



# Shoreline II Outfitter and Guide Management Plan Newsletter

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service  
Alaska Region

R10-MB-752(b)  
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ISSUE 2—SUMMER 2012

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Forest Service is continuing to update our recreation use analysis along 5,291 miles of shoreline in the Tongass, including ½-mile inland. This “shoreline zone” allows for easy access by boat in a land that has few roads.

Recreation experiences abound in the shoreline zone, such as viewing na-

ture 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 employment, 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.

## Opportunities

☒ Give us your input!

Go to [go.usa.gov/](http://go.usa.gov/)

Pzi, and click on

“Comment on Project” on the right-

hand side of the

page. Email us at

[comments-alaska-](mailto:comments-alaska-tongass-sitka@fs.fed.us)

[tongass-](mailto:comments-alaska-tongass-sitka@fs.fed.us)

[sitka@fs.fed.us](mailto:sitka@fs.fed.us) with

‘Shoreline II’ in the

subject line. Or mail

to Tongass National

Forest, Attn:

Michelle Putz

(Shoreline II), 204

Signakawa Way, Sitka,

AK 99835.

## INPUT TO DATE

Discussions about this project have begun. District rangers met with the public in February in Sitka. They also met with outfitters and guides in Juneau and Hoonah in April.

Many O/Gs have expressed interest in going beyond 1/2 mile from shore, especially at creeks, lakes and roads. People have con-

cerns that uses like bear hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing are incompatible with each other. People are concerned about competition for anchorage sites/drop off points and competition for subsistence resources. People have noted that some areas are overused and that some areas could be used more.

## YOUR INPUT—SITKA RANGER DISTRICT (SEE MAP ON P. 3)

Due to the size of the project area, we are including what we have heard from you so far, for each district, starting with the Sitka Ranger District. The map on page 3 of this newsletter shows the locations of most O/G use along with some of the areas of high-

est observed use, areas of interest, and areas of concern.

This is the starting point. As additional input is gathered, we will add it to our maps and our project record. We’ll include other districts and the input gath-

ered about those districts in future newsletters. We hope that people will contact us with more information about who they see, where they go, and what activities that they do on the Forest. This will help us refine our maps and our future proposed action.



Hikers on Nugget Falls Trail, Juneau,

USDA is an equal  
opportunity provider  
and employer.

## WHAT TO EXPECT THIS SUMMER—FIELD SURVEYS

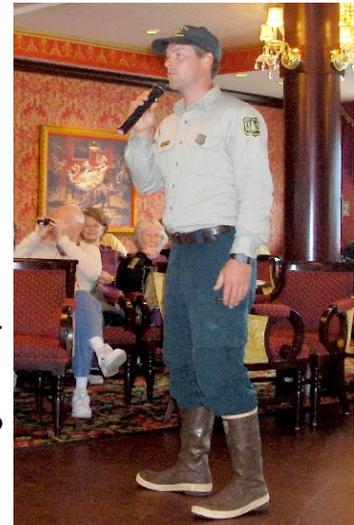
Much of our work this summer will focus on looking at what is happening out on the ground related to recreational use. Forest Service employees will be looking at:

- Opportunities— are there places where more guided use could happen with little effect to unguided users or the environment?

- Current uses— how much and what kind of recreation use is happening? Where is use happening?
- Conflicts— at sites used for recreation, are resources like rare plants or archaeological sites being damaged? Are there conflicts among users? Are there ways to reduce conflicts?

We'll do surveys throughout the summer on all three districts and on Admiralty National Monument.

We will use the information to get a better sense of how well past management has worked. We'll also try to learn from this data and use it to make smart changes to our upcoming proposed action.



Talking to passengers on a cruise ship

## WHAT'S NEXT?

We continue to work on Wilderness Commercial Needs Assessments (WNA). We hope to have draft versions written for each wilderness area in the Shoreline II area by this fall.

A WNA determines if private enterprise is nec-

essary to assist us in providing access, services, or other assistance for recreationists to safely and properly enjoy Wilderness.

An assessment of need is required by the Wilderness Act of 1964. The dominant decision crite-

ria for management of any activity in wilderness is preservation of wilderness character (such as opportunities for solitude and primitive/unconfined recreation). For a commercial activity to be needed in wilderness, it must be dependent on

occurring in wilderness.

Past use, existing conditions of wilderness character, desired conditions, and the need for special knowledge and skills to do activities are used to help us determine what the need is.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION AND HOW TO PARTICIPATE

To learn more or participate in the analysis, please visit the project website at [go.usa.gov/Pzi](http://go.usa.gov/Pzi). As updates, public meetings, and documents about this project become available, we will post them to this website.

Send your comments on this project via email to [comments-alaska-tongass-sitka@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-alaska-tongass-sitka@fs.fed.us) with 'Shoreline II' in the subject line. Or you can go to the webpage, [go.usa.gov/Pzi](http://go.usa.gov/Pzi), and click on "Comment on Pro-

ject" on the right-hand side of the page. You can also view what other people have said about the project in the Public Comment Reading Room, the link is in the same right-hand side box.

You can also send hard-copy comments to Tongass National Forest, Attn: Michelle Putz (Shoreline II), 204 Siginaka Way, Sitka, AK 99835.

