

*Helicopter Skiing Community Monitoring in Moose Pass, Alaska
Results from the Interactive Community Forum*

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Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	1
Project Background	4
Interactive Community Forum (ICF) Methodology	6
Findings.....	14
Interactive Community Forum Participants	14
Baseline Community Assessment 2004	15
Quality of Life Indicators and Assessment	19
External Agents of Community Change	21
Perceived Community Impacts from Helicopter Skiing Expansion	23
ICF Process Findings (Participant Feedback and Observations)	27
Discussion	27
Representativeness of Participants	27
Historic Changes	28
Baseline Community Assessment (2004)	28
Quality of Life (QOL) Indicators	29
Critical Positive and Negative Future Change Agents	30
Perceived Beneficial and Adverse Effects from Helicopter Skiing ROD Implementation	31
Recommendations	32
Works Cited.....	34
Appendix A	35
Appendix B.....	39
Appendix C.....	45
Appendix D	50
Appendix E.....	55
Appendix F.....	58

Executive Summary

The purpose of the Moose Pass Interactive Community Forum was to assess the social perspectives of Moose Pass residents prior to the expanded first year exploratory permit for commercially guided helicopter skiing on the Kenai Peninsula, forecast perceived impact resulting from expanded helicopter operations, and establish the basis for potential ongoing community monitoring under the provisional one-year exploratory units. The primary objectives of the community forum were to:

- Explore and verify changes that have taken place in Moose Pass since 1960;
- Record residents' judgments of the Moose Pass current (2004) situation;
- Identify and prioritize Quality of Life indicators important to Moose Pass residents;
- Identify potential change agents in the near future;
- Identify and record residents' judgments, attitudes and beliefs about how their community might be affected by implementation of the Chugach National Forest (CNF) Helicopter Skiing Record of Decision (ROD); and
- Explore options with the community for follow-up collaborative monitoring of potential impacts of expanded helicopter skiing.

An Interactive Community Forum (ICF) was conducted on November 6th, 2004 during a 4.5 hour public workshop in Moose Pass with 20 adult community members participating. The attendees of the ICF participated in a set of interactive, structured, group activities designed to facilitate dialogue and debate between varying community viewpoints and promote public judgment rather than solely capture public opinion. The ICF included activities that addressed each of the forum objectives. Key dimensions of community were used throughout the ICF to provide structure to the discussion and to represent four broad components of communities: 1) "*People*" (the community's social make-up); 2) "*Jobs & Wealth*" (community's economy); 3) the "*Place*" (the characteristics of the natural and built environment); and 4) "*Vision & Vitality*" (organizational or leadership capacity).

It is important to note that this assessment was conducted one month following the release of the ROD and during the final week of appeals for the decision, potentially at the peak of the controversy regarding helicopter skiing. While this situation undoubtedly influenced the discussions and the attitudes and beliefs generated and recorded during the ICF, the intent of the design was to capture the range of perceptions and attitudes within the community at this point in time. We believe this was successfully achieved. The findings however should be interpreted with this potential limitation in mind.

The assessment of the community's current situation indicates that respondents rated *People*, *Place* and *Vision & Vitality* dimensions positively with *Jobs & Wealth* receiving a much lower rating. Participants indicated that the *People* dimension was highly rated, in part due to the strong sense of community and the overall cohesion of local residents and their values. Likewise *Place* received high ratings attributed to the natural beauty of the area, but with negative assessments stemming from the summer floatplane noise, traffic, and congestion. *Vision & Vitality* were also highly rated and justified in part due to high levels of civic involvement and strong leadership from the Sportsman's Club. Current *Jobs & Wealth* received the lowest ratings as some respondents described limited economic opportunities and high reliance on commuting for employment.

Respondents identified and prioritized key quality of life indicators for the community as related primarily to the beauty of the natural environment and the shared values among residents and the

positive relationships within the community. Three possible external change agents were identified by participants that would adversely affect their community. These included the impacts and approaches of Forest Service management in the area (e.g. a pro-development agenda and expanded helicopter skiing), increases in tourism and recreation, and the community school shutting down. The drivers of these changes included other regional agencies in addition to the CNF. Most of these change agents were seen by respondents as outside the direct control of the community.

Overall, respondents perceived adverse impacts across all four community dimensions as a result of expanded helicopter skiing. However the two community dimensions with the highest ratings for the current situation and most strongly connected with quality of life—*Place* and *People*—appeared most threatened by this action, particularly in the long-run beyond the one-year permit. The ratings across each dimension ranged from a slightly beneficial or no change to “very adversely affected and much worse off” in response to the question of how the community might be affected over the first winter of expanded helicopter skiing. It is important to note that those indicating little to no change qualified their ratings by stating that this only applied to one winter and not to the overall or cumulative effects of this decision over time. While a range of ratings existed, most respondents believed that helicopter skiing would have a negative impact on the overall *Place* and the community’s quality of life due to increases in winter noise in the area, diminished recreational opportunities, and disturbance to wildlife. Respondents also noted negative impacts on the *People* dimension as a potential loss of good community members and increasing stress within the community. *Vision & Vitality* was also seen as adversely affected due to the fatigue in the community from struggling against this decision, while others noted that this decision would have a positive impact by empowering the community with a shared vision and purpose. Finally, the *Jobs & Wealth* dimension was seen as being less adversely affected, but with no short term benefit to the community and potentially damaging in the long-run if people and businesses leave.

While the ROD called for community monitoring of social impacts from expanded helicopter skiing, community participants expressed little interest in working with the CNF or the assessment team on this task given the timing of this assessment, the ongoing appeals and legal challenges to the adequacy of the decision and the lack of buy-in to the process. While we attempted to promote some type of follow-up to the initial ICF to track changes over the implementation of the ROD, it became apparent that there was no shared vision among participants for a collaborative community monitoring effort. Community respondents indicated that such monitoring would be counter productive since residents would have little influence on the outcome of the final decision. During the course of implementing the ICF, we encountered suspicion as to our motives and the goal of community social impact monitoring. Attempts to promote collaborative community monitoring should be agreed to by all parties prior to the issuance of a ROD and with agreed upon goals and methodology.

The findings of this ICF as well as our participant observations of the process and interactions with community members suggest the following:

1. Respondents strongly value the people and natural characteristics of the community and they hold strong negative attitudes towards the commercial development of the CNF by the private and public sectors and believe these to be agents of change that will impair future quality of life.
2. Assessing the potential impacts of expanded helicopter skiing over one season proved difficult as many respondents discussed the long-term effects of opening this “Pandora’s

Box” and initiating a decline or snowball effect leading to significant cumulative community impacts in the future. Respondents perceived no real limit on where this decision might lead. Additionally, the ROD appeared to increase respondents’ perceptions of loss of control over their community future as many believe that their input was not heard in the planning process, thus exacerbating perceptions of future mismanagement of the public lands surrounding the community. The perceptions and beliefs about the direct impacts of expanded helicopter skiing may or may not be realized over the first winter ski season, however the attitudes associated with these potential changes and community well-being may be important determinants of the ROD’s community social impacts. These attitudes will likely influence community actions, as well as the perception of actual impacts and the interpretation of actual events, and thus should be considered real social impacts.

3. The level of conflict associated with this decision may be in part due to the perceived threats to deeply held community values of place and community character, lack of faith that their voices are heard and considered, and previous experiences with summer aircraft. Community monitoring of social impacts may have found significant changes caused by the implementation of the ROD, however it is unlikely that such monitoring would address the long term effects perceived by community participants and the high levels of conflict about the rationale for this decision. This conflict, as evidenced by the conduct of this ICF, administrative appeals and subsequent legal action, suggest that more collaborative processes and structures should be considered for Moose Pass and other Seward and Glacier District communities. While the Moose Pass community was resistant to participate in the community monitoring at the time of the ICF, subsequent interactions in the field indicate that there is a willingness to explore new forms of interaction. The purpose of these collaborative structures and processes should be to enhance communication and the quality of public input into management decisions. These processes and structures should be considered once legal actions have been resolved and should be conceived and constructed with mutually agreed upon purposes and roles to provide an ongoing forum for dialogue and deliberation.

Project Background

Controversy over helicopter skiing in the Chugach National Forest (CNF) has existed since the first temporary use permit was issued to Chugach Powder Guides (CPG) in 1997. Citizen concerns regarding this permit are reflected in the 1998 appeal of the five-year operating permit. The settlement agreement allowed operations to continue with the existing number of operators under a series of annual permits, but deferred decisions to issue permits for new activities or areas until after the Forest Plan Record of Decision (ROD) was signed in 2002. CPG has operated under Forest Service special use permits that have varied from 800 to 1,200 client days since the original special use permit was issued (USFS, 2004).

The Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for the Commercially Guided Helicopter Skiing on the Kenai Peninsula project was published in the Federal Register on May 15, 2003. The purpose was stated as “providing helicopter skiing opportunities on the Chugach National Forest and to provide a viable, safe, and high quality recreation experience”. The draft EIS was released for public comment on January 23, 2004. On September 14, 2004 the Glacier District Ranger and the Seward District Ranger signed the Record of Decision (ROD) granting a five year operating permit and a one year permit for exploratory areas.

The stated intent for this action under the CNF Revised Forest Plan was to “provide a spectrum of recreational opportunities supported by special use permits to a variety of businesses supporting recreational opportunities”(USFS, 2004). The CNF stated that in order to balance community concerns with potential growth in helicopter skiing economic benefits, they were striving “to meet the demand for a diverse array of quality recreational opportunities [and] to enhance the health, stability, quality of life, economic vitality and adaptability” of these forest dependent communities” (USFS, 2004).

The 2004 ROD allows CPG to conduct a total of 2,200 client days under existing conditions (core units) and in new locations (exploratory units). The selected alternative authorized 1,800 client days of helicopter skiing under a five year permit on 159,100 acres, and 400 client days of helicopter skiing under a one-year permit on an exploratory 102,600 acres. In response to public input, units included in these exploratory areas and operational restrictions attempted to minimize direct visual and noise impacts to surrounding communities. In order to evaluate the effects of this decision the ROD stipulated specific monitoring requirements including community impact monitoring in Moose Pass (USFS, 2004).

Expansion of USDA Forest Service (USFS) permitted commercial helicopter skiing operations on the Kenai Peninsula has raised public concern in several communities, but particularly in Moose Pass. Comments received in response to the DEIS and six individual appeals of the FEIS and Record of Decision by community members, suggest that some residents are concerned about the potential effects of noise and visibility of helicopter activity, as well as change (or loss) of desired character of surrounding recreation opportunities and settings. Impacts on wildlife were also identified as key concerns. More generally, however, some residents see the proposed activity as one of many possible future changes (whether due to USFS or other actions) to the community that will adversely and incrementally alter the current quality of life in Moose Pass.

Moose Pass is a small, unincorporated community (est. pop of 221) surrounded by the Chugach National Forest. The community is located between the new exploratory units for helicopter skiing, thus the concerns about balancing recreational use and environmental impacts with quality of life that were raised by other communities such as Hope and Cooper Landing, appear to be most evident in Moose Pass as highlighted by extensive comments on the Draft EIS and by multiple appeals of the USFS ROD.

In order to address these concerns, USFS contracted with researchers at Alaska Pacific University's Environmental Science Department to undertake social impact monitoring in the Moose Pass community prior to and potentially following the expanded activity of the first year exploratory permit. Other monitoring detailed in the ROD stipulated studies of impacts to selected species of wildlife, as well as specific requirements for helicopter skiing operator activities. The social impact assessment was designed to provide an in-depth baseline of the community, attitudes and beliefs and project perceived future impacts under the provisional one-year exploratory units.

