

# Gravina Access Project

## Scoping Plan

Agreement No: 36893013  
ADOT&PF Project No: 67698  
Federal Project No: ACHP-0922(5)



State of Alaska  
Department of Transportation  
and Public Facilities  
6860 Glacier Highway  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Prepared by:



HDR Alaska, Inc.  
712 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Juneau, AK 99801

September 1999

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Appendix A: Planning Fair Concept

## 1.0 Introduction and Purpose of Scoping

The U. S. Congress has allocated TEA 21 (Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century) funds to a special project to improve transportation access from Ketchikan on Revillagiedo Island to Gravina Island. The hard link will provide access to the Ketchikan International Airport on Gravina Island and to the island itself.

The Gravina Access Project (GAP) will be conducted in three phases:

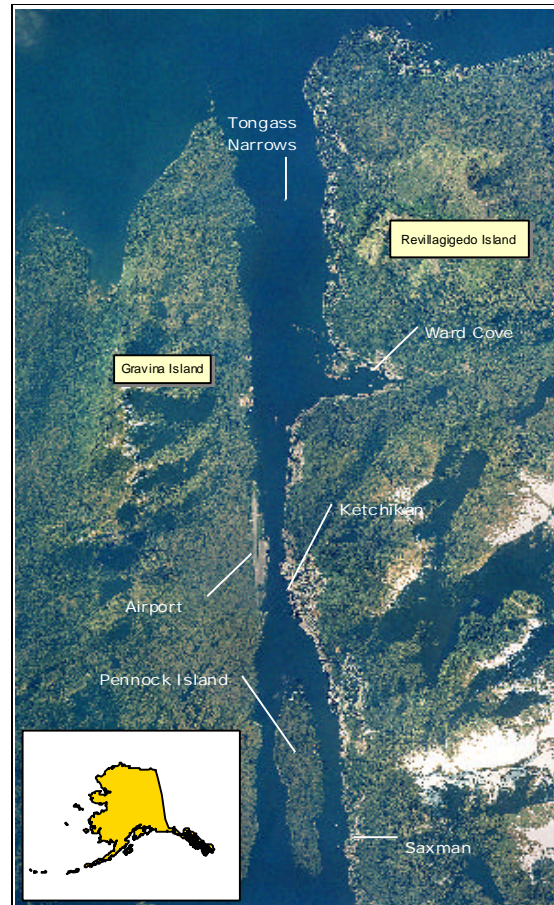
- 1) preparation of analysis and documents required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which defines issues of concern and environmental impacts of a range of alternatives
- 2) design of the preferred alternative
- 3) construction of the preferred alternative.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) has contracted with HDR Alaska, Inc. to perform all three phases of the Gravina Access Project.

The scoping plan describes how HDR Alaska, Inc. will perform the first phase of the project. Its intent is to define the scope of issues that will be addressed during the NEPA process. The plan includes a description of the scoping tasks, techniques, products, and schedule. Scoping activities will identify key issues and concerns of the public and regulatory agencies. The goals of scoping activities will be:

1. to identify potentially interested parties
2. to inform them of the project and receive their input on issues of concern
3. to establish the public record of this input.

Scoping provides early notification of the project to Ketchikan, regulatory agencies, and the public and solicits input from these interested parties at the very early stages of the project. Early participation prevents misconceptions, curtails unnecessary delays to satisfy information requests, and satisfies the requirements of the NEPA process in a cost-effective manner. Scoping is the starting point of developing a comprehensive environmental document that meets all statutory requirements on which the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will base its decisions to approve the project for design and construction. The scoping process identifies potential benefits, concerns, issues, and information sources related to the project as well as the need for special studies. These items help define the scope of study required for the NEPA



process and focus preliminary engineering efforts. The scoping process will result in a summary report that documents the input of all potentially interested parties. Users of the scoping plan include the project team; the contracting agency, ADOT&PF; cooperating agencies; and the FHWA.

On February 22, 1999, the FHWA, in cooperation with ADOT&PF, published in the Federal Register a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Gravina Access Project. The notice stated:

The proposed action would improve access to the Ketchikan International Airport and developable lands on Gravina Island. Alternatives under consideration include taking no action, various bridge alternatives, and an underwater tunnel. Several crossing alignments are under consideration.

## 2.0 Scope of Work

Scoping tasks and the schedule for completing each task is described below. Details of the scoping techniques to be applied are described in more depth in Section 3.0 "Scoping Techniques." The schedule is illustrated on Figure 1.

**Task 1: *Develop a scoping plan, submit to the ADOT&PF, and incorporate ADOT&PF comments.***

This document is the scoping plan, provided to ADOT&PF on September 17, 1999, for review and comment. Once comments are incorporated, a final scoping plan will be resubmitted to ADOT&PF for approval.

**Task 2: *Prepare an introductory letter.***

HDR will draft a letter from ADOT&PF to interested parties, organizations, and regulatory agencies introducing the project and identifying the project team. This letter will be mailed in early September.

**Task 3: *Prepare a project mailing list.***

HDR will create a project mailing list that will be used for scoping, as well as for later public involvement activities. The mailing list will include all interested agencies, organizations, Native groups, elected officials, and individuals, including residents of Ketchikan Gateway Borough, the Cities of Ketchikan and Saxman, businesses and waterway users. Since this project will garner regional interest, businesses and organization outside Ketchikan will be contacted including environmental groups in other Southeast communities, Southeast Alaska air carriers, and cruise ship companies based in Seattle, to name a few.

For the scoping outreach efforts, including newsletters, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce and U.S. Coast Guard databases will be used to develop the initial list. Other mailing lists will be added as they are received.

**Task 4: Prepare “Notice of Intent to Conduct Environmental Scoping Activities”**

The draft notice will be submitted to ADOT&PF for approval three weeks prior to the public scoping meeting. The Notice of Intent will be published in the *Anchorage Daily News*, the *Ketchikan Daily News*, *The Local Paper*, the *Juneau Empire*, the *Island News*, *Petersburg Pilot*, the *Wrangell Sentinel*, and the *Alaska Journal of Commerce* prior to the public scoping meeting. The Notice will be posted on the project web site and the ADOT&PF Internet homepage.

**Task 5: Compose and mail a letter of invitation to the agency scoping meeting.**

Once the scoping plan is approved. HDR will compose a letter of invitation to the agency scoping meeting to encourage agency participation. The letter will be mailed three weeks prior to the meeting. A follow-up reminder post card will be mailed one week prior to the meeting. HDR will contact agencies by phone to ensure that the appropriate representatives are invited directly. HDR will attempt informal agency consultation to encourage agency participation in the NEPA process.

**Task 6: Prepare scoping meeting graphics.**

HDR will prepare visual aids for use at the scoping meetings, public workshops, the project drop-in center, the project kiosk, and the project web site. HDR will develop an initial list of project graphics, including an issues board, large scale photo of the project area, and a summary of the previous studies and associated crossing alternatives.

**Task 7: Prepare for agency scoping meeting.**

The agency scoping meeting will be held in Juneau with appropriate Ketchikan or Anchorage agency personnel tied in by phone. The meeting will be held September 27 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. An agenda will be faxed to the attendees prior to the meeting. Support for the scoping meeting will include: securing a meeting room, designating speakers, finalizing the meeting format and agenda, and tailoring graphics for the scoping meeting.

An agency scoping meeting may be held in Ketchikan with local state and federal agencies prior to the public scoping meeting if appropriate.

**Task 8: Prepare for public scoping meeting.**

HDR will prepare a separate memo outlining the format of the public scoping meeting. The intent is to conduct GAP scoping in close coordination with other planning efforts in Ketchikan, including the Airport Master Plan, the U.S. Forest Service timber sale, and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough’s land planning efforts.

Support for the scoping meetings will include finding a meeting room, designating speakers, finalizing the meeting format and agenda, providing adequate public notice, and tailoring graphics for the scoping meeting. Notice will be given in the *Anchorage Daily News*, the *Ketchikan Daily News*, *The Local Paper*, the *Juneau Empire*, the *Capital City Weekly*, the *Island News*, *Petersburg Pilot*, the *Wrangell Sentinel*, and the scoping newsletter.

**Task 9: Conduct agency scoping meeting in Juneau/Ketchikan.**

The scoping meeting for the regulatory agencies will be held on September 27 to present the project and to solicit and discuss issues of concern. A formal presentation will be given, followed by a facilitated discussion. Agencies will be encouraged to suggest information sources and study needs that support the NEPA process and facilitate individual agency decision making. Agencies located in Ketchikan will be encouraged to attend the Juneau meeting. A teleconference option will be provided for those located in Ketchikan at the GAP project office. Formal Agency scoping comments will be due October 13 (two weeks after the agency scoping meeting).

**Task 10: Conduct public scoping meeting in Ketchikan.**

The public scoping meeting will be held October 6 to present the project and to solicit and discuss issues of concern. The content and format of the meeting will be detailed in a memo prepared in Task 8. In general, a GAP planning “fair” will be held in Ketchikan in cooperation with other local, state, and federal agencies.

**Task 11: Prepare a scoping summary report.**

Public scoping comments will be due to HDR by October 20 (two weeks after the public scoping meeting). HDR will then summarize results of the scoping process beginning October 20 and will submit a draft scoping summary document to ADOT&PF by October 27.

After incorporating ADOT&PF comments, HDR will deliver a final scoping summary report five working days after receipt of ADOT&PF’s comments.

### 3.0 Scoping Techniques

The selected scoping techniques are designed to ensure that all potentially interested parties, public, and agencies are informed and involved throughout the project. A combination of individual outreach and public meeting techniques has been chosen because they have proven to be effective and practical. The following scoping techniques will be used to implement the scoping plan:

**Informal Agency Meetings**

HDR and ADOT&PF will meet with regulatory agencies, the City of Ketchikan, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, and the U.S. Forest Service prior to scoping meetings to introduce the project, get preliminary concerns, and identify study needs. Meetings will be documented with memos to the project files.

**Public Notification Methods.**

Several techniques will be used to identify potentially interested parties, advise them of the project, and engage them in scoping. A complete menu of available public involvement strategies is included in the Public Involvement Plan.

1. Mailing List. A mailing list will be compiled of potentially interested parties, agency representatives, IRA councils, Native corporations, businesses, the conservation

community, cruise ship companies, waterway users, and other umbrella groups such as the Chamber of Commerce, Southeast Pilots Association, and Tongass Aircraft Pilots Association to name a few. The mailing list will be created using various sources including the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, the Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce, the Ketchikan Visitors Bureau, and local knowledge. The database will be updated throughout the project.

