500 feet of Ward Lake Road could be reconstructed into a paved site with picnic tables overlooking the pond and wheelchair access to seasonal restrooms. The road could end as a large turnaround for exiting directional parking, dropping off and picking up locals and tourists, and handicap parking use. Large groups would utilize an outdoor shelter with covered seating for educational programs, weddings, music events, cross country meets and other future needs of the community.

Just east of this site location, a short distance to Signal Creek could offer an adequate interpretive guided trail designation. Close to the picnic area, I would like to see a wheelchair accessible boardwalk nature trail loop built over the muskeg. Now if we only had a karst land formation to put a boardwalk around, like Prince of Wales Island. But for now, I would really like a trail going south of the Frog Pond, then east to give hikers direct access to Ward Mountain and back, or beyond to enjoy Juno and Minerva mountains. We thank you for this opportunity.