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Comments:

Projects that would be profitable for recreation in the POW Tongass should include; Eagles Nest/Balls Lake Trail, Rio Roberts Trail and Memorial Beach.

Maintenance and upkeep of the Eagles Nest/Balls Lake picnic/campsite is desperately needed, as well as the boardwalk and lake trail. Its discouraging that the USFS completes such developments then does little to keep them maintained! The boardwalk is deteriorating and sinking into the lake. The trail that encompasses the lake it not maintained, with trees fallen on stairways and sinking walkways. This recreation area is in a central location and a great afternoon outing for both locals and visitors but without up-keep it will not be usable for much longer. Why would the USFS implement new projects on POW when the existing ones are in need of repair???

Rio Roberts Trail. Since the paving of the main highway, Rio Roberts Trail (and fish pass viewing area) have been closed. The closure was due to new road and the lack of parking near the trail-head. This trail was a hot-spot for both locals and tourists to view the fish pass, walk through the muskeg on a beautiful boardwalk, read interpretive signs, etc. I propose that there is a new trail-head built and trail is resurrected. . There are multiple nearby possibilities for parking and the new trail-head, one would be about an eighth of a mile past the Rio Robert Bridge (On the Craig side), there's an old pull-out that could easily be turned to a parking area with the trail starting there. The trail could also start on the gravel road on the Thorne Bay side of the bridge. There would need to be a small bridge to cross Rio Roberts (maybe something like the one at Harris River). Once again, why would the USFS implement new projects on POW when the existing ones are in need of repair???

Recently I traveled north on POW to Memorial Beach. The trail, campsite and road were all in beautiful shape! What a beautiful spot at the end of the road . . . BUT, there was NO SIGNAGE WHATSOEVER pointing to "Memorial Beach" or showing the mileage to Memorial Beach. When I neared what I thought to be the spot there was one little picnic sign but nothing more! Why would you develop an area and then not even mark it for guests to find and use???. Not only that, it's a two hour drive to get there, dont you think it would help if people knew how much further and which direction they should go?

Please DO NOT open more trails to fishing sights. The USFS has successfully opened trails to viable fish runs then in turn closed or tightly limited the river to fishing!! The Islanders that want to subsistence fish dont need trails to reach these areas. Leave them alone.

Salt Chuck Mine Site- The new interpretive signs are beautiful and informative and give such great history of the area. Why, once again, are there no signs leading people to the area? The road (Lake Ellen Rd?) is nearly overgrown by alders making it nearly impassable. The mine machinery display is also becoming engulfed in alders and by next summer will be completely overtaken. This is one of the main historic sights near Thorne Bay and should be maintained. Once again, why would the USFS implement new projects on POW when the existing ones are in need of repair???