2. Newsletter/Newspaper Insert. An introductory newsletter and newspaper insert in the *Ketchikan Daily News* will be prepared and distributed to the mailing list with information about the project, with a specific invitation to the scoping meeting. The newsletter/newspaper insert will encourage participation in the scoping process, including the various means to provide input to the project team, and solicit comments regarding the environmental document, project alternatives, the need for special studies, and the schedule.

The one-page newsletter will be distributed to various organizations for insertion in their newsletters (to be identified) and for inclusion in packets for the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly and Planning Commission, the Cities of Ketchikan, Saxman, and the local Native organizations. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce and U.S. Coast Guard databases will provide mailing list of residents to receive the newsletter. The newsletter and the newspaper insert will provide an inexpensive yet effective means for inviting involvement of various organizations and the public.

The newsletter will also be posted on public bulletin boards at the post office, Ketchikan Public Library, the Ketchikan International Airport, project drop-in center, and the project kiosk in the Plaza Mall or the airport and the project and ADOT&PF web sites.

3. Media Contacts. A variety of media outlets are available for public outreach, including the *Ketchikan Daily News*, *The Local Paper*, the *Juneau Empire*, the *Capital City Weekly*, and Ketchikan radio stations: KRBD, KFMJ(FM) and KTKN(AM). Project briefings will be provided to the newspapers to ensure accuracy of information. Project information will be posted on [KANOE.com](http://KANOE.com) and the community bulletin board of [ktn.net](http://ktn.net).
4. Cable TV Community Calendar in Ketchikan.
5. Project Drop in Center. A project drop in center will be set up in the office of Klugherz & Associates at 306 Main Street, Suite 312 in Ketchikan and staffed throughout the course of the project. Graphic displays, maps and information packets will be available for viewing or pick up. Mail-back request forms for the mailing list and comment forms will be available to the public. Drop-in center information will be updated through all phases of the project.
6. Project kiosk. A kiosk will be set up in the airport or Plaza Mall to present project information through each phase of the project. The project information will be updated

- through each phase. Mail-back request forms for the mailing list and comment forms will be available to the public at the kiosk.
7. Display Advertisement. A display advertisement in the *Ketchikan Daily News*, *The Local Paper*, and the *Juneau Empire* will announce the scoping meetings and invite public participation and comment on the project. The display advertisement will run one week before the public scoping meeting and then again several days before the meeting.
  8. Public Service Announcements (PSAs). PSAs will be prepared and distributed to local radio and television stations in Ketchikan and Juneau. The PSAs will invite the public to attend the scoping meetings.
  9. Project Web Site. [GravinaIsland.com](http://GravinaIsland.com) will be the GAP worldwide web address. Project information including important dates and comment deadlines will be posted on a regular basis.
  10. ADOT&PF Internet home page. Project information and public participation information will be posted on the home page with a direct link to [GravinaIsland.com](http://GravinaIsland.com). This information will be updated through the scoping process.
  11. School Flyer: A one page flyer will be developed for circulation to the elementary students.

## Meetings.

### Agency Scoping Meeting.

An agency scoping meeting will be held between the project team, potentially interested agencies, and cooperating agencies in Juneau. An invitation letter will be prepared and sent to the agency representatives on the mailing list three weeks prior with a reminder post card sent one week before. Prior to the scoping meetings, HDR and ADOT&PF will meet to establish scoping meeting strategy and rehearse the scoping meeting presentation.

The purpose of the agency scoping meeting will be to introduce the project, receive input from agencies concerning the transportation alternatives and the project purpose and need, and review the environmental and socioeconomic issues specifically with regard to regulatory concerns and permitting. The meeting will be interactive and collaborative.

The project team, specifically the engineering and environmental team leaders, will present and discuss project components. At the meeting, the team will also review the proposed project alternatives developed to date. Of particular concern will be agency likes and dislikes and information needs related to each alternative. Required studies will be identified along with a listing of agencies willing to cooperate on project-related studies. Where applicable, specific time lines will be developed. Suggested modifications of various alternatives will also be discussed. Participants will be invited to provide written comments within 14 days of the close of the public scoping meeting.



An “issue board” will be prepared for the agency scoping meeting and the public scoping meeting. The issue board will be used at these meetings as a “pinboard” for making suggestions and providing input on the project. The issue board is not exclusive to scoping but is a public involvement technique to be used throughout the project.

A summary of meeting proceedings will be prepared for review by ADOT&PF for subsequent distribution to meeting participants. Meeting proceedings will be appended to the scoping summary report.

### **Public Scoping Meeting.**

A public scoping meeting will be held in Ketchikan on October 6 to introduce the project and receive input from the public concerning the transportation alternatives and environmental and socioeconomic issues.

