

Biological Diversity/Ecological

Comment # Comment

- 0018-002 Biological diversity will exist if we leave undeveloped areas along & restore some that have been lost.
- 0039-001 Any forest management plan, especially one that involves a national forest with its competing interests, should manage for biological diversity as the utmost concern. Recreation, timber harvesting, etc. should play a secondary role to maintaining biological diversity. If diversity of life systems is considered most important, then the competing interests of recreation, tourism, timber harvesting or other uses will fall into place. If biological diversity is primary, then vegetation management will be done with a progressive point of view. The management will reflect what is good for maintaining the life systems, not what is good for timber interests. This sort of management requires reflection, honesty, and a concern for higher values beyond profit, greed bred by dishonesty and misplaced values. I worked for the Alaska Lands Act many years ago and have visited the state.
- 0050-001 I believe the primary uses of the Chugach Nat. Forest should be: 1) Preserving wildlife & riparian habitat,
- 0054-005 Biologic diversity can be maintained by protecting the area from exploitation by humans.
- 0055-001 The most important planning objective is to practice sustainable forestry. In terms of what this is, the Santiago Agreement on (ILLEGIBLE) and (ILLEGIBLE) forests provides a good list of indicator & measurement for sustainable forestry. In a recent address (ILLEGIBLE) praised the Forest Service involvement in this international effort so I assume there is support from the top. If you are not familiar with the Santiago Agreement it has a web site. Search under Montreal Process to find it, or use <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/forestry/mont.html>. I'll be glad to provide you
- 0069-001 Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Revision of the Chugach NF LRMP. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management: Habitat manipulation is generally unwise and unnecessary. High levels of habitat protection are needed to manage these resources. Biological diversity will best be protected by minimizing habitat disruption.
- 0076-001 (1) Use best scientific data available (2) Determine impacts to non-timber resources (aesthetic quality, wildlife habitat, hydrology) caused by spruce beetle infestations.
- 0077-003 Preserving cabins on the forest would be positive for your public relations, and some of these may be able to be re-used for interpretive purposes. - as you well know, the projected road to Whittier will vastly increase the amount of long-term recreational tourism-to P.W.S., particularly to College Fjord. I will result in increased water pollution, modifications to fish populations, increased sport hunting pressure, modification of existing subsistence patterns, etc., etc. So please recognize those facts in any environmental documents that the USFS writes or participates in. - regarding fish and wildlife management, I regard the U.S.F.S.'s most important responsibility to protect the existing species diversity. I firmly do not feel that non-game mammals (wolves, etc.) should be sacrificed to increase the numbers of more "desirable" species. I had less of a problem with small, localized projects that increase desirable fish
- 0090-001 I appreciate your Publication "Revision" and am happy to see all of the topics being considered in the new forest plan for Chugach National forest. I believe forests are not just for logging but for the animals and birds that live there, people to recreate in and enjoy the beauty of, and mostly to retain these scenic areas for the generations that will follow. The most important areas to me are maintaining roadless and wilderness areas, fish & wildlife management and protection of rivers. I don't feel logging should be allowed at all as the process creates roads and puts the forest at risk for fire, disrupts wildlife, destroys streams and scars the land (much of which took hundreds of years to attain the beauty, and diversity of vegetation that exists there today.) Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
- 0099-001 Preserving the greater Prince William sound ecosystem in its entirety
- 0104-001 I would like you to re-think the proposed trail up Center Ridge in the Tincan Creek Valley. Having an established trail into that valley would open the Alpine area to potential damage - fragile plants and mosses - that are protected in the winter with snow coverage. There is a healthy mountain goat population in the summer that would probably move out when people start coming in. Many times in the summer I will see wolves in Tincan Valley hunting marmots, both of which will not tolerate many people in there living space before moving out. There are ways into this area for the occasional visitor who explores on their own. I would suggest alternative trails that also use existing parking areas. Like the parking area either side of the bridge near the mouth of Ingram Creek to Trailhead a route up to survey ref. Trail head lower Summit Lake over existing bridges across mills creek, then either Timberline or
- 0115-001 In the year 2050 what will my grandchildren find in the Chugach National Forest? Clear-Cuts? Roads, logging trucks, saw mills? Gunmen hunting down the wildlife for "sport"? Noises such as rifle fire and snowmobiles and other inventions that will be invented in the meantime to destroy the silence and terrify the wildlife? People, evermore people trampling the footpaths and roads? Campgrounds? Litter? No longer a Chugach ecosystem? Friends, I fear that is what my grandkids will find -- all of it, and more. And I dread it. Yet between now and 2050 you will be chasing after "goods and services", and therein lies the inevitable. I don't know how you can stop it; please tell me.

