



Recreation Solutions

Quality Professional Services,
Beyond the Boundaries

Carter-Crescent Lakes Motorized Use EA IDT Meeting Chugach National Forest Seward Ranger District Office February 4-6, 2004

Wednesday, February 4

Present: Mary Ann Benoit (District Wildlife Biologist) Elizabeth Bella (District Botanist)
Karen Kromrey (District Recreation Planner) Tony Largaespada (District Archaeologist)
Tracy Anderson (IDT Leader) Alice Hall (note taker),
Pat O'Leary (District Recreation Planner) Joe Meade (Forest Supervisor - contacted
Chuck Frey (Forest Planner) IDT by phone in the afternoon)
Deb Cooper (Seward District Ranger)

INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting began with a round robin introduction. Everyone introduced himself or herself, including where they worked, position held, and their specialty for the Carter-Crescent Lakes Motorized Use EA.

Identified additional specialist needs for the ID Team; Sociologist, and/or economist, someone who knows non-motorized/motorized use issues, and a public communication specialist. Possible team members are Mona Spargo in the Chugach SO and Stephanie Gripne from either R1/R4 who is currently working on another forest recreation project. Tony will give Deb her phone number.

Core Team Members vs Extended Team Members

Core Team: Tracy Anderson, Chuck Frey, Stephanie Gripne or other Sociologist, Mona Spargo or other Public Affairs Specialists, Mary Ann Benoit, and Pat O'Leary. Josh Milligan (Special Use Permits), Aaron King (Archaeologist/Minerals), and Stacey Prosser (wildlife) will be observers to learn the NEPA process.

Extended Team Members: Deb Cooper, Karen Kromrey, Elizabeth Bella, and Tony Largaespada.

REVIEW AGENDA (Tracy Anderson)

We did not review the agenda but instead jumped right into the why are we here. We will review the agenda Thursday morning to determine if we are on track. Joe Meade will call the team later in the day.

REVIEW TIMELINE (Tracy Anderson)

We have tentatively decided to hold off on timeline discussion until later in the day or tomorrow because Tracy can not make our next proposed team meeting. We discussed whether the team could get the scoping letter out by late next week so we could move up our next IDT meeting for the beginning of April. The timeline is very aggressive in order for us to meet the implementation schedule of next winter season. We have tentatively set our next team meeting for April 5 - 6, 2004. This means the scoping letter needs to be sent out by February 12, 2004 if we want to give the public 30 days to comment on the letter and allow time for Josh to do content analysis on the letters.

PROJECT OVERVIEW (Chuck Frey, Chugach Forest Planner)

How We Got Here

- The 1984 Chugach National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan was revised and the Record of Decision signed in May 2002.
- There were over 500 appeals filed, with approximately 450 of the appeals group letters. There were approximately 50 appeals that were considered substantive and of those appeals, about 30-35 of them specifically mentioned motorized use (snowmobiles) and the Carter-Crescent Lakes area.
- The Forest reviewed the project record and found that the record did not support the decision to close the Carter-Crescent Lakes area. BACKGROUND: In the DEIS the Carter-Crescent area was designated as open to motorized use. However, in the FEIS, the area was designated as closed.
- There was public involvement through most of the process. All IDT meetings were open with the Forest being extremely cautious about FICA. The Forest Service official were careful not to make any agreements with the public and emphasized that only the Decision Maker would make the decision. There were also public meetings with the local communities during the draft stages however there is no record of the local public, especially Moose Pass, having input during the final stages of the EIS process. The closure of the Carter-Crescent Lakes Area took the local communities of Moose Pass by surprise.
- Regional Forester/Forest Supervisor direction to the IDT: The RF promised the appellants that the forest would re-analyze the Carter-Crescent Lakes area to determine the appropriate level of motorized use in the winter season. He stated if there was a lot of pressure to open up the project area, the forest may consider

doing this. However, right now the analysis is to stay focused on the identified polygons.