The format of the public meeting will be a planning “fair” held in cooperation with other entities who are undertaking planning activities on Gravina Island and could interface with the GAP. Requests to participate in the planning fair will be sent to the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, U. S. Forest Service, U. S. Coast Guard, Alaska Mental Health Trust Lands Office, Department of Natural Resources – Southeast Region, and ADOT&PF Planning Section – Airport Master Plan. An open house will be held from 3 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on October 6 in the Ted Ferry Civic Center. Display information on the various planning efforts will be available for public view. Representatives of the planning agencies will be present to answer questions at the displays. There will be a formal presentation on the GAP presented by HDR. The project team, specifically the engineering and environmental team leaders, will present and discuss the project, overall schedule, and proposed project alternatives developed to date. The other planning entities will give a short presentation on their efforts and how it will relate to and coordinate with the GAP. There will be question and answer session and an opportunity for public comment. A detailed summary of the planning “fair” is located in Appendix A.

Handouts presenting the project purpose and need and presentation materials will be available for distribution. A pre-addressed comment form will be included in scoping meeting packet.

## **4.0 Post-Scoping Session Comments**

A 14-day period will be provided following the public scoping meeting to allow any additional participants to provide their comments.

## **5.0 Scoping Schedule**

Figure 1 illustrates the schedule associated with scoping activities.

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## 6.0 Cooperating Agencies

ADOT&PF is conducting the NEPA process for this project on behalf of FHWA, the lead federal agency. Requests have been made to federal and state agencies to participate as coordinating agencies. To date, the U. S. Coast Guard has agreed to be a cooperating agency.

ADOT&PF and FHWA have entered into an “Interagency Working Agreement to Integrate Section 404 and Related Permit Requirements into the National Environmental Policy Act”. Signatories of the June 1997 agreement include U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service; and the Alaska Departments of Fish and Game, Natural Resources, Environmental Conservation, Division of Governmental Coordination. The agreement integrates the Clean Water Act Section 404 (b)(1) guidelines and other Section 404 related permitting and certification requirements with the NEPA process. During scoping, the state and federal resource agencies, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Coast Guard will be asked to comment on the normal NEPA elements. In addition, there will be a separate 50 day concurrence review on (1) purpose and need, (2) alternatives to be carried forward for the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) or draft environmental assessment (DEA) and (3) preferred alternative. This merged process is designed to identify early issues of concern and the need for additional environmental studies to meet requirements of NEPA and Section 404. The benefit of this early and continued coordination process is time efficiency and early identification and resolution of potentially contentious issues.

## 7.0 Studies to be Prepared and Areas of Responsibility

During scoping, the state and federal resource agencies, local government entities, and local Native groups will be asked for sources of pertinent information and suggestions on what further studies are needed. Areas of responsibility will be determined through a collaborative process. ADOT&PF may enter into reimbursable service agreements (RSA) with resource agencies to conduct required technical studies.

## 8.0 Scoping Summary Report

At the conclusion of all scoping activities, HDR will meet with ADOT&PF to discuss the scoping results and agree on a strategy for proceeding. Following this meeting, HDR will submit a draft of the “Scoping Summary Report” to ADOT&PF by October 27. ADOT&PF will then provide comments to HDR by November 3. If revisions are required, HDR shall submit the revised document to ADOT&PF no later than November 10. The report will contain the following:

1. A discussion of the scoping methods used.
2. Summaries of the comments received including notes on the agencies or other affected interests that raised issues or concerns and noted need for special studies and what the issues and studies were. Text and matrix formats will be used.
3. Any new alternatives suggested.

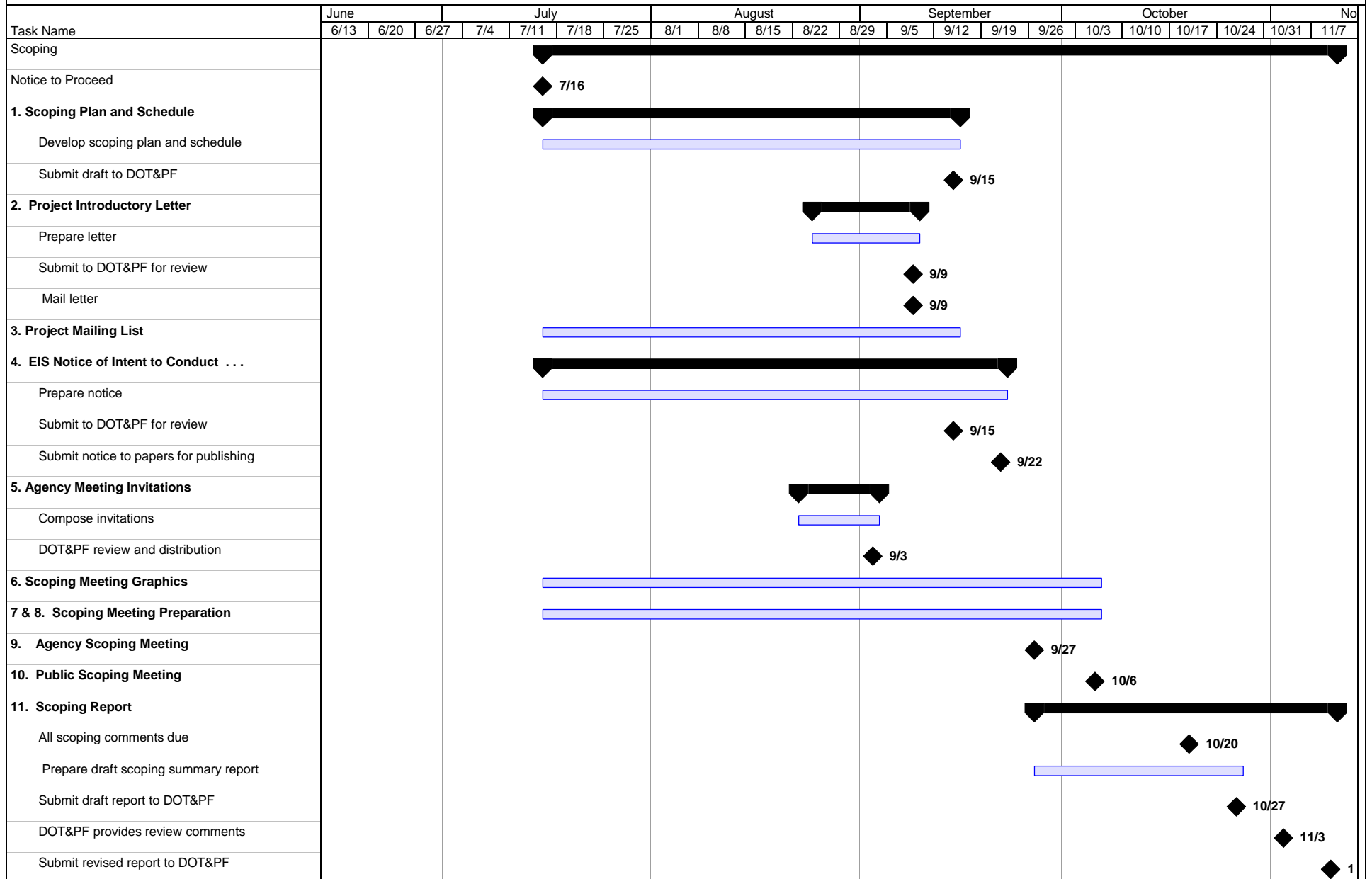
4. A discussion of the appropriate environmental document.
5. A list of identified information sources.
6. Special studies required to adequately assess impacts of the proposed project.
7. Copies of the sign-in sheets for each meeting.
8. Copies of PSAs, newspaper display ads, and newspaper inserts, newsletters developed for the scoping project.

