

35 Mile ORV Riding Park

Juneau Off-Road Association
(JORA)

CBJ Parks and Recreation
Department



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ORV in Community Plans

CBJ Comprehensive Plan Chapter 9.1 - IA12 Implementing Action includes

“Seek location and construction for an ATV/snowmobile course with a programmed riding course as well as trails.”

Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 2019

ORV riding areas are a park system gap

Commit to working with and supporting the ORV community to identify a suitable site and facilitate development of viable opportunities for ORV recreation.

P&R Survey - over half of respondents believe CBJ should make specific investments in recreation assets or facilities, the top rated investment was Off Road Vehicle Trails and Park

Survey also finds ORV use as a top activity that adults would like to participate in but currently don't.

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History

1970s-1990s ORV and Motocross riding Thane, Dredge Lakes, Airport, Eagle River and Lemon Creek Industrial Areas. All of these areas have been shut down to riding.

2001 USFS, CBJ, Trail Mix, and the State evaluated many sites for riding and ultimately focused on N. Douglas Quarry and Lemon Creek area behind the jail. There was some grant money, but both projects fizzled out and grant money was lost.

2009 Many sites evaluated and top proposal for the Fish Creek quarry riding park was unsuccessful due to neighborhood concerns.

2013 Study on 35 mile CBJ parcel for riding. Project was deemed too expensive for CBJ to undertake.

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ORV Working Group

Juneau Douglas Motocross Association, Southeast Jeep Club, Juneau Off-Road Association

- Motorized and non-motorized user conflicts in the Montana Creek area resulted in significant public comment to the Parks and Recreation Department about the public's desire for riding areas
- Informal meetings with user groups since fall 2020 to discuss recreational opportunities



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Goal of Working Group

Identify ORV (Off Road Vehicle) riding sites, create a sustainable management structure, support safe riding, and build durable infrastructure that protects the natural and built features of the facilities.



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Sites Identified

Facility types:

- 1. Backcountry trail riding*
- 2. Riding Park with track and features for motocross*
- 3. Riding Park for 4 wheeler use with features and play area*

- 35 mile parcel for trail riding, CBJ land
- Montana Creek area for trail riding, State of Alaska DNR land
- S&S Pond Lemon Creek, private land
- Sand and gravel pit behind Home Depot, CBJ land
- Echo Cove, Goldbelt Land
- Other privately owned lands