- DIGRESION: How are we going to keep focused on the Carter-Crescent area? **Chuck will review the language in the appeals.**
- There is concern expressed that the whole Kenai Peninsula will be opened up for analysis. Didn't the revised plan consider this? Yes
- Direction from Deb/Chuck – we need to focus on only the Carter-Crescent Lakes area and the designated polygons described by the Regional Forester in his letter to appellants dated January 14, 2003. We will listen to the public during our public meetings and scoping processes and if it appears that there is overwhelming support to open up the whole Kenai Peninsula to analyzing motorized use, the Forest Supervisor will be apprised and he will direct the IDT as to our course of action.
- Question: Where there any alternatives that were proposed in either the DEIS or the FEIS for the Carter-Crescent Lakes Area?
- Question: Should the appellants and intervenors receive any additional contact from the IDT during this process besides the same public involvement all other members of the public will receive? Answer: All the appellants and intervenors along with other members of the public, government and state agencies, and tribal consultants will receive all the same communications and requests for comments. However, **Deb/Chuck** will make a personal contact with each appellant during the initial scoping period to give them a heads up that we are scheduling public meetings for this project and the dates, times and places.
- Winter Motorized Use Map shows all the areas available to motorized use throughout the Kenai Peninsula. It will be very difficult to take Carter-Crescent out of context of the entire Kenai Peninsula.
- Question: What is the season of use for motorized use? Answer: Dec 1 to Apr 30. There is not very much use during the beginning of December because conditions are not very good for either skiing or snowmobiling. Also the district coordinates opening motorized areas in order to keep use from being excessive in an area if only that area was opened.

Old Forest Plan

- In the old Forest Plan everything was open for winter motorized use from Dec 1 to Apr 30, once there is adequate snow. The Carter-Crescent Lakes area is still being managed under this plan direction until this analysis is completed.

New Appeal Regulations

- Chuck will get us the language we need to include in the scoping letter to let the public know about their legal standing on comments provided during this phase of the analysis.

NEPA Process for this project

- Who will be the Decision Maker? Chuck to find out ASAP. Chuck will also find out if this analysis will be a revision or amendment.
- We will initially scope the public for 30 days. If it is determined to continued as an environmental assessment, we will;
- Provide an EA for 30-day comment period with the new appeal regulations language included and;
- The Decision Maker will select a preferred alternative and sign a Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).
- Josh Milligan will be responsible for the content analysis on the initial scoping letters. Josh will also be responsible for keeping the Project Record instead of Recreation Solutions/Tracy.
- Mailings – Kathy Mitchell and Josh will handle all the mailings for the project.
- Pat O’Leary will be the contact person listed for this project.

Additional Points

- ✓ There is no pre-determined decision on how this area is to be managed.
- ✓ The team is expected to provide a non-biased analysis of the Carter-Crescent Lakes area to the Decision Maker (DM) and the DM will decide the appropriate level of motorized use for this area based on our analysis and supporting documentation.

Review Project Initiation Letter

Currently there is no Project Initiation Letter. Chuck will draft a letter for the Forest Supervisor’s signature and will send a copy to the IDT.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION PLAN (Chuck Frey, and Deb Cooper, Seward District Ranger)

- As stated above, Deb will get us a Public Communications Specialist as a core team member, hopefully Mona Spargo from the Supervisor’s Office. TO DO per Joe: Tracy to check with Recreation Solutions(Jeni Bradley) and see if we know of a Public Affairs person who could work on this project.
- It is extremely important for the Forest to include the local communities of Seward, Moose Pass, Cooper Landing, Soldotna, and Anchorage in all our scoping efforts and public meetings.
- We need to explore creative means in reaching as many people as possible. Suggestions for our PCP include:
 - Typically scoping letter soliciting comments from people on a mailing list or those who read it in the local newspapers Public Notice section. Newspapers will include the Anchorage Daily News (paper of record), Seward Phoenix LOG, and the Peninsula Clarion.
 - News Releases to the same newspapers

- Construct a website specific to the Carter-Crescent Lakes Area. The website would have links to the scoping letter, information on how to provide comments and the comment period, an email address to send comments to and a phone number if you want to talk to a person. Other documents such as the IDT meeting notes could also be published here.
- Voice message machine informing the public about the public meeting dates, how to provide comments via email, written correspondence or leave a message and a person will call you back.
- Public Meetings will be held at the five locations listed in the second bullet. **Joe would like the meetings to be casual and informal.** He feels it is extremely important to rebuild relationships with these communities, listen to the people who attend the meetings and/or contact the IDT about comments and concerns regarding the project, try to get a clearer picture of the different types of motorized use that is occurring in the Carter-Crescent Lakes area and look at strategic uses of the area and use corridors.
- Tentative Public Meetings are scheduled as follows:
 - February 28 – Anchorage (Afternoon)
 - March 1 – Seward: Avtec Auditorium (7:00 – 9:00 PM)
 - March 2 - Cooper Landing: Sunrise Inn (1:00 – 3:00 PM) and
 - March 2 - Moose Pass: Moose Pass School (7:00 – 9:00 PM)
 - March 5 – Soldotna: Soldotna Sports Center (6:30 – 8:30 PM)
- Need to determine if the above meetings are the only meetings we will have for the initial scoping period. There was discussion on possibly having two rounds of meetings during this first 30 days of scoping. **We will only have one round of public meetings for the initial scoping period (per Joe/Deb)**
- Mailing lists need to include, at a minimum:
 - Appellants
 - Intervenors
 - Local community leaders (mayors/county commissioners) for the local communities of Seward, Moose Pass, Cooper Landing, and Soldotna.
 - State and Federal Agencies, such as Fish and Wildlife, AK Dept Fish and Game (not sure if this is the correct title), Tribal leaders,
 - Adjacent landowners to the project area
 - Anyone else who has expressed an interest in this project and provided an address to contact them.

RESOURCE-BY-RESOURCE DISCUSSION (Interdisciplinary Team)

Wildlife (Mary Ann Benoit, District Wildlife Biologist)

TES: – There are no Threatened or Endangered Species or habitat in the project area. There are three sensitive species that could occur on the district; Osprey, Peregrine falcon, and Trumpeter Swan. There maybe potential nesting habitat for swans, but there is no known use of the area by swans to date. Ospreys are likely to only use the area during migration. No suitable habitat for peregrines. Mary Ann

needs to do further research but her initial feeling is there are no immediate concerns. Unlikely that motorized recreation would have any effect.

Management Indicator Species – There are three species: brown bear, moose, and mountain goat. There may be potential brown bear denning habitat in the project area. Mary Ann needs to check with Mike Goldstein regarding known dens and potential habitat model. Moose – winter range occurs along Quartz Creek. The area contains summer and winter habitat for Mountain goats/ and Dall Sheep - there is potential for snowmobiles and skiers to stress the animals. Mary Ann will research this for effects analysis. The Seward District is the only district on national forest lands that has Dall sheep, and this is an important habitat area for them. The likelihood of indirect effects from recreational activities affecting population viability is expected to be low. To help maintain populations, Forest Plan Guidelines for Mountain Goat and Dall Sheep Habitat Management include:

“Locate concentrated human activities away from important wintering, kidding and lambing habitat. A minimum one-mile avoidance distance is recommended but could vary depending on site-specific circumstances as long as these habitats are adequately protected.”

The Mountain goat habitat in this area is from 0.3 miles to 0.6 miles from the northern lakeshore and, and within 1 mile of the southern lakeshore. Both areas are within 1 mile of the cabin. If you consider these recreation activities to be concentrated human activity, we are definitely within the 1 mile avoidance distance.