Comment # Comment

- 0131-001 The name Forest Plan indicates that the main thrust is forest. In that context is the future of life for the forest; for life of this planet; for the life of earth's inhabitants; Therefore the chief issue is forests. Now to preserve forests, the source of life. This preservation is accomplished by not clear cutting. by elimination of pollutants by study and research in maintaining healthy forests. by permitting introduction of compatible species of all life within the boundaries and keeping of all current species, with prudence. Keep the main attention on maintaining all forests as the foremost program in Land Management. Note: How many ILLEGIBLE one of your GIS maps? (of Chugach Nat. Forest Land)
- 0137-001 I am bothered by the use of "the ability of forest ecosystems to supply goods and services in response to society's demands." The greatest value Chugach National Forest has to society is in its undisturbed natural beauty. I believe it is important that this is understood, because it can help you determine how you will "manage" the forest. Came to Barrow to see the impact of unlimited humanity on the tundra. Go down to the lower 48 and imagine the beauty of the ILLEGIBLE states before civilization began its demands of goods and services.
- 0141-002 Long term health of the forest ecosystem(s).
- 0149-001 Prince William Sound is changing; changing rapidly and not for the better. Every year the concerns voiced by our staff grow more desperate. Stories of trampled vegetation, trash, missing wildlife and overcrowding reflect the increasing pressure on the ecosystem. hopefully, the long awaited revision of the Forest Plan will play a significant role in reversing this trend. The preliminary revision topics successfully identify the critical issues threatening the health of the forest but there are specific topics necessitating close scrutiny in the development of the alternatives.
- 0160-001 The Chugach National Forest, seems to me, to need an area of designated wilderness. All national forests should have wilderness area, in order to have a balance of different animals.
- 0166-003 If we cannot protect and preserve our wonderful natural heritage here in Alaska what chance will future generations have of seeing what we have been blessed with.
- 0170-003 the forest should be mostly set aside & designated as a permanent wilderness area. This would preserve the incredibly diverse abundance of birds & wildlife that consider the Chugach home.
- 0186-001 Harvest the beetle killed trees and any other mature trees in the area in a manner that makes economic sense. This will improve the environment for the working people and save countless lives of wildlife, especially of young and newborn birds, fish, and the small four-legged variety, from burning to death in a probable forest conflagration. I witnessed this loss of nesting birds and young rabbits first hand this year in the ILLEGIBLE area fires. I didn't see the large animals die but the young had no change. That fire traveled through the tundra moss & green trees. It would not compare to a fire with a little wind in a beetle killed forest.
- 0196-003 2. A. Min. impact
- 0208-002 Brown bears - issues involved in bigger than the one species of concern - BIODIVERSITY If biodiversity is maintained, then proper herds & ecological functions will also be protected. Maintaining current biodiversity of forest. Issue is important from an ecological standpoint of will as economics (ie, recreation, tourism, hunting, fishing - commercial & sport) Other parts & issues to be considered when designing improvements for Biodiversity - politics, citizens, other organizations, motorized recreation, spruce bark beetle, sustainable harvest, economics, other laws,
- 0211-002 Views of forest stewards that are committed to focusing on long term sustainability.
- 0216-003 Wise use of our forest resources, not just preservation - we need sustainable development & conservative practices to protect & enhance our environment.
- 0218-002 Preservation of the current Biodiversity.
- 0226-001 Brown Bears - Concerned not only for Bears but as an indicator species what they represent is happening to the broader landscape.
- 0229-001 INDICATORS In this plan process, arrive at common ground of need for healthy ecosystems in the Chugach Forest. Develop indicators of how to monitor. Get agreement that these indicators are directly linked to ecosystem health. Indicators guide creation of management policies at all levels.
- 0230-001 Access is an issue that raises tremendous controversy - Some want it, some don't. Some want areas left the way they are or were. Others want those same areas opened to a broader segment of the public. As area is increased, natural value are invariably degraded. How can we find a balance between allowing access (some) and limiting
- 0231-004 Management that protects ecosystem function to maintain biodiversity of forest & resources important to human communities (ie, salmon, tourism)
- 0245-004 The Chugach Nat. Forest should control all of the land in the watershed. This is a unique, pristine wilderness system and this entire area should be protected, Chugach native lands

