

Community Coastal Impact Assistance Program

Togiak Coastal, Subsistence and Recreation Access

Award Amount

\$ 26,625

Grantee

Faces of Hope Community Services

Project Contact

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Location

This project will take place in and around the City of Togiak. Togiak is located at the head of Togiak Bay, 67 miles west of Dillingham. It lies in Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and is the gateway to Walrus Island Game Sanctuary. The community lies at approximately 59.061940° North Latitude and -160.376390° West Longitude.

Project Duration

Project Start date: January 1, 2013
Project End Date: November 31, 2014
Project Duration: 23 months

Project Description

This project will protect and restore the coastal area of Togiak through the development of a trail that will concentrate foot and ATV access to areas away from vulnerable coastal bluffs, tundra and wetlands.

Togiak residents and visitors to nearby Round Island, Togiak and the fishing grounds, freely access all parts of the coast and surrounding area for subsistence activities, fishing, hunting, recreation, picnicking, and other purposes. The coastal bluffs, tundra and wetlands surrounding the community however are environmentally fragile highly and productive fish, bird and wildlife habitat that is underlain by discontinuous permafrost. Surface water gathers and pools in ATV tracks, sometimes re-channelizing surface drainage. Coastal erosion is a continual challenge and facilities must be protected with sheet pile walls and rip rap. A warming climate and thawing permafrost is another issue affecting where and how people use the surrounding area. This project will address these concerns by providing access trails to concentrate where people tread, thereby protecting surrounding areas and allowing focused protection and hardening (where appropriate) of the trail to protect the coastal environment.

This trail will have community benefits in addition to providing environmental protection. It

will assist elders in accessing traditional subsistence areas and provide a recreational asset for Togiak families and visitors.

Requested funds will allow completion of Phase 1 of the four phases of this project. Phase 1 includes: working with residents and land owners in Togiak to better define and map the proposed trail route and special locations to which the trails will provide access. A report will be completed that includes trail design and costs for trail construction. Phase 2 will involve soliciting funding for construction funding, funds, Phase 3 is obtaining all relevant permits and building the trail, and Phase 4 is installation of interpretative signage and displays and picnic areas in appropriate locations. Separate non-CIAP funding will be pursued for Phases 2 through 4.

Measurable Goals and Objectives

1. A map using GPS technology in the field and GIS software that defines the proposed trail route and identifies special locations for which it will enhance access.
2. Project report describing trail routes and distances, materials to be used and detailed cost estimates. The report will also include specific design features that specific design features that will control coastal erosion in order to protect coastal environments.

CIAP Authorized Use

The activities outlined for this project are consistent with CIAP Authorized Use 1: Projects and activities for the conservation, protection, or restoration of coastal areas, including wetlands. Currently informal public access to popular recreation and subsistence areas is damaging fragile coastal bluffs, tundra and wetlands and leading to coastal erosion, which has a negative impact on coastal environments. This project will result in the selection of a specific trail routes that will formalize access to the key community destinations while minimizing impacts on fragile habitat.

The report will also include specific design recommendations such as trail surfacing materials, drainage systems, and other design features that will minimize coastal erosion and impacts on permafrost areas.