

Committee Chairman

Dave Zastrow

Committee Secretary

Elizabeth Senear

Committee Members

Toni Godes

Michelle Hahn

Ryan Schuetze

Stormy Haught

Parks & Recreation**Director**

Duncan Chisholm

The City of Cordova
Trails Committee**Regular Meeting**

March 25, 2024 @ 6:00 pm

USFS 2nd Floor Public Meeting Room

AGENDA**A. Call to Order and Roll Call****B. Approval of Regular Agenda****C. Correspondence/Visitors**

1. Presentation of Correspondence
2. Invited Visitors Presentations

D. Discussion Items

1. Review plans for trail maintenance on the O'Leary Intertie Trail project through the PWSEDD and SCA.
2. Review Eyak Mountain Trail project proposal being considered by the PWS RAC.
3. Review RTCA and committee member edits to the draft Trails Plan from recent workshop session.
4. Make any final committee member assignments for Trails Plan writing and data gathering.

E. Next meeting date & place/agenda items**G. Adjournment**

If you have a disability that makes it difficult to attend city-sponsored functions, you may contact 424-6200 for assistance

Full City Committee agendas and packets available online at www.cityofcordova.net

Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act
Reauthorized by Public Law 115-141
Title II Project Submission Form
USDA Forest Service

Prince William Sound Resource Advisory Committee
Project Number (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):

Funding Fiscal Year(s):

2. Project Name: Eyak Mountain Trail Improvement Project Phase II	3a. State: Alaska 3b. County(s): Valdez/Cordova Borough
4. Project Submitted By: David Zastrow and Duncan Chisholm/City of Cordova Parks & Recreation	5. Date: 01/18/2024
6. Contact Phone Number: 907 253 7284	7. Contact E-mail: dchisholm@cityofcordova.net

8. Project Location:	
a. National Forest(s): Chugach National Forest	b. Forest Service District: Cordova Ranger District
c. Location (Township-Range-Section) Township 15S, Range 3W, Section 27	

9. Project Goals and Objectives: This project is designed to increase access to the US Forest Service/Cordova Ranger District trails by restoring an in-town connector trail that was originally constructed in the 1930's. The Eyak Mountain Trail Improvement Project Phase II will restore trail tread and structures to original capacity, reduce resource damage through the control of erosion and continue restoration of a wonderful part of Cordova's trail history.

10. Project Description:

a. Brief: Repair, reconstruction and installation of tread, log steps, rock steps, drainage structures, log bridges and step/run boardwalk.

b. Detailed: A group of Cordova trail enthusiasts volunteered to form the City of Cordova Trails Committee as an advisory group to the Parks & Recreation Commission approved by the City Council on December 2, 2009. The Committee's first order of business was to resurrect the ninety-five year old Eyak Mountain Trail and make it safer and more user friendly. This trail connects the Cordova town site to the Cordova Ski Hill trail system and U.S. Forest Service Cordova Ranger District trail system providing an otherwise unavailable access point to a very popular system of trails. The Trails Committee requested and received Title II funds in 2012 which provided long overdue deferred maintenance dollars needed for this 1.2-mile trail. A significant amount of work was completed. However, much more work is needed, and additional deferred maintenance has developed over the intervening 12 years. Prescribed deferred maintenance includes repair, reconstruction and installation of tread, switchbacks, log steps, rock steps, drainage structures, log bridges and step/run boardwalk. The prescribed deferred maintenance tasks will occur entirely on the existing trail footprint. This will

restore the tread and structures, reduce hazards, reduce erosion susceptibility, and provide recreation opportunities with access to federal lands.

11. Types of Lands Involved?

State/Private/Other lands involved? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Land Status:

If Yes, specify: Trail section crosses private and State of Alaska lands.

12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? (Check at least 1)

☒ Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure.

☒ Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems.

☒ Restores and improves land health.