Species of Special Interest – The Species of Special Interest on the district are wolves, lynx, marbled murrelet, river otter, goshawks, Townsend’s warblers, bald eagle, and wolverines (see handout). Species that are known to occur in the project area are bald eagles, wolves, and lynx. There maybe potential habitat for some of the others these species in the project area. Only concern is with bald eagle nest on west end of Crescent Lake.

Plants (Elizabeth Bella, District Ecologist)

There is potential for habitat for the Regional Foresters Sensitive Plants (R10). However since the activities proposed would occur with snow covering the plants, there would be minimal chance of impacts to any sensitive plant species.

Recreation (Pat O’Leary, District Recreation Planner and Recreation Operations)

This area is heavily advertised for recreation opportunities – hiking, biking, snowmobiling, trails, and cabins. The main access into the Carter-Crescent Lakes area is via the Carter Lakes trailhead located in the northeast corner of the project area. The district does not have very much use data for this area. They have limited information for the 1999-2000 season for the Carter Lake Trailhead. From

Dec 1 to Apr 30, 67 snowmobiles and 8 skiers were counted. For the winter season 2000-2001, same use period, 110 snowmobiles and 2 non-motorized users were observed. These numbers were accumulated over 4 weekends and 1 weekday of monitoring. Summer use at this trailhead averages about 1500 people.

Crescent Lake Trail accesses the area from the west. There are no trailhead counts for winter use at this trailhead because there is very little winter use from this area due to the high level of avalanche danger along the Crescent Lake Trail. There is some minor snowmobile use along the old mining road located just south of the Crescent trail, but again this use is limited due to the avalanche danger. Summer use on this trail averages approximately 2880 users that range from hikers, bikers and horseback riders.

There are two cabins located in the project area. Crescent Creek Cabin is located at the west end of Crescent Lake. Use at the cabin varies according to season. From May 21 – Sept 30 (high use season) the cabin has an 87% occupancy rate. From Oct 1 – Oct 31 and Feb 1 to Mar 31 (shoulder season) occupancy rate is 30%. From Nov 1 – Jan 31 and Apr 1 – May 20 (low season) occupancy rate is 32%. During the 1999-2000 winter season, 17 non-motorized users and 7 motorized users registered in the log book. In 2000-2001, 15 snowmobilers and 1 skier registered. NOTE: not all users who stay at the cabin register in the log book.

The Carter Crescent Lake area is a desirable winter recreation area for both motorized and non-motorized user groups. Non-motorized groups like the area because it's within 3 miles of a road and the initial climb in to the high country is challenging but gives a quick reward. Motorized users like this area because of the same reasons. Access to the high country is relatively easy. Lots of people ride up to the lakes to ice fish and to play around. Plus the east side of the project area is relatively safe due to the low avalanche danger.

There is limited use, both motorized and non-motorized along the Old Sterling Highway. The Old highway runs approximately parallel to Route 1 on the north edge of the project area.

Heritage Resources (Aaron King and Tony Largaespada, District Archaeologists)

There are two old mining sites that will need to be observed during the winter months to access whether there are any structures sticking up through the snow which could pose safety hazards. These sites may also have holes that could pose safety problems as well. Also these two sites will need to be recorded during the snow-free months and the data base updated with the new recording system numbers. Once this has occurred, they will submit a letter to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for concurrence.

They will also review the project area for possible mine shafts and potential safety hazards associated with mines.

Tony will facilitate the government to government consolation with the tribes and if a letter needs to be written for Deb's signature, Tony will prepare it. He will also get the tribal mailing list to Josh for the scoping letter.

JOE MEADE'S CALL TO THE IDT

Joe called to check in with the IDT, find out where we are in the NEPA process, and to give the team his ideas on where we should be heading, specifically in terms of public involvement.

Deb gave Joe a quick overview on what we had accomplished on our first day and emphasized the need to have a sociologist/economist and public affairs specialists on the core team. Deb and Joe will discuss possible Chugach employees and Tracy will contact Recreation Solutions for possible specialists.

