



# “Re-imagining” the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center

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**Annette Heckart**

Regional Interpretation & Conservation  
Education Program Manager

*Chugach National Forest • Portage Valley Alaska*



# Historically popular destination:

- Just 45 minutes from Anchorage
- Accessible by car
- Magnificent glacially carved valley
- “Touch” a glacier









# Our New Reality...

A changing glacier





# Our New Reality...

A changing visitor



# Our New Reality...

Increase in fees charged at  
visitor center



# Our New Reality...

Aging facility  
+  
Extreme weather  
conditions  
=  
Increased  
maintenance  
costs







# So, what do we do...

We could just wait for our proverbial iceberg to melt and then most likely close the facility, or...



# Or get a little creative...

We talked to our stakeholders and asked them what's their vision for Portage Valley and the visitor center.



# Out of these conversations...

Several partners stepped forward interested in partnering with the Forest Service.





# New Challenges...

We were looking to partner in ways that hadn't really been done before.



# New Challenges...

The state budget took a big hit...  
our two primary partners are  
heavily dependent upon  
state funding.







## So, where do we go from here...

- Re-evaluate other potential partners
- Accept that things might get messy and small steps forward are OK.

**Thoughts,  
questions,  
fabulous ideas to  
share....**

Send them my way - [aheckart@fs.fed.us](mailto:aheckart@fs.fed.us)