This study was designed to address the following questions:

- Explore and verify changes that have taken place in Moose Pass since 1960;
- Record residents' judgments of the current (2004) situation in Moose Pass;
- Identify and prioritize Quality of Life indicators important to Moose Pass residents;
- Identify potential change agents in the near future;
- Identify and record residents' judgments, attitudes and beliefs about how their community might be affected by implementation of the Chugach National Forest (CNF) Helicopter Skiing Record of Decision (ROD); and
- Explore options with the community for follow-up and/or collaborative monitoring of potential impacts of expanded helicopter skiing.

Interactive Community Forum (ICF) Methodology

Research Approach

The approach taken for the Moose Pass Community Assessment was a participatory research design using the ICF (Becker, Harris, McLaughlin, & Nielsen, 2002). The goal of the study was to provide a forum for a community-based assessment of impacts of expanded helicopter skiing in the Chugach National Forest. The initial assessment was conducted during a one-day 4.5 hour public meeting in Moose Pass. All of the individuals who attended the community forum participated through a set of interactive, structured group activities designed to promote discussion across varying community viewpoints. The forum enabled the Alaska Pacific University team of social scientists and facilitators to record local perspectives of past and current community responses to economic and social changes, identify and prioritize key elements of quality of life and current and future potential change agents; to assess potential social impacts resulting from the proposed expansion of helicopter skiing; and to create a baseline for evaluating the effects of this new action on the Moose Pass community.

Sampling Design

Snowball sampling targeted 17 different community roles to ensure that a range of potential interests and important perspectives were represented at the forum. These roles included elected official, economic development or business person, civic group affiliation, health care worker, education specialist, historic preservationist, environmental advocate, conservative and liberal perspectives, ethnic minority, newcomer and old-timer residents, senior citizen, youth, land or resource-based production, religious leader, and miscellaneous other active residents. We assumed that these active and involved individuals captured the full range of diversity of knowledge and perspectives within the community, and that they were among the community residents who were most knowledgeable and capable of addressing key issues that could affect the future of their community.

The community forum was open to all residents of Moose Pass. Each of the individuals identified through the snowball sampling method received a formal invitation by phone and in writing. Members of the general public were invited through phone calls, postcards and flyers distributed throughout Moose Pass. Invited community members were also encouraged to invite friends and neighbors and, in such a way, access diverse social networks.

Members of the general public that arrived at the meeting were asked to review the list of roles and self-identify their role(s) within the community. They were then assigned to tables based on these self-reported roles. The purpose of this assignment was to maximize the diversity of community members across tables and thereby the diversity of perspectives included in the facilitated discussions. Only community residents, those calling Moose Pass their home, were invited to attend the forum.

Location and Logistics

We worked with several community leaders to reach a consensus on selecting the time and location for the forum. These leaders expressed concern that the community was “meeting’ed out” due to numerous public meetings recently held in the area and the many meetings associated with this controversial decision. The date selected, it was felt, would fall in between other community planning meetings already scheduled. It should be noted that this date fell the week preceding the ROD deadline for appeals.

The forum was held on Saturday November 6, 2004 from 4:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the local school cafeteria. Daycare was provided for participants’ children in the Sportsman’s Club community center for the duration of the meeting. A local lodge provided dinner and participants contributed to a community potluck dessert.

Upon arrival forum participants were systematically assigned to different facilitated tables, based on self-reported or identified community involvement roles (e.g., business interest, elected officials, civic organization, education, health services, etc.). Each table had a university facilitator and recorder.

Identification of Community Historical Changes

While waiting for the arrival of additional community members and prior to the start of the formal ICF process, those in attendance were asked to provide historical benchmarks and watershed events as a basis for thinking about key dimensions (*People, Place, Jobs & Wealth and Vision & Vitality*) of their community and how these might change over time. These dimensions were referred to throughout the duration of the interactive forum and represented four broad categories of community characteristics: 1) social make-up (or a community’s “*People*”); 2) economy (“*Jobs & Wealth*”; 3) characteristics of the natural and built environment (the “*Place*”); and 4) organizational and leadership capacity (“*Vision & Vitality*”). Several historic events in

Moose Pass dating from present back to 1960, and illustrative of each of the four dimensions, were presented on a large timeline that participants were directed to view as they entered the meeting. Participants were asked to add local events and historic changes to the timeline and identify them by dimension. Key results were then shared with the entire assembly of forum participants as illustrations of each dimension and to chronicle the dynamic nature of community history across these dimensions (Appendix A).

Overview and Clarification

The forum began with an overview of the assessment process, clarification of questions, mutual consensus on the ground rules, and orientation to the community dimension concepts utilized throughout the ICF. The purpose of this introduction was to provide opportunities for individuals to state questions or concerns and to provide a common analytical framework for the entire process (Appendix B).

Baseline Community Assessment 2004

Participants at each table were asked to assess the current 2004 situation in Moose Pass specifically on each of the four community dimensions in the following order: *People, Jobs & Wealth, Place, and Vision & Vitality*. A sheet listing a fairly comprehensive set of characteristics or conditions related to that dimension was reviewed prior to assessment to assist all forum participants to: 1) think about the specifics of that dimension; and 2) provide specific detail as to what aspects of that dimension provided the basis for their assessment (Appendix C).

Beginning with the *People* dimension, the facilitator at each table directed participants to rate the dimensions using a rating form entitled, "Your Community in 2004" (Appendix D). The dimension was rated using a 10-point scale ranging from 1 ("As bad as it could be") to 10 ("As good as it could be"). The purpose of this rating exercise was to stimulate forum participants to think about their community in 2004 in terms of each of the four dimensions. This rating process served as the basis of participant discussion to justify and share with others at their table why they rated a particular community dimension as they did. In addition, this would enable participants a specific numeric point from which to indicate how aspects of that dimension might change in the year 2005 if the helicopter skiing ROD was to be fully implemented as designed.

After a seven to ten minute facilitated discussion of numerical ratings for the *People* dimension, during which participants shared with one another the reasons for their ratings, they were asked to

re-rate that dimension based on any insights from the group discussion. Participants were assured they could keep their initial rating or change it. They were then asked to provide up to three written justifications describing the key characteristics that were the basis of their final numerical rating. They were reminded that written justifications were of equal importance to the numeric rating they had given. The goal was to get participants to specify and explain the "why" behind their rating, based on the community characteristics they considered most important in making their decision. This same process was then repeated to assess the current 2004 situation for the *Jobs & Wealth*, *Place*, and *Vision & Vitality* dimensions.

Quality of Life Indicators and Assessment

Following the baseline assessment participants were asked "What one or two things about the Moose Pass Community would you miss most if it were lost in the near future?" Each individual was given two sheets of paper and directed to silently write their answers on one sheet for each idea. They were then asked to label this critical quality of life idea as either pertaining to the "*People*", "*Jobs & Wealth*", "*Place*" or "*Vision & Vitality*" community dimension. Facilitators asked participants to share their responses with the rest of the table and state why they believed that these elements of quality of life were most important and why they would be missed most if they were lost in the near future.

These sheets were collected, sorted by dimension, then grouped by similar idea and placed on large sheets corresponding to each of the four community dimensions. Participants were asked to review all of the quality of life ideas and to vote for the three idea(s) they felt best captured the essence of quality of life in Moose Pass. The purpose of this activity was to capture and prioritize a range of perspectives about quality of life and community values.

External Agents of Community Change

Most rural communities face many external changes that either positively or negatively affect community life. To discover what the external change agents of concern were to Moose Pass residents, table participants were asked to brainstorm answers to the following question: "What one or two things do you see on the horizon (near future) that may either positively or negatively affect some dimension of your community?" After a few minutes they were asked to share their answers and provide a brief explanation of why they saw this external change as important, and if they felt it was a positive or negative change. Ideas were recorded on flip charts by the table recorder. After all ideas were recorded each participant received three dots and was asked vote on

the change agent(s) that they felt were most critical and would need to be addressed in the near future by the community. The purpose of this activity was to identify and prioritize a range of potential external change agents facing the community.

Impact Monitoring Assessment of Expanded Helicopter Skiing ROD

Information was presented to community members on the contents of the Helicopter Skiing ROD. The research team developed the presentation and CNF staff verified its accuracy. The presentation included the key biological, social and economic concerns addressed in the ROD, results of USFS analyses, scope of the preferred alternative including skiing units and use days across the five-year permitted areas and the one-year exploratory areas, and general operating requirements for implementation and monitoring. Maps were used extensively to show the major characteristics of the ROD, helicopter flight paths, and the results of a noise survey (Appendix E). This information was discussed and clarified with community members to assure that everyone understood the scope, spatial distribution and operating requirements of the ROD.

After presentation of the ROD information, community members were asked to combine these common set of “facts” with their local knowledge to forecast the likely effects their community would experience over the winter of 2005. Using a community impact rating scale and again providing specific written reasons or justifications for those ratings participants were instructed to rate the perceived degree of change for each of the four community dimensions with full implementation of the ROD. This 10-point future community impact scale ranged from -5 (“adversely affected” by the ROD implementation) to +5 (“beneficially affected”), with a mid-point, “0,” which corresponded to their initial rating for each dimension from the baseline 2004 rating (Appendix D). Those forum participants perceiving characteristics of a given dimension as being adversely affected were instructed to rate that dimension with a negative number on the impact rating scale; the more severe the impact was believed to be, the higher the negative value. Those participants perceiving a dimension of their community to be beneficially affected were instructed to rate that dimension with a positive number on the scale. As in the baseline community assessment process, participants provided an initial rating and then engaged in a facilitated dialogue about their perceived impacts. Following the discussion they re-rated the scale and justified their numerical response in writing.

Data Coding and Analysis

The input from the ICF participants included both numerical ratings and written justifications for these ratings. The two types of data and their analysis in this report represent a direct matching of both the quantitative data (numerical scale ratings) and qualitative data (up to three written characteristics or reasons for the numerical ratings) provided by participants for each community dimension. Quantitative and qualitative data were entered into databases. Once all data were entered, they were inspected for typographical errors and corrected.

The quantitative scale ratings, as well as themes and actual text of the reasons given, were analyzed for each community dimension to identify patterns across the groups of participants at the facilitated tables. Scale ratings and figures depicting those ratings are reported for each of the four dimensions for the current situation in 2004 and for the assessment of impact monitoring under the ROD. Due to small number of individuals at each table, group medians and ranges rather than mean scores are reported for each table to more accurately capture the range of perspectives. Ranked responses to quality of life concerns and external change agents were tabulated and presented in rank order.

Standard procedures were followed for coding and analyzing qualitative data (Miles & Huberman, 1994). These data consisted of open-ended responses from the baseline community assessment, quality of life indicators, external agents of change, and the future (2005) impacts rating processes. Analysis of the qualitative justifications followed three key steps. First, categories of broad themes were developed and given a unique code number based on an initial review of the responses. Next, individual participant's responses were assigned the categorical code number that the response most closely matched or else it was assigned a new code. Finally, patterns among these thematic categories were identified, and analytical generalizations from these patterns were made. One researcher initially coded all these data. These data were then independently reviewed and coded by two other researchers. All three researchers then reviewed the data and codes together. Overall, inter-rater reliability was generally high. The few coding differences that were noted were discussed by the researchers and the codes were modified or discarded.

Data summary tables present the coded justifications in three categories: "Across all Groups," "Invited Table," and "Other Tables". The logic underlying the pattern analysis of these qualitative data was that replication of justifications given for participants' ratings across

facilitated groups were critical to identify these ideas that emerged at the tables independently. This concern for replication of justifications was based on the premise that the more a characteristic or reason for a scale rating was repeated across various groups of participants at the meeting, the more salient, meaningful, and relevant that justification was to reflecting the strength of attitude or belief among the respondents and the community (Becker et al., 2002). Thus when a justification or reason was reported at both tables, it was included in the list under the heading "Across All Groups."

