

been held recently to review the executive summary. It was difficult to obtain specific descriptions on each alternate. For example, if the group elects to support one alternate, what rights are lost in comparison with rights in the other alternates? He said answers were extremely difficult to get.

KPPLUG requested the Commission to help get information regarding what was being gained or lost in the alternatives. He asked the Commission not to take action until KPPLUG could understand what was being lost or gained so the Borough and the user groups can have a united position.

2. Kristine Holdridge, 1019 First Street, Kenai

Ms. Holdridge was not familiar with the Commission's stance on this matter. She read Page 65 in part:

The National Forest was to be managed for a variety of uses, and disclosure helped officials make decisions based on an understanding of environmental consequences and take action to protect, restore, and enhance the environment. Essential to the National Environmental Policy Act, processes are to use accurate scientific analyses, expert agency input, and public involvement.

During the last meeting the Forest Service said no scientific analysis has been done. Ms. Holdridge was uncertain where the Forest Service obtained information. She thought the Forest Service was pitting the groups against each other. She concurred with Mr. Merkes that it should be open to all user groups. She asked Forest Service personnel if money was available to implement the plan, and she was told no funds were available. If a trail is currently used for skiing, all other uses are not funded so other user groups are excluded. Ms. Holdridge felt the plan was very unfair. There did not seem to be much forethought beyond taking care of what the Forest Service believed were the immediate problems, such as skiers versus snowmachiners. She did not think this was the problem. She felt it was a shortsighted solution.

3. Marc Crouse, P.O. Box 1048, Soldotna

Mr. Crouse commented that limiting the trails into the National Forest creates more congestion, which will more heavily impact certain areas. If more access is opened, traffic on certain trails will be less, and the vegetation will not be impacted as much whether by hiking, horseback riding, etc. KPPLUG wants to open more trail access so the volume of concentrated use is lessened.

4. Leland Chumley, P.O. Box 14, Sterling

Mr. Chumley recently became involved to try to help. He felt the proposed plan for the Chugach National Forest and the public land uses has not been explained clearly to the public. He asked the Commission to not make any decisions at this meeting so the user groups have time to meet and help distribute information to the public so everyone can make the right decisions for all public land users. No single group (snowmachiners, skiers, hikers, horseback riders) is being targeted. KPPLUG does not want any user group to lose more privileges. Mr. Chumley has traveled into the backcountry in the Chugach National Forest; it is beautiful. He has small children, and he wanted them to be able to see this country. He believed all concerned groups could work together and determine some system or method to have better trail systems and not have an "us versus them" situation.

He heard that parking space was not available for all trails. Mr. Chumley did not know if this were true and wanted to check into it. He wondered if parking areas could be constructed. He did not know how to proceed to provide parking areas. He would like to use the land for a long time. He hoped everyone could work together and try to make the right decision rather than doing something too quickly.

5. Grace Merkes

Ms. Merkes said she was speaking for herself. She supported the previous speakers. She had not seen a staff report on the Chugach Forest Revised Forest Plan. She asked if administration had a recommendation. Mr. Bright replied the complete staff report was provided during the November 13 meeting. The Commission postponed action on this item. Staff recommended supporting the No Action Alternative.

Ms. Merkes hoped the Commission was familiar with the Chugach Forest Management Plan, which is quite extensive. She read the executive summary and some of the alternatives. She thought the classifications in each alternative did not fully explain what would happen to the areas under the associated prescriptions. Ms. Merkes thought it might be better if the Commission and Assembly did not choose an alternative to support. She did not believe enough information was available. She hoped everyone could get together to review the plan and determine what the Forest Service wanted to do with the National Forest on the Peninsula and the consequences of the plan. Many recommendations have been made for wilderness areas, scenic rivers, wilderness rivers, wildlife protection, and roadless areas. Ms. Merkes wondered what the various classifications would mean to Peninsula residents. She thought this needed to be researched before any kind of recommendation was made.

The deadline to submit comments is December 14, 2000; however, the Forest Service indicated comments would be accepted after this deadline. Ms. Merkes hoped the Commission and the Assembly did not make any kind of recommendation on an alternative at this time until more information is provided. She did not necessarily agree with the No Action Alternative because some things in this plan may not be appropriate. Ms. Merkes realized the process had been underway for a year, and many meetings had been conducted. She thought most participation during these meetings was by agency people and not members of the public. She asked that the Commission make no recommendation.

Chairman Hammelman asked Ms. Merkes if she had plans on how the Commission and Assembly could obtain additional information. Ms. Merkes said on November 29 KPPLUG was having a teleconference with another Anchorage group that has been studying the plan for a long time. She thought some administrative staff understood the plan and perhaps meetings could be scheduled.

6. Gary Pollack, P.O. Box 1134, Sterling

Mr. Pollack said KPPLUG intended to address the needs of all users. KPPLUG was formed due to the current issue of snowmobiling, but he thought all members of KPPLUG were involved in activities other than snowmobiling in the National Forest. He doubted KPPLUG members were prejudicial to any other user.

Mr. Pollack said KPPLUG was very concerned about the proposed plan for the Chugach National Forest. The existing plan is the Forest Service's guidebook for anything within the National Forest for 10 to 15 years. This plan represents the Forest Service's menu of options and tools to use for managing the National Forest. In reviewing the maps and executive summary, it appeared that the Forest Service was attempting to minimize the management effort by restricting and removing privileges. KPPLUG believes arbitrarily taking away uses is not right. The Forest Service may not believe the decisions are arbitrary, but this is how it appears to KPPLUG. KPPLUG advocates no significant changes but recommends implementing the management practices put forward in the 10-15 year plan.

Mr. Pollack described KPPLUG as the silent majority that has become active. He realized it was late in the process. Today was the first time he was able to obtain the cd that contained the entire plan. A workshop is being conducted this weekend for everyone to discuss the plan and develop comments to submit. He planned to go through the cd and itemize specifics in the plan that were particular to the Kenai Peninsula, e.g., the proposed plan in each alternative for the Carter Lake Trail, Lost Lake Trail, Resurrection Pass Trail. By this weekend Mr. Pollack hoped to have a clearer picture of what each alternative represented.

Mr. Pollack asked the Commission to defer making a recommendation on an alternative. He noted the Commission was more than welcome to the information that KPPLUG consolidated during their review of the proposed alternatives.

