

STATE OF ALASKA

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION ON FEDERAL AREAS

SEAN PARNELL, Governor

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November 22, 2010

Robert Dalrymple
District Ranger
Wrangell Ranger District
P.O. Box 51
Wrangell, AK 99929-0051

Dear Mr. Dalrymple:

The Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas has reviewed the proposal to replace the Garnet Ledge recreation cabin. The Commission strongly supports the preservation and enhancement of the public recreation cabin system on National Forest System lands in Alaska. We support replacement of this cabin, and its associated facilities, with one that meets Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. As pointed out in your October 22, 2010 letter, this project will help meet district accessibility goals by providing an ADA compliant cabin within a river setting.

Your letter also indicates that reestablishment of the Garnet Ledge trail, which was closed by the 2005 storm event, is not included as part of this proposed action. Because of the local interest in reestablishing this trail from the cabin site to Garnet Ledge, the Commission encourages the district to seek input from the Wrangell, Petersburg, Kake Resource Advisory Committee on this issue.

Following completion of the environmental assessment, if it is decided to replace the cabin, the Wrangell Ranger District should work with local organizations, businesses and volunteers to complete the project, as was done with the Middle Ridge cabin. The Middle Ridge cabin is an excellent example of the effectiveness of collaborative efforts between the U.S. Forest Service and the public. We encourage you to consider a similar effort for the Garnet Ledge cabin replacement.

The Commission appreciates the opportunity to comment. We look forward to reviewing the environmental assessment for this project.

Sincerely,



Stan Leaphart
Executive Director