The diversity and knowledge of the participants at the invited table (the "Invited Group") and the output of their discussion were deemed to be more reliable in capturing the range of community justifications. These individuals were identified as individuals active and knowledgeable across community roles. Therefore, justifications that were only listed by the invited group also were included in the analysis under a separate heading of the "Invited Group." A key assumption underlying this approach to the analysis was that, along with the information presented at the forum, individual participants were likely influenced by the rich discussion among the wide variety of participants at each facilitated table (Becker et al., 2002). Justifications that were listed by individuals from the "Other" table also presented an important range of perspectives from "self-selected" community residents. The people in this group, while they were determined to be less likely to be highly involved in the community and more likely to represent particular "communities of interest" (such as recreation, business, or travel & tourism), would have unique perspectives and knowledge not possessed by the more diverse group at the invited table. Thus, their justifications were also included as salient reasons in the analysis for the community, and were recorded under the heading of "Other". Because of the large number of justifications, the discussion in the "Results" section of this report emphasizes justifications that were mentioned across all groups at the facilitated tables and thus replicated.

Limitations of the ICF

The findings presented and discussed here should not be considered as representative of the total population of the Moose Pass community. Rather, the findings attempt to capture the range of perspectives within the community and by employing replication logic we attempted to provide some measure of clustering or central tendency among the participants (Becker et al., 2002). Thus the results present a diversity of perceived effects and associated justifications from citizens who are actively involved in their community or were specifically interested in the helicopter skiing issue. Participation in the ICF may have been limited as we were unable to achieve participation

across all community roles. Also, the ratings based on the interval-level scales developed for this research have little utility without the companion use of the qualitative justifications. Results of this assessment, therefore, must be interpreted, understood, and used within the qualitative and quantitative research framework. Care was taken to employ conservative statistical analyses such as the use of median ratings within communities and to use replication logic as opposed to sampling logic to make scientifically defensible inferences.

Another important limitation or caveat to these findings is that the ICF data collection occurred at the close of the ROD appeal period. A strong sense of opposition to the ROD was present during the ICF. Some participants were actively involved in drafting appeals and were resistant to discuss areas in need of monitoring if the decision were to be fully implemented. We believe that we were able to adequately facilitate a discussion to capture the range of perspectives, attitudes and perceived impacts; however interpretation of the findings should bear this in mind.

Finally, this assessment was planned to track the changes in community attitudes, beliefs and perceptions of change over the implementation of the ROD. This report is limited to the initial assessment since there was little interest on the part of the community to contribute to a community-based social impact monitoring project. However many of the findings of the ICF are useful to understand the roots of the conflict and document the attitudes and perceptions regarding this action. These attitudes and perceptions should be considered as important determinants of the actual social impacts of this action.

Findings

Interactive Community Forum Participants

A total of 20 community members (13 female and 7 male) participated in the interactive community forum and were seated at two facilitated tables. At one table were those actively engaged individuals who had been identified through the snowball sampling process as occupying specific roles within the community, and who received formal invitations to the forum (hereafter referred to as the “invited” table). The remaining individuals were seated at a second table, referred to in this report as the “other” table.

The average age of the participants was 45 years, and ranged from 34 to 65 years old. Of the 17 targeted community roles, nine roles were represented at each table, eight roles being common to both tables. Unique roles at each table included the “liberal” role at the “invited” table, and “newcomer” at the “other” table. The roles not filled at either table, nor identified during the snowball sampling process included: historical preservation, land based resource production, conservative, religious leader, native/ethnic, senior citizen, and youth (Table 1).

Table 1: ICF Community Roles

Community Role	Snowball Identified and Invited	“Invited” Table Participation	“Other” Table Participation
Elected Official	x	x	x
Civic Group	x	x	x
Economic/Business	x	x	x
Education	x	x	x
Health Services	x	x	x
Historical	x		
Environmental	x	x	x
Land Resources	x		
Liberal	x	x	
Conservative			
Religious	x		
Native/Ethnic			
Newcomer	x		x
Old-timer	x	x	x
Senior Citizen	x		
Youth	x		
Other	x	x	x

Baseline Community Assessment 2004

Following a presentation of descriptive information about their community, forum participants rated (using a 10-point scale) the extent to which their community situation was good or bad for each of the four dimensions and provided justifications for each of their numerical ratings.

People

The *People* dimension was rated higher by the “other” table with an overall median rating of 8, while the “invited” table had a median rating of 7.5 (Table 2a). Individual responses ranged from 7 to 9 across all forum participants indicating a very high rating for this dimension. Positive justifications such as “great sense of community” and “community spirit is high” were reported across both tables. Other comments such as “caring for each other and a shared reverence of the environment and community” and “people hold the same things dear” indicate shared values and high levels of community cohesion. The “other” table noted an abundance of stable families in the community as well as increasing numbers of young people who are becoming involved in the community. While the “invited” table added that the population is growing and there seems to be adequate wealth in the community.

Both tables felt that the general social makeup of the community was positive with “great community members”, but it was also noted that there is “always room for improvement”. A less positive justification mentioned by the “invited” table is that the community is not ethnically diverse, indicating that if the community were more diverse it would enhance the community.

Table 2a. 2004 Baseline Community Assessment – *People* Dimension Themes

Justification	Themes Replicated Across Both Tables	“Invited” Table Themes	“Other” Table Themes
Positive	Involvement in school/community	Population	Age structure
	Community spirit/ Sense of community	Adequate wealth	General education
	Shared community values/ Community cohesion		Stability of family
	Customs/Lifestyle		
Negative		Diversity	
Both Positive and Negative	General social makeup of community (mostly “invited”)		Transient population

Jobs & Wealth

The *Jobs & Wealth* dimension was rated lower than other community dimensions, with an overall median rating of 4.5 for the “invited” table and 8.5 for the “other” table. Individual responses ranged from 2 to 10 with positive attributes that adequate wealth existed in the community and the economy was improving (Table 2b). Negative justifications mentioned by both groups was the high rates of commuting for residents, stating that “commuting for jobs takes from earnings” and that the high rates of commuting has turned Moose Pass into a “bedroom community” And that the community has limited economic diversity and economic opportunities. The invited table added that inflation and the seasonal economic base influenced their relatively low ratings for this dimension. Both of the tables had mixed feelings (both positive and negative) about a lack of or poor job opportunities in the area (“not many jobs”), but qualified these indicating that “people are doing okay”, and “jobs are not plentiful, but we don’t want them” and that there was little desire for economic growth.

Table 2b. 2004 Baseline Community Assessment – *Jobs & Wealth* Dimension Themes

Justification	Themes Replicated Across Both Tables	“Invited” Table Themes	“Other” Table Themes
Positive		Improving economy	Adequate wealth
			Values of jobs and wealth to community
			Peace and quiet - winter
Negative	Unemployment	Inflation	
	Commute	Seasonal Economic Base	
	Large scale resistance to change	Heli-skiing	
	Low economic diversity		
	Lack of/Poor job opportunities		
Other	Resistance to growth/wealth		Importance of subsistence

Place

The *Place* dimension had a median rating of 8 for the invited table and a 7.5 median rating for the other table. Individual responses ranged from 4 to 10 across all forum participants (Table 2c). Positive justifications that clustered across all groups included the scenery, with the Moose Pass area containing “natural beauty and scenery” and “much local history” with abundant recreation opportunities surrounding the community that are “very accessible”. The “other” table added that the community takes “pride” in their place adding to an enhanced sense of community. The negative justifications mentioned by both tables includes the general noise in the summer such as “increased floatplane noise” and that the “wildlife is seen less and less every year.” Additional negative justifications mentioned by both tables see summer tourism as a negative with increases in noise as well as “increases in traffic and congestion” on the highway that runs through the community. Both tables provided positive and negative justifications for the appearance of the core area – it is improving and is “better”, but the area still “needs improvement.” Both tables indicated the place is completely different between winter and summer. In the summer increases in traffic and congestion are negatives while in the winter the community is “mellow, peaceful and quiet”.

Table 2c. 2004 Baseline Community Assessment – *Place* Dimension Themes

Justification	Themes Replicated Across Both Tables	“Invited” Table Themes	“Other” Table Themes
Positive	Scenery		Community spirit, sense of community
	Recreation opportunities		
	Appearance of core area improving		
	Safety of community		
	Peace and quiet in winter		
	Sense of place, quality of life, attachment to area	Air and water quality	
Negative	General noise - summer		Importance of subsistence
	Wildlife		
	Seasonal changes		
	Traffic, roads, highways, congestion		
Other		Land tenure, ownership	

Vision & Vitality

The *Vision & Vitality* dimension was rated higher among the “other” table members with a median rating of 9, while the “invited” table had a median rating of 7.5. Individual responses ranged from 6 to 10 across all forum participants (Table 2d). Positive justifications across both tables included local civics and politics and that the “local government (Sportsman’s Club) is highly involved” showing that “everyone is willing to help/share ideas” and that the “community pulls off festival every summer.” The positive justifications also included involvement and commitment of the community members as there is “impressive participation”, that “involvement is very high”, and that the community feels empowered and effective because they “pull together” and “stand together.” The “invited” table added that Moose Pass has a strong community volunteer organization and that the community has been receiving more grants while the “other” table indicated that the community is doing a great job of preserving the way of life and the uniqueness of the area. Negative justifications mentioned by the “invited” table included the possibility of heli-skiing as a negative impact, and that the community has been on the “receiving end of negative change” while the community interacts and gives lot of input to agencies with “no response” or the “results are not in the community’s favor.” Both of the tables felt that citizens shared a common vision and purpose, but this was seen as both a positive and a negative because everyone “[cares] about the future” however “they don’t want to see anything change”. The “invited” table indicated that they didn’t have the ability to effect change.

Table 2d. 2004 Baseline Community Assessment – *Vision & Vitality* Dimension Themes

Justification	Themes Replicated Across Both Tables	“Invited” Table Themes	“Other” Table Themes
Positive	Civics and politics	Strong community volunteer organization	Preserve the way of life
	Involvement and commitment to community	Grants, development plans	
	Empowerment of community/community effectiveness		
Negative		Heli-skiing	
		Interaction with agencies	
		Inability to affect change	
Other	Shared vision, purpose		Land tenure, ownership

Quality of Life Indicators and Assessment

A total of 33 discrete quality of life items were generated by forum participants. All but two of which were identified as belonging to either the *People* or *Place* dimensions. For the *People* dimension, three categories emerged including *size/population*, *social interaction/values*, and *people*. *Place* items were emerged into four categories including *access*, *natural beauty*, *peace and quiet*, and *safe environment* (Table3).

The total number of quality of life votes were calculated and totaled based on each category. Two responses dealing with helicopter skiing were identified as applying across all four dimensions. In the *Place* dimension, community members expressed quality of life in terms of “natural beauty” and “peace and quiet”, each receiving 15 votes. Other quality of life *Place* items included “unparalleled beauty and scenery”, “peace and quiet”, as well as and the quality of the natural beauty in Moose Pass (“air, water, beauty, trails, mountains and lakes”).

In the *People* dimension, “social interaction/values” ranked the highest with 12 votes, while “size” and “people” were tied with 7 votes. Quality of life items in these groupings included “caring friends and neighbors” and “people help even without asking”.