☒ Restores water quality

13. Project Type

a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1)

☐ Road Maintenance

☒ Trail Maintenance

☐ Road Decommission/Obliteration

☐ Trail Obliteration

☐ Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify):

☐ Soil Productivity Improvement

☒ Forest Health Improvement

☒ Watershed Restoration & Maintenance

☐ Wildlife Habitat Restoration

☐ Fish Habitat Restoration

☐ Control of Noxious Weeds

☐ Reestablish Native Species

☐ Fuels Management/Fire Prevention

☐ Implement CWPP Project

☐ Other Project Type (specify):

b. Primary Purpose (select only 1 from above): **Trail Maintenance**

14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish

Miles of road maintained:

Miles of road decommissioned/obliterated:

Number of structures maintained/improved:

Acres of soil productivity improved:

Miles of stream/river restored/improved:

Miles of fish habitat restored/improved:

Acres of native species reestablished:

Acres of hazardous fuel treatment

Miles of trail maintained: **1.2**

Miles of trail obliterated:
Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction):
Acres of rangeland improved:
Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved:
Acres of noxious weeds controlled:
Timber volume generated (mbf):
Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty-hour weeks: 0.6 FTE
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention):
Direct economic activity benefit:
Other:

15. Estimated Project Start Date: 06/01/2024	16. Estimated Project Completion Date: 09/30/2025
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17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.

Partners include the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and US Forest Service Cordova Ranger District. The Cordova Trails Committee originally conducted land ownership status, trail history, and easement research. The current Trails Committee of David Zastrow, Stormy Haught, Liz Senear, Toni Godes, Michelle Hahn, and Ryan Schuetze have been heavy involved in developing a 15-year Comprehensive Trails Plan. Eyak Mountain Trail is one of the top three priority trails the Committee identified needing work as soon as possible. Other partners include private landowner Linden O'Toole, across whose land a small section of the trail runs, and the Sheridan Alpine Association, which operates the Mt. Eyak Ski Hill and is the leaseholder for State land crossed by the trail.

18. Identify benefits to communities.

Many U.S. Forest Service trails exist around Cordova, but few begin in town, and few are in the easy to moderate category. The Eyak Mountain Trail is accessible from several places in town and leads hikers along an easy to moderate trail grade through a mature Sitka and Hemlock forest to more open muskeg meadows with fantastic views of the town of Cordova, Eyak Lake and the Copper River Delta. It's a trail that can be used by people looking for a quick outing, or by those who want to create a multiday hike through accessing U.S. Forest Service trails, including the Crater Lake Trail and the Power Creek Ridge trail. This project will use SCA (a youth employment program) providing a positive growth experience for college age adults and teach job skills that will expose them to future career possibilities.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources?

This trail expands the network of Chugach National Forest trails available in Cordova, as well as preserves an important piece of Cordova trail history. The original trail was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s and maintained by the Forest Service until the late 1970s. One of the primary uses of the Chugach National Forest is recreation, and this trail makes more recreational opportunities accessible to forest visitors and residents of the Cordova community. The project will also reduce erosion susceptibility and restore this route to a safe condition.

20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce
<input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agreement
<input type="checkbox"/> Americorps	<input type="checkbox"/> YCC/CCC Crews
<input type="checkbox"/> Job Corps	<input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Contract
<input type="checkbox"/> Merchantable Timber Pilot	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): SCA (Student Conservation Association)

21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Timber? ☐ Yes ☒ No

22. Anticipated Project Costs
a. Title II Funds Requested: \$47,250.00
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding:

24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment)

- a. Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this project on your environmental and community goals outlined above.**

The Cordova Trails Committee will track and monitor trail deferred maintenance tasks and accomplishments. A pre-project condition survey was completed summer of 2023 and a post-project accomplishment report will be completed and submitted to the Cordova Parks and Recreation department once the project is complete.

