

SAR - CRD - Interests - Forest Products

<i>Comment #</i>	<i>Comment</i>
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0003068-001

Stop logging and mining please in copper [Illegible]

0034406-001

I have recently learned that the Copper River Delta is being ecologically threatened by a new proposed logging road. I am writing to urge the US Forest Service to preserve this beautiful region by working with the Chugach Alaska Corporation to purchase a conservation easement on the corporation's 8,000-acre inholdings and by designating the Delta as wilderness, thereby preventing construction of the road and subsequent logging.

Preserving the Delta would better serve the needs of people and wildlife. A conservation easement would guarantee a profit for CAC and its shareholders (which is otherwise unlikely given the poor outlook for timber markets and high road construction costs); allow CAC shareholders to continue using its lands for hunting, fishing, and other traditional uses; and preserve the invaluable Delta ecosystem. One potential source of money to purchase the conservation easement is the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which received a significant appropriations increase for fiscal year 2000.

Because the proposed logging would threaten the integrity of the Delta--its ecology, its beauty, and its value to citizens as an important salmon run--I am urging you to work with CAC to prevent logging in the region.