The most important thing we need to do for this project is to re-establish communication with the local communities. During the Forest Plan Revision process we let this slip at the end and it cost us. We need to have casual listening sessions in Moose Pass, Cooper Landing, and Seward, at a minimum. We need to emphasize listening to the communities and the different users groups and the different groups within user groups.

Joe shared that when he and the Regional Forester met with the appellants they collectively heard that there maybe common ground between different user groups (motorized/non-motorized). We also need to look at the different groups within groups, such as traditional use (wood gathering, mode of transportation of getting from home to the store, etc) vs traditional recreational use of getting to an area for pure recreational fun.

He also wants the IDT to think about use corridors and possible timeshare with other areas, such as Resurrection Pass.

Joe feels it is extremely important that he attends open house meetings with the public. Meeting dates as tentatively scheduled under the Public Communication Plan are based on Joe, Deb and Chuck's availability during the 30 scoping period.

Joe did discuss the bigger picture for the Kenai Peninsula and the possibility for a Landscape Wide Assessment for the whole area. However, we are to stay focused on Carter-Crescent Lakes area with this analysis at this time.

Thursday, February 5

Present: Mary Ann Benoit (District Wildlife Biologist) Tony Largaespada (District Archaeologist)
Karen Kromrey (District Recreation Planner) Aron King (District Archaeologist)
Tracy Anderson (IDT Leader) Josh Milligan (Special Use Permits, Project Record)
Pat O'Leary (District Recreation Planner) Joe Meade (Forest Supervisor on phone in the afternoon)
Chuck Frey (Forest Planner)
Deb Cooper (Seward District Ranger)

REVIEW OF YESTERDAY'S AGENDA (Tracy Anderson, IDT Leader)

Yesterday's meeting seem to go fairly well. Tracy will get the meeting notes from yesterday to Mary Ann since she will be unavailable next week (Feb 9-13) (**Done**). Tracy will get the notes out to the rest of the team, by Feb 10, 2004.

RESOURCE-BY-RESOURCE DISCUSSION CONTINUED (Interdisciplinary Team)

Recreation (Pat O'Leary, District Recreation Planner and Recreation Operations)

Crescent Saddle cabin does not receive as much use because of avalanche danger is higher near this cabin early in the winter season. Most of the use is late season once the lake has frozen over and the snow has developed a crust, usually from the Kenai Lake side.

User Groups in the Carter-Crescent area is mostly used by local family groups who travel short distances to get to the trailhead or who ride their snowmobile from home to the project area. Regardless of access mode, there are some winter user groups want to go to the cabins and stay over. Other groups like to go up into the area for a day of recreation, again regardless of transportation method. There are also the individuals who like to high mark on the steeper slopes with their snow machines or who ride into the area and then climb up the steeper slopes to snowboard.

Carter-Crescent Lakes area is a popular area for ptarmigan hunting, ice fishing and trapping.

DATA NEEDS

Wildlife: Pat needs to let Mary Ann know how much recreation use is occurring in the project area and where that use occurs. There are no specific wildlife collection needs. She has some research to finish up related to specific species.

Recreation: There will be vehicle counts at trailheads conducted to collect specific data for Carter-Crescent so the district will have at least one winter of use data. Mary Ann will contact the Glacier RD to see if we can get their wildlife people to survey the Carter-Crescent area when they do their flyovers. If the Glacier RD can not do any counts for us the backup plan is for the Seward RD to go out and count cars in the Carter Lake Trailhead area.

Rod O'Conner will tie in with Aaron Poe on Aaron's research study with winter use and effects on wildlife.

Pat will track down all the winter use numbers the district has and tally them up and get this information to Mary Ann. The numbers will show variability depending on the type of winter/weather conditions were present. Example: the winter of 1999-2000 the use in the early part of the season was low because of low snow and then avalanche closures. There is data compiled for Carter from CPG Recreation Report.