- b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring:**

David Zastrow (Chair of Cordova Trails Committee) and Duncan Chisholm (Director of the City of Cordova Parks & Recreation)

- c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k):**

25. Identify remedies for failure to comply with the terms of the agreement.

If project cannot be completed under the terms of this agreement:

- ☒ Unused funds will be returned to the RAC account.
☐ Other, please explain:

Project Recommended By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

Project Approved By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

Chairperson

Resource Advisory Committee

Forest Supervisor

_____ National Forest

Project Cost Analysis Worksheet

Worksheet 1

Please submit this worksheet with your proposal

Item	Column A Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution	Column B Requested Title II Contribution	Column C Other Contributions	Column D Total Available Funds
a. Field Work & Site Surveys	1000	0	0	1000
b. NEPA/CEQA	0	0	0	0
c. ESA Consultation	0	0	0	0
d. Permit Acquisition	0	0	0	0
e. Project Design & Engineering	400	0	0	400
f. Contract/Grant Preparation	0	0	1000	1000
g. Contract/Grant Administration	0	0	500	500
h. Contract/Grant Cost	0	0	0	0
i. Salaries (SCA Crew)	0	38750	0	38750
j. Materials & Supplies	0	8500	0	8500
k. Monitoring	0	0	500	500
l. Partners:				
1. SCA In Kind Contribution	0	0	12900	12900
2. Local Volunteers Labor Contribution	0	0	5000	5000
3. Forest Service Contribution (Tools)	5000	0	0	5000
m. Project Sub-Total	6400	47250	19900	73550
n. FS Indirect Costs	0	0	0	0
Total Cost Estimate	6400	47250	19900	73550

NOTES :

Col. A: FS costs incurred as part of proposal implementation. Coordinate with FS to identify any FS cost for items in Col. A.

Col. B: Title II funding requested to implement the proposal.

Col. C: Matching funds being contributed by proponent or third parties. Proposals funded with a Participating Agreement will require a minimum 20% match.

Col. D: Sum of columns A, B, and C for each individual row.

Row A: Costs associated with project planning, not project implementation, such as assessment of miles of trail needing maintenance. Assessments and planning needed to develop a specific proposal. For Col. B: proponents must request permission in advance to request Title II funds to complete NEPA/CEQA analyses, as this is expected to be completed prior to proposal submission.

Rows B, C, D, and E: cost associated with environmental compliance and project design. Proponents must request permission in advance to request Title II funds to complete NEPA/CEQA analyses, as this is expected to be completed prior to proposal submission.

Row G: Costs associated with preparation of contract or agreement instruments used to implement the proposal. Contracts used to complete projects have special provisions; contact the FS to identify these early in the process.

Row G: Costs associated with administration of contract or agreement instruments used to implement the proposal.

Row H: Estimated value of any contracts/agreements used to implement proposal. Contracts/agreements used to complete projects have special provisions; contact the FS to identify these early in the process.

