

**GirdWild: Stumpy's Wild & Primitive Area proposal
For 4-December-2018 Girdwood Trails Committee**

Girdwood is fortunate in that we are able to have a wide diversity of lands and land uses, including residential, various levels of recreation development, and wild and primitive spaces. The natural character of Girdwood, and the desire for a system of open spaces, have long been held as important values to the community (see e.g. the Girdwood Area Plan). However, we are at a point where recent developments are changing the character of forest use in a way such that wild and primitive areas near the community that are easily accessible are rapidly becoming a thing of the past. The community has taken extensive steps to ensure alpine skiers, nordic skiers, and mountain bikers have ample opportunities developed near the community. However, much of this has been to the detriment of the wild forest and diminishes the opportunities for a significant segment of our community who uses that wild forest and indeed needs it for their well-being. Now is the ideal time to ensure that the wild heritage of our valley be protected for current and future generations. This proposal realizes that future and ensures that our community continues to have nearby wild and primitive areas.

We are seeking endorsement/approval at the local level (GTC, LUC, and GBOS) for this Stumpy's Wild & Primitive Area plan, and then at the relevant Muni (e.g. HLB, and Assembly if necessary) and State (DOT) levels for the plan and for future actions to establish the area outlined herein. This plan will also entail making changes in local planning (e.g. changes to the Girdwood Trails Management Plan regarding prohibited uses for certain areas/trails). Additionally, minimal signage may be developed (placed at the edge of the Wild & Primitive Area), and changes at the level of zoning, land management and ownership/responsibility, and other avenues may be pursued to further establish and solidify this plan for this area.

The project area can be described generally as such: the area between Moose Meadows to the south and the Hand-Tram/Four Corners to the north, and the Cat track to the east and Glacier Creek to the west (see attached map).

The major outlines of the plan for the Stumpy's Wild & Primitive Area (green and blue polygons in the attached map), and how it corresponds to different areas noted on the attached map, are as follows (see the attached map and its key as well):

1. No new development of any kind (including trails development, including class upgrades).
2. A rule of *non-mechanized usage only** applies to the entire area, with one exception: Winter grooming is allowed to the extents permitted as of the 2017-2018 winter in the blue polygon area.
3. Area to stay as it is in perpetuity.
4. Permanent easements or similar 'dedications' for Stumpy's and other existing wild/primitive trails may be sought from HLB and DOT to help additionally protect them as-is.
5. If there is a future proposal (e.g. a development proposal) which would decrease protections for or diminish the wild and primitive character of this area, before consideration of that proposal, approval must be obtained to re-open this approved Wild & Primitive Area Plan at all the bodies which approved it. Only then can the other proposal be considered at the

relevant bodies (e.g. GTC, LUC, GBOS, HLB, etc.).

6. Special Note regarding the currently-pending Forest (Park) Loop proposal: This proposed trail is noted by a gray line on the map. If fully permitted (through DOT, HLB, and Assembly levels), that trail will be managed by GNSC/GTC/HLB as permitted, and will not be considered part of the Stumpy's Wild & Primitive Area. No future trail upgrades, development or expansion will be permitted to the Forest (Park) Loop trail exceeding what is outlined in the September 2018 GTC-approved motion for that proposal (with associated approved Specifications, Map, and TMO documents). If the Forest (Park) Loop proposal is fully permitted, winter grooming, trail maintenance, and other mechanized use will be allowed on that trail as outlined in its proposal. However, if the Forest (Park) Loop project is not fully permitted through the DOT, HLB, and Assembly levels, the Forest (Park) Loop will be deleted and subject to the general rules for the Stumpy's Wild & Primitive Area (and trail building and maintenance, winter grooming, and other mechanized uses will not be allowed there).

One of the special things about Girdwood has been the proximity of near-community, easily accessible wild and primitive areas. Many people live in Girdwood at least in part for this reason. This proposal will ensure that that user group continues to be served, and their uses and experiences protected, by the community. This is good common sense, provides good and balanced land management, and fosters a positive sense of community. It also helps to preserve Girdwood's unique lands and unique heritage.