Comment # Comment

- 0248-002 What is particularly important (ILLEGIBLE) is protection of wildlife habitat and (ILLEGIBLE) as well as the protection of land. My specific concerns are fragmentation of brown bear habitat, loss of habitat for species that require all-growth (ILLEGIBLE) characteristics (e.g. marbled (ILLEGIBLE)) and
- 0249-004 I think the public wants a green healthy forest Managing the vegetation in contrast to a most of the other issues, both good & bad aspects. can't manage the forest vegetation and other commodities over the long term without the public's acceptance that these are legitimate uses.
- 0253-003 Avoid strip development: cluster settlement and services at suitable sites and maintain areas of open space along the highway, or waterway. This creates efficient settlement and maintains the large natural areas needed for forestry, habitat, recreation, watershed.
- 0255-003 Look at long-term impacts of short-term decisions like road-building, logging and motorized uses. - Provide for monitoring, and make actions' continuation dependent on favorable results. - Provide for independent scientific review of probable long-term impacts, and actual short-term effects.
- 0257-001 Clearly define the desired future condition for specific areas of the Forest. This would include veg composition, compatible activities & uses that would occur. The Forest plan would be unambiguous on how specific areas would be managed.
- 0260-001 Any impact to water quality. It is important to keep the state's water quality as high as possible. Maintaining WQ will do a lot in keeping our ecosystem functional.
- 0262-001 Harvest all beetle kill and mature timber that is economically feasible. Do selective harvesting so that the forest regenerates. Do this in a staggered process so all ages of timber are represented in the forest, so that animal habitat is available, and so that the scenic beauty of the forest is substantially retained.
- 0263-001 1. A. ecosystem - all issues balancing the various issues under the F.S.'s multiple use mandate; having a variety of use activities occur in a sustainable manner. this doesn't mean that all uses occur everywhere on the Forest or that amount of use is "equal" among various uses.
- 0265-003 Protect sustainability of ecosystem/maintain qualities that
- 0265-006 Large number of different agencies and land owners. Very different and conflicting interests. Overcome these conflicts by making sustainability of the ecosystem the "bottom line." Make choices based on science. Politics is an obstacle, but I don't know how to overcome it.
- 0270-008 Relates to all of the other issues, as the interconnectiveness of resources in the watershed.
- 0321-003 Protect the ILLEGIBLE River delta from impacts associated with logging in the Boring River. Remove this road when
- 0322-001 The Chugach National Forest contains outstanding wilderness, scenic, and biological resources of certain national significance. May I suggest that this forest area be managed as a Fish Wildlife Plant Habitat Sanctuary, and with no development activities.
- 0323-004 Areas may need to be set aside on left open for motorized sport & mining, but its time for protective destinations in the Chugach. Our particular concern is upper Russian River. This is not only important for fisheries, but also hikers, campers && backpackers who use this trail.
- 0333-004 The new plan should provide for a long-term timber supply and mandate modern silviculture practices to encourage natural regeneration. - The new plan should manage the forested portions of the Chugach toward a varied species composition and different age classes to reduce the risk of significant future beetle mortality and help restore
- 0334-003 Protect Prince William Sound 3. The forest around Prince William Sound was scarred by the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and portions have already been logged on a large scale. PWS is one of the last tidewater wilderness left in the world. We need to protect PWS for lower impact uses and not allow large-scale commercial logging, commercial mining or large-scale tourism (such as what has happened with cruise ships in Juneau). Do not allow marinas to be built on public land, and control the number of mooring buoys. We need to protect PWS from individual and cumulative impacts, so that wildlife, kayakers, boaters, fishers, subsistence users, and small independent Alaskan owned tour operators have priority and that the current character of the sound is maintained.
- 0334-004 Conserve Brown Bear Habitat. Brown Bears on the Kenai Peninsula are being threatened due to declining habitat. Because bears are considered an "indicator species", the Forest Service needs to make habitat protection a priority in its plan. Please participate in any Brown Bear Task Force that is created on the Kenai Peninsula. In addition, work with other land owners to address cumulative impacts for Brown Bears and other species, as well as watershed