## **9.0 Scoping Summary Report Appendices**

The following appendices will be attached to the Scoping Summary Report.

- A. Scoping technique – Planning Fair Concept
- B. Notification materials: Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS, scoping invitation letter, newspaper ads, newspaper insert, and scoping newsletter.
- C. Correspondence received during scoping process
- D. Attendance sheets of agency and public scoping meetings
- E. Mailing lists for agencies, businesses and organizations. The resident list is too large to include.

Figure 1. Gravina Access Project Scoping Schedule



**Appendix A**  
**Planning Fair Concepts**

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September 30, 1999

Julie Ann Heard  
USKH  
Ketchikan Airport Master Plan  
3017 Clinton Drive, Suite 201  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Ms. Heard,

Thanks so much for attending the agency scoping meeting this week and agreeing to participate in the planning fair to be held in Ketchikan next week in conjunction with the Gravina Access Project public scoping meeting. This letter will respond to your request for information about the different planning projects, the schedule and agenda for the planning fair, and the expectations for your involvement.

The following groups have confirmed their desire to participate in the planning fair. We should note that the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and the U.S. Coast Guard will provide table materials but will not make a presentation. A brief description of each of these planning efforts is attached for your review and information.

<u>Other Participants:</u>	<u>Related Planning</u>
Alaska Div. Governmental Coordination	Coastal Management Planning
Alaska Mental Health Trust Lands	Purpose and use of Mental Health Trust Lands
Alaska Dept of Natural Resources	
Division of Forestry	2000-2004 Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	Ketchikan 2020
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Waters of U.S. and Wetlands Planning
U.S. Forest Service	West Gravina Proposed Timber Sale
USCG	Navigational Planning
USKH	Ketchikan International Airport Master Plan

The planning fair will be held in the Ted Ferry Civic Center. We have reserved the Neets Bay and Alewa Bay for the fair/open house. The tentative layout of the room is attached, as is the flyer we have prepared to distribute in Ketchikan this week. The Gravina Access Project team is planning on staying at the Cape Fox Lodge.

The open house will be held beginning at 3 p.m. and go until 6:00 p.m. We have requested a 3' by 8' table for each agency. HDR Alaska will provide a banner with the agency name. Agencies are encouraged to bring planning materials—maps, handouts, comment sheets, etc., to have at their table. The displays will provide who, what, when, where and why information related to the participant's particular planning effort. Where possible, tables should be manned with knowledgeable staff to answer the public's questions.

At 6:00 p.m. we will assemble those present to the center of the hall for the presentation (see room layout). The presentation will introduce the Gravina Access Project, and explain the scope, schedule and purpose of the public meeting as a tool for the environmental scoping. We will follow this with a brief presentation of other planning underway in Ketchikan. We have allotted ten minutes for your presentation. Please include a description of your planning effort, general description of its schedule, how it relates to other efforts, and opportunities for public comment. We will have an overhead projector, screen, and podium with microphone available for presentations. If you require different or additional audiovisual equipment, please let us know.

We will open the floor to questions after the presentations. We anticipate that all projects may be queried and personnel should plan on attending to answer questions. The Q&A will be facilitated by Anne Brooks, our Public Involvement Coordinator.

We will break the Q&A at 7:30 unless there is a substantial number of questions from the public. If there are not lots of questions, we will resume the open house and allow the public to visit the tables of information and discuss projects with the project team and agency personnel. The doors will close at approximately 8:30 p.m.

We will be providing food for all open house/planning fair participants. Finger food will be available to the public, and sandwiches, cookies and beverages will be available to the project team and agency representatives.

We anticipate that some members of the public will bring children. We will set up a “Children’s Corner” complete with quiet activities for them to do. If your agency has a coloring book or other child-focused materials, we would appreciate having them available.

We hope this answers your questions about the planning fair and open house. If you have any additional questions, please call Darcy Richards or Anne Brooks at 586-9833. Thanks again for working with the Gravina Access Project to get information out to the Ketchikan public on the projects in their area.

Sincerely,

Mark Dalton  
Project Manager

Cc: Al Steininger, ADOT&PF  
Rueben Yost, ADOT&PF

Attachments:  
Ketchikan—Concurrent Planning Efforts Summary  
Planning Fair and Follow-up Agenda  
Planning Fair Room Layout  
Planing Fair Flyer



**Public Scoping Meeting  
October 6, 1999  
Ted Ferry Civic Center**

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**Time:** Open House--3 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Presentation/Q&A--6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Open House--7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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***Presentation Agenda***

Wednesday, October 6, 1999  
Alava Bay and Neets Bay

5:45	Call attendees to order in Ted Ferry Civic Center
6:00 p.m.	Introduction of Project Team and Participating Agencies—Al Steininger
6:05 p.m.	Gravina Access Project—Mark Dalton, Project Manager
6:15 p.m.	Ketchikan 2020—Susan Dickinson, Ketchikan Gateway Borough
6:25 p.m.	Other agencies (approximately 5-10 min each)
7:00 p.m.	Question & Answer Session
7:30 p.m.	Adjourn to Open House

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***Debrief Agenda***

Thursday, October 7, 1999  
Naha Bay

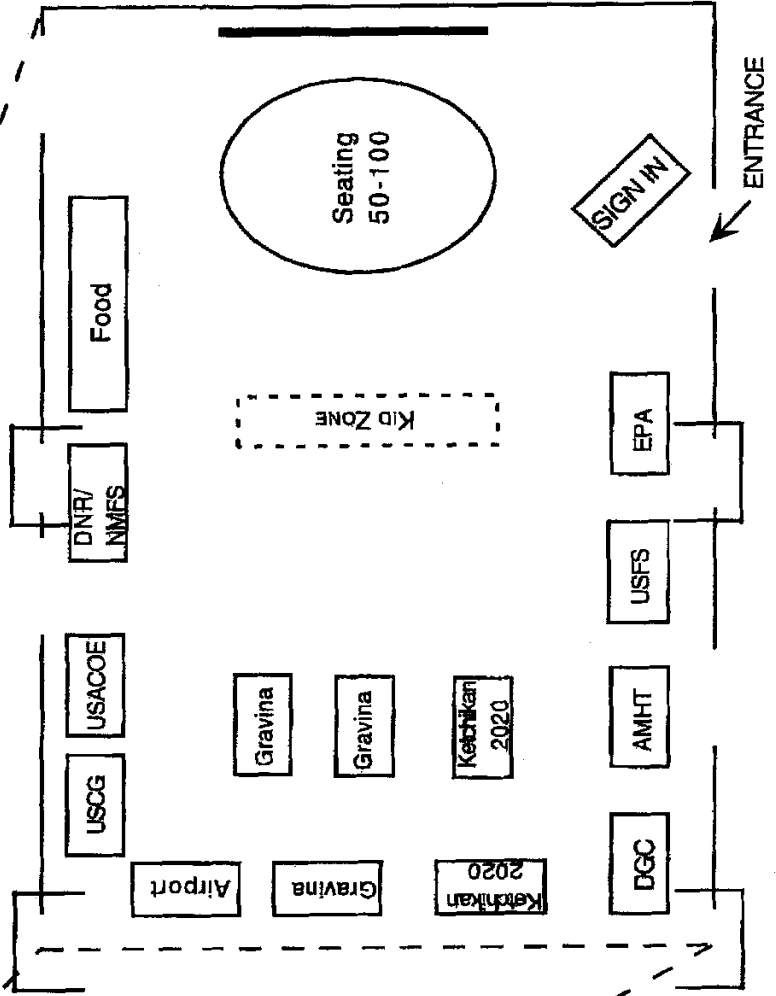
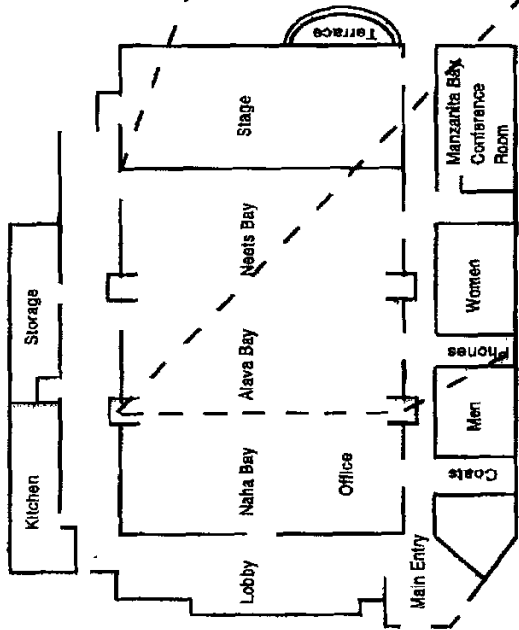
9:30 a.m.	Welcome
	Introductions
9:15 a.m.	Summary of Issues Identified
9:45 a.m.	Discussion
	Coordination Points
	Project Overlap
	Schedules
	Follow-up
10:30 a.m.	What's Next?
11:00 a.m.	Adjourn

