

Group looks to set up local 'cabin friends' chapter

The "Friends of the Tongass Cabins" (FTC) was created from concern over the potential loss of the cabin program on our Tongass National Forest. Several cabins on the Tongass we scheduled for decommissioning due to lack of use and limited funding for maintenance. Within the Wrangell Ranger District there are twenty-two of these cabins and recreation sites.

Concerned that the entire cabin program may be at risk, the FTC decided to begin efforts to develop local support for the

cabin program in Wrangell. "The idea is to build a successful model in Wrangell that could be the model for additional communities in Southeast Alaska in subsequent years," according to Wrangell District Ranger Mark Hummel.

Since many of the cabins were built decades ago and require ongoing maintenance, others are in need of major repair. To a fisherman, hunter, logger, or any other traveler exploring the wilderness the cabin(s) hold the possibility of being the only available haven



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

The Berg Bay cabin is just one of many Forest Service cabins in the Wrangell area that could benefit from a Friends of the Tongass Cabins chapter in Wrangell.

to utilize in adverse weather conditions. These cabins may have saved many people's lives through the years.

The possibility exists that up to 25% of the recreational cabins on the Tongass National Forest will be decommissioned or closed. The FTC recently hired Linda Vissat to help coordinate

efforts in Wrangell, in partnership with S.A.G.A. and the Forest Service. She will help organize efforts to build the Middle Ridge cabin this summer, as well as organize support for the Wrangell cabins program. "We need the community to do this," said Vissat. "I'm just one person, here for eleven

months. By the time I leave, I'd love to see a local FTC Chapter in Wrangell."

Volunteers are needed. Donations, in-kind service, contributions, and any in-kind help in any capacity would be greatly appreciated.

Call Linda Vissat for further information or with questions.

Dr. Steve Lowry

of Southeast Alaska Animal Medical Center

Juneau, Alaska

will be in Wrangell to see veterinary patients from May 25 - 27.

For medical or surgical appointments call Gail Rilatos at 874-3629 until May 24, then call the office at 874-2871 after May 24.



Alaska Island
Community
Services

Wrangell's
Community
Health Center

Summer reading program starts May 26

By RYAN LONG
Sentinel writer

The 2009 Wrangell summer reading program will start on May 26th, and will be open for all students who will attend any

usually filled with plenty of outdoor activities, fishing and hiking trips, and often school is the last thing on a youngster's mind, so it's important, according to Jabusch, that the students can

hopefully continue its long string of successful programs in 2009. "This is the thirteenth year that we've done this particular program, so the kids usually already know the rules. It's open for kids