Comment # Comment

- 0334-011 Protect Scenery-No Salvage Logging. According to the CNF Recreation Survey of 1995, "The quality of the visual resources, or scenery, of the forest is by far the single most consideration to visitors of the forest." 91% of respondents put this as the top priority. Maintain the natural visual quality of the forest. This means, do not use logging to interrupt inevitable forest cycles of fire, insects, and disease, which is of little concern to visitors.
- Logging. The public has made it clear that the Chugach is not suited for commercial logging which exports logs and jobs and cannot be done sustainably. Sustainable fishing, tourism, recreation, and have higher values. Timber harvesting on public lands caters to a subsidized special interest and is not compatible with all other uses of the forest, especially recreation.
- 0336-003 The spruce bark beetle epidemic is a prime example of what happens when no active forest management is allowed. the salvage of dead and high risk trees should be of paramount concern to both your agency and that segment of the public truly interested in conservation of the Nation's resources.
- 0371-006 Managements of Biodiversity paying care to potential of human activity in the CNF This would prevent the need to mitigate overuse later
- 0371-009 The view that Human use is not the only priority on the forest. Development affects Biodiversity - with so little left (lower 48 in mind) this needs to be addressed over what human use has been historically 1. A. future desired condition - Long Term - deciding land allocation - management for preservation looking at NF of the lower 48 - to see what's in store for CNF with in human activity2. A. Sustain biodiversity, continued viable habitat
- 0380-003 Long term improvement. Increase weighting of sensitivity toward environment by logging and other uses when letting contracts to companies 2. A. Are cutters briefed about set backs? Does the company seem unable to learn? Always skidding through every creek No additional funding is necessary (unless the administrators are not now checking company compliance) 4. A. Familiarity with an old system of permitting. Resistance to change. 5. A. It will help defer a lot of criticism in the issuing of permits for large scale uses.
- 0382-001 P.W.S. the negative impacts of a 6-10 time the boat traffic of the Whittier Road 2. A. I use P.W.S. for food & pleasure. I don't think we should spend 60,000 & 7000 million so the Los Anchorage majority has another place to
- 0384-005 1. A. 1) Copper River Delta - Potential Oil Development 1) Oil Development - Unique habitat of Copper River Delta needs to be protected
- 0404-011 Only formal wilderness designation can insure that what remains serves the needs of wildlife populations. Evolutionary Processes Wilderness areas maintain the opportunities for species to evolve under wild conditions and natural processes similar to those that shaped their heritage.
- 0463-022 Increase research and inventory efforts to identify and map the location of biological resources. What types of stresses are these species subject to? What will be the effects (stress) of management activities on them? Will the range of any species be reduced? This should be completed prior to completing the revision.
- 0465-003 Prime among these are the Forest Service's obligation to maintain viable populations of all native (and some other) vertebrate species, well-distributed throughout their existing range on the Forest. A high level of confidence must be achieved that this requirement is met in all alternatives, and that no gaps will develop in populations. Using the alternatives review process to evaluate different approaches to wildlife viability, so that only one or two of the alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) really "insure" wildlife population viability (36 C.F.R. Section 219.19), would thwart the requirement that all reasonable alternatives be studied.
- 0465-012 In this we include so-called "salvage" logging. Claimed benefits of salvage logging are highly speculative and economic arguments --especially on the Chugach-- are no more than a thinly-veiled disguise for taxpayer subsidized logging. Any proposed salvage logging program must be subjected to the highest scrutiny for its demonstrable ecological and economic benefits.
- 0467-021 The Forest Plan should attempt a broad landscape approach to ensure biodiversity. Maintaining viable, well-distributed populations of wildlife across the Chugach National Forest is required by the 1976 National Forest
- 0477-002 I have kayaked extensively in Prince William Sound and you must protect the forest around it.
- 0477-003 I have also spent time in the Copper River area, It also should be maintained as pristine as it is now.
- 0477-004 I would suggest that you limit any timbering to small local logging projects; recreation, tourism, commercial and other fishing and protecting wildlife habitat are much more important than commercial logging.
- 0479-009 The Chugach National Forest is an extraordinary forest in large part due to its non-timber values. With only 94,000 acres classified as commercial timber (CLMP 1984), the Chugach National Forest is not considered a viable large-scale commercial timber forest, and as such, a long-term, large-scale commercial timber industry is not feasible in southcentral Alaska.

