

Forest Service Briefing Paper

Date: April 9, 2019

Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Application -- Harbor Mountain/Gavan Hill Trail

The Forest Service is seeking FLAP funding to reconstruct the Gavan Hill segment of the Harbor Mountain/Gavan Hill trail. Proposals are **due to the Tongass Forest Supervisor's Office April 24, 2019** for consolidation to be sent to Western Federal Lands and must be have the City and Borough of Sitka (CBS) as the applicant of record to be considered. Forest Service is asking for CBS support for this proposal and do not anticipate a burdensome drain on CBS staff time – for the proposal or project implementation.

The Forest Service will complete the application and forward it on by the morning of Friday April 19, 2019 for CBS review and signature. Forest Service proposes to do all the contract preparation and contract administration and hold the funds. Forest Service understands that the CBS Assembly would need to pass a resolution at the April 23rd Assembly meeting.

FLAP facts:

- Program administered by USDOT Office of Federal Lands Highway
- Provides funds for projects on Federal lands or adjacent to, or that provide access to Federal lands
- Approximately 7.3 million dollars available this year statewide for projects
- Requires 9.03% local match (Forest Service will arrange)

Project facts/benefits:

- Funding request is 1.58 million dollars with project implementation beginning in 2020
- Funding would cover contract preparation, construction, and contract administration
- New segment of trail approximately 2.1 miles; existing segment 1.4 miles and will be decommissioned after new segment constructed
- Improves public safety – old route is steep with failing structures, exposed roots and eroded natural tread
- Reduces overall grade from 29% with 1000+ steps, an overwhelming majority of which are constructed from treated lumber, to a more sustainable 16% grade using primarily aggregate with relatively few steps
- Additional opportunity for local outfitter/guides – commercial use currently not allowed due to safety and resource degradation concerns
- Completes another project in the 2003 Sitka Trail Plan that was developed under an MOU by the Forest Service and multiple partners including the City of Borough of Sitka and Sitka Trail Works, Inc.
- Currently supported by Sitka Trail Works, Inc. and Alpine Adventure Run event organizer Christine Horan.