Table 3. Quality of Life Indicators

Quality Of Life Dimensions	Totals
Place	
<i>Natural Beauty</i>	15
Love & value quality of MP. Air-water-beauty-trails-mountain-lake. Noise getting worse. (3)	
The ability to enjoy wild land. Land that has not been strongly developed, degraded by human activity. This includes ability to enjoy quiet. (3)	
Natural beauty of the area (3)	
Vastness and beauty (2)	
Peaceful and beautiful, old town spirit, quiet in winter (2)	
Unparalleled beauty and serenity (1)	
It is my hometown, it is beautiful (1)	
<i>Peace/Quiet</i>	15
Quiet (3)	
Peace and quiet (in the winter) sure would be nice to have it all year round (3)	
Solitude (3)	
Quiet (3)	
Peaceful (1)	
Environment-peaceful (1)	
Tranquility (1)	
<i>Access</i>	6
Beautiful scenic place easy access to remote quiet areas, peaceful, quiet, serene winter months (4)	
Recreational opportunities (1)	
Location (1)	
<i>Safe Environment</i>	2
MP is a great place to raise kids-good environment, great school, clean, relatively crime free (1)	
Supportive place for kids (1)	
People	
<i>Interaction/Values</i>	12
Community-people have similar values-work together to get them accomplished (4)	
The good people of this area, not perfect, but warm and sharing and accepting of diversity of opinion (2)	
People-my caring friends and neighbors (2)	
Value people and neighbors, willingness to help each other, care for each other, love each other (2)	
People help even without asking (1)	
People try to maintain family, friendships and values (1)	
<i>Size</i>	7
Size/Connectiveness (4)	
A genuine "small town" (3)	
<i>The People</i>	7
The people that make up the community (4)	
My fellow residents and friends (1)	
Community friends of all ages, beliefs, walks of life. Many many wonderful women friends (1)	
The community members (1)	
All Community Dimensions	
<i>Heli-skiing</i>	12
I value the current absence of anything like heli-skiing. I resent the FS permit that allows heli-skiing and ignores Moose Pass opinion. (8)	
I value the opportunity to appeal the decision to allow heli-skiing. I dread the likelihood that the FS will ignore the appeals. (4)	

External Agents of Community Change

Future change agents potentially affecting the community generated by participants were thematically coded into 6 categories including: tourism/recreation growth, Forest Service actions, DOT road by-pass around community, forest fire, schools, and “other community”. The results are presented in Table 4 and represent the ideas of both the “invited” and “other” table. Positive comments are presented in italics. The relative importance of each change agent is indicated by the number of votes. The two most important critical change factors were Forest Service actions and growth of tourism and recreation. For example under the Forest Service action’s category, the invited table highlighted concerns such as heli-skiing (including additional future ventures) as well the FS hut-to-hut program with only one positive change regarding the successful appeal of the heli-skiing ROD. The “other table” included the FS agenda for development, Forest plans, lack of wildlife habitat monitoring and pressure towards the FS from big business. However, the other table had numerous positive comments including the future change of better planning by the FS, coinciding with the community and considering the community’s thoughts and feelings more frequently in the future on land management decisions.

The “invited” table generated a total of four future change agents under tourism and recreation growth while the “other table” noted only one item. The “invited” table identified a future change being an increasing strain on resources from tourism including flight seeing, hiking and additional motorized use. Only the highway by-pass and road improvements were seen by both groups as positive change agents. Within the community both groups identified the deterioration and possible loss of the local school as a negative change agent.

In the “community other” category, the invited table expressed all positives including additional community projects, future involvement of children in the community and more funds coming in for the public service department. The other table expressed only negative concerns for the development and subdivision of the community as well as the potential growth of seasonal residents in the area.

Table 4: Potential Future Community Change Agents

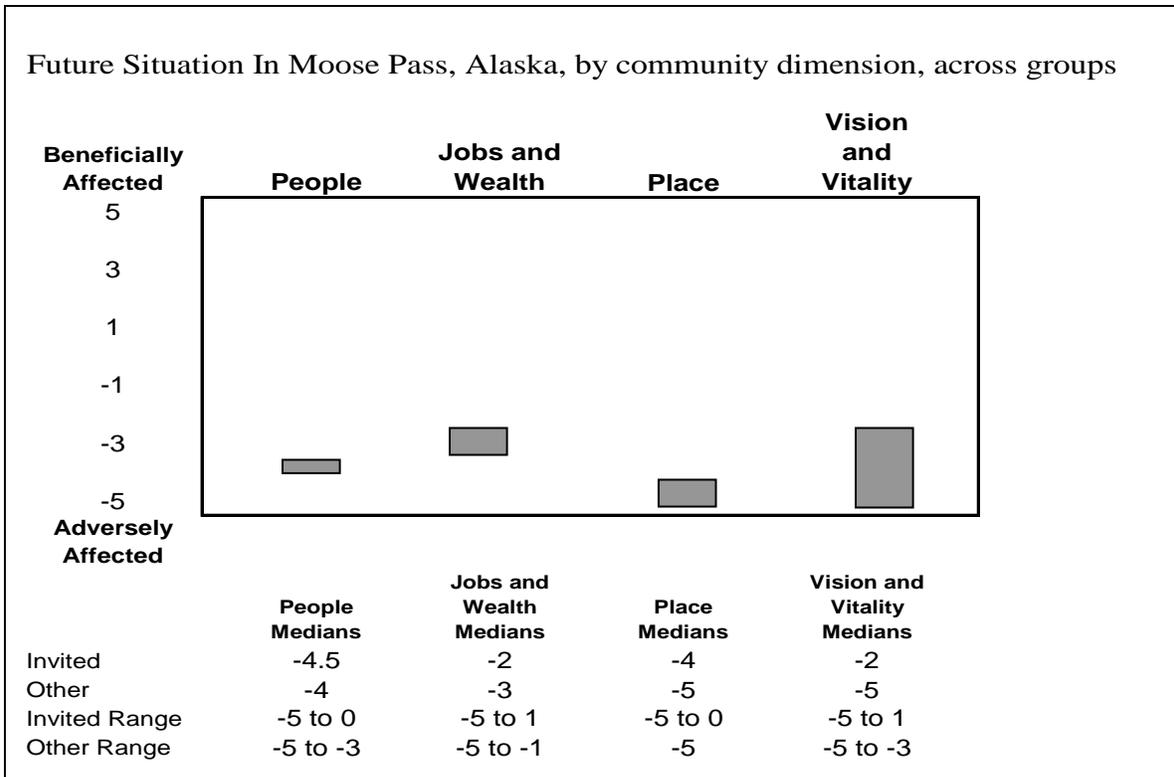
	Invited Table		Other Table	
Overall Votes	Categories/Themes	Total Votes	Categories/Themes	Total Votes
33	Forest Service Actions <i>Successful appeal of ROD for heli-skiing</i> Heli-skiing Additional Heli-skiing ventures Hut to Hut Helicopter hiking	14	Forest Service Actions Forest Service agenda for development Carter/Crescent Forest Plan of motorized/non-motorized <i>F.S. would take into consideration the communities thoughts and feelings</i> F.S. has not done adequate studies regarding wildlife habitat in proposed permit areas Pressure from big business on the Forest Service to expand private profit on public land <i>Better planning on the F.S. part-coinciding with the community</i>	19
13	Tourism/Recreation Growth Additional Motorized noise (planes, helicopters, vehicles, jetskiis) Increase strain on resources from tourism Helicopter flight seeing	12	Tourism/Recreation Growth Increased recreational opportunities for outsiders	1
9	Schools Erosion and Quality of School system	4	Schools Schools shutting down	5
7	Community Other <i>Future kids involvement in community</i> <i>Community Projects-Additional</i>	4	Community Other Borough agenda for subdividing and development of Moose Pass Part time residents-buying homes but not residing here	3
3	Road By-pass <i>Highway By-pass</i> <i>Eventuality of good highway</i>	2	Road By-pass <i>Road going around the town of Moose Pass</i>	1
3	Forest Fire Massive Forest Fire on horizon	1	Forest Fire Danger of catastrophic fire Beetle kill-catastrophic fire	2

Perceived Community Impacts from Helicopter Skiing Expansion

In thinking about the future, participants were asked to consider all of the normal changes that are likely to occur in their community over time, along with specific changes they would expect to result from the USFS helicopter skiing ROD. Community members gave an initial rating of the impacts on their community through the 2005 winter for the *People* dimension (Appendix D). After a facilitated group discussion of how and why their community would be affected or not affected, participants re-rated the community dimension and listed their justifications. A similar rating process was followed for each of the remaining three dimensions.

Using their community's 2004 situation and rating as the mid-point (0) of a 10-point scale, participants then determined the magnitude of adverse (negative) or beneficial (positive) effects to their community. Participants were specifically instructed to focus on adverse and beneficial impacts only on their community over the period of the 2005 winter ski season. Figure 1 depicts the clustering of table medians for each of the four community dimensions.

Figure 1. Median Ratings of Future Situation by community dimension, across groups



People – Future

The median rating for the *People* dimension by the invited table was -4.5 and the other table had a median rating of -4 with overall ratings ranging from -5 to 0 (Figure 1). One person in the invited table stated that helicopter skiing would be a neutral because there was no effect in the short term (i.e., one year) (Table 5a). Negative justifications across all tables included the concern about the population and the potential loss of “good community members” and “people moving out due to noise.” Both tables indicated increasing amounts of stress within the community and the concern of the community members about potential impacts to wildlife in the area. The invited table included the negative justification that helicopter skiing would degrade community cohesion because it “annoys and angers current residents”, that the stability of the family would be strained, and stressed the feeling of helplessness because the “government agencies are not listening.” The other table included the negative justification that community customs and lifestyles will change because residents will “complain instead of enjoy each other” and “property values will suffer” because of the helicopter skiing that will potentially occur around the community.

Table 5a. Rating Justification for the Future Situation – *People* Dimension

	Replication Across Both Tables	Invited Table	Other Table
Neutral		No effect, short term	
Negative	Population	Age Structure	Involvement in school/community
	Community Stress	General Negative	Customs/Lifestyle
	Wildlife	Shared community values/community cohesion	General Malaise
		Stability of Family	Start of Decline
		Helplessness	Property Values
Other		Long term negative effect	

Jobs & Wealth – Future

The median rating for the *Jobs & Wealth* dimension for the future was a -2 for the invited table and a -3 for the other table with individual ratings ranging from -5 to 1 (Figure1). One person from the invited table expressed a neutral justification since there would be no effect in the short term (Table 6b). Justifications were clustered negatively across both groups. These included the

negative impacts on the population, “people leaving”, and that property values will suffer because “people will move.” Both tables also expressed that there would be no benefit from helicopter skiing because there are “no benefits, no wealth and no cash flow” to the community and that existing businesses might leave. The invited table added that there would be no effect in the short term but that the impact of helicopter skiing to the community would be the start of the decline in jobs and wealth and that in the end, helicopter skiing would be a long term negative to the community. The other table indicated that this would affect the seasonal economic base of “B & B’s” in the area.

Table 6b. Rating Justification for the Future Situation – *Jobs & Wealth* Dimension

	Replication Across Both Tables	Invited Table	Other Table
Neutral		No effect, short term	
Negative	Population	Importance of Subsistence	Seasonal economic base
	Lack of/Poor job opportunities	No effect, short term	Lost peace and quiet in winter
	Property Values	Start of decline	Sense of Place, QOL, attachment to area
	No wealth, no benefit to community	Long term negative	
	Business's leaving		

Place – Future

The median rating for the invited table for the *Place* dimension was -4 while the other table had a median rating of -5 with an overall range from -5 to 0 (Figure 1). Justifications provided depicted that community members felt that helicopter skiing would only negatively affect the *Place* dimension (Table6c). Across both tables, participants felt helicopter skiing would have a negative impact on recreational opportunities because of the increase in noise and there would be a “negative disturbance to the wildlife”. The participants also indicated that there would be a negative impact on the sense of place, quality of life and the attachment to the area because the “character of the community would change.” The invited table added that there would be no wealth or benefit to the community and helicopter skiing would increase winter noise and the peace and quiet in the winter would be compromised with the presence of helicopters in the area. The other table also added that the safety of the community would be compromised because helicopter skiing would be a “danger to the public” and that noise pollution in the summer would increase as well. The other table also indicated that one impact would be the increase in seasonal residents to the area.