Comment # Comment

- 0479-010 While large-scale logging has to date not impacted the Chugach to the same extent as other forests in the country, road-building and logging could pose significant threats to the forest in the future.
- 0479-013 Starting with the impacts of the Whittier road, if it is completed, the Forest Service needs to identify how it intends to mitigate the impacts of the Whittier road on the wilderness and wildlife values of the forest, and other associated developments and impacts.
- 0479-014 The inevitable growth of a large-scale tourism industry in southcentral Alaska poses significant threats to the forest, including road-building, structural developments, and increased access, both motorized and non-motorized, among other issues. These major threats to defacto wilderness areas, coupled with the significant impacts the forest and its resources endured related to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill in 1989, have the potential to indefinitely alter the character
- 0479-028 Roadless Areas: We understand Roadless Areas to be important for potential wilderness designation, research, wildlife habitat and viability, and subsistence, among other things, and would like the Forest Service to address protection of Roadless Areas in the revision process. TWS's vision regarding Roadless Areas is to maintain the boundaries and integrity of Roadless Areas as they are outlined in the RARE II process of 1977, and not to change these boundaries as the result of new ways to define roadless areas.
- 0479-072 In conclusion, TWS would like to see the Chugach National Forest managed primarily to protect its wilderness and wildlife values.
- 0480-006 This is all the more important considering the construction of the road to Whittier and the impacts on the Sound which will result.
- 0485-004 What is important to me is the practice of sustainable extraction activities while maintaining environmental consciousness and respect.
- 0485-008 Likewise, it is critical that subsidized logging is not given preference over sustainable activities.
- 0493-005 It make's sense to protect the Chugach. It seems of utmost importance to protect the Chugach National Forest since it has been heavily damaged by the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989 and since the forest provides habitat to brown bears, salmon, and many other wildlife species.
- 0781-002 The new Forest Service chief has indicated his desire for a shift in overall management from logging, mining and grazing priorities to priorities which include biological diversity, wildlife habitats and ecosystem health. The Forest Service is in the unique position to forward Chief Dombeck's vision of national forest lands on the Chugach while maintaining recreation and wildlife habitat as the traditional management priorities.
- 0790-001 I want the Chugach National Forest to remain over 90% roadless, as it is today, and I want to see Wilderness designations on the Forest that protect different ecosystem types, Including rainforest and transitional boreal forest ecosystems, which would protect significant fish and wildlife habitat and outstanding recreational areas. I want the proposed Nellie Juan/College Fjord Wilderness Study area to be retained for Wilderness designation, and I want other areas recommended for Wilderness as well.
- 0790-003 The Chugach National Forest is not a viable commercial timber forest, and is much more valuable for its fish and wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.
- 0790-004 I am writing to add my voice to those seeking to expand long term protection for forests in the Chugach National Forest. Like many people I am concerned to hear of the growing threats to this area, which I am intending to visit next year, and wish to see you consider all possible means for its protection, in particular the full protection for those areas definable as wilderness and those areas of importance for migratory birds (including Copper River Delta), I hope to make a more detailed contribution once I have visited the area.
- 0793-006 expanded wilderness area designations - primarily for the protection of fish & wildlife.
- 0797-003 The Chugach should not be regarded as a commercial timber forest, but rather valued for its fish and wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities.
- 0810-001 AWRTA views the Chugach National Forest as a unique forest ecosystem for a variety of reasons, including its location, size, varying terrain, ecology, ecosystem types, wilderness and wildlife impacts and demands for uses.
- 0817-004 Printed on recycled paper Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) The plan revision must address an ecologically sustainable harvest that accommodates firewood harvest, house log harvest, and local, small-scale businesses that manufacture local products. This evaluation must consider the highest and best use of the Chugach Forest taking into account local, regional, state, and national interests.
- 0817-014 Particular concerns have been identified in the Cordova area and on Hinchinbrook and Hawkins Islands in Prince William Sound especially near wetlands habitats. ATV access should be limited in areas where habitat may be damaged or wildlife disturbed.

