

Peril Strait Landscape Opportunities Project

Project Ideas and Next Steps

Summary Report from May 17, 2010 community pre-project meeting

BACKGROUND

This report summarizes project opportunities and ideas, by sector, identified during the May 17, 2010 meeting of the Sitka Collaborative Stewardship Group. These project opportunities are meant to inform the Forest Service of community priorities for planning the Peril Stewardship Project. Opportunities that were identified through other venues than the May 17 meeting are identified in parentheses.

Subsistence

- Enhance sockeye habitat around Sitkoh Lake and creek
- Maintain and improve subsistence resources
- Enhance Sitkoh Lake and Creek sockeye habitat
- Enhance deer habitat

Aquatic Habitat

- Sitkoh River watershed restoration
- Sitkoh Lake tributary habitat restoration
- Fix remaining red pipes
- Partner with Trout Unlimited and Sitka Conservation Society on Sitkoh River Restoration – minimum \$25,000 available (TU correspondence May 14, 2010)

Terrestrial Habitat

- Restore deer habitat
- Old growth dependent species habitat enhancement
- Invasive species eradication

Timber

- Utilize project second growth and restoration byproducts for vocational training and for rebuilding FS False Island facilities
- Utilize project byproducts for firewood and thermal energy
- Improve access for personal-use wood sales
- Learn more about allowed uses of timber from riparian area restoration
- Assess long-term timber supply priorities

Recreation

- mountain biking trails – particularly single-track trails
- ORV trails
- Cabin access and fresh water fish access
 - expansion of trails

- upgrade existing Sitkoh Beach Trail
 - Creation of trail from 7554 to Sitkoh East cabin
 - bridge construction
- New recreation-use cabin ideas
 - Oly Creek
 - Florence Bay
 - Sitkoh Bay (partner with State to use LTF site)
 - False Island

Adaptive management, monitoring, interpretation

- develop UAS course – resource and restoration management
- develop robust monitoring program
- apply best available research/science into project
- market feasibility study of commercial use of young growth
- increase interpretation opportunities

Planning and contracting

- Plan joint project with the Sealaska Corporation
- Announce RFP early in the year than March (Fred Einspruch correspondence May 10, 2010)

NEXT STEPS

- USFS Sitka Ranger District (SRD) evaluates project ideas, determines feasibility, and conducts appropriate field surveys during Summer 2010
- Engage additional stakeholders through other venues (by 6/15)
 - personal communications
 - website
 - website blog
- Identify core stakeholder group to ensure project continuity (by 6/15)
- Stewardship group shares additional stakeholder ideas/opportunities/concerns twice monthly with SRD
- SRD consolidates existing information on Project Area, to be placed on website (6/15)
- Arrange post summer field season community meeting – to update project and gather further input

May 17, 2010 Participants:

Scott Harris	Sitka Conservation Society
Martin Becker	USFS Sitka Ranger District
Keith Rush	The Nature Conservancy
Steve Ash	Sitka community
Jeff Feldpausch	Sitka Tribe of Alaska
Jim Dinley	City and Borough of Sitka

David Malone	Shee Atika Corporation
Perry Edwards	USFS Sitka Ranger District
Annemarie LaPalme	USFS Sitka Ranger District
Carol Goularte	USFS Sitka Ranger District
Kyle Moselle	ADFG
Clarence Clark	Alaska DNR
Phyllis Hackett	Sitka Assembly
Eric Abele	USFS Sitka Ranger District
Craig Buehler	USFS Sitka Ranger District
Marlene Campbell	City and Borough of Sitka
Mary Mitsos	National Forest Foundation
Kathleen Down-Gailey	National Forest Foundation
Keith Perkins	USDA
Mim McConnell	Sitka Assembly
Marian Allen	Sitka community
Andrew Thoms	Sitka Conservation Society
Adam Andis	Sitka Conservation Society

Additional comments received by:

Mark Kaelke	Trout Unlimited
Fred Einspruch	Haines contractor

Additional interests/stakeholders to contact or as potential core stakeholder group:

Local contractors – e.g. Tyler Eddy, Todd Miller
Outfitter/guides and transporters – McGraws
Mill owners – Gordon Chew, Wes Tyler
Entrepreneurs – Chamber of Commerce, Rotary
NGO's – Sitka Conservation Society, The Nature Conservancy, TU, SEDA
Angoon and Tenakee local and tribal governments
Sealaska Corporation – Ron Wolfe, Nate Sobeloff
Subsistence – Jeff Feldpausch
OHV users – Kelly Pellet
Commercial and charter fisheries
State of Alaska – Kyle Moselle, Clarence Clark
Recreation – Steve Ash, cabin contact