

Legal Notice
Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Effects
Environmental Assessment for Shotgun Cove Road Reconstruction,
Whittier, Alaska
U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Chugach National Forest, Alaska Region

The Forest Service, Chugach National Forest, Glacier Ranger District, has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for reconstruction of the existing Shotgun Cove Road, Whittier, Alaska. The EA discloses the environmental consequences, including cumulative effects, of alternatives for authorizing reconstruction of the existing Shotgun Cove Road. The project area lies immediately east of the city of Whittier, Alaska, on the south side of Passage Canal in western Prince William Sound. The elevation of the project area ranges between sea level and approximately 300 feet. The project area extends from the intersection of Eastern Avenue and Blackstone Road in Whittier, to a point above Passage Canal approximately 2.6 miles to the east. The Assessment was distributed for public comment for a 30-day period ending December 1, 2003. Based on this analysis, public comments, and the City of Whittier's comments, the Forest Supervisor, Joe L. Meade selected Alternative 3. This alternative would allow the following actions:

- Reconstruction of Segments 1 and 2, which includes parts of Blackstone Road and Cove Creek Road realignment;
- Construction of a parallel, paved multipurpose path;
- Refurbishment and enhancement of the Salmon Run picnic area and the improvements at the Emerald Cove Trailhead;
- Construction of a new scenic view pullout area at a high point on Segment 2; and
- Modification of the intersection of Eastern Avenue and Whittier Avenue in Whittier to improve traffic flow.

Under the 1982 CNI Settlement Agreement (CNI, 1982), an easement was reserved to the United States (CNI Section 13, B, (20)) for a portion of the route through Section 18 to be administered by the Forest Service. The easement constitutes an interest in National Forest System land (36 CFR Part 215.2). Section 13, K (2) of the CNI Settlement Agreement requires the United States to assign and convey all right, title and interest of the Shotgun Cove Road Easement to the State of Alaska. BLM has the authority and responsibility to reassign these rights for the United States and has begun the process to convey this easement to the State of Alaska. Other than the easement, the Forest Service has no other interest in this project as per 36 CFR 215.2.

Copies of the Decision Notice and Environmental Assessment can be obtained from the City of Whittier main office; the Forest Supervisor's Office, Chugach National Forest, 3301 C St., Suite 300, Anchorage, Alaska, 99503; and the Glacier Ranger District Office, P.O. Box 129, Forest Station Road, Girdwood, Alaska, 99587. The Decision Notice and Environmental Assessment are available on the Internet at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/>

For additional information regarding this decision please call Chuck Frey, Supervisor's Office, Anchorage, at (907) 743-9557. This decision is subject to administrative review (appeal) pursuant to 36 CFR Part 215. Individuals or organizations who submitted substantive comments during the comment period specified at 36 CFR Part 215.6 may appeal this decision. The notice of appeal must be in writing, meet the appeal content requirements at 36 CFR Part 215.14 and be filed with the Appeal Deciding Officer:

Regional Forester, Alaska Region
U.S.D.A. Forest Service
P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, AK 99802-1628
E-mail: appeals-alaska-regional-office@fs.fed.us
FAX (907) 586-7852

The Notice of Appeal, including attachments, must be filed (regular mail, fax, e-mail, express delivery or messenger service) with the Appeal Deciding Officer at the correct location within 45 calendar days of publication of notice of this decision in the Anchorage Daily News, the newspaper of record for the Chugach National Forest. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal. Those wishing to appeal this decision should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Appeals submitted electronically, including attachments, must be in an electronic format compatible with Microsoft Word.

Hand delivered appeals will be accepted at the R-10 Headquarters, Federal Building, 5th Floor, 709 W. 9th St., Juneau, Alaska during normal business hours (8:00 am through 4:30 pm) Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Implementation of decisions subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR part 215, may occur on, but not before, 5 business days from the close of the appeal filing period.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is an equal opportunity provider and employer.