



Shoreline II Outfitter and Guide Management Plan

Newsletter

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

ISSUE 1—SPRING 2012

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
Alaska Region

R10-MB-752(a)
March 2012

Opportunities

Sitka Public Meeting was held on Wed. February 22, with two opportunities to attend.

Look for opportunities to participate in public meetings in Angoon, Hoonah, Juneau, and other communities in the next few months

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Recreation and tourism are important to all who enjoy the Tongass National Forest. The Forest Service is beginning an update to our resident and visitor use analysis along 5,291 miles of shoreline in the Tongass, including ½-mile inland. This “shoreline zone” is popular due to its easy access by boat in a land that is mostly without roads.

Recreation experiences abound in the shoreline zone, such as viewing nature and wildlife, hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, cruising and kayaking. Visitors come from around the world to experience the landscape through commercial outfitters and guides under permit with the Forest Service. Local residents also value the area to pursue employ-

ment, recreation and subsistence lifestyles.

We invite you to participate in this update to the “2004 Shoreline Outfitter and Guide Record of Decision and Environmental Impact Statement (Shoreline O/G EIS)” analysis for Admiralty Island National Monument and Hoonah, Juneau, and Sitka Ranger Districts, Tongass National Forest.

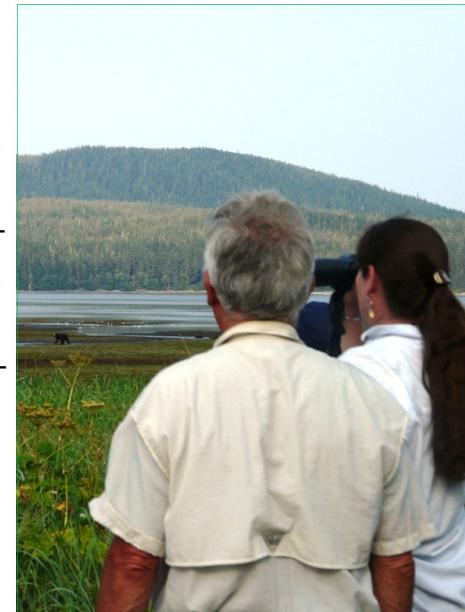
BACKGROUND

The original Shoreline analysis allocated visitor days to commercial businesses to use and occupy certain National Forest lands in the shoreline zone. The intent was to strike a balance between commercial and non-commercial uses of the shoreline zone,

maintaining high quality experiences, reducing user conflicts, and conserving physical and biological resources. The decision concluded with a need to reassess the analysis after five years.

TODAY

Today we are starting the reassessment of the Shoreline O/G EIS (2004) and want to include you in the process. Results of this year’s efforts with you will lead to a Proposed Action in 2013. The Proposed Action we create together will define future commercial



Bear Viewing at Pack Creek

O/G use types and levels in the shoreline zone. The Proposed Action will start a formal environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

This process does not allocate use to unguided forest visitors; they can continue to use the shoreline zone as they do now.

SPECIFICS

To focus our efforts, define future actions, and encourage discussion rather than constrict it we set these specifics:

- The analysis area will include the entire shoreline zone on Admiralty Island National Monument and Hoonah, Juneau, and Sitka Ranger Districts and interior trails, waterways or routes that

originate from the shoreline zone.

- Season of use will be all year.
- Types of uses will be all those originating from the shoreline zone (boat and floatplane) with subsequent upland activities.



Floatplane waiting for clients at 8 Fathom Bay

PARTICIPATION

There are many ways for you to collaborate with us on this project - public meetings, interactive website, or letters. The degree of your involvement is up to you. We want to know how outfitters and guides affect your use of the unique shoreline areas. We are interested in the types of activities and locations where you recreate along

the shoreline zone; your perception of solitude and crowding; and any other biological or physical resource concerns.

We also want to know what you see as future or emerging uses of the shoreline zone.

What recreation activities would you like to

offer or experience in the future?



