



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Chugach
National
Forest

3301 'C' Street
Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99503-3998

File Code: 1950

Date: May 12, 2006

Dear Friends of the Chugach,

On behalf of the Chugach National Forest, I would like to offer heartfelt thanks to those who were able to participate in the Kenai Winter Access collaborative learning workshops held last week. Over 60 citizens participated in one or more of the 3 _ hour workshops held in Moose Pass, Soldotna, Cooper Landing and Anchorage. Your continued willingness to work together across interests and communities, providing thoughtful comments and suggested improvements to the alternatives was exactly what the Forest Service had hoped for. A special thanks to consultants, Gregg Walker and Steve Daniels, for returning to continue this work with us. Attached is a list of the key points shared at the end of each workshop.

Please remember, that as a result of comments heard during the workshops, I have **extended the comment period 1 week, to June, 12, 2006**. We know this decision is of importance to many more people than were able to attend the workshops. Please help us spread the word of this approaching deadline. There will not be another opportunity to comment. After June 12, the Forest Service Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) will go back to work and complete their analysis using the maps, worksheets and other comments generated at these workshops and any other written comments received.

As the Forest Supervisor, I will ultimately need to decide the final proposed action and project alternatives. As I have said before, I cannot underscore how important and valued your input is in helping me to shape what this proposed action should look like in order to be responsive to your interests and the diverse interests in winter access across the Seward Ranger District.

The EIS and the associated Record of Decision will be published by early fall in time to implement for the 2006/7 winter season. The IDT meetings will continue to be open and transparent to the public. Please visit the project website to find the specific times and locations for IDT meetings and to follow the progress of the EIS at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/> under "Kenai Winter Access." If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Sharon Randall or Rebecca Talbott of my staff at (907) 743-9500, or David DelSordo, Project Team Leader at (406) 329-3083.

Sincerely,

JOE L. MEADE
Forest Supervisor