Commissioner Bayes asked Mr. Pollack if he had specific information about restricted uses in the alternatives. Mr. Pollack said he had not yet reviewed specific areas. The Forest Service manages the land according to the Forest Management Plan. Some alternatives contain restrictions on various uses.

Seeing and hearing no one else wishing to comment, Chairman Hammelman closed the public hearing and opened discussion among the Commission.

Commissioner Gannaway asked if the Commission had to make a decision during this meeting. Chairman Hammelman advised that a motion to recommend the Preferred Alternative with a proposed amendment was before the Commission. He re-stated the motion as amended.

Commissioner Gannaway inquired about the deadline to submit comments. Mr. Bright replied comments needed to be submitted before December 14. Commissioner Gannaway noted the Commission could postpone action until the next meeting to give KPPLUG time to meet and develop recommendations.

MOTION: Commissioner Gannaway moved, seconded by Commissioner Boscacci, to postpone action to December 11, 2000.

Commissioner Bayes supported postponement; however, she wanted additional information in the packet if action were deferred. She studied the management proposal for trails and routes for the Preferred Alternative and No Action Alternative. She found the Preferred Alternative contained 15 miles of trails no longer available for snowmachine use, but 58.5 miles were added so this alternative had a net gain of 43.5 miles for snowmachine use. This is one very small component of the plans. Commissioner Bayes understood this was not a complete picture of the plan and neither was the staff report presented during the November 13 meeting. The staff report and recommendations were in the packet beginning on Page 67.

Commissioner Johnson inquired about the routing of the Commission's recommendations. He asked if the Commission's recommendation would be forwarded to the Assembly and then to the Forest Service. Chairman Hammelman responded yes. Commissioner Johnson wondered if postponement would be cumbersome since the Assembly's next meeting is the day following the Commission's December 11 meeting, and comments were due to the Forest Service by December 14.

Commissioner Gannaway asked if staff believed there was enough time to get recommendations made during the December 11 meeting to the Assembly the next day. Mr. Bright replied staff could present a laydown report to the Assembly. He noted it would be helpful to staff if the Commission would identify specific concerns so additional information could be provided. Mr. Bright agreed with speakers during the public hearing that it was difficult to determine some differences among the alternatives. It was staff's opinion that the No Action Alternative best suited the interests of the snowmachiners and recreational trail users. Some people believe Alternative A best suited various user groups.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Bayes, Mr. Bright replied the Assembly met once in December (December 12).

Commissioner Troeger supported postponement so the Commission could hear from KPPLUG or any group that could present information to the Commission in a timely manner. He had comments on the main motion, which was not before the Commission at this time.

Commissioner Hohl wanted to see a better comparison.

VOTE: The motion to postpone action passed by unanimous consent.

HAMMELMAN YES	BRYSON YES	BAYES YES	BOSCACCI YES	GANNAWAY YES	HENSLEY ABSENT
HOHL YES	JOHNSON YES	MARTIN YES	SKOGSTAD ABSENT	TROEGER YES	NINE YES TWO ABSENT

Chairman Hammelman thanked everyone for their comments.

Dennis Merkes appreciated the Commission postponing action. He asked how KPPLUG could get information to the Commission and if the Commission wanted to attend the teleconference on Wednesday. Chairman Hammelman replied attendance at the teleconference was up to the individual Commissioners. Information for the Commission can be delivered to the Planning Department.

AGENDA ITEM E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Seward Ranger District
DEC 04 2000
Received

27034

Introduced by Merkes, Brown, Popp, Fischer
Date: 11/21/00
Action: Adopted
Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2000-108**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEAVING ALL EXISTING TRAILS IN THE
CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST OPEN FOR EXISTING RECREATIONAL USES,
SUPPORTING IMPROVEMENTS TO AND MAINTENANCE OF TRAILS AND
PARKING LOTS, AND SUPPORTING BUILDING NEW CROSS-COUNTRY SKI
TRAILS**

- WHEREAS,** the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest are available for public comment until December 14, 2000, and the National Forest Management Act of 1964 regulations require each Forest Plan to be revised every 10 to 15 years; and
- WHEREAS,** the planning area encompasses over 5.45 million acres in the Chugach National Forest, which is the second largest forest in the National Forest System and is subdivided into 3 administrative units, the Glacier, Seward and the Cordova Ranger Districts; and
- WHEREAS,** the Forest interdisciplinary team must consider the environmental conditions, historic use and occupation, and other past and current data while conducting many planning meetings; and
- WHEREAS,** the "Situation Statements" describe conflicting public interests and existing conditions that could be improved by changing the 1984 Forest Plan, and one of these conflicts was identified as a conflict between cross-country skiers and cross-country snowmobilers; and
- WHEREAS,** four public meetings have been held on the Kenai Peninsula to receive comments on the Draft Plan, and comments at the Soldotna meeting, which was attended by over 200 people, overwhelmingly supported keeping all existing trails and railheads open to both snowmobiles and cross-country skiers, with possible opening of additional trails and parking lots; and
- WHEREAS,** all user groups should be able to work out compromises so they can use the existing trails and railheads at all times rather than for parts of a season or alternating years, and RS 2477 may have already established easements for traditional uses of both snowmobiles and cross-country skiers; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service has stated that they have not completed any scientific studies to support closing any of the existing trails or trailheads to snowmobiles because of any major ecological or social conflicts; and

WHEREAS, the Preferred Plan advocates considering adding over 2.5 million acres to restrictive classifications such as Wilderness, Wild Rivers, ANILCA classifications, Backcountry, Scenic Rivers, Brown Bear Core Area, Recreation-Reduced Noise, all of which may have additional restrictions on snowmobiles;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough assembly strongly supports the Forest Service's not recommending closing, or restricting to seasonal use, the use by snowmobiles and skiers of any existing trails or trailheads in the Chugach National Forest-Seward District.

SECTION 2. That the existing trails and parking lots be upgraded for use by both snowmobiles and cross-country skiers in partnership with the federal, state, and local governments. Intergovernmental agreements should be made regarding leasing or exchanging land reasonably necessary to accomplish this goal.

SECTION 3. The Kenai Peninsula Borough also supports the federal government's giving grants or allowing private recreational groups to form partnerships with the federal government to improve or build trails or parking lots.

SECTION 4. That the Forest Service Plan consider building new access trails for cross-country skiers in appropriate locations in order to alleviate safety issues and conflicts with snowmobile use.

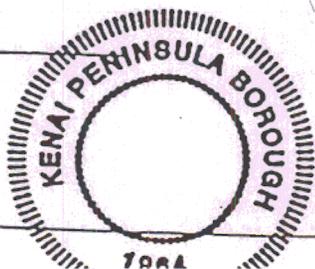
SECTION 5. That copies of this resolution be sent to the Alaskan Congressional Delegation, the Kenai Peninsula Borough State Delegation, and to the Forest Service Department.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 21ST DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2000.

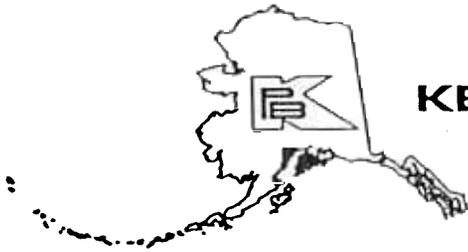
ATTEST:

Timothy Navarre
Timothy Navarre, Assembly President

Linda S. Murphy
Linda S. Murphy, Borough Clerk



22048



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

144 N. BINKLEY • SOLDOTNA, ALASKA • 99669-7599
BUSINESS (907) 262-4444 • 3:13 FAX (907) 262-1892

DALE BAGLEY
MAYOR

November 20, 2000

Mr. Gary Lehnhausen
Team Leader
Chugach National Forest Plan Revision Interdisciplinary Team
Chugach National Forest Planning Team
3301 C Street, Suite 300
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Mr. Lehnhausen:

RE: Comments for the Chugach National Forest Plan Revision

The Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission conducted a public hearing for the referenced plan during their regularly scheduled November 13, 2000 meeting, which was held in Seward. Four people testified during the public hearing.

The Commission was advised that additional public meetings were scheduled to be held in Cooper Landing, Hope, and Soldotna very soon. Also, staff pointed out that the Commission had two more meetings (November 27 and December 11) before the comment deadline of December 14, 2000.

The Commission voted to postpone this item to their November 27 meeting, which will be held in the Borough Assembly Chambers in Soldotna.

Draft, unapproved minutes of the pertinent portion of the meeting are attached.

Sincerely,

Maria E. Sweppy
Administrative Assistant
Planning Department

Attachment

AGENDA ITEM E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Hearing on Chugach National Forest Proposed Revised Land Management Plan; carried forward from October 25, 1999

Staff report as reviewed by Dan Bevington.

PC Meeting: 11-13-00

Extent of staff review:

Staff has reviewed the Chugach National Forest Proposed Revised Land Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statements. Staff has placed public postings requesting community input and actively pursued input from city governments, community councils, and special interest groups in the months of October and November 2000. Staff received and considered approximately 27 comment letters and held approximately a dozen phone conversations with concerned citizens. Staff had contact with other State of Alaska and Federal agencies. Staff review included internal dialog within the Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Department and the Mayor's Office.

See attachments "A" for a summary table of public comment to date.

Background Discussion:

This Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan (Revised Forest Plan) was prepared according to Department of Agriculture regulations (36 CFR 219) which are based on the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (RPA) as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA). This Revised Forest Plan also was developed in accordance with regulations (40 CFR 1500) for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Because this Revised Forest Plan is considered a major federal action significantly affecting the environment, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared as required by NEPA and 36 CFR 219.

The Chugach National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1984 Forest Plan) was issued in July 1984. Forest Plans are prepared in accordance with the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and other laws and regulations. NFMA regulations require that each Forest Plan be revised every 10 to 15 years (36 CFR 219.10). The Proposed Revised Forest Plan (Revised Forest Plan) has been prepared to meet that requirement. The Revised Forest Plan is accompanied by a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which describes the analysis used in formulating the Forest Plan. In the process of plan development, of more than 30 alternatives discussed, 8 alternatives are presented in the Forest Service document.

The Forest Plan intends to provide guidance for all resource management activities on a National Forest. It establishes: forest wide multiple-use goals and objectives, forest wide management requirements (standards and guidelines), direction applicable to specific management areas (management area prescriptions), monitoring and evaluation requirements, designation of lands as suitable or not suitable for timber production and other resource management activities, and recommendations to Congress for the establishment of Wilderness, Wild, Scenic and Recreational rivers; as well as other special designations.

Recommendations to Congress for establishing Wilderness and other special designations are made in the Record of Decision that will accompany the Revised Forest Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requires that National Forest System lands be managed for a variety of uses on a sustained basis to ensure in perpetuity a continued supply of goods and services to the American people. NFMA regulations also establish extensive analytical and procedural requirements for the development, revision, and significant amendments of forest plans. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) ensures that environmental information is made available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made and before actions are taken. This disclosure helps public officials make decisions based on an understanding of environmental consequences and take actions to protect, restore, and enhance the environment. Essential to the NEPA process are accurate scientific analyses, expert agency input, and public involvement, all of which have been part of this revision process.

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANSCA) and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) provide specific guidance for management of public lands in Alaska. ANSCA is a settlement of aboriginal claims and

allows for Alaska Native peoples to select lands from the Chugach National Forest. Land conveyances are ongoing and affect access to and management of the Chugach National Forest. ANILCA (an amendment to ANSCA) provides specific direction for management of fisheries, access, and Wilderness on public lands. Both these laws and their regulations are incorporated in all prescriptions and standards and guidelines.

The Revised Forest Plan applies to Chugach National Forest's day-to-day resource management operations. It is programmatic in character and does not reflect project-level decisions. Those decisions are made after completion of appropriate NEPA analysis and further public comment. Additionally, NFMA requires that resource plans and permits, contracts and other instruments issued for the use and occupancy of National Forest System lands be consistent with the Revised Forest Plan.

According to the Revised Forest Plan and DEIS, management direction may be amended as the need arises.

The Alternatives:

In response to the forgoing discussion the Forest Service intends to choose a management plan from eight proposed alternatives.

See **attachments "B"** which describes the character of each alternative under consideration. Management area prescriptions were provided in the Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan, Chapter 3. These management prescriptions apply specifically to the map legends (see **attachments "C"**) for each alternative which are summarized as follows.

"No Action:" The primary theme of this alternative is a mix of recreational opportunities, Wilderness recommendations, wildlife and fish habitat, minerals, and forest products.

"Preferred Alternative:" This alternative emphasizes natural processes across most of the Forest with active management in selected locations to sustain ecological systems and fish and wildlife habitat.

"Alternative A" emphasizes active management to sustain ecological systems and fish and wildlife habitat.

"Alternative B:" The primary theme of this alternative is conserving fish and wildlife habitat while providing opportunities for active management (forest products, minerals, recreation, etc.).

"Alternative C:" The primary theme of this alternative is conservation of fish and wildlife and recreation

"Alternative D:" The primary theme of this alternative is non-motorized opportunities, natural quiet, natural processes, minimal recreational facilities, and undeveloped recreational settings.

"Alternative E:" The primary theme of this alternative is natural processes, nonmotorized recreational activities, minimal recreational facilities, and undeveloped recreational settings.

The following table compares the alternatives (as depicted in DEIS, Appendix H

Table 2-5: Relative similarities and differences between alternatives by situation.

	Alternative							
	No Action	Preferred	A	B	C	D	E	F
Ecological Systems	Mix	Natural Processes	Active Management	Active Management	Natural Processes	Natural Processes	Natural Processes	Natural Processes
Fish & Wildlife	Mix	Natural Processes	Active Management	Active Management	Natural Processes	Natural Processes	Natural Processes	Natural Processes
Free Use/Personal Use Forest Products	High	Moderate	Highest	High	Moderate	Low	Low	Lowest
Commercial Forest Products	Moderate	Low	Highest	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Lowest
Mineral Opportunities	Moderate	Moderate	Highest	High	High	Low	Low	Lowest
Motorized Recreation	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Highest	Moderate	Lowest	Low	Low

Table 2-5: Relative similarities and differences between alternatives by situation.

	Alternative							
	High	High	Highest	High	Moderate	Lowest	Moderate	
	Moderate	High	Moderate	Lowest	Moderate	Highest	High	
	Low	Moderate	Lowest	Low	Moderate	Highest	High	
	Moderate	Moderate	High	Highest	Moderate	Moderate	Low	
	Dispersed	Dispersed	Dispersed	Dispersed	Dispersed	Dispersed	Dispersed	Dispersed
	Moderate	Moderate	None	Low	Moderate	High	High	Highest
	None	Moderate	None	Low	Moderate	High	High	Highest
Recommended Research Natural Areas	Highest	Moderate	Lowest	Moderate	Moderate	High	High	
Subsistence	High	High	Lowest	Moderate	High	High	High	Highest

The following table (from DEIS Appendix H) characterizes range of alternatives under consideration:

Table 2-4: Range of alternatives (in acres) by category.*

	Categories				
	1	2	3	4	5
No Action	1,662,150	1,162,040	2,654,630	0	12,760
Preferred	1,847,010	3,403,810	228,000	0	12,760
Alternative A	2,550	2,195,580	2,723,110	557,580	12,760
Alternative B	911,630	2,870,880	1,696,310	0	12,760
Alternative C	1,413,640	3,789,630	271,900	3,650	12,760
Alternative D	2,630,840	2,732,540	115,440	0	12,760
Alternative E	3,761,910	1,692,720	24,190	0	12,760
Alternative F	4,472,210	981,790	24,820	0	12,760
*Acres of National Forest administered land					
Category 1	Primitive, Wilderness Study Area, Recommended Wilderness, 601(b) Recommended Wilderness, Wild River, Research Natural areas				
Category 2	Backcountry, Backcountry Motorized, ANILCA 501(b)-2, EVOS Acquired Lands, Scenic River, Municipal Watershed, Brown Bear Core, Fish & Wildlife Conservation Area				
Category 3	Fish, Wildlife & Recreation, Backcountry Groups, Forest Restoration, ANILCA 501(b)-3, Recreation River, Developed Recreation-Reduced Noise				
Category 4	Resource Development, Developed Recreation Complex				
Category 5	Minerals, Transportation/Utility Systems/Electronic Sites				

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: The No Action Alternative represents "no change to current management" and is, therefore, the 1984 Forest Plan expressed in the management area prescriptions being used in this revision effort. The primary theme of this alternative is a mix of recreational opportunities, Wilderness recommendations (within the Wilderness Study Area), wildlife and fish habitat, minerals, and forest products.

When a specific alternative was mentioned in letter or phone conversations, snow machine users most often identified the No Action Alternative as the desired alternative. The remaining snow machine users simply stated that they wanted to see "no trail closures," or that they wanted to see the lands available to all land use. The Kenai Peninsula Borough Administration endorses the No Action Alternative.

On the Kenai Peninsula the "Fish, Wildlife and Recreation Prescription" is applied throughout most of the area to provide a variety of multiple use activities. The No Action Alternative provides a mix of active and natural processes to sustain ecological systems and fish and wildlife habitat. It provides a mix of motorized/non-motorized recreational activities in the summer and winter, recommends development of facilities to accommodate public demand on the Kenai Peninsula recreational settings. The No Action Alternative provides a variety of natural resource products including forest products and minerals. It recommends Wilderness in portions of the Forest. No recommendations are

made for Wild and Scenic Rivers. A network of Research Natural Areas is recommended. Subsistence activities are emphasized.

Because of its focus on multiple uses, and with consideration given to the aforementioned discussion, staff endorses the No Action Alternative with the following advisory.

It is the opinion of Staff the No Action Alternative provides the best combination wildlife, habitat, recreation, and resource management. ***However, the proposed "trails and routes management" (see attachments D) for the Forest within the Kenai Peninsula Borough is entirely inadequate to meet the needs of local winter motorized use.***

According to the Forest Plan Revision:

Management direction may be amended as the need arises. The need to amend the management direction may result from:

- Recommendations of an Interdisciplinary Team, based on the results of monitoring and evaluation.
- Determinations by the Forest Supervisor that existing or proposed projects, permits, contracts, cooperative agreements, or other instruments authorizing occupancy and use are appropriate, but not consistent with elements of the Revised Forest Plan management direction.
- Administrative appeal decisions.
- Planning errors found during Forest Plan implementation.

It is Staff's perspective that the trail closures represented in attachments D are either in error or that they are not consistent with the management direction described in the No Action Alternative. Therefore, Staff suggests that the KPB Planning Commission request that this specific management direction be substantially amended or revised to better reflect the needs and perspectives of local Forest users.

Therefore, Staff recommends that the Planning Commission:

1. Endorse the No Action Alternative.
2. Require the Forest Service revise the No Action Alternative trails and routes management practices to meet local concern for motorized winter recreation access.
 - a. Recommend that the Forest Service actively maintain trails and routes access to allow entry to all areas for winter-motorized use within the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

While reviewing the staff report, Mr. Bevington noted additional written comments had been received. Color maps of the alternatives were included in the mailout packet.

END OF STAFF REPORT

Chairman Hammelman read the rules by which public hearings are conducted and opened the meeting for public comment.

- 1 Ann Whitmore-Painter, Box 516, Moose Pass

Ms. Whitmore-Painter did not plan to testify on this matter. She just left a public meeting for the Chugach National Forest Proposed Revised Land Management Plan currently underway at the high school. Although slightly more controlled than the public hearing that was recently held in Moose Pass, participants are engaged in heated debate. She did not think the Borough would be wise to take a strictly motorized view of the trail issues. Most people screaming at each other at the high school are skiers and snowmachiners. Ms. Whitmore-Painter thought it would be prudent for the Borough to avoid taking sides on this issue. She understood the staff report recommended opening the Resurrection Pass for motorized use year around. Currently, this trail is not open year round for motorized use. Ms. Whitmore-Painter cautioned the Commission in conjunction with their recommendations.

2. Jonathan Sewall, Forest Acres, Seward

Mr. Sewall also did not plan to address this issue. He noted about 200-250 people are attending a public meeting on this issue at the high school. It seemed like poor planning by the Forest Service. He realized the Commission held regularly scheduled meetings. To schedule a public hearing the same date as the Commission's public hearing for the same issue appeared to be more than a coincidence. Mr. Sewall expressed confidence many people would like to present testimony. He agreed that the Borough Administration's recommendations went too far toward support of motorized uses. He thought a balance needed to be achieved on all trails in the Borough but not to the exclusion of motorized use. By stating recommendations so strongly in favor of only motorized uses, it makes an inappropriate and prejudicial support of only one use. Mr. Sewall voiced concern about lack of provision for additional protection of wild and scenic rivers, especially the north fork of the Snow River, in the No Action Alternative. This portion of the Snow River has been proposed as a wild and scenic river in other alternatives. This designation would preclude damming and some motorized use on frozen surfaces. Mr. Sewall thought more flexibility was needed in the way Borough Administration supported the Plan. He did not object to the No Change Alternative, but he opposed the addendas.

3. Bacci Perata, Bear Lake

Mr. Perata had also attended the public meeting at the high school. He thought many comments would be made regarding motorized use at Lost Lake.

4. Rolf Bardarson, Box 1252, Seward

Mr. Bardarson noted the timing of the two public hearings for the subject plan was odd. He asked the Commission if they could postpone action. Both skiers and snowmachiners have valid viewpoints. He liked both activities. Many issues are being addressed at the other public hearing. Mr. Bardarson thought having separate areas was a good idea. He asked the Commission to tread lightly and hear the other people who are not present.

Seeing and hearing no one else wishing to comment, Chairman Hammelman closed the public hearing and opened discussion among the Commission.

Commissioner Gannaway asked Ms. Whitmore-Painter if minutes would be available or if the public hearing at the high school was being recorded. Chairman Hammelman recognized Ms. Whitmore-Painter. Ms. Whitmore-Painter replied someone was taking notes, but no official minutes would be prepared. Public comment is being taken. The Forest Service said written comments would carry the most weight. Requests for copies of the meeting notes can be directed to the District Ranger, Mike Kenia.

Commissioner Hohl understood other trails, like Manitoba and Turnagain Pass, in the Borough were restricted in conjunction with snowmachine use. She asked if staff's recommendation would open these areas up for this use. Ms. Whitmore-Painter replied yes.

Chairman Hammelman recalled Ms. Whitmore-Painter commented that staff's recommendation would open areas up to year round motorized vehicles. Ms. Whitmore-Painter understood that was staff's recommendation.

Commissioner Skogstad asked Mr. Bright to elaborate about staff's recommendations, e.g. motorized use, no emphasis on designating recreation or wild and scenic rivers. Mr. Bright deferred to Mr. Bevington as he had discussed the plan with community groups and trail user groups and was the most appropriate person to review Borough Administration's perspective on this matter.

Commissioner Troeger called a point of order; no motion was before the Commission. Chairman Hammelman noted he considered the discussion a continuation of the staff report since more information would be provided. He entertained a motion.

MOTION: Commissioner Troeger moved, seconded by Commissioner Bayes, that the Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission recommend adoption of the Preferred Alternative.

Commissioner Troeger intended to support staff to the extent possible, but he did not support staff's recommendation on this matter. He supported the Preferred Alternative proposed by the Chugach National Forest. It has been 16 years since the Forest Plan has been revised. Many changes have occurred throughout the Kenai Borough during this time. Commissioner Troeger believed it was timely for the Forest Service to revise their Forest Management Plan. The Preferred Alternative emphasizes a mix of motorized and nonmotorized opportunities for recreational tourism, primarily nonmotorized in the summer and motorized in the winter. The Forest Service is trying to recognize the public's demand for motorized use in the winter as well as the public's demand for quiet use. Commissioner Troeger believed the Preferred Alternative tried to find solutions to satisfy both user groups (motorized users and quiet sports). He understood both groups would probably never be completely satisfied. It is imperative the Commission address the other alternatives. He felt the Preferred Alternative addressed all user groups. He supported the Preferred Alternative, rather than No Action. The No Action Alternative is relevant to uses 16 years ago.

Chairman Hammelman noted Mr. Bevington would proceed with his presentation, and the Commission could continue their discussion after he concluded his comments.

Mr. Bevington showed the Commission a map of the Preferred Alternative and read a description included in the Plan:

The Preferred Alternative emphasizes natural processes across the forest with active management in selected locations for resource management or forest restoration. Emphasize natural processes across the forest with active management in selected locations for sustained fish and wildlife habitat. Emphasizes a mix of motorized and nonmotorized opportunities (primarily nonmotorized in the summer and motorized in the winter). Emphasizes development facilities and recreation settings, where appropriate, adjacent to roads and marine waterways. Emphasize undeveloped recreation settings across most of the Forest. Emphasize personal use and small-scale commercial (non-chargeable) forest products. Provide opportunities for mineral development. Opportunities are present for mineral development in most areas with moderate to high mineral potential. Recommend designations of wilderness within the Wilderness Study Area and portions of the Copper River Delta. Provide representative ecological types with a Research Natural Area network. Recommend a mix of Wild and Scenic Rivers for designation in different ecological processes.