We are interested in knowing how and where

you recreate, concerns you may have about recreation use in specific areas or its effects on

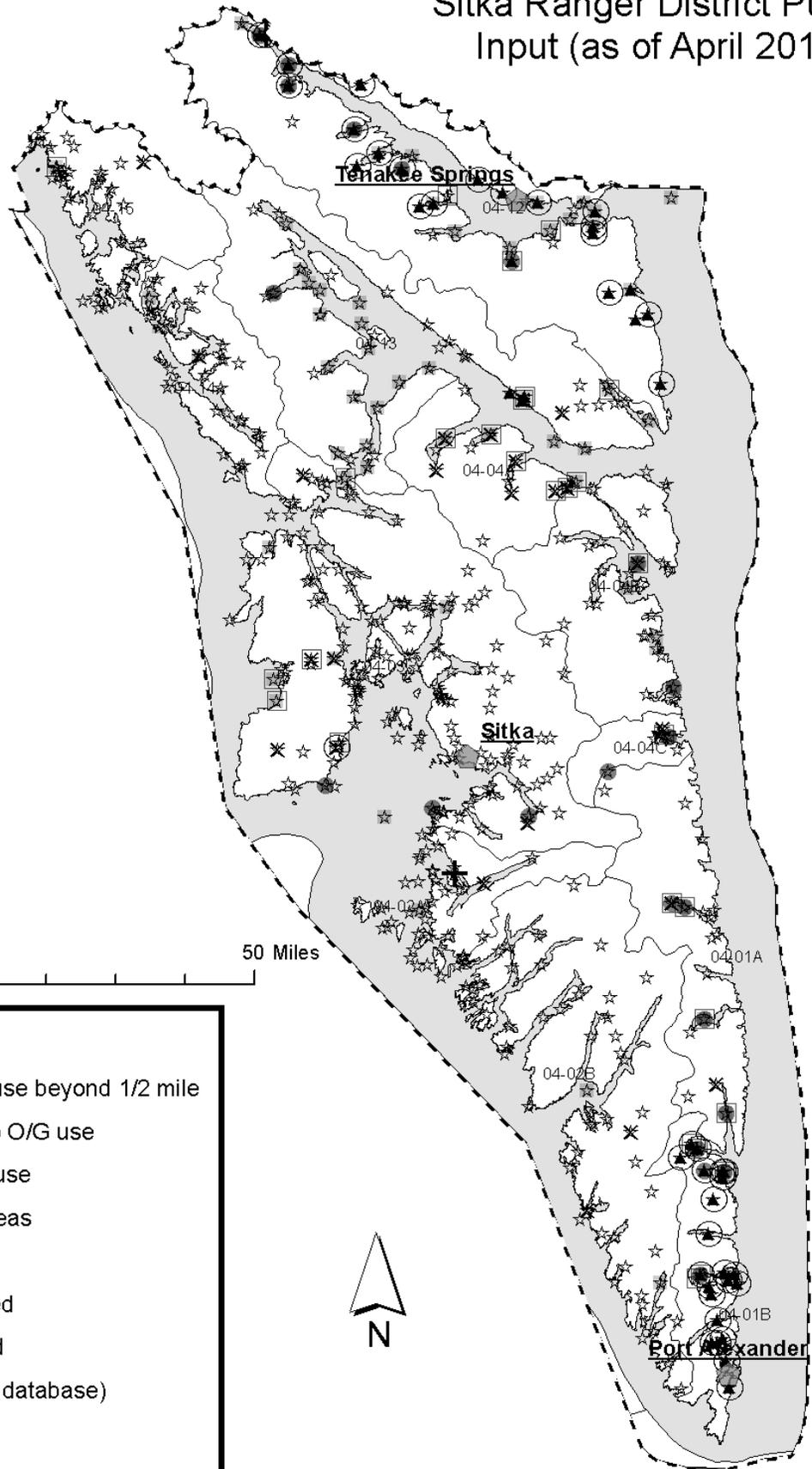
resources or other uses, and if you have unmet recreation interests.



Cruise ship visiting Hoonah

# Sitka Ranger District Public Input (as of April 2012)

Comments on specific recreation use areas are very helpful. Please use this map to comment by area number about your favorite spots.



-  Town site
-  O/G use or proposed use beyond 1/2 mile
-  Suggested areas of no O/G use
-  Suggested more O/G use
-  Areas of concern
-  Water encounters noted
-  Land encounters noted
-  O/G use locations (FS database)
-  District boundary
-  Saltwater
-  Use Areas

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

We want your ideas, information, and concerns about recreational use of these areas. We invite you to participate now and throughout this process. For more information, please visit the project website at [go.usa.gov/Pzi](http://go.usa.gov/Pzi). To comment, click on “Comment on Project” on the right-hand side of the page.

Thank you for your interest in this project. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Jennings, Shoreline Team Leader at (907) 723-0477 or [sjennings@fs.fed.us](mailto:sjennings@fs.fed.us).

Guided Anglers on Lake Eva Trail



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

From:  
Sitka Ranger District, Tongass National Forest  
204 Siginaka Way  
Sitka, AK 99835-7511

TO: