

# *SAR - DEIS - Appendix H - F*

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0022289-001

COPPER RIVER DELTA: Please include wilderness designation for all of the valuable Copper River Delta wetlands both east and west of the river. Additionally, all eligible wild and scenic rivers forest-wide should be recommended, including the Copper, Martin, Bering, Katalla Rivers, Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes.

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND: Please recommend the entire Wilderness Study Area, Knight and Montague Islands, and Jack and Sawmill Bays as Wilderness to help protect species recovering from the Exxon Valdez oil spill and the Sound from large-scale industrial tourism.

KENAI PENINSULA: Please recommend Wilderness designation on the Kenai to protect brown bears and their habitat and to reduce motorized use. Specifically, Resurrection Creek and River areas. Snow River and Twentymile should be recommended as Wilderness on the Kenai.

As an owner of these public lands, I strongly urge Wilderness protection for the special areas recommended above, and support Alternative F, which recommends the same.

0022299-001

COPPER RIVER DELTA: Please include wilderness designation for all of the valuable Copper River Delta wetlands both east and west of the river. Additionally, all eligible wild and scenic rivers forest-wide should be recommended, including the Copper, Martin, Bering, Katalla Rivers, Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes.

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND: Please recommend the entire Wilderness Study Area, Knight and Montague Islands, and Jack and Sawmill Bays as Wilderness to help protect species recovering from the Exxon Valdez oil spill and the Sound from large-scale industrial tourism.

KENAI PENINSULA: Please recommend Wilderness designation on the Kenai to protect brown bears and their habitat and to reduce motorized use. Specifically, Resurrection Creek and River areas, Snow River and Twentymile should be recommended as Wilderness on the Kenai.

As an owner of these public lands, I strongly urge Wilderness protection for the special areas recommended above, and support Alternative F, which recommends the same.

0022301-001

I am especially in favor of Alternative F, which recommends wilderness designation of the 2 million acre wilderness study area in Prince William Sound, the 700,000 acres of wetlands on the Copper River Delta, and the important bear habitat on the Kenai Peninsula.

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- 0022425-001    Our national forests belong to all Americans. I have an interest in them and want them protected, for myself, and future generations. Please permanently protect the Copper River Delta. A Wilderness classification will permanently protect the native fishing and hunting way of life.  
I also urge the Forest Service to protect other valuable areas of the Forest as Wilderness such as places in Prince William Sound still recovering from the 1989 oil spill and areas on the Kenai Peninsula which support brown bears.  
  
Please implement Alternative F, which recommends Wilderness for most of these special areas.
- 0023042-001
- I urge you to adopt alternative F for the forest plan for the Chugach National forest, with the following modifications:
- 1) Federal lands in Nellie - Juan - College Fiord wilderness study area should be designated as wilderness;
  - 2) More protective wilderness designation (except immediate developed areas) should be given to 'backcountry management areas';
  - 3) The forest service should adopt the citizen's alternative for wild & scenic rivers.
- 0028157-003    \* Note well, & support, alt. F, which [Illegible] W protection.
- 0029101-001
- I would like to urge support for Alternative F, for the Chugach Forest. Specifically preserving wilderness in the wetlands east and west of Copper River, Prince William Sound (including Knight and Montague Islands, and Jack, and Sawmill Bays), and the Kenai Peninsula (specifically, Resurrection Creek, Resurrection River, Snow River, and Twentymile).
- 0029106-001    We strongly support Alternative F or at least wilderness designation for the following: Copper River Delta wetlands, Prince William Sound, (entire Wilderness Study Area, Knight and Montague Islands, and Jack and Sawmill Bays), and Kenai Peninsula (Resurrection Creek and River areas, Snow River and Twentymile).
- 0029110-001    There are a few key areas of concern, which are included in Alternative F, to include the Copper River Delta, Prince William Sound, and the Kenai Peninsula.

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- 0026617-001    I urge you to adopt a modified Alternative F in the forest plan, strengthened as follows:
- Designate as wilderness all qualified federal lands in the Nellie Juan-College Fjord Wilderness Study Area
  - Replace the 'backcountry management areas' with more protective wilderness designation -- except in the immediate environs of the existing developed areas
  - Adopt the Citizens' Alternative for wild and scenic rivers, which nominates some rivers overlooked by the Forest Service
- 0026656-001    I urge the Forest Service to adopt Alternative F for the Chugach Revision. I would also like to see the following things added to this alternative:
1. The plan should recommend the entire Copper River Delta (501b area) for Wilderness protection.
  2. Include the entire Wilderness Study Area in Prince William Sound, Knight and Montague Islands.
  3. Recommend some areas for Wilderness on the Kenai Peninsula to protect critical brown bear habitat and recreation opportunities on the Kenai.
- 0026728-001    For Alternative F.
- 0026992-004    Alternative F seems to be the best [Illegible] here.
- 0027726-006    Please move the plan closer to Alternative F.
- 0027757-001    We support the recommendations in alternative F.
- 0027758-001    Please adopt alternative F.

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0027902-001    Please support a modified alternative F which would designate more lands as wilderness including the Nellie Juan - College Fjord and more rivers. Please protect the Chugach, the Kenai Peninsula & Copper River Delta need to be designated as wilderness.

0028230-001    Please adopt a modified alternative F for the forest plan, including the following measures:

Adopt the citizens alternative for wild and scenic rivers to expand protections beyond that which the Forest service has designated.

Replace 'back country management areas' with wilderness designation.

Adopt the Federal lands within the Nellie-Juan College Fjord wilderness study area as designated wilderness.

0028261-001    I strongly suggest a modified F in the Chugach.

0028360-001    I am writing you to support alternative F in plan revision. I think wilderness designations are appropriate in certain portions of the Chugach, which has none.

The Resurrection river area merits consideration. I hunted ducks on the resurrection - what a beautiful place it is.

I hope to return to the Chugach soon, to unit crescent & [Illegible] lakes, Russian Lakes and Exit Glacier.

Can we have some wilderness here, in [Illegible] with other uses?

0028504-002    TWS supports alternative F with the changes listed below, because we believe its wilderness recommendations will create a network of wildlands that protect the range of bioenvironmental types represented on the forest, in addition to protecting a wide range of other wilderness values and opportunities across the forest. The changes we recommend for alternative F include the following:

- 1) Gravina area, east of Cordova: polygons 318, 321 and 325 should be recommended wilderness;
- 2) Copper River Delta: all sensitive wetlands east and west of the Copper River should be recommended wilderness;
- 3) Valdez area: land surrounding Jack and Sawmill Bays, south of Valdez, should be recommended wilderness;
- 4) Kenai Peninsula, Lost Lake and north of Crescent Lake: polygons 69, 212, 235 and 268;
- 5) Additional wilderness recommendations should include: polygons K116, 219, 226, 237, 238 and 239;

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0029095-001

I support Alternative F.

0029096-001

Please support Alternative F

0029116-001

I would like to request--no, demand, that you designate the Alaska Kenai Peninsula; i.e. Alaska's Chugach National Forest, prince William Sound, Copper River Delta, and Kenai Peninsula as a wilderness area. I support Alternative P.

Please save these wilderness areas now.

0029117-001

I am writing to demand wilderness protection for Alaska's Chugach National Forest, and therefore urge you to support Alternative F,

0029136-003

I also support Alternative F which recommends wilderness for most of these areas.

0029173-001

I support Alternative F, which recommends Wilderness for most of these special areas.

0029177-001

I am writing in support of alternative F of the Chugach Land Management Plan. I fully support wilderness designations and the strongest federal protections available for these areas. These are some of the last pristine ecosystems of any significant magnitude which are left on our planet. Development schemes such as logging, mining, &/or road building are short sighted plans designed to benefit the few while destroying something unrecoverable for all. Adopting alternative F is the least that we, and you as the American publics representative in this matter, should do.

0029179-001

As you review the Land Management Plan for the Chugach please add my support to Alternative F.

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0029180-001

Please support Alternative F

0029181-001

I strongly support Alternative F--maximizing the Wilderness designation of the Chugach.

0029182-001

I support Alternative F.

0029186-001

I urge you to support Alternative F as you make the important decision of the future of the Chugach and Copper River Delta.

0029190-001

Please support Alternative F

0028328-008

While ACE supports Alternative F in the DEIS and encourages the Forest Service to adopt more of this conservative approach in the FEIS, we have specific comments to the preferred alternative, as outlined below.

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0028328-025    Wild & Scenic Rivers

The preferred alternative should include all Wild and Scenic recommendations in Alternative F. The Chugach Forest Plan should be consistent with the level of analysis and recommendation done on the Tongass Forest Plan. Ironically, the Tongass plan did a much better analysis than did the Chugach, examining and evaluating all rivers and streams were examined and evaluated. (For example, the most glaring error is Resurrection River, which borders the remote and pristine Kenai Fjords National Monument, is not seriously inventoried.) The Forest Service should follow suit on the Chugach; using the Tongass model would be a good start.

