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Natasha Casciano and Dotty Widmann
Cordova Covered Spaces Project
Cordova, Alaska 99574

To whom it may concern,

I am pleased to express my support for the Cordova Covered Spaces Project as the US Forest Service, Cordova Ranger District Developed Recreation Program Manager. This effort to identify and develop covered open-aired meeting spaces is well aligned with the Chugach National Forest, Cordova Ranger District priorities of improving recreational experiences for Cordova residence and visitors.

The Cordova Ranger District strategic priorities include sustainable levels of high-quality recreation, tourism, and cultural experiences. We strive to provide opportunities for Alaskans, visitors, and youth to connect with the Forest's wild, intact, and remote landscapes. To accomplish this requires working collaboratively with new and existing partners to achieve common goals, including community resilience, a vibrant local economy, and quality of life. Joining with partners like the Cordova Covered Spaces Project allows us to leverage resources to achieve mutual benefits, be creative, and develop a shared ownership of our public lands.

The Cordova Covered Spaces Project will fill a critical need in the community by focusing on key infrastructure missing from the developed outdoor recreation opportunities in the area. Open-air meeting spaces provide protection from weather for outdoor education programs, family celebrations, annual community events, and an accessible recreation opportunity for all members of the public. This project is supported by existing and ongoing efforts by the City of Cordova and US Forest Service. Planning documents including the Cordova Comprehensive Plan, City of Cordova Comprehensive Trails Plan, the Cordova Ranger District Strategic Plan, and the Chugach National Forest Plan specifically identify outdoor covered spaces as an unfulfilled need in Cordova. These types of structures will dramatically expand the opportunities for a wide variety of outdoor activities for residence and visitors in Cordova. For any questions, please feel free to contact david.zastrow@usda.gov (907) 424-4754.

Sincerely,



DAVID ZASTROW
Developed Recreation Program Manager