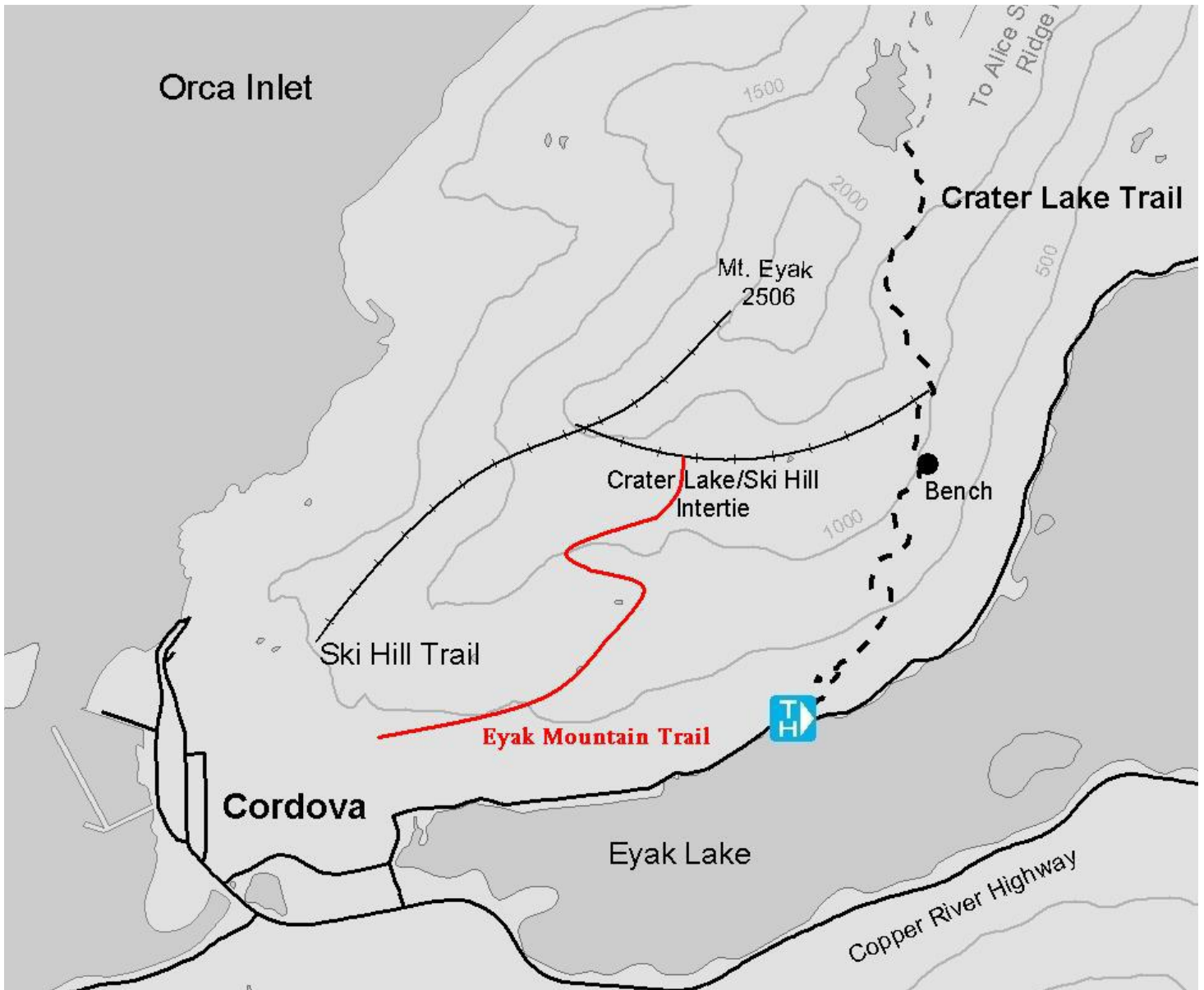
Row I: Cost of salaries to implement project

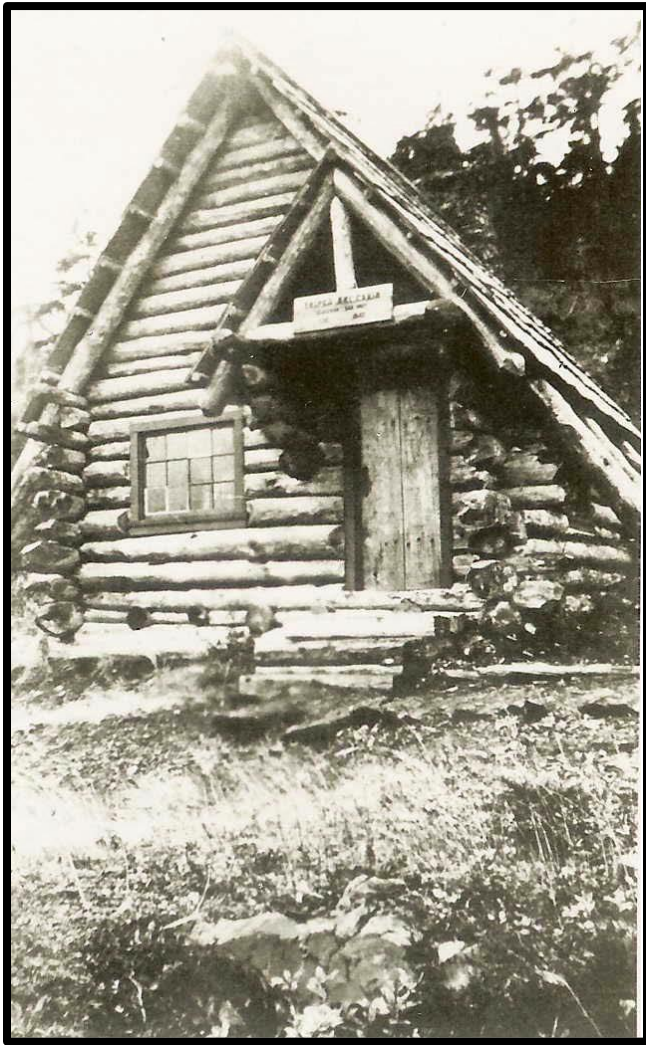
Row L: Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.