On the Kenai Peninsula the Preferred Alternative emphasizes active management due to the variety of current human uses and projected resource management activities (prescribed fire, bark beetle restoration, recreation/tourism, etc.).

A variety of prescriptions are applied across the Kenai Peninsula to accommodate the existing high human use and projected resource management projects. Maintain the natural appearing character along the Seward Highway Scenic Byway. Apply the Fish, Wildlife, and Recreation prescription in selected sites along the Seward Highway, Sterling and Portage Highways and most adjacent existing roads (trailheads, campground access roads, forest development roads, etc.). The prescription is generally used three quarters of a mile on either side of the highways. Apply the Forest Restoration Prescription generally within three-quarters of a mile either side of the Hope and Resurrection Creek Roads and most adjacent existing roads. These prescriptions allow for developed recreation facilities and restoration of spruce bark beetle infested stands.

The majority of the Kenai Peninsula is open to winter motorized activities and closed to summer off highway vehicles. To address the interest of natural quiet and nonmotorized opportunities, two prescriptions are used. The Backcountry Prescription (nonmotorized emphasis) is applied to relatively accessible areas adjacent to existing transportation routes in the following general areas: Kern Creek, Peterson Creek, Crow Pass, Bear Valley, Seattle Creek, Tincan Peak, Manitoba Mountain, Johns Creek, and east Bear Lake (Tiehack Mountain). The Developed Recreation-Reduced Noise Prescription is applied to selected campgrounds and areas: Coeur d'Alene Campground, Grandview (site to be determined along the Alaska Railroad), Primrose, and two areas adjacent to the Seward Highway and Sterling Highway junction. The Twentymile River drainage is managed for nonmotorized/motorized activities using the Backcountry and Scenic River Prescriptions with the following conditions:

Snowmachine use is allowed in alternate years starting January 1st of each odd year (2003, 2005, etc.).

On even years, the area is closed to snowmachine use.

Winter aircraft access is allowed annually in planning units K298, K299, K301, K302, K310, and K312 and

in all planning units on odd years.

Summer motorized watercraft and fixed wing airplanes are allowed within the Scenic River Prescription area annually.

In the Placer River Valley winter and summer helicopter recreation activities are allowed. No summer off highway vehicle use is allowed. Existing snowmachine use to Blackstone Glacier is maintained. A potential recreation development adjacent to Spencer Glacier is provided. In the Skookum Glacier (K336) and Winner Creek Areas (K291 and K292) recreational activities using snowmachines and summer off highway vehicles are not allowed. Along the Alaska Railroad corridor from Portage to Moose Pass allow for the development of a Whistlestop campground and recreation cabin development.

Provide for additional Forest Service recreation cabins and trails associated with dispersed recreation activities. Provide for potential expansion of several existing campgrounds and developed sites including: Primrose, Quartz Creek, Russian River, Cooper Creek, Ptarmigan and Trail River campgrounds and the Eagle Glacier Nordic Training Center. The Resurrection Pass Trail and adjacent area is managed as a nonmotorized/motorized timeshare. Motorized activities will occur between December 1st and February 15th in several planning units.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is currently evaluating options for improving highway traffic between Milepost 45 and 60 of the Sterling Highway through Cooper Landing. This alternative will provide for consideration of the Juneau Creek option shown on the Preferred Alternative map. Along the Seward Highway, from Ingram Creek to the Sterling Highway junction, snowmachine use is allowed from December 1st to March 31st annually. This applies to several planning units.

Motorized suction dredges and equipment are allowed on Bertha Creek for recreational gold panning consistent with forest policy on suction dredge and equipment sizes. (This is an exception to the Backcountry Prescription due to the existing high use of recreational gold panning).

The eastern half of the Lost Lake area is managed as a nonmotorized/motorized timeshare. Winter motorized recreation activities can occur between December 1st and March 31st for K-212, 255, 268, 269, 270, 271, 274, and 275 planning units. In the remainder of the Lost Lake area winter motorized activities may continue as long as snow conditions allow.

The Kenai Lake/Black Mountain Research Natural Area is recommended for Research Natural Area designation to represent needle leaf forest (including Lutz spruce), alpine tundra types and remnant alpine glaciers.

The following Wild and Scenic Rivers are recommended for designation.

- East Fork Sixmile Creek (Recreational) - Whitewater boating, scenery, and visual features.*
- Sixmile Creek (Recreational) - Whitewater boating, scenery, and visual features.*
- Twentymile River (Scenic) - Fish and wildlife habitats and scenery.*
- Portage Lake (Scenic) - Scenery, visual features, and recreational values.*
- Portage Creek (Recreational) - Scenery and visual features.*
- Portage Glacier (Wild) - Scenery, visual features, and recreational values.*
- Snow River (Scenic) - Scenery & visual features.*

Emphasize important brown bear habitat and corridors with special emphasis on Russian River, Crescent Lake, and Lower Trail Creek. Provide opportunities for management activities such as increased recreation opportunities and bark beetle restoration near Cooper Lake, Grant Lake, Ptarmigan Lake, and north Resurrection Creek. Emphasize conservation of moose, sheep, brown bear, and goat habitat in the Cooper Landing area, Trail and Palmer Creeks. Allow winter and summer helicopter/dogsled activities on Godwin Glacier.

Mr. Bevington noted the fish, wildlife, and recreation prescription occurred now over most of the forest. The description of the different areas within each alternative is significant. He showed the Commission examples of a Fish, Wildlife, and Recreation Prescription; Brown Bear Core area; Backcountry Prescription; Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat

Conservation; Backcountry Motorized Prescription; and Wilderness Prescription. Mr. Bevington estimated 85 percent of the trails under the Preferred Alternative would be closed to snowmachine use.

Commissioner Skogstad inquired about the reasons behind staff's recommendation of No Action. From the information in the packet, it appears the Preferred Action provided more for a general use population. Mr. Bevington replied the majority of comments he received stated they did not want discrimination of uses in small areas, which the Preferred Alternative appeared to do. The Preferred Alternative seemed easier for the Forest Service in terms of management since defined prescriptions for individual units throughout the Forest would be in place. Mr. Bevington noted it seemed like the Forest Service was trying to compartmentalize certain areas within the Forest with the Preferred Alternative in conjunction with the various activities of forestry, re-forestation, brown bear management, research, etc. This alternative created areas that limit certain activities. The Mayor's office was concerned about some backcountry areas with existing trapping or mining claims that might be denied motorized access under the Preferred Alternative. Many comments reflected a concern about the possibility of limiting access. Mr. Bevington thought the No Action Alternative compelled the Forest Service to work harder in terms of managing certain areas. Commissioner Skogstad remarked that this was a good analysis. He concurred the Forest Service was trying to compartmentalize, or specify designations for certain areas, which would make the Forest easier to manage. He lived within the National Forest and was a user of timber products. Often, the entire lengthy EIS process has to be done for various activities.

Commissioner Bayes supported the Preferred Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative the number of acres in management prescription for backcountry motorized is zero. Under the Preferred Alternative the number of acres in management prescription is 373,000. The No Action alternative shows 361 miles of motorized trails available. The Preferred Alternative shows 639 miles of motorized trails available within a 10-year period. When no parameters are set, a proposed use has to be compared with every possibility, which makes the process cumbersome. Commissioner Bayes noted the conflicts tended to stop anyone from doing anything. She understood the preference was for balance. She liked to ride snowmachines to check out areas in which to ski. Sometimes she asked her family to pack a trail for skiing. She thought the majority of those on the Peninsula agreed that balance is good. Commissioner Bayes thought the Forest Service took a big step in the three years in which they have worked revising the Forest Plan. She liked the process the Forest Service used in seeking public comment and not assuming they had all the answers. She concurred with Commissioner Troeger that 16 years ago the Borough did not have the same conditions, tourism industry, or the potential for winter tourism. During a recent community meeting in Anchor Point comments were made that motorized trails would be acceptable if the snowmachines were quiet. Presently, some snowmachine companies manufacture four stroke engines with that goal in mind. Commissioner Bayes believed the Preferred Alternative struck a balance and provided some direction. She understood some case-by-case reviews would be conducted, but this alternative had parameters that would make it more effective for all Borough residents.

AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION: Commissioner Hohl moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to modify No. 2 of staff's recommendations as follows:

2. *Require the Forest Service revise the Preferred Alternative trails and routes management practices to meet local concerns.*

Commissioner Hohl noted the Commission was not privy to the testimony being given at the Forest Service's public hearing at the high school. The Commission also did not have the Preferred Alternative trail list. She thought some trails needed to be addressed by the local communities, and a recommendation to approve the Preferred Alternative would not recognize this matter. She wanted the Commission to acknowledge that some issues with trails needed to be worked out at the local level.

Commissioner Bayes noted Ms. Whitmore-Painter was present. Commissioner Bayes asked if the KPB Trails Commission was involved in the development of the Preferred Alternative. Ms. Whitmore-Painter indicated no.

Commissioner Bayes asked if a comparison between the No Action Alternative and Preferred Alternative had been done and if a list was available. Mr. Bevington replied that he had a list for the Preferred Alternative. The list showed the miles, vehicles, each activity, and availability. He offered to read the information. Commissioner Bayes replied no, she just wanted to know that the information was addressed in the Plan.

Commissioner Johnson asked Mr. Bevington if the Preferred Alternative would close 85 percent of the trails to snowmachines. Mr. Bevington replied that 85 percent of the trails on the list would be closed under the Preferred

Alternative.

Commissioner Bayes asked if all the trails were open under the No Action Alternative or if some of them were closed now. Under the No Action Alternative many trails are closed. Mr. Bevington replied the present management plan would close some trails, which is the problem with the No Action Alternative in terms of meeting local needs. Overall, it appeared this alternative did not address the various concerns.

Commissioner Martin asked if trails would be closed alternatively (year on; year off). Mr. Bevington replied he reviewed numbers. He thought trails needed to be reviewed locally on an individual basis before any alternative was chosen.

In response to an inquiry by Vice Chairman Bryson, Chairman Hammelman re-stated the amendment.

Commissioner Hohl asked staff if it was imperative for the Commission to take action during this meeting. Mr. Bevington said the deadline to submit comments was December 14. Chairman Hammelman noted the Commission would meet November 27 and December 11.

Commissioner Skogstad voiced reluctance to submit comments to the Forest Service that included requirements. He could envision how he would feel if the Forest Service submitted comments to the Commission that stated requirements.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT: Commissioner Hohl modified her amendment to replace the word *requirement* with *recommend*. Commissioner Johnson concurred. No objection was heard.

- 2 *Recommend the Forest Service revise the Preferred Alternative trails and routes management practices to meet local concerns.*

VOTE: The amendment as modified by friendly amendment passed by a majority vote.

HAMMELMAN YES	BRYSON YES	BAYES YES	BOSCACCI YES	GANNAWAY YES	HENSLEY ABSENT
HOHL YES	JOHNSON YES	MARTIN YES	SKOGSTAD NO	TROEGER YES	NINE YES ONE NO ONE ABSENT

Chairman Hammelman re-stated the motion before the Commission.

Commissioner Bayes inquired about the date of the next Trails Commission meeting. Ms. Whitmore-Painter replied December 7. She did not think the Chugach Forest Revised Plan was on the agenda.

Commissioner Bayes noted the amendment recommended that the Forest Service revise the Preferred Alternative trails and routes. She thought the Trails Commission members would be the most apt to be knowledgeable about the issues. Input from the Trails Commission could be more specific to a review of the Preferred Alternative. If other areas of the Plan were not sensitive to local concerns, the Trails Commission could point them out.

Commissioner Troeger commented the document before the Commission was a plan. The plan did not indicate certain trails would be closed although trail closures may be recommended. He did not have information that 85 percent of the trails would be closed. He doubted the Plan would make this statement. The Plan set parameters on how the Forest Service will administer the various trails in the future. Commissioner Troeger did not believe issues about certain trails being closed to motorized vehicles was before the Commission today. The Plan covered much more than trail management. It is a major Plan for a very large area, some of which did not affect the Borough. Commissioner Troeger commended the Forest Service for conducting an in-depth review and proposing several alternatives. He supported the Preferred Alternative.

Commissioner Skogstad supported the Preferred Alternative. He concurred with Commissioner Troeger that the Plan dealt with much more than motorized or nonmotorized use. He was quite familiar with Sixmile River. During the past 16 years, use of Sixmile and East Fork has increased tremendously. Thousands of people utilize these waterbodies. At the least, it needs to be designated a recreational river, which the Preferred Alternative does. Many issues have been dealt with in the Preferred Alternative, e.g., timber harvests are allowed (personal use and small commercial),

mining. Personal use and small commercial logging is appropriate for the Hope area, which does not have much big timber. Commissioner Skogstad believed the Preferred Alternative met many different needs. He supported the Preferred Alternative.

Commissioner Gannaway wondered if the Commission should postpone action. Chairman Hammelman commented some people at the other public hearing for this issue might want to testify before the Commission. The Commission could take action during this meeting or postpone to the next meeting (November 27).

MOTION: Commissioner Skogstad moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to postpone action to November 27, 2000.

Commissioner Skogstad was ready to vote, however, other public meetings for this Plan are scheduled:

Seward High School, November 13
Cooper Landing, November 14
Hope, November 15
Soldotna, November 17

Commissioner Skogstad was unsure if staff would attend any of these public meetings. He planned to go to the meetings in Hope and Cooper Landing to listen to the public comments. He noted it might be beneficial for the Commission to hear these comments before taking action.

VOTE: The motion passed by a majority vote.

HAMMELMAN YES	BRYSON YES	BAYES YES	BOSCACCI YES	GANNAWAY YES	HENSLEY ABSENT
HOHL YES	JOHNSON YES	MARTIN YES	SKOGSTAD YES	TROEGER NO	NINE YES ONE NO ONE ABSENT

Chairman Hammelman said this meeting would be scheduled for the Commission's next meeting, which will be held in Soldotna on November 27, 2000.

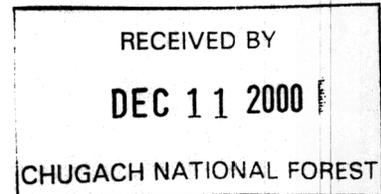
CITY OF CORDOVA



26764

December 8, 2000

Mr. Dave Gibbons
Forest Plan Revision
Chugach National Forest
3301 C Street, Suite 300
Anchorage, Alaska 99520



Mr. Gibbons,

After lengthy discussion at the regular Cordova City Council meeting of December 6, 2000, the City Council reaffirmed their position as stated in Resolution 04-00-21, dated April 5, 2000. I have enclosed a copy of this resolution for your information.

To summarize the resolution, the Cordova City Council supports management of the Copper River Delta under the 501(b)2 management prescription, whose primary purpose "is the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitat." The Council does not support 501(b) wilderness or scenic river designation for any of this area.

Thank you for the time and effort with this plan, we look forward to positive management of our valuable resource.

Sincerely,

Larry Hancock
City Manager

**CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 04-00-21**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORDOVA,
ALASKA TO SUPPORT THE PROTECTION OF THE FISHERIES RESOURCE
AND HISTORIC COMMERCIAL FISHERIES' ACCESS TO IT IN THE USFS
PLAN REVISION PROCESS**

WHEREAS, the commercial fishing industry is the social and economic base for Cordova; and

WHEREAS, locally the industry contributes on average more than 70 million dollars yearly to the economy of the State of Alaska, and directly or indirectly employs 75% of Cordova residents; and

WHEREAS, the sustainable management, enhancement and harvest of commercial fish is dependent on our ability to continue to utilize the Chugach National Forest in ways that are consistent with traditional use of these areas; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest service is preparing to adopt a new forest management plan that may change the management designation of areas in the Chugach National Forest, possibly affecting some of these traditional uses by designating these areas as "Wilderness"; and

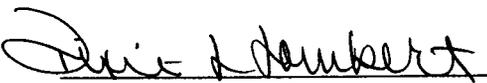
WHEREAS, wilderness designation complicates the consideration and implementation of many projects that directly affect fisheries, potentially impacting this important industry,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the City of Cordova joins with the Cordova District Fishermen United and area processors in requesting that this area be designated under the 501(b)2 management prescription, whose primary purpose "is the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitat."

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 5th DAY OF APRIL, 2000



Ed Zeine, Mayor



Dixie L. Lambert



RECEIVED

200 NOV -6 PM 4: 42

November 1, 2000

22331

The Honorable Senator Ted Stevens
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: **Forest Service Area Closures**

Dear Senator Stevens:

I am writing in opposition to the closure of any more forest service land to snow-machine and other off road vehicle and equestrian use. Many Alaskan businesses rely on winter recreation as well as summer. The closure of these important recreational areas will affect Alaska not only economically but we, as Alaskans will lose the opportunity to enjoy our beautiful state.

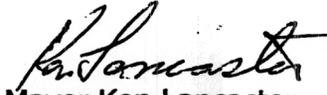
As an example, Resurrection Pass Trail System; snow-machiners are allowed to use the system once the Forest Service says there is enough snow cover, usually around Thanksgiving, and closes it near the end of February, when the days begin to get longer and warmer. This is not a big window of time to enjoy the riding offered there. Cross-country skiing, hiking and snow-shoeing is not limited to the same time frame, but is allowed all year. Turnagain Pass; one side of the highway for the different activities is not bad, but to completely close areas is not acceptable. The Kenai Peninsula has two snow-machine clubs that are very active in winter recreation. The number of members increases each year. If these State lands are closed there will be a tremendous impact on the areas that are open by the increased traffic alone. With more people crowded into smaller areas the rate of accidents will go up.

As a life long snow-machiner, hiker and Alaskan, these closures are just not acceptable. You're proposing to do the same at Denali National Park (i.e. McKinley), who will be able to enjoy its beauty?

22331

Please do not restrict Alaskans to anymore use of our State.

Respectfully,



Mayor Ken Lancaster
City of Soldotna
KL/kw

cc: Dale Bagley, Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members
Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission
Michael Kania, Seward District Ranger, Chugach National Forest
Dave Gibbons, Forest Supervisor, Chugach National Forest
Rick Cables, Regional Forester, USDA, Forest Service
Brian Alexander, A-1 Enterprises, Inc.

Senator Murkowski and Congressman Young were also sent original letters.