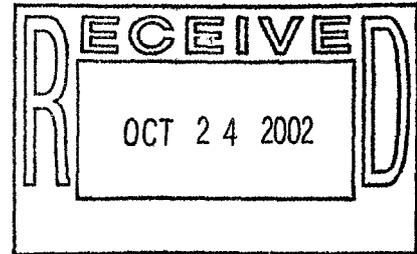


Wildman TR Inc.

PO Box 724
Cooper Landing, AK 99672
907-595-1458
Fax 907-595-1888



October 24, 2002

USDA Forest Service
Attn: NFS-EMC Staff (Barbara Timberlake)
Stop Code 1104
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-1140

Dear Sir or Madam:

It has just come to my attention today, that the Chugach National Forest plan is being finalized and that several of the areas around Cooper Landing and Moose Pass will be closed to snow machines. This letter is a Notice of Appeal filed pursuant to 36 CFR parts 217, page 48 in the Record of Decision.

The decision I am appealing is in the FEIS and the resulting Revised Forest Plan, specifically the areas available for motorized and non-motorized winter activities. The document in which the decision is contained is the Revised Land & Resource Management Plan of the Chugach National Forest Record of Decision, R10 MB-480b. The date of the decision was May 31, 2002 and the Deciding Office is Regional Forester Dennis E. Bschor.

This year Cooper Landing has formed a Cooper Landing Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, which I am current President. The Chamber was formed to develop and promote winter recreation in our area to include Moose Pass and Seward. Our area has a very well developed summer economy, however, numerous business's close as the economy in the winter will not support them. It is our intention to develop the winter recreation experience for visitors and to develop the economy for our community. One of our ideas to generate the winter economy is a snow machine event that would encompass the Summit Lake, Moose Pass, Lost Lake, Seward and Cooper Landing. It now comes to my attention, that the Crescent Lake/Carter Lake area will be closed to motorized activities. Our association also discussed utilizing the old highway between Tern Lake and Quartz Creek, which is also going to close. You have now just cut off our ability to connect Moose Pass and Summit Lake via a snow machine trail and if you plan to close the Trail River Campground, we cannot cut back to Kenai Lake through campground.

Your study of the economy of the area considered the limited summer months. You have not given any consideration to assist us in developing trails for motorized and non-motorized recreation so we can develop both motorized & non-motorized trails for winter sports. To my knowledge, no one interviewed the business owners in Cooper Landing or Moose Pass regarding our winter economy or the impact your plan would make on our communities.

I would like to have the existing areas used in the past by the local community for snow machining remain open, such as Carter/Crescent Lake, Russian Lake Trail, Resurrection Pass, Lost Lake, Cooper Lake area, and I would like to see a trail established between Cooper Landing, Summit Lake and Moose Pass for both motorized and non-motorized use. I am not as familiar with the snow machining areas from Moose Pass, but Johnson Pass and Trail Lake Campground are two areas that should be open for both motorized and non-motorized. People need access to these areas and parking near the road system so that they can get to these areas and the high country. There are many levels of experience for all winter sport activists and the Chugach National Forest management needs to work to develop recreational access to all individuals at all levels of experience. This means access from our communities, and the road systems to accommodate the different levels of difficulties for the winter sports enthusiasts.

● Page 2

October 24, 2002

I feel that the Forest Plan has not considered our communities desires and has failed to notify members of Cooper Landing of meetings to be held to discuss this issue, reducing our ability to affect the outcome of your study. I would like to see the Chugach National Forest not reduce any areas to motorized recreation or add any quiet areas around our communities. We would like to develop a winter recreation trail system that would benefit our community, Moose Pass, Hope and Seward and promote the use of The Chugach National Forest. It is my belief that our National Forest should be used and preserved for our generation and the future. Let us work together to use our National Forest productively.

Sincerely,



Cheryle E. James
Sec/Tres.

Cc: Benny Bschor/ Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region

Cc: Cooper Landing Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, Inc.
Congressman Don Young
Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Frank Murkowski