Row K: Costs associated with performing monitoring described in Items 24a, 24b, and 24c. Amounts should be similar between Item 24 and Row K.

Row N: Forest Service indirect costs, including contracting/grant officer costs if needed.

Eyak Mountain Trail





This is the
Tripod Cabin
In 1943. It
Was built in
1940

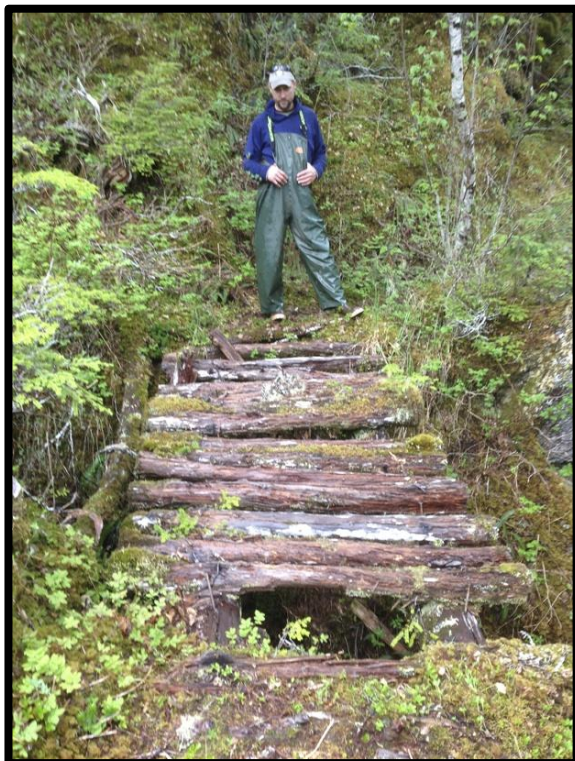


Tripod Cabin today.
Eyak Mountain
Trail passes to the
right of the cabin.

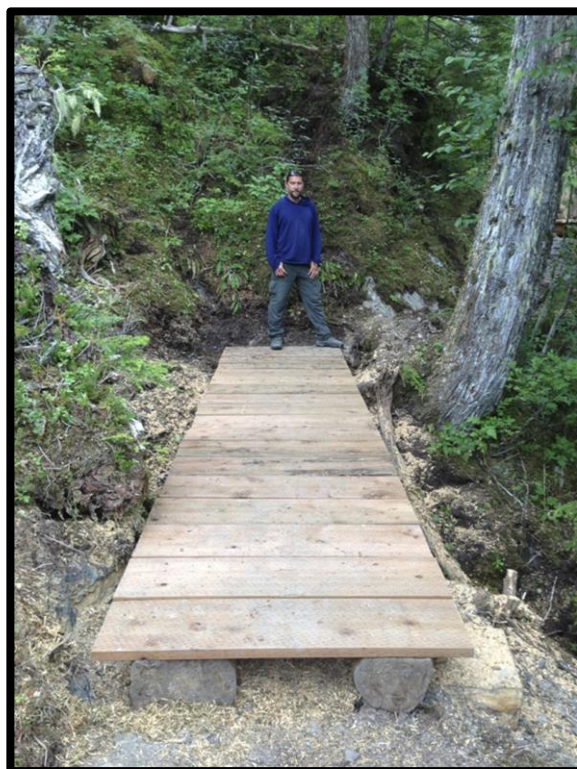


Eyak Mountain Trail Phase I Accomplishments

Bridge #1 Before



Bridge #1 After



Bridge #2 Before



Bridge #2 After



FY24 Field Season
US Forest Service/Prince William Sound Economic Development District
Student Conservation Association
Pre-Planning Meeting
01/17/2024

