

Municipality of Anchorage



P.O. Box 390
Girdwood, Alaska 99587
<http://www.muni.org/gbos>
David Bronson, Mayor

GIRDWOOD VALLEY SERVICE AREA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Mike Edgington and Briana Sullivan, Co-Chairs
Jennifer Wingard, Amanda Sassi, Guy Wade

Resolution 2021-23

Of the Girdwood Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR HLB SALE OF LAND TO UNITED STATES DEPT OF AGRICULTURE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

Whereas, the US Forest Service Glacier Ranger District has occupied and leased a portion of HLB parcel 6-043 a lot approximately 8.053 acres in size site since 1988; which includes office space for 22 and seasonal housing for 12, and,

Whereas, the location in Girdwood for the last 30 years has many proven advantages in meeting the USFS public service mission, including:

Providing visitor services including avalanche information, interpretive programs, trails and recreation facilities, fish and wildlife resource opportunities as well as information and services in the Girdwood Valley

Providing forest stewardship through professional partners who maintain, enhance and restore forest resources, including ecologists, fisheries and wildlife biologists who engage with guides, fishermen and subsistence users in the area.

Providing support to local businesses that operate on National Forest lands for recreation events, guided tours, business operations and land use authorizations.

Providing community investment through public-private partnerships that support projects including the Whistle Stop program with the Alaska Railroad, trail planning with the Iditarod National Historic Trail; and land management that support numerous partners dependent upon use of National Forest lands,

Whereas, the USFS is interested in purchase of the property at fair market value in order to secure a long-term presence in the community, which will expand the existing benefits of the Girdwood-based location in the following ways:

Capital investments on the site that will better serve the public and provide better workspace for employees, such as increased office space for additional USFS seasonal and full-time staff and parking for lower valley trails.

Investment in housing for seasonal and year-round USFS staff in Girdwood, which will make Glacier Ranger District a desirable worksite for staff and will relieve competition for housing within the community.

Investment in and local oversight of trail and recreation projects that may come to the Glacier Ranger District through federal infrastructure funding including the Great American Outdoors Act.

Community involvement creating an understanding of the priorities and needs so that the USFS is able to address community needs.

Whereas, the community benefits from having USFS employees as involved residents who recreate in the area, support local businesses, raise families, coach teams, and participate in community events; and

Whereas, the purchase of the property is supported by the Heritage Land Bank, and proceeds from the sale could be used by HLB on other projects within the community; and

Whereas, the purchase is supported by the Girdwood Land Use Committee, which voted to recommend this Resolution of Support by a vote of 35 in favor, 0 opposed and 5 abstaining at their regular meeting on December 13, 2021.

THEREFORE, the Girdwood Board of Supervisors supports the sale of 8.05 acres of HLB land currently leased by the USFS for the Glacier Ranger District.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a vote of 5 to 0 this 20th day of December 2021.



Mike Edgington, Land Use Supervisor, GBOS

December 21, 2021
Date



Attest