Table 6c: Rating Justification for the Future Situation – *Place* Dimension

	Replication Across Both Tables	Invited Table	Other Table
Negative	Recreation opportunities	No wealth, no benefit to community	Safety of community
	Wildlife	Appearance of core area improving	General summer noise
	Sense of place, QOL, Attachment to area	General winter noise	Land tenure/ownership
		Peace and quiet in the winter	Distrust in land management
		General Negative	

Vision & Vitality – Future

The median rating for the invited table for the *Vision & Vitality* dimension was -2, while the other table had a median rating of -5 and the overall ratings ranged from -5 to 1 (Figure 1). The positive rating was justified since as a result of the controversy the community had learned “how to deal with a bureaucracy for the future battles, for the community benefit”(Table 6d) However, both tables indicated that the expanded helicopter skiing would be a negative because the community is unable to effect change. The “vision of the future is dim” and it was felt that the community will “shift from a peaceful attitude, and become a community with a fighting attitude.” Essentially both tables noted the fatigue in the community because the “spirit is lost”, “people are worn down” and the overwhelming “sense of defeat.” The invited table added that in the future there will be an increased distrust in land management agencies and that the communities’ vision and purpose will be adversely affected because “people will argue instead of saying hello.” The other table added that the community “must make a stand somewhere” on this issue and it will have a negative impact on the involvement and commitment to the community.

Table 6d. Rating Justification for the Future Situation – *Vision & Vitality* Dimension

	Replication Across Both Tables	Invited Table	Other Table
Positive		Empowerment of community/community effectiveness Shared vision, purpose	
Negative	Inability of effect change	Distrust in land management	Involvement in and commitment to community
	Fatigue of community - spirit and sense of defeat		

ICF Process Findings (Participant Feedback and Observations)

At the close of the ICF, participants were invited to evaluate what they liked about the ICF and offer suggestions on how it could be improved. In general comments received were favorable regarding the methodology, facilitation, and logistics and the valuable opportunity to provide their perspectives (Appendix F). However many felt that the purpose of the ICF was not made clear to the community prior to the forum and more advance notice might have garnered greater participation.

As researchers conducting the ICF we noted a general suspicion and resistance to participate from our early contacts during the snowball sampling. Many questioned how this study might be used against the community and felt that an outreach like this should have been conducted years earlier and not at the close of the appeal period. We believe this suspicion reflects the broader sense of mistrust by the community of the CNF. During our presentation of the information concerning the details of the ROD, we encountered many questions and keen interest in the details of the ROD. We had assumed that all participants were aware of the details of the ROD, and although many were very aware of the specifics, many did not know the full scope of the decision including the monitoring requirements.

Discussion

Representativeness of Participants

The ICF attempted to capture a broad range of local expertise and input regarding community values, beliefs and perceptions. Through snowball sampling we identified and invited residents serving in 15 of 17 roles within the community and, of these, 9 participated in the forum. However, we were not completely successful at capturing all community roles or replicating the groups with a wider range of self-selected community residents. The average age of ICF participants was approximately equal to the average age documented from past USFS community surveys (Crone, Reed, & Schaefer, 2002) . Females were somewhat over represented in the forum and although ethnic/native individuals live in the community we were unable to identify and invite them. It is important to note that this methodology does not attempt to represent the community in a statistical sense rather it strives to capture the range of community knowledge, attitudes and beliefs regarding the effects of expanded helicopter skiing.

Historic Changes

Community participants depicted a changing community economy with more reliance on a micro-scale tourism based recreational economy with the emergence of numerous local lodges and bed-and-breakfasts. Additionally participants depicted an increasing community capacity for leadership and civic engagement through the Sportsman's Club and other community activities. A summary of the documented historic changes by ICF participants is found in Appendix A

Baseline Community Assessment (2004)

Participants in the forum depicted a community in 2004 whose current situation reflects optimism for the *Place, People, and Vision & Vitality*. There exists a strong sense of place, sense of community, and a high overall quality of life as indicated by comments such as the "community members are great", "the beauty of the natural scenery", "opportunities for outdoor recreation", and "incredible peace and quiet in the winter". Negative comments regarding *Place* referred to increasing noise in the summer due to highway and air traffic at the height of the tourist season. Participants also saw the community on the rise in terms of leadership and civic engagement and the ability to obtain outside resources through grants. Participants expressed less sense of agreement on the *Jobs & Wealth* measures and expressed a moderate degree of satisfaction with the current economy. Comments indicated that perhaps the community relies too heavily on seasonal employment, and concern that Moose Pass is becoming a bedroom community with "limited job opportunities" and low pay. Nevertheless, some forum participants felt that people were not too badly off and had mixed feelings about future economic development and growth.

This assessment of the community's current condition is supported by survey research regarding forest values and quality of life in the communities of the Chugach National Forest (Crone et al., 2002). In these surveys Moose Pass ranked in the top five of 17 communities surveyed on overall quality of life, regional amenities (scenery and abundance of special nearby places), civic leadership and social organization (personal attachment to the community and social cohesiveness). Specifically Moose Pass respondents ranked the scenery as contributing to the overall community character. Furthermore their attachment to the community was rated the highest of all 17 surveyed forest communities. Survey respondents also rated Moose Pass economic structure as poor and in comparison to other forest communities it ranks as one of the lowest. These findings support ICF data regarding the predominately negative comments and a mixed assessment of the current situation of *Jobs & Wealth*.

Quality of Life (QOL) Indicators

Participants' identification and prioritization of QOL indicators clearly emerged into two categories: *People* and *Place*. Additionally, ideas regarding the "absence of anything like heli-skiing" which crossed all four dimensions of community life generated strong support in relation to desired quality of life.

The quality of life indicators focused on the *Place* included "unparalleled beauty and scenery", "peace and quiet" as well as the quality of natural setting in Moose Pass including the "air, water, beauty, trails, mountains and lakes." The next most important element of quality of life centered on the *People* dimension with respondents citing "caring friends and neighbors" and "people help even without asking" and elements that maintain the small town feel and intimate interactions within the community. The "absence of anything like heli-skiing activities" framed the value that respondents placed on winter quiet and solitude as opposed to the negative qualities of highway and air traffic noise during the summer. Interestingly no quality of life indicators were attributed to the *Jobs & Wealth* or *Vision & Vitality* dimensions of community. It appears that for many their quality of life is not strongly related to economic advancement or growth but rather maintenance and enjoyment of the social and natural environment.

ICF participant's reported high attachment to both to the natural and human landscape is supported by previous survey research (Crone et al., 2002). In this study, Moose Pass respondents rated their overall quality of life higher than most other communities surveyed. The most important quality of life elements were based in the *Place* and the *People*. These specific references to quality of life included "beauty of surrounding area, "clean air and water" "trustworthy neighbors", "open undeveloped area", "safety", "quite and peaceful", "small-town atmosphere", and local recreational trails (Crone et al., 2002).

The high valuation of these quality of life indicators demonstrates their importance to community members and the predictable negative attitude and resistance towards actions that could potentially degrade these quality of life aspects. It is therefore unsurprising that many community members would have negative attitudes towards expanded helicopter skiing since it could potentially threaten what they most highly value about their quality of life.

Critical Positive and Negative Future Change Agents

ICF participants were concerned with a diverse range of potential negative external change agents. Critical change agents identified by participants focused on factors outside of the control of the community. These included CNF recreational development and the overall private sector growth in commercial tourism and recreation in the areas surrounding the community. Positive change agents included the potential increase in economic opportunities and a desired improvement in the community relationship with the USFS.

Not all USFS actions were seen as negative change agents. Many participants hoped that the USFS would become more cooperative, listen more to the community and that residents could exercise power to stop the expansion of helicopter skiing. Positive change agents also included community based actions such as increasing involvement in the community and the development of additional community projects. Aside from development concerns, participants identified a decline in school enrollment and potential closure of the primary school as a significant negative change agent.

Recent survey research of Moose Pass residents highlights the importance of public land values to ensuring community quality of life, preferences for forest uses, and attitudes towards a desired economic future. The most important public land values to survey respondents included undeveloped/wilderness, clean air and water, hiking/backpacking and skiing. Those values that provided the greatest satisfaction were the scenic landscapes, clean air and water resources, wildlife and quiet areas (Crone et al., 2002).

Preferences for forest uses included ecological and local recreation factors. Ecological use factors favored included fish and wildlife habitat and provision of fresh water while recreation/subsistence use factors included camping and picnicking, wildlife viewing and the gathering of forest products. The most strongly opposed forest uses included commercial exploitation including mining, oil and gas extraction, and helicopter skiing and hiking. Community survey respondents held divergent opinions between supporting and opposing commercial tourism and motorized recreation. In addition, survey respondents expressed a desired economic future that emphasized no change in most economic sectors except for increases in trade, (transportation, communication and utilities) and other services (Crone et al., 2002).

The ICF findings and these recent surveys demonstrate that in general Moose Pass residents are opposed to commercial uses of the forest and see future USFS and private sector recreation and tourism development actions as negative change agents affecting quality of life. The opposition to, and perceived negative impacts from helicopter skiing expansion reflect economic priorities, opposition to specific forest uses and threats to important forest and quality of life values.

Perceived Beneficial and Adverse Effects from Helicopter Skiing ROD Implementation

In general, ICF respondents perceived adverse impacts from the expansion of helicopter skiing across all four community dimensions. However the two dimensions rated strongest under the current 2004 situation and also judged to be critical to quality of life--*People* and *Place* – were perceived as most severely affected by the ROD. Perceived impacts to community *Vision & Vitality* were more divergent and less negative while the assessment of *Jobs & Wealth* was negative but less so than other dimensions. Perhaps the most important finding is the underlying negative attitude towards helicopter skiing both for its potential short and long term impacts.

Participants' responses and ICF discussion indicate that while many were unsure about the actual magnitude of direct impacts during one ski season, there was a belief that this action would start a decline or snowball into more significant impacts in the future. Once this type of development were allowed to occur and grow, the impacts on wildlife, scenery, peace and quiet, and the decline in community population and dynamics, would be exacerbated in future years. We call this the "Pandora's Box" effect. For even those participants that assessed "no change" to their community from implementation of the first exploratory ski season expressed reservations and concerns about the growing negative effects in future years.

While many of the identified impacts were based on perceptions of the expected effects of helicopter skiing that may or may not be realized, there exists an overall sense of trepidation about where this Pandora's Box might lead with respect to quality of life. The attitudes associated with the potential long-term changes and community well-being may be important determinants of the social impacts of the ROD. These attitudes will likely influence community actions, as well as the perception of changes and the interpretation of actual events, and thus should be considered real social impacts. Additionally participants believe that implementation of this action would further diminish local control over their community and increase the risks of future mismanagement on the part of the USFS.