In Attendance:

- Chris Eversman-SCA
- Jason Croft-SCA
- Kristin Carpenter-PWSEDD
- Bobby Scribner-USFS
- Dave Zastrow-USFS

FY24 USFS Project

- Crater Lake Trail Project

FY24 Partner Project

- Prince William Sound Economic Development District/O' Leary Intertie Trail Project

Discussion Topics

- Crew dates –
 - Proposed start/end dates of June 3rd – August 23rd, 12 weeks.
 - **Confirm shift in season to accommodate college term dates.**
 - Early season snow load should be fine on prospective trails.
 - Federal holidays are observed.
 - Local community festival involvement opportunities in July.
- Crew size and makeup – a 6-person (4 members + 1 assistant lead + 1 leader), supported by one Forest Service trails specialist.
- Work schedule – primarily 4-10s with flexibility between projects
- Project timing – likely 6 weeks Mike O'Leary Loop Trail and 6 weeks Crater Lake Trail. However, these trails are contiguous and will be work as such.
 - Crew shared between FS and PWSEDD
 - Continue using FS gear and established campground to support both projects.
- Housing –
 - PWSSC Campground
 - Camp infrastructure available from FS/PWSSC: bunkhouse, cookhouse, vault toilet, yurt, weather port with wood stove, wall tent, powered wash station and shower station, bear proof food containers, bear fence for tenting areas.
 - Camp infrastructure to be provided by SCA: individual crew member tents/gear.
- Training –

- Provided by SCA in advance: **SCA to provide overview of training/skills** to FS personnel to reference throughout field season and reinforce learned skills.
 - SCA policy, procedures, and expectations (~2.5 days)
 - AmeriCorps training
 - Base camp orientation
 - Wilderness First Aid (~2.5 days)
 - S-212 Chainsaw Training (Rebecca Pike saw trainer at required FS standard)
 - Conservation work skills (~5 days)
 - Leaders receive 4 weeks of training at town of Indian.
 - Crew members receive 2 weeks training at town of Indian.
 - Crew leaders are WFR certified.
- Provided by FS upon arrival:
 - **Possibility/timing/needs of S-212 with trainers** (~3 days)
 - ATV training and OJT to be provided as needed.
- Communication –
 - Continue to celebrate the differences between internship opportunities and permanent positions, especially when setting expectations.
 - Communicate SCA staff visits in advance to facilitate collaboration while in town.
 - Crew leads communicate sick days or schedule changes to FS POC.
- Agreement implementation –
 - Chris, Dave, and Kristin Carpenter to ensure agreements are implemented as developed.

Previous Season Action Items Discussed

- Large bear fence so crew can spread out within secure space.
- FS policy and best approach for saw boot considering the unique environmental setting of this district.
- SCA providing rain gear.
- Crew Leads – set achievable short-term goals within the larger project.
- Crew Leads – schedule regular maintenance days, professional development activities, and social events throughout the season
- Use only specific bear-proof food storage boxes.
- SCA provide harness and cozy-tote or approved carrier with issued bear spray.
- Continue to communicate about skills/experience requirements as well as how the district can support SCA pre-selection and pre-deployment activities.
- FS coordinate on-site orientation upon crew arrival including project overview, expectations, and local bear behavior/safety/camp etiquette.
- SCA consider adding camp life to orientation. Some crew members didn't have much experience. "What to expect and what's expected of them."
- SCA consider providing field guide that can be referenced throughout season.

- SCA provide more complete saw kits and spare parts if using .325 pitch and consider chainsaw chaps fitted to individual crew members.
- FS and SCA provide instruction and guidance on tool rehab and maintenance.

SET NEXT MEETING – to include FS, PWSEDD, and SCA.

March 19, Tuesday 1130-1230