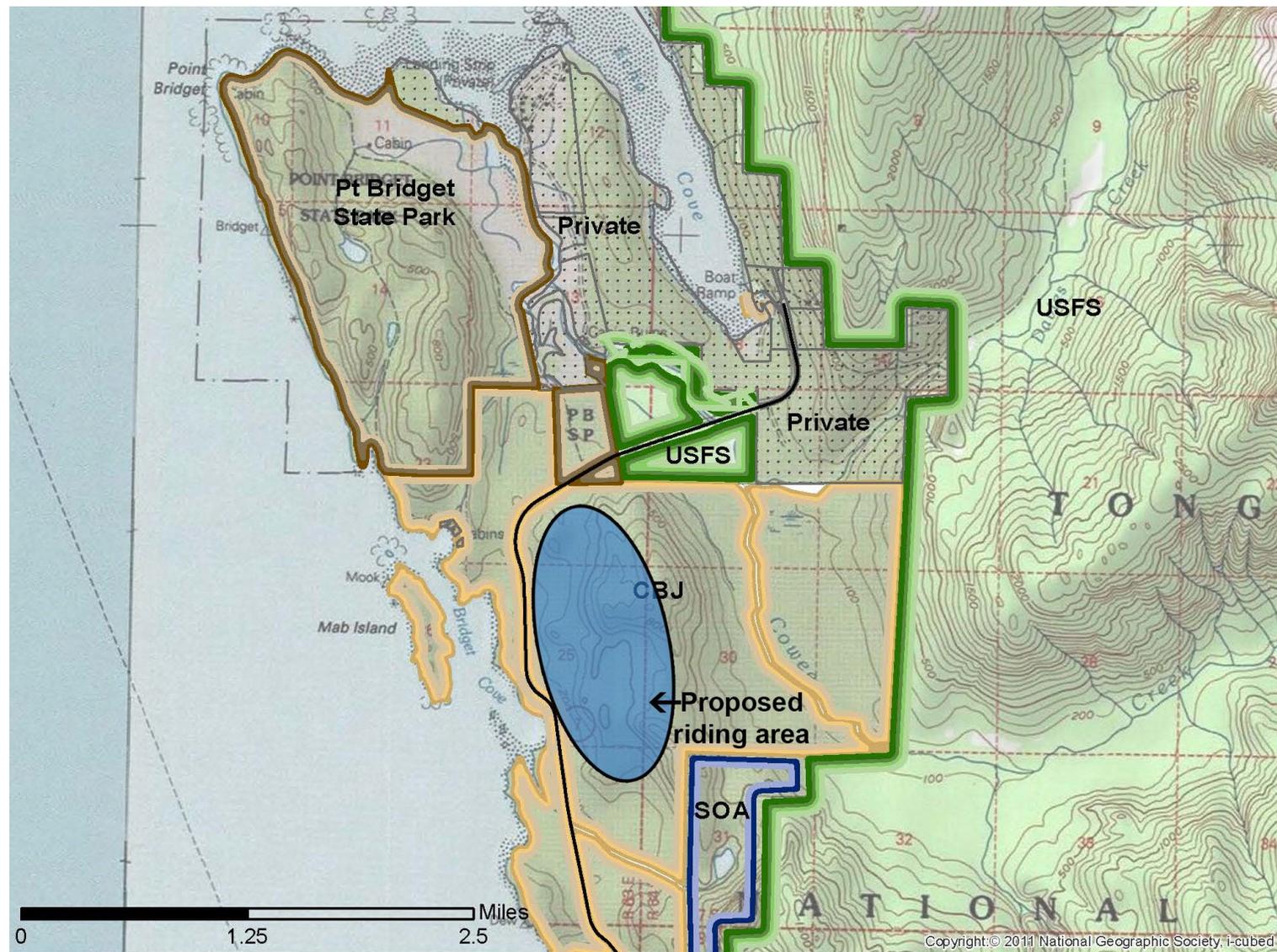
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CBJ 35 Mile Site

CBJ studied the 35 mile property in 2013 for an ORV riding park as it was considered one of the most promising options for ORV riding in Juneau.

JORA and P&R are evaluating this site for a proposed riding area building on the 2013 data gathered.



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CBJ 35 Mile Site Size and Topography



- Total size of parcel is 1505 acres
- In 2013, 530 acres identified as suitable for riding in environmental analysis, 975 acres unsuitable
- Adjacent to Cowee Creek and Héen Latinee Forest, separated by a ridge

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CBJ 35 Mile History

35 mile area was logged in the 1950s-1960s, often known as the McMurchie cut.

McMurchie was the former owner of Echo Ranch and logged areas by the ranch property as well.



EC15 fw McMurchieNbridget

date: 20140721 • observer: all • acres: 54.92 • elevation: 170 feet • aspect: wsw wsw • slope: 6% • roughness: dissected • d-rank: d5 • landform: ancient marine subshed: North Bridget • PCN: 3B4501000010 • partseen: 50%

Narrative: Much of this is mature alder, colonized since McMurchie cut in the (?) 1950s or 60s.¹ Two of us (cp, rc) assessed here, but our AA form

¹ The USFS database *managed_stands.shp* contains no records for Juneau 'out the road.' For the *CBJ Natural History Project*, I [rc] mapped most of Alan McMurchie's logging from combination of the 1979

was later superseded by another (by aa & ra) when the line was redrawn for North- versus South Bridget subsheds.

Drops from 360 feet down to 110—a rise of 150 feet over run of 2,400 (6%), with one much steeper 70-foot escarpment in the middle

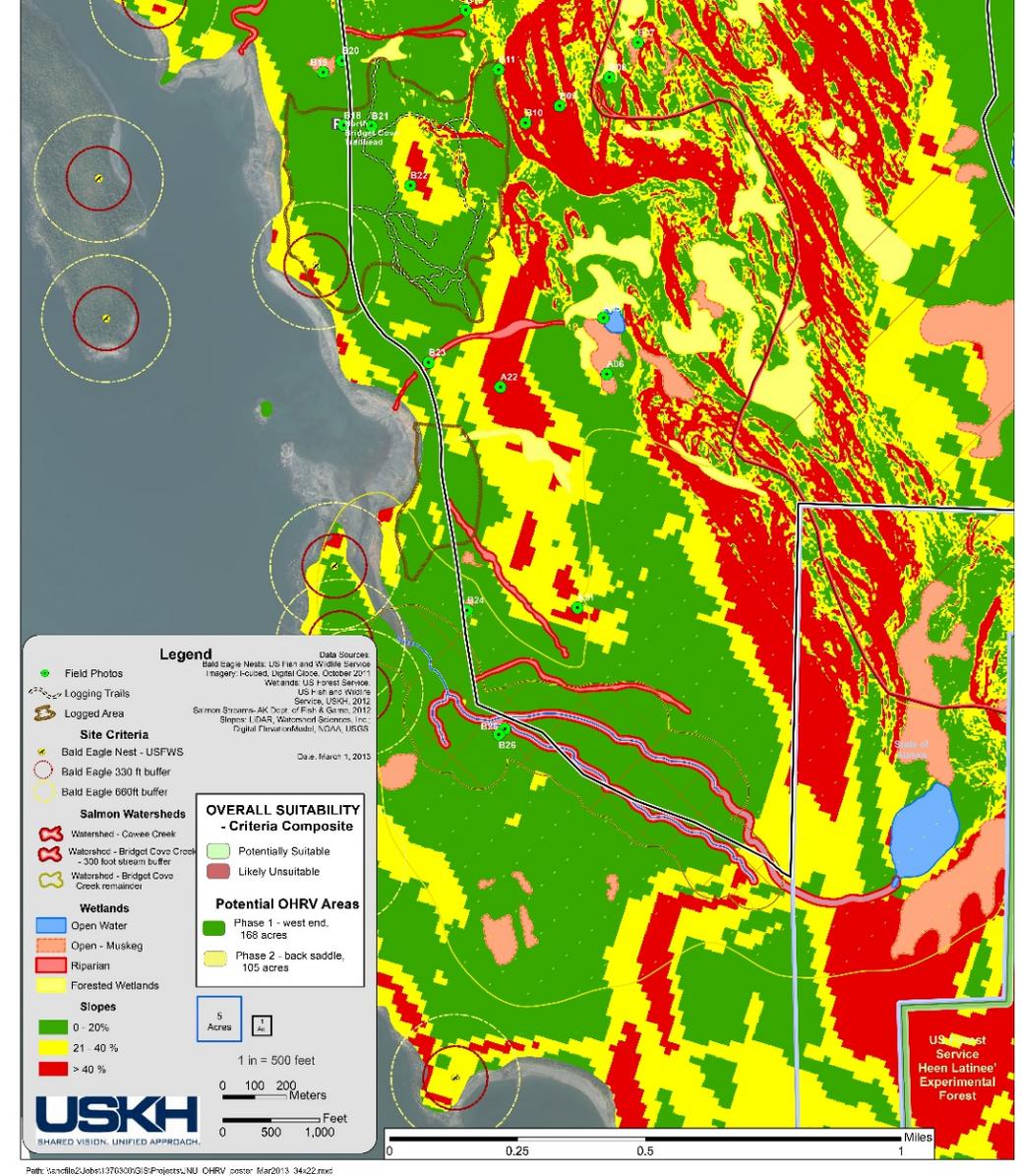
NASA color infrared aerials and selective ground-truthing, down to units of probably an acre or so in size. (Carstensen, 2013a:38). But with a few exceptions from increment coring, which gives approximate 'release date' for survivors to within a few years, my estimates of logging year are imprecise, bracketed only by pre- and post logging photography.