Kayak Ranger boarding Empress of the North

MORE INFORMATION

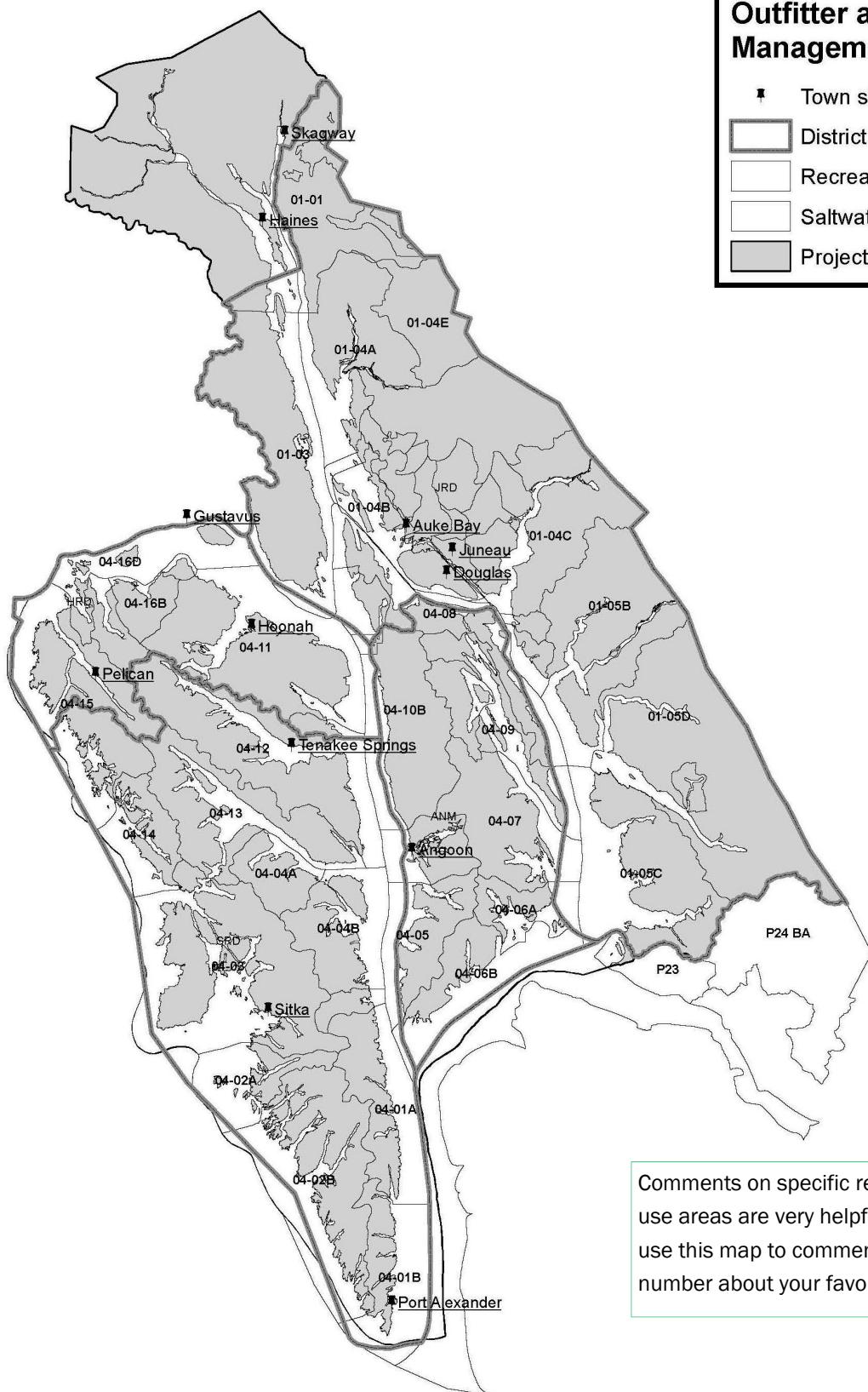
To participate in the assessment, or parts of it, please visit the project website at go.usa.gov/Pzi. The website is the source for all project updates and postings for public workshops, data-collection-forms, and progress of the Commercial Needs Assessments. In addition to the information posted on the website, we have en-

closed a public comment worksheet that can be completed either on our web site or on hardcopy and mailed to Sitka Ranger District, Tongass National Forest, Attn: Michelle Putz, Shoreline II Management Plan, 204 Siginaka Way, Sitka, AK 99835-7511. You can also fax to 907-747-4253 or email to comments-alaska@fs.fed.us.

tongass-sitka@fs.fed.us
with 'shoreline' in subject line.

Mid-size Cruise Ship , Lisianski Inlet





0 15 30 60 Miles

**Admiralty National
Monument and
Hoonah, Juneau, and Sitka
Ranger Districts,
Tongass National Forest**

We are gathering information and ideas and invite you to participate now and throughout this process. To participate in the assessment or to get more information, please visit the project website at go.usa.gov/Pzi.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this project. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Sue Jennings, Shoreline Team Leader at (907) 723-0477 or sjennings@fs.fed.us.

Guided Hikers on Lake Eva Trail



From:
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204 Siginaka Way
Sitka, AK 99835-7511

TO: