

Point Trails; installation of three new paved trailheads along the Glacier Spur Road; creation of a new 2.2 mile paved Lakeshore Trail along the south shore of Mendenhall Lake from the Welcome Center Complex to the Mendenhall Campground, with a bridge across the Mendenhall River; creation of a new day use area at the Mendenhall Campground; construction of up to five new public use rental cabins at the Mendenhall Campground; realignment and restoration of about 1,500 feet of Steep Creek and replacement of perched culverts with a bridge at the Glacier Spur Road; addition of multi-use trails in the Dredge Lakes and West Glacier areas; construction of three boat docks and support facilities and addition of ferry service with 49-passenger motorized boats from the Welcome Center area to the proposed Remote Glacier Visitor Area; creation of a Remote Glacier Visitor Area with seasonal structures, restroom facilities, and trails; increases to visitor capacity and commercial use management allocations to accommodate 30-year use projections; and changes to recreation area unit boundaries and recreation opportunity spectrum designations.

#### **Preliminary Alternatives**

The draft EIS analyzed the no action alternative, proposed action, and two additional action alternatives. Alternative 1 is the no action alternative, and alternative 2 is the proposed action. Alternative 3 differs from the proposed action in that the expanded parking areas do not require filling Zigzag pond; Welcome Center outdoor plazas are smaller; Lakeshore Trail is routed inland before crossing Mendenhall River to the campground; configurations for the Steep Creek Trail and the crossing at Glacier Spur Road are different; configurations for docks at the Welcome Center and West Glacier areas are different and the Remote Glacier Visitor Area requires only a landing beach; 35-passenger electric motorized boats with drop-bow would be used for ferry service; and changes to visitor capacity and commercial use management allocations would accommodate 20-year projections.

Alternative 4 differs from the proposed action in that the expanded parking areas do not require filling Zigzag pond; Welcome Center outdoor plaza area is smaller, with no lower plaza or amphitheater; Lakeshore Trail is 1-mile long and does not include a bridge to Mendenhall Campground; configurations for the Steep Creek Trail and the crossing at Glacier Spur Road are different; there are no boat docks, ferry service, or Remote Glacier Visitor

Area; and changes to visitor capacity and commercial use management allocations would accommodate 15-year projections. All three action alternatives included the same proposed design and location for the proposed Welcome Center.

The SDEIS will include three additional action alternatives. Alternative 5 includes a revised design and slightly modified location for the Welcome Center, still near the location of the existing pavilion near the lakeshore. Alternative 5 also refines many of the other proposals included in the proposed Action, including refined parking lot configurations; refined Lakeshore Trail alignment; a new proposal for parking expansion at the Skater's Cabin area rather than within the Mendenhall Campground; refinement of the proposal for the Glacier Spur Road crossing of Steep Creek using a bottomless arch for wildlife crossing only; and allowance of 49-passenger electric motorized boats for ferry service to a modified Remote Glacier Visitor Area.

Alternative 6 includes a Welcome Center set in the rocks near the historic Visitor Center and away from the Lakeshore; remote bus drop off with electric shuttle service to the Welcome Center; an alternative proposal for the Glacier Spur Road crossing of Steep Creek using a bottomless arch for wildlife crossing and a separate human underpass; no boat docks, ferry service, or Remote Glacier Visitor Area; and other refinements the same as Alternative 5.

Alternative 7 includes a Welcome Center and expanded bus parking located away from Mendenhall Lake at the commercial bus lot with electric shuttle service to the Visitor Center, and other refinements the same as Alternative 5.

#### **Expected Impacts**

The draft EIS disclosed that impacts were expected to be negligible, minor, or moderate for most resources. The analysis disclosed major effects to scenic resources from Alternatives 2 and 3, and permanent, adverse effects to essential fish habitat for all action alternatives. The SDEIS will add to the analysis of these issues for the additional action alternatives.

#### **Lead and Cooperating Agencies**

The Forest Service is the lead agency. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, National Marine Fisheries Service is a cooperating agency.

#### **Responsible Official**

Tongass National Forest Supervisor.

#### **Scoping Process**

A notice of intent published on December 16, 2020 initiated the scoping process for the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Facility Improvements Project. In accordance with 40 CFR 1502.9(c)(4), no further scoping will be conducted for this SDEIS. The SDEIS will be available for public comment as required by 40 CFR 1503.1. The SDEIS will be announced for public review and comment in the **Federal Register** and in the Ketchikan Daily News.

#### **Permits, Licenses or Other Authorizations Required**

Prior to implementation of the project, the Forest Service will obtain all necessary permits or authorizations from other Federal and State agencies including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Marine Fisheries Service, State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, State of Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, and Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

#### **Nature of Decision To Be Made**

The Responsible Official will review the no action alternative, the proposed action, other action alternatives, and the environmental consequences of each alternative to make decisions that include: (1) whether to construct new or improve existing facilities at the MGRA; (2) whether to increase visitor capacity and commercial use of the MGRA or specific management units; (3) whether to approve additional forest orders associated with management of the MGRA; and (4) whether any mitigation measures or monitoring will be required as part of implementation.

Dated: November 3, 2022.

**Sandra Watts,**

*Acting Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

### **Forest Service**

#### **Southwest Idaho Resource Advisory Committee**

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, Agriculture, (USDA).

**ACTION:** Notice of meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Southwest Idaho Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)

will hold two public meetings according to the details shown below. The committee is authorized under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (the Act) and operates in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The purpose of the committee is to improve collaborative relationships and to provide advice and recommendations to the Forest Service concerning projects and funding consistent with Title II of the Act. General information and meeting details can be found at the following website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/boise/workingtogether/advisorycommittees>

**DATES:** The meetings will be held on:

- December 5, 2022 beginning at 9 a.m., Mountain Standard Time, and
- December 16, 2022 beginning at 1 p.m., Mountain Standard Time

All RAC meetings are subject to cancellation. For status of the meeting prior to attendance, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**ADDRESSES:** This meetings are open to the public and will be held at the The Payette National Forest Supervisor's Office, located at 500 North Mission Street, McCall, Idaho 83638. The public may also join virtually via telephone and/or video conference. Virtual meeting participation details can be found on the website listed under **SUMMARY** or by contacting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Written comments may be submitted as described under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**. All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received upon request.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brian Harris, Southwest Idaho RAC Designated Federal Official, by phone at 208-634-6945 or via email at [brian.d.harris@usda.gov](mailto:brian.d.harris@usda.gov).

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf and hard of hearing (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 800-877-8339, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the meeting is to:

1. Hear from Title II project proponents and discuss Title II proposals, and
2. Make funding recommendations on Title II projects.

The meetings are open to the public. The agenda will include time for people

to make oral statements of three minutes or less. Individuals wishing to make an oral statement should request in writing at least three days prior to the meeting date to be scheduled on the agenda. Anyone who would like to bring related matters to the attention of the committee may file written statements with the committee staff before or after the meeting. Written comments and requests for time for oral comments must be sent to Brian Harris, RAC Designated Federal Official, 500 North Mission Street, McCall, ID 83638; by email to [brian.d.harris@usda.gov](mailto:brian.d.harris@usda.gov).

USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

Equal opportunity practices in accordance with USDA's policies will be followed in all appointments to the Committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken in account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership shall include to the extent possible, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and person with disabilities. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Dated: November 2, 2022.

**Cikena Reid,**

*USDA Committee Management Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### National Agricultural Statistics Service

#### Notice of Invitation for Nominations to the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics

**AGENCY:** National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), USDA.

**ACTION:** Solicitation of nominations to the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, this notice announces an invitation from the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture for nominations to the Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics. On September 22, 2021, the Secretary of Agriculture renewed the Advisory Committee charter for a two-year term to expire on September 21, 2023. The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on the scope, timing, content, etc., of the periodic censuses and surveys of agriculture, other related surveys, and the types of information to obtain from respondents concerning agriculture. The Committee also prepares recommendations regarding the content of agricultural reports and presents the views and needs for data of major suppliers and users of agricultural statistics.

**DATES:** The nomination period for interested candidates will close 30 days after publication of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit nominations by any of the following methods:

- **Email:** Scan the completed form and email to: [HQOA@nass.usda.gov](mailto:HQOA@nass.usda.gov).
- **eFax:** 855-493-0445.
- **Mail:** Nominations should be mailed to Kevin Barnes, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 5041 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-2010.
- **Hand Delivery/Courier:** Hand deliver to: Kevin Barnes, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 5041 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-2010.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kevin Barnes, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, (202) 720-4333.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Each person nominated to serve on the committee is required to submit the following form: AD-755 (Advisory Committee Membership Background Information, OMB Number 0505-0001),