Monitoring or mitigating these perceived long-term impacts or the growing distrust of the USFS is difficult task since these are not physical impacts but rather psychological ones rooted in perceived short and long term changes to the human environment and relationship with the agency. Branch, et al. (1984) describe the importance of measuring perceptions of community residents in social impact assessments because they can determine, in part, the future impacts from development projects:

“The attitudes community residents have toward development and the specific actions being proposed as well as their perceptions of community and personal well-being are important determinants of the social effects of a proposed action. Attitudes not only influence actions, they also influence perceptions and the interpretation of actual events” (Branch, Hooper, Thompson, & Creighton, 1984)

It is unlikely that these community perceptions of impacts have changed over the course of one winter and remain rooted in the negative attitudes towards the expansion of commercial recreational development in the CNF and the prospects of increased helicopter skiing in the future.

Recommendations

The requirement for community monitoring in the ROD needed to have community acceptance and agreement of a common vision in order to truly be collaborative. This did not appear to exist. While we attempted to promote some type of follow-up to the initial ICF, it became apparent that there was little willingness of participants to engage in a truly collaborative community monitoring effort of this ROD. Community residents expressed a reluctance to engage in community monitoring for fear it would be counter productive and in the end they would have little input into the future of this permit. Participants at the ICF demonstrated great suspicion of the forum and its objectives at the outset and did not appear to share the common goal of community impact monitoring with the CNF. Even with full community monitoring of social impacts it is unlikely that such a process would address the long term effects perceived by community participants, the high levels of conflict about the rationale for this decision, and the distrust of the USFS.

Through the ICF we found that respondents strongly value the human and natural characteristics of the community and they hold strong negative attitudes towards the commercial development of the CNF by the private and public sectors and believe these to be agents of change that will impair future quality of life. Participants perceived a broad range of adverse impacts on their

community and in particular expressed concern about the long-term community effects of this decision.

Additionally, the ROD appeared to increase respondents' perceptions of decreased effectiveness of their participation in future decisions as many believed that their input was not heard in the planning process, thus exacerbating perceptions of future mismanagement of the public lands surrounding the community. The level of conflict associated with this decision may be in part due to the perceived threats to deeply held community values of place and community character, lack of faith that their voices are heard and considered, and previous experiences with growing summer aircraft traffic. To address these impacts, it is critical that community members receive frequent updates on other monitoring requirements of the ROD in order to clarify the actual physical impacts of actions on the landscape.

Prior community surveys indicate that almost all of Moose Pass residents are very interested in what happens on the CNF, and a large majority would like to see more of a local role in public use land planning, and to be considered at least an equal partner with the USFS on land management decisions (Crone et al., 2002). Fieldwork conducted in the summer of 2005 by APU, indicates that many community members continue to support a partnership approach with the CNF, but despite outreach, involvement and consultation throughout this specific EIS process, community members see their involvement not as dialogue among partners but rather as manipulation by the USFS.

Given the high levels of conflict evidenced by the numerous appeals and continuing legal challenge and considering the desire for more meaningful involvement, we would recommend that collaborative advisory bodies be contemplated for Moose Pass and other Seward and Glacier District communities once legal actions have been resolved. The purpose of these collaborative structures and processes should be to enhance communication and the quality of public dialogue regarding management decisions. Advisory bodies conceived and constructed with mutually agreed upon purposes and roles will provide an ongoing forum for dialogue and deliberation.

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Appendix A

Community Background and Historical Timeline

Community Background

Place

Moose Pass is an unincorporated community of approximately 220 individuals (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000) founded in 1912, located within the Kenai Peninsula Borough of south-central Alaska. The community is located 100 miles south of Anchorage, 26 miles north of Seward, and is bisected by the Seward Highway. The Alaska Railroad passes through town. It's setting in the Kenai Mountains along the southwest shore of Upper Trail Lake, provides many picturesque views described by local businesses as "scenic" and "breathtaking". The community is surrounded by the Chugach National Forest, and experiences greater traffic and activity during the summer months when the area is bustling with tourists and recreational visitors.

People

According to the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development (2003), the community consists of just under 120 housing units, of which 35 were vacant as of the 2000 U.S. Census, with just over half of these used on a seasonal basis. Of households, 73% are comprised of married couples. There are approximately 40 students enrolled in the community's K-8 school, and over half of the population (60%) is male.

The community has a rich local history with family connections dating back to some of the earliest settlers. The area's first settlers were Oscar Christensen and Mickey Natt who arrived in 1909 and established an inn and roadhouse to supply miners further north. In 1912 the locale became an official stop or station along the Alaska Railroad. A family-owned and operated grocery store has been run by the same family for years, descending from the woman who established the community's first school and served as the first postmistress.

Jobs & Wealth

Private business and state agencies provide employment sources for much of the community's working adults. The latest census figures list 69% of the community's workforce employed, with approximately 30% of adult residents not in the workforce. In addition to the grocery store, private businesses include more than a dozen lodges and B&B's, three restaurants, three outfitting services, and about a dozen businesses listed as offering professional services.

Vision & Vitality

The Sportsman’s Club, established in 1947, is a nonprofit organization recognized as the governing body for the community. Club members hold regularly scheduled meetings, elect officers, and carry out the business of meeting local needs not addressed through state and borough means. The club budget is supported by membership dues and fundraisers, the largest of which is the yearly Summer Solstice celebration. Over the years a number of community development projects have been undertaken successfully, including the first library constructed in 1938, fundraising for the construction of a new community hall (1961), extension of the community bicycle path, and the adoption of 10 community goals (1990).

Historical Timeline

A paper timeline approximately 6 feet tall and 15 feet wide was displayed at eye level in the gymnasium. The timeline had a thick, straight line running horizontally through its center beginning with the year 1959 and ending at 2004; segments noting each decade in between were labeled 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000. The four community dimensions were written on each side of the timeline using color-coded markers (People in red, Place in blue, Jobs and Wealth in green, and Vision and Vitality in orange). Along the timeline, written in appropriate color code, were eight Moose Pass historical events. In the historical events data presented below, these items appear in underlined text.

After being introduced to the four community dimensions and the timeline, participants were asked to add events or details of the community’s history using the community dimension marker color they felt that piece of historical information matched. All information written on the timeline is provided below. Items with an “*” reflect resident comments or corrections to original items appearing on the timeline.

People (Red Marker)

- 1983 Ed Estes built waterwheel
- 1987 Verge Wolfe dies
- 1990s Highway bypass proposed
- 1992 UMC Jim Stigall leaves, new pastor arrives
- 2000 Moose Pass population: 221
- 2000 97% of population employed
- 2003 UMC minister retires, new minister arrives
- 3 residents give name or initials and the year they moved to Moose Pass

Vision and Vitality (Orange Marker)

- 1959 1st fire truck ambulance (written with arrow noting prior to 1959)
- 1990 10 community goals adopted
- 1990 Extension of Moose Pass bicycle path

- * moved 1990 “extension of MP bicycle path” back to 1978
- 2000 Community hall remodeled
Fire department grant \$ for gear, etc.
- 2004 Community park landscaped

Place (Blue Marker)

- 1958 Alaska Statehood
- 1958 Seward Highway paved
- 195? New UMC built (church)
- 1964 Good Friday Earthquake
- * March 27, 5:33
- 1978 1st MPS festival (solstice festival)
- 1979 Roycroft Lake and hydro project finished
- 1986 Flood October 19 18” rain in 24 hrs
Moose Pass to Seward “Hundred Years Flood”
- 1986 Alaska Railroad sprays herbicide on RR
Crown Point formaldehyde spill
Moose Pass forest fire on Father’s Day
- 1990 Addition to school classroom
- 1996 MP flood
- 1999 Kenai Lake USFS prescribed burn out of control
- 2000 Endless avalanches
- 2002 Heli Ski debate begins
- 2002 Carter/Crescent Summer
TRC closed to snow machines
- 2004 Wolverine population monitored
- * “2004 Wolverine population monitored” was crossed out
- * “Who?”; FS EIS states this; however, to residents’ knowledge, this has not been done
- 2004 Ed Estes waterwheel replaced

Jobs and Wealth (Green)

- 1967 Oil on Kenai
- 1970 Influx of young government and pipeline workers
- 1970 Aleyeska Pipeline
Spruce bark beetle hit hard
- 1994 Alpenglow Cottage opens
- 1996 Jewel of the North B&B opens
- 1990s Trail Lake Lodge sold to Windsong Corp and closed to locals soon after
- 2000 DOT PF closes shop Spruce bark beetles finishing damage
- 2003 Cranberry Creek Guest Lodge opens
- 2000 – 2004 FS wants to close down gravel pit
- 2004 Gravel pit used for Cooper Landing development

Appendix B

ICF Outline
Commonly Asked Questions
Invitation Letter

MOOSE PASS

INTERACTIVE COMMUNITY FORUM

Conducted by
Alaska Pacific University Facilitators
For
the U.S. Forest Service-Chugach National Forest

KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE FORUM:

- Explore and verify the **changes** that have taken place in Moose Pass **since 1960**;
- Record **your judgments** of **Moose Pass' situation** in 2004 and key indicators of Quality of Life ;
- Prioritize key elements of **quality of life** and identify potential **change agents** in the near future;
- Record **your judgments** on **how your community may be affected** (beneficially and adversely) by **implementation** of the recent Chugach National Forest **Helicopter Skiing** Record of Decision,;
- Explore options for follow-up and/or collaborative monitoring.

GROUND RULES FOR THE FORUM:

1. Respect the opinions of others.
2. Be candid with your knowledge, values and opinions.
3. Allow the ideas of other community members to be expressed without interruptions:
Do not engage in sideline conversations, or make off-hand remarks while someone else is talking
– only one person should be speaking at a time.
4. Listen carefully and ask questions to understand or clarify the ideas and views of others in your group.
5. Try not to force your ideas on others; rather, explain why you believe in them.
6. Please keep your comments short and to the point, making sure that everyone at your table has their turn to speak during each round of discussion.
7. Allow your facilitator to keep everyone on schedule and following the agenda.

COMMUNITY FORUM AGENDA

I. SETTING THE STAGE (4:00 –4:45)

Introduction: What is your role and the purpose of this meeting?

- Introduction and Clarification of the Process
- Community Forum Agenda
- Key Objectives
- Ground Rules
- Dimensions of the Community and Moose Pass History

II. MOOSE PASS TODAY (4:45 – 6:00)

What Is The Situation In Your Community Today?

- Assess Baseline Conditions
- Share Perceptions of Community
- Identify Key Reasons For Judgments
- Quality of Life Priorities

III. DINNER BREAK (6:00-6:20)

- Group QOL Ranking

IV. ASSESSING POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF EXPANDED

HELICOPTER SKIING(6:20-7:50)

What are potential effects of future changes in the Moose Pass Community including expanded Helicopter Skiing?

- External Agents of Community Change
- Summary presentation of USFS Helicopter Skiing Record of Decision
- Assess potential community impacts

V. Finishing up (7:50-8:00)

Where do we go from here?

- How This Information Will Be Used
- Future Opportunities and Follow-Up
- Feedback or Any Other Comments

VI. COMMUNITY END-OF-SEASON GATHERING (8:00-??)

Answers to Commonly Asked Questions

MOOSE PASS INTERACTIVE COMMUNITY FORUM

Conducted by Alaska Pacific University Facilitators
For The U.S. Forest Service Chugach National Forest and residents of Moose Pass

Is This Community Forum a Traditional Public Meeting?

No! This forum is *not* a traditional public meeting, it is *not* a hearing for presenting testimony, and it is *not* an informational presentation by the USFS Chugach National Forest. The Forest Service is *not* involved in designing or helping conduct this forum.

This forum is a workshop: an interactive work session structured to obtain information from a diversity of people who live, work, socialize, go to school, or shop in Moose Pass. This forum is unlike any public input session in which you have participated in the past.

What Is the Purpose of the Forum?

The purpose of this forum is to provide Moose Pass community members with an opportunity to take an in-depth look at the community's past, present, and future and assess what residents perceive as potential effects on their community as a result of external changes. The forum is a result of USFS concern regarding overall changes to quality of life in Moose Pass and potential community impacts from expanded heli skiing operations. The results of the forum will serve the community and the Chugach National Forest (CNF) to collaboratively monitor the effects of helicopter skiing and to assist the community in future planning efforts.

The objectives for the interactive forum are to:

- Understand the current situation in Moose Pass and how it has changed since 1960;
- Identify critical elements of Quality of Life for community residents and their desired future vision;
- Provide residents with the opportunity to assess how their community may be affected by a provisional expansion of helicopter skiing and other external threats and opportunities potentially affecting important elements of quality of life;
- Provide community residents with information generated in the meeting that may serve as a tool to address current and future changes to their desired quality of life through community planning efforts and/or collaborative monitoring of expanded helicopter skiing.

Who Can Participate in The Forum?

This community forum is open to the public. If you are a member of the Moose Pass Community – *the place you call home* – we invite you to actively participate by working at one of the tables for the duration of the forum. In addition, several community residents were individually invited to participate in the forum to ensure a diversity of participants. **If you are not a member of the Moose Pass community, you are welcome to observe and you are encouraged to provide written comments on the cards provided.**

What Are Some Key Elements in the Helicopter Skiing Record of Decision (ROD)?

- A modified version of Alternative 3 was selected in the Helicopter Skiing Record of Decision (ROD). The alternative permits Chugach Powder Guides (CPG) to expand from 800-1,200 client days to 1,800 client days in past use areas (core units) with a five year permit and expands the geographic area to new locations (exploratory units) for 400 client days under a one year temporary permit..

- The exploratory units authorized for one year are: Mid Seattle Creek, East Seattle Creek, East Moose Creek and Mount Ascension (Snow River and East Ptarmigan units are deferred pending completion of the Kenai Amendment otherwise know as the Carter Crescent Project.
- General Operating Requirements of the permit include, established flight altitudes, routes, flight tracking and reporting and continual public input.
- Wildlife Protection Requirements of the permit include buffers for helicopters and skiers near wildlife (e.g., Brown bears, Dall sheep, eagles, etc.)
- Minimizing recreation conflicts of the permit include timing limits on flights, buffers with backcountry users, no fly zones, and an operations hotline.
- Minimizing community impacts of the permit include a one-year temporary permit in the exploratory units, collaborative monitoring and public input channels directly to the permit holder.

Why Was Moose Pass Selected for this Community Forum?

Most rural communities within the Chugach National Forest depend to varying degrees on the resources and opportunities provided by the forest. These communities have experienced rapid changes and there is growing concern throughout the region about the resiliency of the communities to weather change and maintain their current quality of life. Moose Pass was selected for this community forum because of the potential impact of expanded helicopter skiing in the region and broader concerns about rapid changes in quality of life. This facilitated forum will serve as a pilot project to collaboratively monitor the impacts of expanded helicopter skiing and to assist the community in mapping out a vision for its future.

What is Expected of Forum Participants and How Will Their Information Be Used?

The complexity of the information and the tasks we will cover require a number of things from forum participants. We ask that participants remain actively involved; honestly share their ideas and listen to their neighbors'; and, be open to a variety of opinions and information. It is important to remember that there are no right or wrong answers or predetermined outcomes. Information provided by community members will be used to help assess the potential effects of expanded helicopter skiing and other factors influencing quality of life. Forum results can be used by the community and the CNF to collaboratively monitor impacts of helicopter skiing by serving as a community baseline and may serve for future community planning efforts.

Who is Conducting the Community Forum, and Why Were They Selected?

The social scientists conducting the forum are professors and students from Alaska Pacific University, working under contract with the USFS Chugach National Forest. Our role is to serve as neutral facilitators for this interactive community forum. We were selected due to our extensive experience conducting meetings in rural communities and working with them on resource management and community development issues.

What Are Other Ways I Can I Express My Concerns and Ideas to the Chugach National Forest?

If you are not a member of the community where the forum is being held, or you are a community member but cannot devote the full four hours of your time working in this forum, we invite you to fill out a comment card. All of the cards received will be submitted to the Chugach National Forest as part of their on-going monitoring of the permit. If you would like to make additional comments on the Helicopter Skiing permit or receive information on how to become more involved, contact Sharon Randall, Planning Staff Officer at 743-9497 or Deb Cooper, Seward District Ranger at 224-3374.

***WE APPRECIATE YOUR ATTENDANCE AT TONIGHT'S FORUM!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST AND INPUT!***

INVITATION LETTER

Dear _____:

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the Moose Pass community forum to build a foundation for future community planning efforts and initiate collaborative monitoring of helicopter skiing in the Chugach National Forest. The forum will be facilitated by social scientists from Alaska Pacific University and will take place at the Moose Pass community center on Saturday November 6th from 4:00-8:00 p.m. with registration and informal discussion starting at 3:30 p.m.

Dinner and child care will be provided to all attendees. We ask that you bring a dessert to share with your fellow residents. Following the forum, the Sportsman's Club will be sponsoring a community gathering and bonfire.

Although all Moose Pass residents are invited to attend, you were identified by fellow Moose Pass residents as being actively involved in the community and your input will be especially useful for an accurate assessment.

The forum will be 4-hours long, and we would appreciate your commitment to the full amount of time. During the forum, residents will work in groups in a structured process that will: explore historic changes that have taken place in Moose Pass from 1960 to the present; assess Moose Pass' current situation and key elements of quality of life, and a vision for the future; explore potential effects of expanded helicopter skiing and other external changes to quality of life. The forum is not intended to address questions about the USFS process in making the decision regarding helicopter skiing or debate one alternative versus another. Rather, the purpose is to provide an opportunity for facilitated group discussion among community members about Moose Pass and potential impacts on the community.

The information generated by you and your community is one important component in developing a collaborative community monitoring of the provisional expansion of helicopter skiing as well as serving as a basis for future community planning efforts. Therefore, please encourage others in your community to attend and let them know that the forum is open to all community residents who are able to commit to the full four-hours. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (907) 564-8633 or at erikn@alaskapacific.edu. Thanks in advance for your valuable contribution to this effort.

Sincerely,

Erik Nielsen

Appendix C

Community Dimensions

PEOPLE

Your Community's Social Make-up

This dimension refers to characteristics of individuals or households in your community. Characteristics relating to the individual or household might include your community's population size, how rapidly it is growing or losing population, its age and family structure, as well as the make-up of various groups of people, including their ethnicity, their values and lifestyles, and other kinds of diversity.

Some questions for you to think about:

- To what extent is your community's **population** increasing or decreasing in size?
- Are community residences concentrated in a certain area or more spread out geographically?
- Is your community's population **aging**? Is there an increasing amount of older people living in your community? Are growing numbers of **retirees** living in or moving to your community?
- How ethnically diverse is your community? Is that **diversity** increasing or decreasing?
- Is **school enrollment** increasing or decreasing?
- To what extent do people have **extended families** living in your community? Are your relatives or children moving away?
- Do most people in your community own their **own home**? Has this changed in recent years?
- To what extent are individuals and households on **public assistance** in your community?
- What are the most **prevalent values** in your community – how would you describe your community's **customs & lifestyle**?
- Are **families stable** in your community?

JOBS & WEALTH

Your Community's Economy

This dimension refers to the major businesses and sources of jobs in your community, and the diversity of your economy in terms of the variety of businesses, industries, financial, and natural assets (the amount of capital or resources) available to support your community's services and activities.

The businesses and industries of your community (e.g., manufacturing, services, retail and wholesale trade, recreation, forestry, government) are interrelated and provide a source of jobs and income. The relative mix of jobs and income represented by these businesses is an indication of your community's economic diversity.

Some questions for you to think about:

- How would you assess the **job opportunities** in your community – are there many, and how well do they pay?
- To what extent does a subsistence lifestyle contribute to your community's economic well being?
- To what extent do residents have to **commute** to other places to work?
- How many people in your community are employed? What proportion of adults in your community is **unemployed**?
- What is the **economic base** of your community – do a few major industries or businesses dominate, or is your community **economically diverse**?
- To what extent are **public sector jobs** a major part of your community's economy? Are many people employed by federal, state, county, and municipal agencies? To what degree are **schools** a major employer?
- Where does **money go** from sales in your community? Is **income reinvested** in local businesses and the community or is it spent elsewhere?
- How **wealthy** are people in your community? What is the proportion of households in your community living below the **poverty level**?
- How costly is it to live in your community? How **costly are utilities** such as electricity where you live relative to other places in the U.S.?
- Are **property values** comparatively high or low in your community?

THE PLACE

The Character of Your Community

This dimension refers to the characteristics of the human-built and natural environment of your community. Your community's physical infrastructure and built-environment include characteristics such as the attractiveness of the downtown, the quality of the community's roads, and traffic safety and congestion, as well as the level of social services provided. Your community's natural environment includes characteristics such as trails/parks, fields, rivers, mountains, and wildlife, as well as the attractiveness of the surrounding scenery.

Some questions for you to think about:

- What is the **appearance** of your community's core area and of its residential areas?
- To what extent do **people shop** in your community as opposed to elsewhere?
- Are there vacant storefronts? **If so**, are they increasing or decreasing?
- How adequate are the **social services** (i.e., health, safety, and education) in your community? Are there medical facilities, community/senior centers, police, etc., and are these adequate to meet the needs of your community? How adequate are your schools?
- How **safe and crime-free** do people feel in your community?
- What are the **different modes of transportation** (i.e., car, truck, railroad) that move people and goods in your community?
- How are the conditions of **roads and highways** in your community and region? Are they adequately maintained? Are there community concerns with through traffic versus local traffic?
- Is there **traffic congestion** in your community? How **safe** are your streets?
- Are there changes in the way land is used in your community?
- Have there been **land tenure and absentee ownership** changes?
- To what extent does your community have access to **trails, forests, rivers, and lakes**?
- How **attractive** is the community's surrounding **scenery**?
- How abundant are **wildlife** and how important are they to your quality of life? To subsistence?
- Is the presence of local wildlife increasing or decreasing? Have you noticed any changes in the number of local wildlife encountered?
- What is the level of **air and water quality** in your community?
- Is there excessive **noise** in your community?
- Overall, how would you describe the **sense of place** in your community? How **attached** are residents to their community?

VISION & VITALITY

Your Community's Organization and Leadership Capacity

This dimension refers to the characteristics of your community's social organizations, including the number of civic groups and their level of activity. This dimension also refers to your community's cohesiveness – the extent to which people identify with your community, are committed to it, and work together to get things done. In addition, this dimension refers to the effectiveness and vitality of your community's local government and its ability to accomplish its goals. Finally, this dimension refers to your community's vision for the future and your desire and preparedness to make that future a reality.

Some questions for you to think about:

- How many **civic organizations** are active in your community?
- What is the level and quality of **political and civic leadership** in your community?
- Does your community have a budget? What type of local expenditures does your community have? How large is your community's **budget**, and what is your level of **government expenditures**?
- Does your community have any economic **development plans**? Has the community engaged in a process of planning or zoning?
- Has your community applied for and received **grants**?
- To what extent does your community have **control** over influential events as opposed to being affected by outside forces?
- How **prepared for the future** is your community? Has your community discussed its **vision for the future** and how to realize that vision?
- How would you describe the level of **social activities** (i.e., events and festivals) in your community? Are there many church or school activities?
- How **friendly** is your community?
- How do people respond to and **cope with change**? How would your community respond to future changes?
- What is your community's level of **cohesiveness** or commitment to the community and ability to work together to get things done?

Appendix D
Rating Forms

YOUR COMMUNITY IN 2004

- **PEOPLE (Red Sheet)** - How would you rate the situation for the *social make-up* of your community in 2004? (Circle one number)

In 2004 the situation in your community is as bad as it could be

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

In 2004 the situation in your community is as good as it could be

- STOP -

- **Final People Rating?** _____
What characteristics of the *people* dimension of your community in 2004 most affected your final rating?

- See items on the RED sheet -

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Other Reason: _____

- **JOBS & WEALTH (Green Sheet)** - How would you rate the situation for the *economy* of your community in 2004? (Circle one number)

In 2004 the situation in your community is as bad as it could be

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

In 2004 the situation in your community is as good as it could be

- STOP -

- **Final Jobs & Wealth Rating?** _____
What characteristics of the *jobs & wealth* dimension of your community in 2004 most affected your final rating?

- See items on the GREEN sheet -

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Other Reason: _____

PLACE (Blue Sheet) - How would you rate the situation for the *character* of your community in 2004? (Circle one number)

In 2004 the situation in your community is as bad as it could be	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	In 2004 the situation in your community is as good as it could be
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	--

- STOP -

- **Final Place Rating?** _____
What characteristics of the *place* dimension of your community in 2004 most affected your final rating?

- See items on the BLUE sheet -

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Other Reason: _____

-
- **VISION & VITALITY (Yellow Sheet)** - How would you rate the situation for the *organization & leadership capacity* of your community in 2004? (Circle one number)

In 2004 the situation in your community is as bad as it could be	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	In 2004 the situation in your community is as good as it could be
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	--

- STOP -

- **Final Vision & Vitality Rating?** _____
What characteristics of the *vision & vitality* dimension of your community in 2004 most affected your final rating?

- See items on the YELLOW sheet -

1 _____

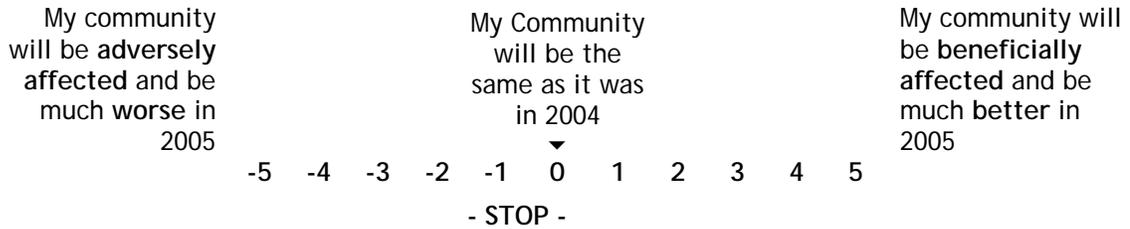
2 _____

3 _____

Other Reason: _____

EXPANSION OF HELICOPTER SKIING

- **PEOPLE (Red Sheet)** - In comparison to your community today, how would the situation for the *social make-up* of your community change by next year with the expansion of helicopter skiing in the new exploratory areas? (Circle one number)



- **Final People Rating?** _____
What characteristics of the *people* dimension of your community in 2005 most affected your final rating?

- See items on the RED sheet -

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

Other Reason: _____

- **JOBS & WEALTH (Green Sheet)** - In comparison to your community today, how would the situation for the *economy* of your community change by next year with the expansion of helicopter skiing in the new exploratory areas? (Circle one number)



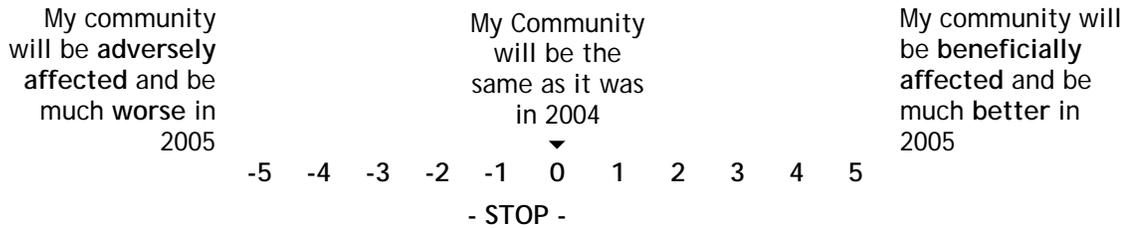
- **Final Jobs & Wealth Rating?** _____
What characteristics of the *jobs & wealth* dimension of your community in 2005 most affected your final rating?

- See items on the GREEN sheet -

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

Other Reason: _____

- **PLACE (Blue Sheet)** - In comparison to your community today, how would the situation for the *character* of your community change by next year with the expansion of helicopter skiing in the new exploratory areas? (Circle one number)



- **Final Place Rating?** _____
What characteristics of the *place* dimension of your community in 2005 most affected your final rating?

- See items on the Blue sheet -

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

Other Reason: _____

- **VISION & VITALITY (Yellow Sheet)** - In comparison to your community today, how would the situation for the *organization & leadership capacity* of your community change by next year with the expansion of helicopter skiing in the new exploratory areas? (Circle one number)



- **Final Vision & Vitality Rating?** _____
What characteristics of the *vision & vitality* dimension of your community in 2005 most affected your final rating?

- See items on the YELLOW sheet -

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

Other Reason: _____

Appendix E

Details of Presentation on ROD and Flight Paths

Helicopter Skiing Record of Decision (ROD)

Key Elements-Modified Alternative 3

- Five-year core area and temporary one-year exploratory area permits
- Operations Requirements
- Mitigation Measures for Wildlife, Recreational Conflicts, and Communities
- Monitoring Requirements

Core Area Five-Year Permit

Acreage:

- 131,247 acres in:
- Glacier-Winner Creek
 - North, East and West Twentymile
 - North, East and West Bench Peak
 - Placer-Skookum
 - Grandview

Client Days:

Expanded from 800-1,200 to 1,800 Client Days from existing permit

Landings:

Maximum of 30 take-offs and landings from each staging area

Core Area Five-Year Permit



Exploratory One-Year Permit

Acreage:

- 102,600 acres in:
- Mid Seattle Creek
 - East Seattle Creek
 - East Moose Creek
 - Mount Ascension

Client Days:

400 Total Client days

Landings:

Maximum of 30 take-offs and landings from each staging area.

Timing Restrictions

Friday-Sunday Only Skiing in Mid and East Seattle Creek

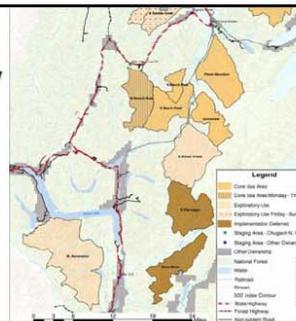
Exploratory One-Year Permit

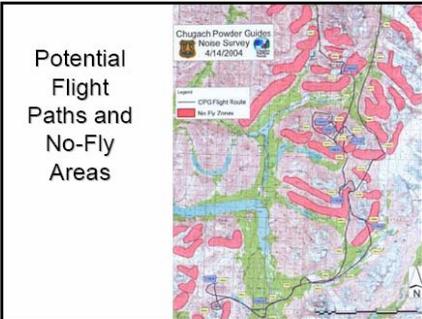
➤Reissue, modification or no authorization dependent on monitoring and yearly evaluation.

➤Authorization dependent on actual use levels, disturbance to nearby communities and other monitoring requirements.

➤Deferral of Snow River and East Ptarmigan units pending completion of Kenai Amendment Project (Formerly Carter Crescent Project).

Exploratory One-Year Permit





- ### General Operating Requirements
- General Safety Requirements
 - Established Flight Routes maintaining altitude above 1,500 feet above ground level
 - Monitoring by Glacier and Seward Ranger District Personnel
 - Logged flight routes provided to USFS
 - Litter and all landing improvements removed

- ### Wildlife Protection Requirements
- Maintain ½ mile horizontal or 1,500 feet above wildlife and prohibited from hovering, circling or harassing any species.
 - No fly-zones for mountain goat and Dall sheep concentration areas.
 - Reporting requirements of wildlife observations.
 - ½ mile horizontal or 1,500 feet above known brown bear or wolverine dens.
 - 330 foot skiing buffers around known bald eagle nests.
 - ¼ mile horizontal or 1,500 feet flight buffer above any active bald eagle or goshawk nests.

- ### Recreation Conflict Mitigation
- Heli-skiing hotline with planned daily runs
 - No fly zone over east side of Turnagain Pass
 - Activities restricted from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 - ½ mile flight altitude above valley floors
 - ½ mile flight altitude above observed users.
 - No fly zone along South Fork of Snow River drainage
 - Closed in the Placer Skookun units after March 31st.

- ### Community Impact Mitigation
- Heli-skiing hotline with planned daily runs.
 - Activities restricted from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 - ½ mile flight altitude above valley floors & observed users.
 - Elimination of Mile 33.2 Staging Area.
 - Elimination of heli-skiing units with highest potential for community disturbance (West Moose Creek and West Ptarmigan).
 - Temporary permits with collaborative monitoring in exploratory areas.

- ### Monitoring Requirements
- GPS Flight Paths to assess adherence to no-fly zones, wildlife habitat, backcountry recreation areas and patterns of operation.
 - Brown Bear and Wolverine studies.
 - Recreation use and overlap.
 - Noise and Visual Impact Analysis in Moose Pass.
 - Moose Pass Collaborative Assessment—this forum is the first step in this process!

Appendix F

ICF Participant Feedback

Moose Pass ICF Participant Feedback

What did you like about this process?

ICF Process/Methodology

- We worked together, as opposed to a questionnaire, survey in the mail to fill out individually
- Allows residents to have another view of each others feelings, as opposed to local meetings with government officials.
- A feeling of maybe with your involvement, our concerns will be taken more into consideration with F.S. officials.
- We were able to express a lot of our feelings freely without argument from USFS or pressure
- The people running the meeting did their job well – we are just tired of meetings that end in no one listening, as shown by the heli-skiing ROD
- Seemed like a good process, workable
- Generally favorable
- Format
- Sharing of info
- Actually quick and easy
- Informality

Facilitation

- The APU staff
- People/calm understanding of our frustration
- Facilitators were genuinely interested
- Well prepared both students and professors

Logistics

- The food was also a great help! So we didn't have to be here late at night
- Babysitting! Couldn't have come otherwise
- Child care-Babysitting option so I can be here! Thanks
- The childcare made it possible for me to be here

What might help to improve this process?

Clarification/Notification of Purpose and scope

- Community was confused about the ICF purpose in general
- Mailers would've been helpful (ones that explained the process)
- Get the word out sooner; more completely posting notices in the Post Office is the best way to pass the word in Moose Pass
- The USFS name was not mentioned until the letter came out...this upset a lot of people and kept them away.
- It was not clear enough as to what was going to be going on here tonight.
- Be more specific about what this was about up front – confusion as to why.

Logistics

- Was Okay. Maybe shorten up a bit.
- Start time – try to give us at least ½ hour to all get there before start
- Offer the fifth dimension (no not the group) but maybe a microphone so the entire group can share the hot topics

Other ICF comments

- Thanks for the opportunity to comment and tell you our concerns
- Thanks for dealing with us!
- Thanks for listening.
- Thank you for your time and let us hope this could help us.
- You (APU) dealt with use very well, we are all quite tired and upset with this issue and do not hold it against you.
- We feel worn down by decisions such as the heli-skiing ROD
- I hope the ROD appeals are successful
- We will not help the Forest Service monitor this bogus activity.
- Start this process 2 years before!!