



FOREST SERVICE

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News Release

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Chugach National Forest Launches Agents of Discovery® – Haystack Trail Mission in Cordova Alaska

Anchorage, AK (May 30, 2018) –On Friday, June 1 at 11:00 am at mile 19 of the Copper River Highway the Chugach National Forest and Cordova Ranger District will unveil the new Agents of Discovery – *Haystack Trail Mission* Mobile Game. The *Haystack Trail Mission* is the second Agents of Discovery® Mission site on the Forest. Last summer, Agents of Discovery® launched the *Portage Valley Mission* at the Williwaw Fish Viewing Platform in Portage Valley.

The award winning mobile gaming application Agents of Discovery® is a free mobile game application that allows users to unlock hidden geo-challenges with their tablet or smartphone along the trails, parks, visitor centers, and museums across the country.

“We are excited to add game-based learning, to help youth and families discover the mysteries of the Chugach National Forest and Cordova Ranger District,” says Robert Skorkowsky, Cordova District Ranger. “The game is appropriate for ages from six to 12 and for families looking for fun activities they can do together. It is a great way to combine adventure in the outdoors and the technology kids love!”

Players travel the Haystack Trail working with Secret Agent Ruby the Red Salmon to solve quizzes about their surroundings. Once all the geo-challenges have been solved, players are eligible to receive a prize by visiting the Cordova Ranger District.

The .8 mile Haystack Trail is mostly along a boardwalk that winds through spruce-hemlock forest to a knoll overlooking the Copper River Delta. On a clear day there are spectacular views of the Gulf of Alaska and Kayak Island. The trail has several places where many species of wildlife, especially Trumpeter Swans and moose can be seen. Avoid surprising animals by making noise and travelling in groups. Wearing bells and carrying bear spray is also a good idea. Visitors are advised to never approach a wild animal.

Players will need to download the Agents of Discovery® app and the Chugach National Forest – *Haystack Trail Mission* site at home or someplace with WiFi before heading to the mission area. Once downloaded, an internet connection is not needed to play the downloaded game at the *Haystack Trail Mission* site.

There are more than 60 different Agents of Discovery® mission sites across the U.S. and Canada. For more information on downloading the app and Agents of Discovery® visit the [Chugach National Forest Website](#).

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