Excerpt from the Supplement to the 2016 Juneau Wetlands Management Plan, Assessment Area Narratives, Bosworth Botanical Consulting

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2013 Environmental Analysis

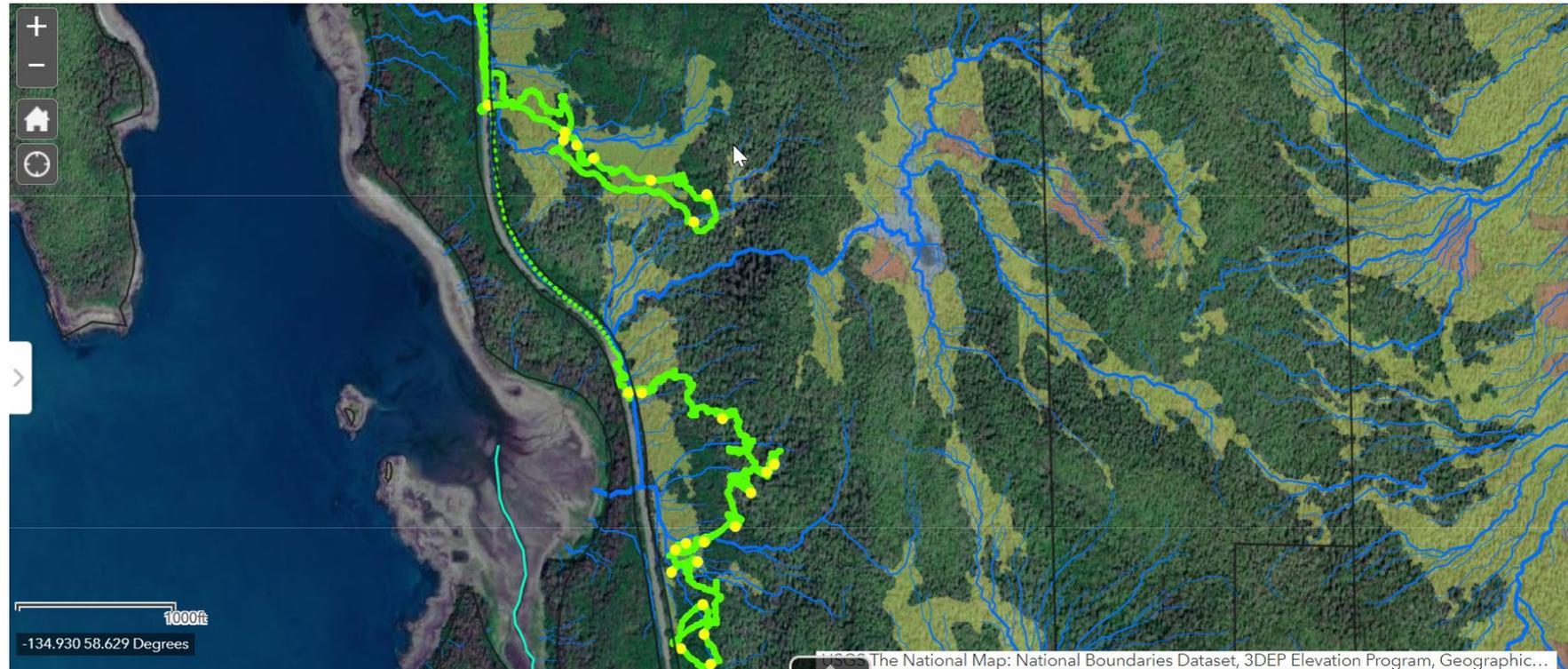
- Lots of work done on this site in 2013 study with consultant and CBJ
- Map identifies eagles' nests, watershed boundaries, wetlands by type, slopes, waterbodies
- Previously logged area and logging roads identified