Comment # Comment

- 0817-036 CONCLUSION Wedged along the top of Alaska's Gulf Coast, the islands, fjords, rivers, and mountains that make up the Chugach National Forest provide a spectacular setting for the nation's second largest forest. This forest is unique because it encompasses the northern-most temperate rainforest in the world, numerous tidewater glaciers, and the largest coastal wetland in the western United States. Another important feature of this forest is its ecological integrity. In contrast to most public lands in the United States, the Chugach Forest is largely undeveloped and most of its habitats and populations remain abundant and healthy. The large size of the Chugach Forest also increases our potential for maintaining viable populations and ecosystem integrity. However, the Chugach is inherently fragmented because of its island character and the natural patchiness of the forest. This natural fragmentation will require extra
- 0820-005 The salvage logging rider, passed in 1995, encouraged the Forest Service to log an unprecedented amount on the Chugach. However, the public spoke against Chugach logging proposals at the same unprecedented level and the program never materialized. ACE believes this to be an important message about forest management on the Chugach and urges the Forest Service to prioritize low-impact recreation and the preservation of wildlife habitat, watersheds and ecosystems as its overall management direction.
- 0820-045 ORVs: In addition to noise conflicts, summer ORVs can do substantial and unacceptable damage to soils, vegetation, scenic beauty and scaring wildlife. They should be regulated strictly. At worst they should be confined to existing trails that have already been designated for their use, and their impacts should be regularly monitored to evaluate damage to the environment.
- 0830-008 LOGGING. Bring it to an end. This is the northern most temperate rain forest in the world! The forest practices of the past are not appropriate here. This is a habitat forest not a timber forest!
- 0838-010 Public ecosystem management education The silvicultural practices to promote and sustain a forest condition include a variety of tools including prescribed burning, natural processes, and various timber harvesting options. It is essential to realize that the bottom line is the maintenance of a long-term sustainable, healthy, and diverse forest condition. During the application of this decision-making process in Montana, it was found that using this approach rather than one aimed at a target commodity output actually achieve a combination of goals including better public support for harvest activities since the public is the body to decide the forest condition for which they want managed. The decision-making process will be aided by a decision-making body derived from the public that are trained by third party specialists in order to empower them to participate in constructive dialog on future forest conditions and processes to achieve those conditions. In addition to the efforts to develop effective natural resource management plans for Alaskan forest areas it is also necessary that we do a better job of educating the public about ecosystem management. Examples of alternatives that could be supported to assist this process include efforts by the State of Alaska Dept. of Nat. Resources under support 4 of the USFS to provide for Project Learning Tree in the public schools. Another recent example is the 4-H Forest Ecosystem Natural Resources Education Project developed by the Alaska Cooperative Extension (ACE).
- 0860-059 Continue to meet objectives by providing continued ecologically protected environments for animals and man
- 0860-086 Managed for biodiversity with natural processes generally allowed to take its course