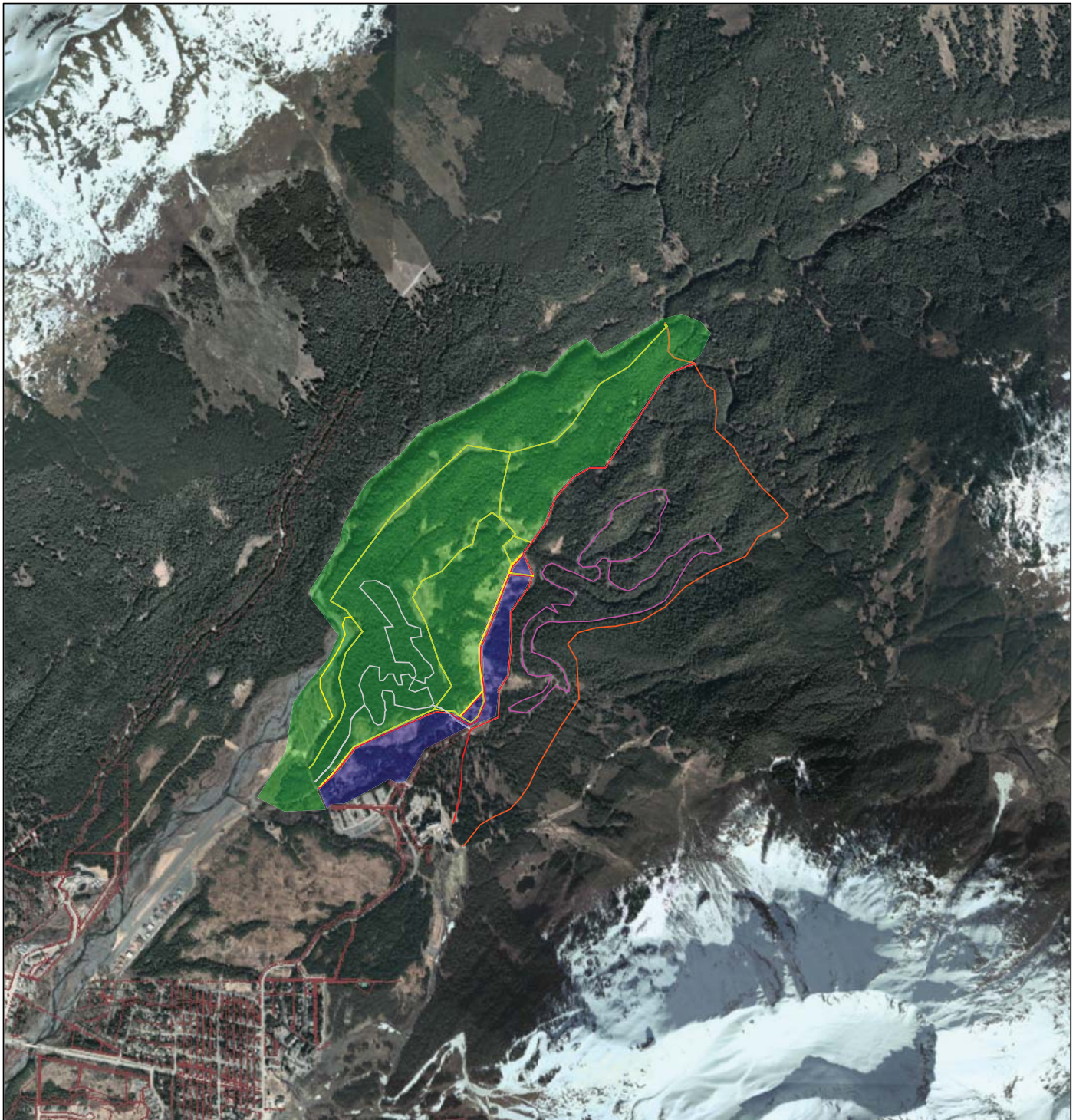
There is a strong sentiment in Girdwood – previously expressed both explicitly and implicitly – that the Stumpy's area should be protected in the ways outlined in this proposal. The forest and meadows around the Stumpy's Trails have long been viewed as the wild and primitive 'crown jewel' of Girdwood, and are held as nearly sacred for many people in our community. Additionally, the Stumpy's Trails themselves are highly valued for various attributes, such as aesthetic, primitive, ungroomed, and historical characteristics. This proposal would enshrine sentiments such as these for the future.

In addition to the values for this plan noted above, this plan also makes good economic sense. This area is and undoubtedly will be valued by Girdwood residents and visitors from across Alaska and beyond. This area would be something Girdwood will be able to market to visitors – that people are able to actually have a true wild, primitive, ungroomed, quiet spaces experience right outside your doorstep when you visit our community. Wildlands advocates, adventurers, and ungroomed enthusiasts – to name a few – will be excited at this opportunity.

We can all be served in this community – including wild and primitive space users. We have an opportunity to come together as a community and respect everyone's needs, before we lose this part of our lands heritage.

**Note: Mechanized uses include, for example, bikes, snowmachines, groomers, etc.*

GirdWild: Stumpy's Wild & Primitive Area Plan



Key

- Stumpy's Wild & Primitive Area &
- Allowed grooming sub-area
- Stumpy's and other wild/primitive trails
- Winner Creek Trail
- 5K Nordic Loop
- Groomed winter trails & Cat track
- Forest (Park) Loop [proposed]

Data provided courtesy of MOA

Underlying map created with MOA Map it!

Note: Map is only approximate

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Service Layer Credits:

GDIC, Property Appraisal, Land Records, MOA GDIC, Parks and Recreation, GDIC, Land Records, Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Credits Layer:

MOA, USGS, Merrick, Jamie Young | MOA, Land Records | GDIC, Property Appraisal, Land Records | GDIC, Land Records | MOA, GDIC | GICD | MOA, Planning | GICD | MOA GDIC, Parks and Recreation | MOA

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