Question: How does the Chugach Powder Guides fit in to Carter-Crescent area? They do not fit into this project as they are not allowed to operate here.

Question: Do we have an overall knowledge of snowmobile use for the Kenai Peninsula? Limited. There is a 1996 news article showing use is increasing. Also technology has improved snow machines so we know people are riding into areas where they never used to go. The basic answer is we do not have hard data, but we have ocular field observations from FS technicians working in the field.

Fisheries: There was a question of whether we need a fisheries specialist on the team. Currently we do not feel there is a need since we are looking at winter access. Pat O'Leary will cover fisheries in the recreation section unless an issue arises that dictates we need a fish biologist.

Vegetation: Since there is no proposal to manipulate vegetation in this analysis, Pat will address vegetation under the recreation section.

Heritage Resources/Sensitive Plants: There were no data needs identified at this time.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ANALYSIS (INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM)

The IDT decided to table the discussion of Cumulative Effects Analysis areas for each resource until our next IDT meeting when we will have a better idea of what the issues are.

Past Activities in the Project area

- Transects for sheep and goats

- Mining pits – exploration holes dug around 1970's
- Vegetation management activities along Sterling Highway/power line
- Wildlife burns in 1980's
- Firewood cutting areas in the 1990's
- Hazard tree removal in parking areas

Current Activities in the Project area

- Two cabins on the National Reservation System
- Three separate hiking trails with assorted recreation such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, hunting, trapping, x-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowboarding.
- Float plane access to Crescent Lake during the summer months/Flight seeing
- Tern Lake area: Day Use area with viewing platform, fishing viewing platform, users trails, bathrooms, parking area
- Existing mining claims (3) on Crescent Creek

Foreseeable Future Activities in the Project area

- Tern Lake expansion of the parking area, bathrooms, interpretative site, bike trail along Sterling highway, and a board walk around the lake
- Reconstruction of Carter Lake Trail to improve summer access to the lake
- Fuels reduction projects adjacent to Cooper Landing
- Habitat improvements along Sterling Highway
- Increased mining activity along Crescent Creek

Past Activities Outside the Project Area

- Fuels reduction around Moose Pass/Cooper Landing
- Habitat improvement activities
- Kenai Lake burn

Current Activities Outside the Project Area

- Habitat improvement activities
- 16 other recreation cabins
- Iditarod Trail
- Heliski operations – Chugach Powder Guides
- Other Closed/Open Snowmachine areas
- Spruce bud worm epidemic

Foreseeable Future Activities Outside the Project Area

- Expansion of Heliski operations
- Trail from Crescent Lake to Kenai Lake

After discussing all of the above activities, the team proposes to not look at any of the habitat improvement projects for cumulative effects and Mary Ann will address any effects to wildlife in her Biological Evaluation (BE), Biological Assessment (BA) and Specialist report. We will reassess this next team meeting after we have our issues

identified. The team feels that at this point we need to focus on the bigger picture which is winter recreation use.

GIS/MAPPING (IDT and Chuck Frey, Forest Planner)

- Chuck supervises the GIS people in the Supervisor's Office (Karin Preston and Paula Smith). He has made them available to produce whatever maps we need. Each resource specialist is responsible for identifying any maps needs they have and will need to first contact Chuck for the protocol on getting maps made.
- **Public Meetings** Map Need Identified: Two sets of Maps - Recreation Use areas for Past Winter use and one map showing Present winter recreation use for the scheduled public meetings. Pat and Karen will work with Paula to get this done. Use Chugach Powder Guides Winter Use Map and update map with Pat/Carl (GRD). Mary Ann will take maps to the ski patrol to verify information.
- **Public Meetings** Map Needs identified: Project Relief Map, Project Area with faint topo lines
- Need a Forest Plan Winter Motorized Recreation Access Map – Seward RD.
- Map Need Identified: Recreation Use areas for Past, Present, and potential future areas for IDT use for Cumulative effects.