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Work to Date

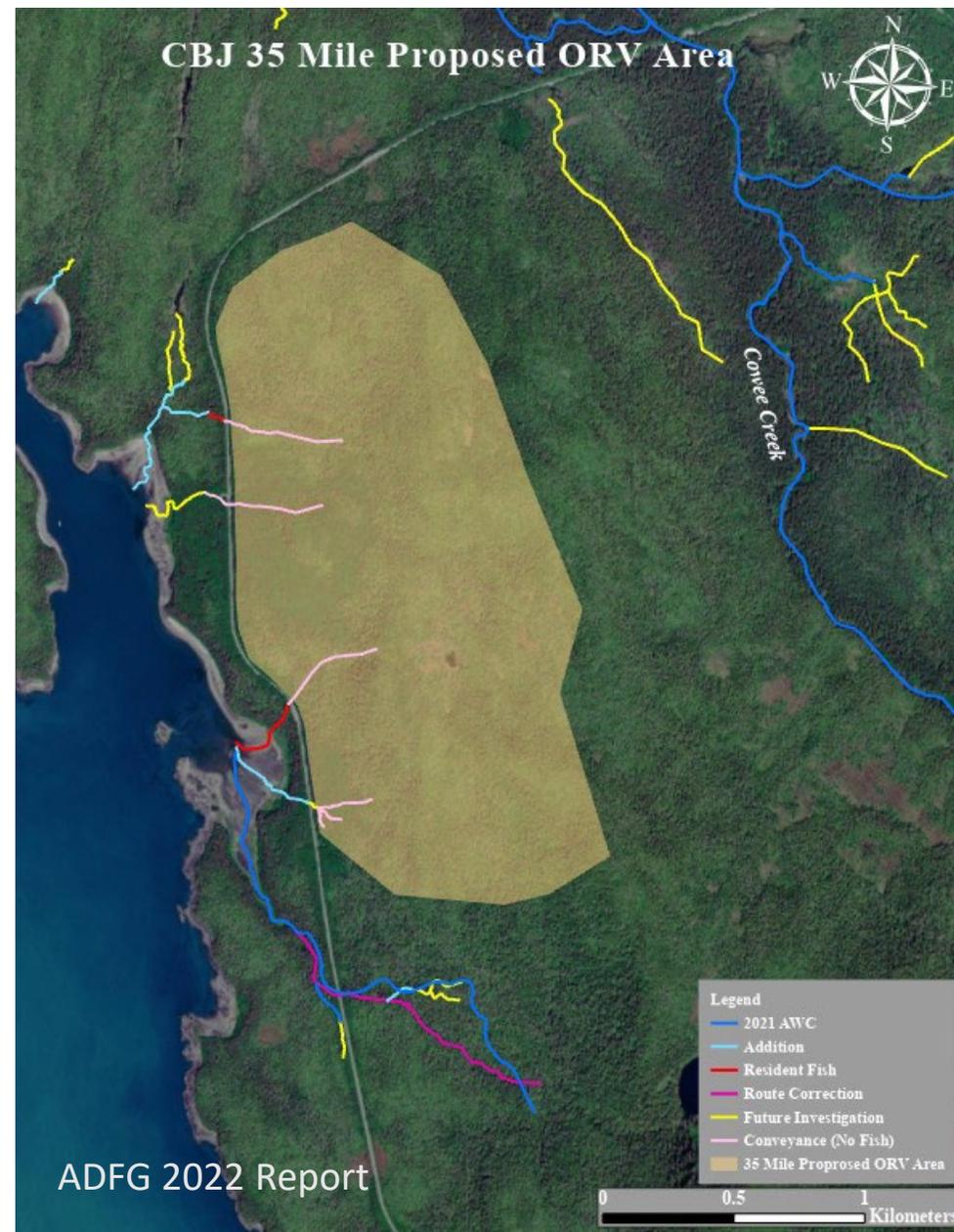
- GPS field investigation and initial trail locating with P&R, JORA, and Trail Mix and GIS Resource Mapping
- Pre application meeting with ACOE
- Ongoing meetings with informal ORV working group
- Pre-application meeting with CDD for Conditional Use Permit
- Planning for wetland delineation Spring 2022



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Work to Date

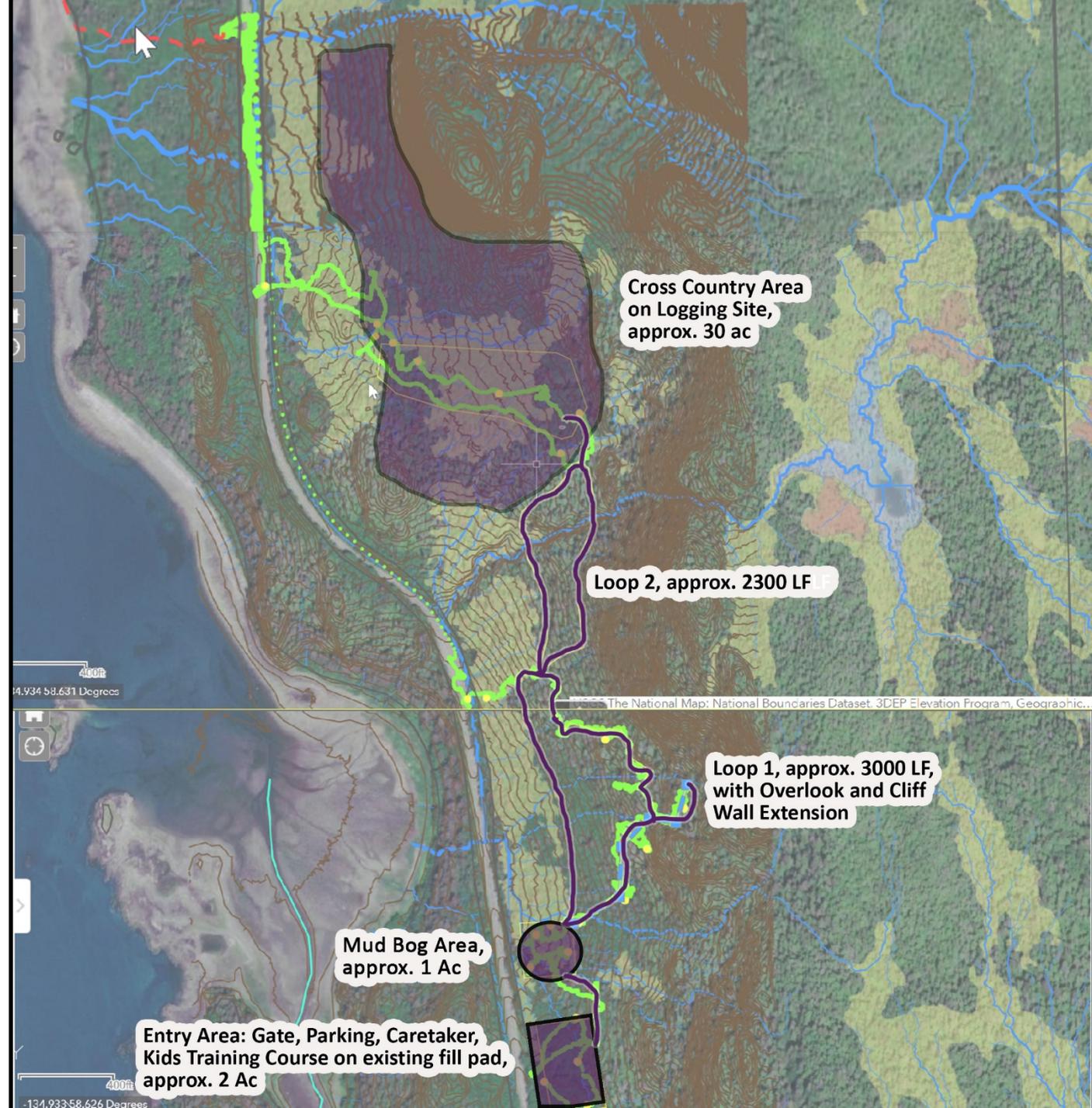
- ADFG surveyed streams in the project area in June 2021
- “No fish habitat upstream of Glacier Highway” as shown in the attached map
- Some fish habitat below the highway, outside of the project area
- Perched culverts and high gradient likely contribute to lack of fish habitat
- Hardened stream crossings and managing erosion and sedimentation in project area is important



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Conceptual Site Plan

- **Entry Area: Gate, Parking, Caretaker, Kids Training Course**
- **Loop Trails**
- **Mud Bog**
- **Cross Country Area on Logged Site**



Riding Park Features

Entry Area: Gate, Parking, Caretaker Area, Kids Training Course

- Locked Gate
- Large Parking Area for Trucks, Trailers and Cars
- Vault Toilet
- Caretaker RV Area
- Kids Training Area
- Located on existing fill pad, likely from the logging operations
- Approximately 2 acres



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Loop Trails

Two Loops, 1 mile

- ATV's, jeeps and dirt bikes
- Approx. 8' wide trails with turnaround and rest areas
- Shot rock as needed and D1 cap, culverts or bridges over drainages and creeks
- Features a short extension to an overlook area that has a cliff wall at its back, area for a turnaround