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# GRAVINA ACCESS PROJECT OPEN HOUSE/PLANNING FAIR ROOM LAYOUT

- Gravina - DOT&PF Gravina Access Project
- DNR - Alaska Department of Natural Resources
- USFS - U.S. Forest Service
- AMHT - Alaska Mental Health Trust Lands
- DGC - Alaska Division of Governmental Coordination
- K2020 - Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Ketchikan 2020
- Airport - DOT&PF Airport Master Plan
- USCG - U.S. Coast Guard
- USACOE - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- EPA - Environmental Protection Agency
- NMFS - National Marine Fisheries Service



**Ted Ferry Civic Center  
Ketchikan, Alaska**

NOT TO SCALE

# Ketchikan Planning Fair

**Come learn more about current projects underway in the Ketchikan area at a planning fair sponsored by the Gravina Access Project and Ketchikan 2020.**

**Where: Ted Ferry Civic Center**

**When: October 6, 1999**

**Open House: 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

**Presentations and question-and-answer session: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

**Open House: 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**



## **Who's Participating:**

- Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities on the Gravina Access Project and the Ketchikan International Airport Master Plan
- Ketchikan Gateway Borough on Ketchikan 2020 (wetlands planning, coastal management plan update, comprehensive plan update, and Gravina Island comprehensive plan)
- U.S. Forest Service on the West Gravina Island Proposed Timber Sale
- U.S. Coast Guard on navigation planning
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on waters and wetlands planning
- Alaska Division of Governmental Coordination on coastal management planning
- Mental Health Trust Land Office on Trust Resource Asset Planning

***For more information stop by the Ketchikan project office at 306 Main Street, Suite 312 or phone the Ketchikan office at 247-8335. You can also contact Mark Dalton, project manager of the Gravina Access Project, at 888-520-4886 (outside Juneau) or 907-586-9833.***

## KETCHIKAN PLANNING – CONCURRENT EFFORTS

### Gravina Access Project

The Gravina Access Project received a U.S. Congressional appropriation under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) to improve access between Ketchikan and Gravina Island. The Federal Highway Administration has made this funding available to the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF). The project will be undertaken in three phases: (1) development of the environmental documents, identification of the preferred alternative and permitting, (2) design of the preferred alternative and (3) construction. HDR Alaska, Inc. is the DOT&PF consultant on the project. The first public scoping meeting will be held in Ketchikan in conjunction with the planning fair on October 6, 1999.

Schedule: Draft Environmental Document – Summer 2000

Final Environmental Document – December 2000

Final Design of preferred alternative – 2002

Begin construction – June 2002

Completion of construction – Spring 2005

Public Input Opportunities: Public scoping comments due **October 20, 1999**. Other input opportunities will follow as the project progresses.

*Contact: Al Steininger, P.E., ADOT&PF (907) 465-4411, Mark Dalton, HDR Alaska, Inc. 1 (800) 520-4886*

### Ketchikan International Airport Master Plan

DOT&PF is updating the Airport Master Plan. The plan is intended to guide public development and operation of the Ketchikan International Airport and the additional public aviation facilities in the Ketchikan area over the next 20 years. DOT&PF is assisted by the consulting firm USKH.

*Contacts: Andy Hughes, Planning Director, DOT&PF (907)-465-1776, Julie Ann Heard – USKH –907-790-2901*

### Ketchikan 2020

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough has initiated a multifaceted planning effort to be undertaken concurrent with the Gravina Access Project. This planning effort has four areas of borough-wide planning.

1. Gravina Island Comprehensive Plan – The plan will guide land use on Gravina Island based upon borough-wide goals and values for future growth and development patterns. The plan will be implemented through the zoning and subdivision code, capital improvement program, and other governmental actions. (Schedule: Draft plan by May 2000)
2. Coastal Management Program Update – The plan will assess borough coastal resources based upon community goals and needs for local economic development and growth, land and water use, transportation, regional facilities, fish and wildlife, outdoor recreation, community design, history and archeology, and future planning and implementation. The plan will include local development recommendations and be implemented through the local zoning code. (Schedule: Draft plan by spring 2000)
3. Wetland/Watershed Development Plan – The purpose of the plan is to develop an approach to considering the community's goals and values in the development and protection of wetland and watershed areas of the borough. (Schedule: Prepare work plan by early 2000)
4. Overall Borough Comprehensive Plan Update – The Borough will update the borough-wide comprehensive plan, beginning in the summer of 2000.

*Contacts: Susan Dickinson, Ketchikan Gateway Borough Planning Director, 907-228-6610*

### U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service – West Gravina Island Proposed Timber Sale

U.S. Forest Service is in the early scoping stages of developing an Environmental Impact Statement on a proposal to harvest timber on Gravina Island, on the Ketchikan/Misty Fjords Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest, Ketchikan Area. Timber would be made available to the Ketchikan Area Independent Timber Sale Program. The Forest Service proposes to harvest approximately 40 million board feet (mmbf) of timber on approximately 1,800 acres, including the construction of roads and facilities necessary to transport this timber to salt water.

*Contacts: Susan Marthaller, U.S. Forest Service, Ketchikan Ranger District, 907-228-4124*

### U.S. Coast Guard – Navigation Oversight

The U.S. Coast Guard has published the Tongass Narrows Voluntary Waterway Users Guide for use by all vessel operators when transiting Tongass Narrows from the intersection of Nichols Passage and Revillagigedo Channel on the southeastern-most end of Guard Island on the northwest end of the narrows. The purpose of the guide is to raise awareness of the navigational issues of Tongass Narrows.

*Contact: Lt. Patrick Clark, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment, 907-225-4496*

#### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Waters of the United States and Wetlands Planning**

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has conducted a series of workshops in Ketchikan on wetlands planning. The Corps has regulatory authority for permitting activities in wetlands and waters of the U.S. The Corps will assist the Borough in their wetlands planning effort.

*Contact: Steve Duncan, Regulatory Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1 (800) 478-2712*

#### **Alaska Division of Governmental Coordination – Coastal Management Planning**

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The Division of Governmental Coordination assists communities in development of local coastal management plans and updates. The Division will oversee the development of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough coastal management plan update.

*Contact: Julie Penn, Division of Governmental Coordination, 907-465-8789*

#### **Mental Health Trust Land Office – Trust Resource Asset Planning**

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The Mental Health Trust Land Office manages the Trust lands to provide income for statewide mental health programs. The Mental Health Trust lands on Gravina Island will provide opportunities for the trust with the establishment of access provided by the Gravina Access Project.

*Contact: Lisa Holzapfel, Mental Health Trust Land Office, 907-269-8661*

#### **Alaska Department of Natural Resources – Division of Forestry, Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales**

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Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry is requesting comments from the public on its 2000-2004 five-year Schedule of Timber Sales for the Coastal Region's Ketchikan Area including Gravina Island. Public comment is being solicited until October 19, 1999.

*Contact: Mike Curran, Ketchikan District Forester, DNR- Division of Forestry, 907-225-3070*

## **Participants List for Ketchikan Open**

### **House/Scoping Meeting**

AL STEININGER, P.E.  
Project Manager  
Southeast Region – DOT&PF

REUBEN YOST  
Regional Environmental Coordinator  
Southeast Region – DOT&PF  
Project Team Members

### **PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS**

ERIC KEEN, P.E.  
Program Manager  
HDR Alaska, Inc.

LARRY KYLE, P.E.  
Project Manager  
Stage II – Design Development  
HDR Alaska, Inc.

MARK DALTON  
Project Manager  
Stage 1 – EIS  
HDR Alaska, Inc.

CONRAD BRIDGES, P.E.  
Bridge Engineering  
HDR Alaska, Inc.

JOHN MCPHERSON  
Senior Planner  
HDR Alaska, Inc.

DARCY RICHARDS  
Senior Planner  
HDR Alaska, Inc.

CARLA SLATONBARKER  
Planner/Writer  
HDR Alaska, Inc.

ANNE BROOKS, P.E.  
Public Involvement Coordinator  
Brooks & Associates

MARY KLUGHERZ  
Ketchikan Project Office  
Klugherz & Associates

MIREK OLMER, P.E.  
Bridge Engineering  
T.Y. Lin International

BRUCE HUTCHISON, P.E.  
Ferry & Marine Facilities  
The Glosten Associates

FRANK FRANDINA, P.E.  
Tunnel Engineering  
Hatch Mott McDonald

PAT BURDEN  
Economic Analysis  
Northern Economics

FRED BROWN, P.E.  
Geotechnical Engineer  
Shannon and Wilson

**Local Government**

JACK SHAY  
Mayor  
Ketchikan Gateway Borough

SUSAN DICKINSON  
Planning Director  
Ketchikan Gateway Borough

GEORGIANNA ZIMMERLE  
Borough Manager  
Ketchikan Gateway Borough

JOHN HILL  
Planner  
Ketchikan Gateway Borough

ROBERT WEINSTEIN  
Mayor  
City of Ketchikan

KARL AMYLON  
City Manager  
City of Ketchikan

HARVEY HANSEN, P.E.  
City Engineer  
City of Ketchikan

**Federal Agencies**

SUSAN MARTHALLER  
Team Leader – Gravina EIS  
Ketchikan Ranger District  
U.S. Forest Service

LT. PATRICK CLARK  
Supervisor  
Marine Safety Detachment  
U.S. Coast Guard

STEVE DUNCAN  
Project Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

MARK JEN  
Aquatic Resources Unit  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**State Agencies**

JULIE HAMMONDS PENN  
District Program Coordinator  
Division of Governmental Coordination

JENNIFER GARLAND  
Project Review Coordinator  
Division of Governmental Coordination

LISA HOLZAPFEL  
Senior Resource Manager  
Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Office

JULIANNE HEARD  
Ketchikan Airport Master Plan  
USKH Consultants

AMY WIITA  
Resource Manager  
Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Office

PETER MCKAY  
Planner III  
Municipal & Regional Assistance Division  
Department of Community and Economic  
Development