PURPOSE AND NEED (Interdisciplinary Team)

Need – From what condition are we trying to see relief?

Purpose – What do we want to accomplish?

Proposed Action – What action will fix the problem?

The team reviewed the background information present by Chuck regarding why we are discussing the Carter-Crescent Area. Based on the information presented and the direction from the Regional Forester to the Forest Supervisor, the team identified the **need** to determine the appropriate management direction for winter recreation access for the Carter-Crescent Lakes area and the **need** to amend the Revised Chugach National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. The **Purpose** would be to provide for long term Forest Plan direction for winter recreation access for the Carter-Crescent Lakes area and to include this direction in the Revised Forest Plan with an amendment.

PROPOSED ACTION (Interdisciplinary Team)

The IDT discussed the potential alternative the identified during the September 2003 field review. The potential proposed action identified was:

Timeshare project area with Resurrection Pass Trail Area

- Close most of the Carter-Crescent Area from Dec 1 to Feb 15 to motorized use (Resurrection Pass Trail Area would be open during this time period);
- Starting Feb 16, Carter-Crescent area would be open to motorized (Resurrection Pass Trail Area would be closed to motorized use); and
- Northern project boundary area adjacent to highway to the toe of the steep slopes would be open all winter long to motorized use

After much discussion the team thought this alternative provided a balance for all users groups. Chuck determined that we will need to amend the Revised Forest Plan with this proposal.

We agreed to present the Purpose and Need for Action and the Proposed Action Alternative to the Decision Maker, Joe Meade for approval.

JOE MEADE'S CALL TO THE IDT

Forest Supervisor Joe Meade called into the team for an update. We briefed Joe on the Purpose and Need for Action along with the Proposed Action Alternative. Joe verbally agreed to the Purpose and Need for Action and the Propose Action Alternative. His written approval will be when he signs the Scoping letter which is scheduled to be mailed out on February 12, 2004.

Open Houses: Joe wants these meetings to be informal relaxed meetings. He would like Deb Cooper, Chuck Frey, either Karen Kromrey or Pat O'Leary, and the public affairs person to attend theses meetings. The rest of the IDT are welcome to come also. Chuck Frey would like Tracy Anderson to attend. He will work out an amendment to the Recreation Solutions agreement with Jeni Bradley (Recreation Solutions CEO) to cover the additional cost.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mailing List: Karen/Pat will assist Josh in determining who should be on the mailing list (See page 5). Per Joe – mailings will now go out of the Supervisor's Office with Mona coordinating. She will contact Josh.

Printing: Will need to revise timeline to include two (2) weeks for printing the Environmental Assessment (EA).

Email Address: Need to get Email address for computer shop to include in scoping letter.

Timeline: Tracy revised the timeline again and will send out with meeting notes. Team needs to review the timeline with due dates. If there is a problem, contact Tracy immediately. (Note: Tracy will be out of the office from 2/11 to 2/20).

Need to add Sharon Randall to core team mailing list. She is a writer/editor that can assist with this project.

Next IDT Meeting: Our next IDT meeting is scheduled for April 5 and 6. The agenda for the meeting is to determined issues and alternatives based on our public meetings and letters from scoping. Note we only have two days planned. Meeting location and time is to be determined later. More than likely it will be at the Seward RD. We will need to start at 8:00 am promptly.

To Do/Action Items

- Deb** will arrange getting us either Stephanie Gripne and/or Mona Spargo the or other people with sociologist/economist and public affairs skills. (p.1). **Partially Done 2/9/04 – Deb arranged for Mona to be the Public Affairs Specialist. Deb has also contacted Stephanie and is working out the arrangements.**
- Tracy** to check with Recreation Solutions to see if we have a Sociologist/Economist available for this project (p. 4 & 7) **Teresa McClung who will contact Jeni Bradley (Recreation Solutions CEO).**
- Tracy** will revise the timeline and bring new schedule to the meeting on Thursday, February 5, 2004 (p. 2) **Done 2/5/04. Tracy will also mail out timeline with notes – Done 2/10/04**
- Chuck** will review the language in the appeals to keep the team focused on the Carter-Crescent Area only (p. 2).
- Chuck** will research whether the DEIS/FEIS had alternative proposed for the Carter-Crescent area.
- Tony** found an alternative C in the DEIS appendices that talked about this area. **Tony** will make a copy for Tracy and the team (p. 3).
- Deb and Chuck** will contact each appellant personally and let them know we are starting the scoping process and where the public meetings will be held (p. 3).
- Chuck** will get us the language we need to include in the scoping letter (p. 3). **Done 2/10/04**
- Chuck** will find out who the Decision Maker will be on this project (p. 3). **Done 2/4/04 – Chuck called the RO and found out it needs to be the Forest Supervisor.**
- Chuck** will also find out if this analysis will be a revision or amendment (p. 3)
- Josh Milligan** will be responsible for the content analysis on the initial scoping letters (p. 4)
- Josh** will also be responsible for keeping the Project Record instead of Recreation Solutions/Tracy (p. 4).
- Kathy Mitchell** and **Josh** will handle all the mailings for the project. **Revised – Mona will handle the mailings with assistance from Josh and Kathy (p. 13)**
- Pat O’Leary** will be the contact person listed for this project (p. 4). **Done 2/12/04**
- Chuck** will draft a Project Initiation Letter (PIL) for the Forest Supervisor’s signature and will send a copy to the IDT (p. 4)
- Tracy** will look into getting an email address set up for receiving comments during the initial scoping period (p. 5) **Done 2/6/04**
- Mona** will send out instructions to Josh and Tracy on how to access the emails.
- The **Public Communication Specialist** will be expected to get the website setup. **Done 2/10/04**
- Deb** will contact Anne (National Park Service) about the person they used to facilitate the Exit Glacier meeting. **Done 2/12/04 Per Joe Meade, Joe/Deb will facilitate the open houses.**
- Deb** will let the Public Communications person know the name of this individual and if he/she is available to facilitate our open houses. **Done by default since the Forest will handle facilitation of the meetings.**

- TEAM** needs to determine if we are only going to have one set of public meetings for our initial scoping period or two sets (p. 5) **Done 2/5/04 – Team only proposed one set of meetings for initial scoping/Joe/Deb concurred when determining meeting dates.**
- Tony** will facilitate the government to government consultation with the tribes and if a letter needs to be written for Deb's signature, Tony will prepare it. He will also get **the tribal mailing list to Josh for the scoping letter.**
- Tracy** will get meeting notes mailed out to the IDT by February 10, 2004. **Done 2/10/04**
- Mary Ann** will contact the Glacier RD to see if we can get their wildlife people to survey the Carter-Crescent area when they do their flyovers. **Done 2/22/04**
- Mary Ann** will send Chuck an email with the cost estimate to have GRD survey trailhead at Carter Creek. **Done 2/22/04**
- Karen/Chuck/Mona** will get GIS to make maps needed for public meetings scheduled for the end of February and beginning of March.
- Map Need Identified: Two sets of Maps - Recreation Use areas for Past Winter use and one map showing Present winter recreation use for the scheduled public meetings. **Pat and Karen** will work with Paula to get this done. Use Chugach Powder Guides Winter Use Map and update map with Pat/Carl (GRD). **Mary Ann** will take maps to the ski patrol to verify information.
- Karen/Paula - Public Meetings** Map Needs identified: Project Relief Map, Project Area with faint topographic lines
- Each resource specialist** is responsible for bringing a GIS map of their resource with the various projects identified in the cumulative effects section to the next IDT meeting. You will need to bring both an electronic and paper copy.