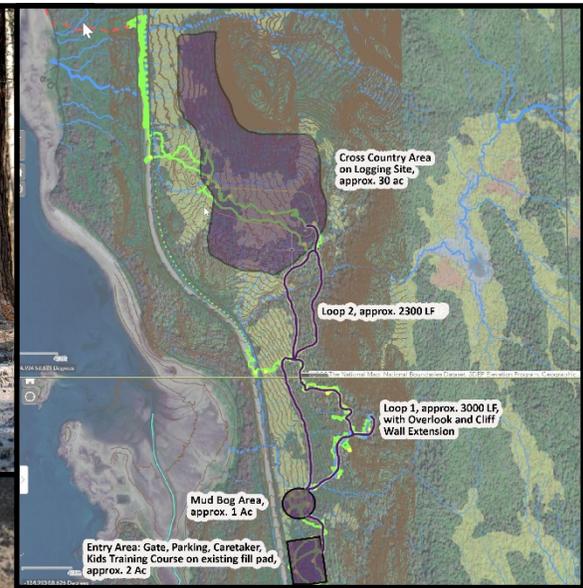


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Mud Bog

Designed Wet Area for mud play, 1 acre

- Area to allow for play in mud
- May stabilize bottom with rock pad
- Will require good access if machines get stuck for retrieval, important to be near parking lot area
- Stormwater filtration downhill end



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Cross Country

Old Logged Area as Open Area, approx. 30 acres

- Open riding in forest, no trail development
- Located in old logged area, dozer tracks and roads still found in this area
- No fill required for free riding
- Stormwater catchment, treatment and filtration at downhill end
- May create a blocked service road to access the northern free style area for emergency and maintenance access
- Establish clear boundaries using site features, topography and installed elements



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Operations and Management

JORA Operates Facility

- Caretaker resides at site and opens and closes gate
- Closed in Winter
- Permit fee for use goes to maintenance and upkeep
- Opportunities for events, classes, programming
- Volunteer Days (litter pick up, drainage/erosion maintenance, etc.)
- Build a Juneau ORV community



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Operations and Management

JORA – CBJ Partnership

- Create MOA similar to Hank Harmon Public Range or Community Gardens
- Approve operational rules
- Require compliance with permits and applicable federal, state and local laws
- Perform Annual Reports and Regular Site Visits
- Require Insurance
- Review and Approve Construction and Development Plans
- Establish Maintenance Requirements
- Review and Approve Facility Plan, Maps, Project limits, Site Boundaries, Signage



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Next Steps

Public Process, Permitting, Design and Construction

- Gather questions and input from the community, starting with this meeting
- March - Develop a resolution for a partnership with JORA to be reviewed by PRAC, the LHED, and voted on by the Assembly
- April to June – Apply for a conditional use permit with CDD, the Planning Commission will decide on the permit and conditions
- Spring to Summer – Perform wetland delineation, apply for Army Corps of Engineers permit, work with resource agencies on other permits and environmental requirements, perform additional studies as needed
- Summer –design development
- With permits and agreements with CBJ in place, construction can begin

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Next Steps

Funding

- Grants – JORA and Trail Mix applying for grants
 - T.R.A.I.L.S, up to \$10,000
 - Trails Trust, average \$15,000-\$30,000
 - State Recreational Trails Program (RTP) dedicated to motorized, safety and education projects in FY2022, up to \$300,000 (application FY23 may be from CBJ)
- Private Donations - JORA is a non profit and may outreach for private donations to support their work
- Existing CBJ CIP – Dedicated to an Off – Highway Vehicle Park, \$250,000,
 - 2012 funding approved by voters from 3% temporary sales tax for the 35 mile parcel development
 - FY12-FY14 Assembly allocated sales tax funding for an OHV park

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How to be involved

Let us know what you think!

What are we missing?

What else do we need to consider?

Send comments to parks.rec@juneau.org

Get involved with JORA

Follow Juneau Off-Road Association on Facebook

Keep up to date on the project website

<https://juneau.org/parks-recreation/project-list/entry/81872>



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