The Tongass FEIS found 112 rivers with a total length of approximately 1,400 miles eligible, compared to the 23 with a total length of 353 miles (out of a possible 8,712 miles) found eligible on the Chugach. Of these 23, only seven rivers with a total length of 126.5 miles were actually recommended in the preferred alternative. This is a dismal representation of the spectacular water systems on the Chugach. It is worth pointing out that more than half of the eligible rivers in the Tongass are now protected, either by Wild and Scenic river designations or by being in Wilderness areas or LUDs. Chugach rivers should be afforded the same through protective special designations with more recommendations across the forest. Wild river recommendations, in particular should be increased significantly as most on the Chugach qualify as such. Recommendations for Wild & Scenic Rivers within recommended wilderness is highly comparable, as the preferred alternative demonstrates with the recommendation of lower Nellie Juan within recommended wilderness. On the Tongass, many of the eligible rivers are within wilderness boundaries. Under Suitability Criteria #2: Current Status of Land Ownership, the Tongass FEIS finds rivers within a wilderness highly suitable. Since the same criteria must be applied to the Chugach, the recommendation of wilderness can no longer be used as an excuse for not recommending rivers within the same corridor.

To read the assessments of most inventoried rivers, one would think them all highly eligible. How the Forest Service arrived at the conclusion that most do not meet eligibility criteria is a mystery since there is no discussion. The decision appears arbitrary at best, especially when one does an eligibility comparison. For example, there is absolutely no logic behind Portage Glacier's eligibility as Wild, while the remote, wild and pristine Twentymile was classified as Scenic. With regard to those found eligible, many are under-classified (see specific comments below). Without the background knowledge on this issue, it would have been impossible to adequately evaluate the Wild and Scenic Rivers from the DEIS. The FEIS should include a table showing all miles of rivers and streams in the Chugach, all miles of those rivers found eligible, and a summary of the process used to arrive at the preferred alternative recommendations.

0029306-001    We strongly support Alternative F or at least wilderness designation for the following: Copper River Delta wetlands, Prince William Sound, (entire Wilderness Study Area, Knight and Montague islands, and Jack and Sawmill Bays), and Kenai Peninsula (Resurrection Creek and River areas, Snow River and Twentymile).

0029372-001

Dave please accept Forest management Plan F for the copper river delta!!! Dave if you want to see what happens to a RIVER. You'll see what happens to Pure water and Good Fishing. Lets SAVE THE COPPER RIVER for our Grand Children and the future!!!!

0029389-003

I also support Alternative F which recommends wilderness for most of these areas.

0029397-001

I am writing to express my support for Alternative F of the Forest Service proposals for management of the Chugach National Forest. I would also like to urge the Forest Service to expand the protections outlined in Alternative F.

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0029398-001

The Forest Service plan for the Chugach national forest needs to be modified. I support a modified Alternative F as follows:

0029406-003

We recommend that you close areas that would not be available under the conservation alternative, Alternative F.

0029422-001

Of the alternatives in the revised plan, 'Alternative F' comes closest to protecting the wilderness, wild liver, and other natural values of the forest. However, while being much more acceptable than the preferred alternative - - which is itself highly inadequate - - 'Alternative F' is still lacking. Therefore, I urge you to adopt a modified Alternative F, which would be strengthened as follows:

1. Recommend as wilderness all the valuable Copper River Delta wetlands, both east and west of the river.
2. Recommend as wilderness all Qualified lands in the Nellie Juan-College Fjord Wilderness Study Area as well as Knight and Montague islands, Jack and Sawmill Bays.
3. Replace the Brown Bear Core Area on the Kenai with wilderness as the best means of affording the necessary security for these wilderness-dependent creatures; in particular, recommend Resurrection Creek and River areas, and Snow River and Twentymile areas as wilderness.
4. Reduce the size of the backcountry management areas to the immediate developed environs around Whittier.
5. Adopt the Citizens' Alternative for wild and scenic rivers - - which nominates some rivers overlooked by the Forest Service and drops the glaciers and some rivers that do not qualify. It calls for mile-wide protected river corridors. In addition to the Copper, particularly important rivers are the Martin, Bering, and Katalla rivers, Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes.
6. Use logging only to protect the safety of communities. Do not use the spruce bark beetle as an excuse for more logging in wild unroaded areas.
7. Restore natural quiet on the forest, ban jet skies, and limit ATV'S, helicopters, and snowmachines.

I urge you to adopt all of these recommendations as part of your final decision.

0029423-003

We recommend that you close areas that would not be available under the conservation alternative. Alternative F.

0029452-003

We recommend that you close areas that would not be available under the conservation alternative, Alternative F.

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0029453-001

I would suggest a modified Alternative F, with some stronger measures to protect and preserve what cannot be replaced.

0029468-001

\* Roadless Area Protection

We support Alternative F, with the changes necessary to ensure that it is consistent with the final rule on roadless area conservation, due out in the next month or two. The preferred alternative for the Forest Plan should protect all roadless areas from new roads (except as otherwise required by law) and ALL logging (including 'stewardship' or 'salvage' logging). The roadless area protections in the Forest Plan should NOT be established merely by reference to the roadless area conservation rule; instead those protections should be established independently in the Forest Plan as part of the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative should clearly state that no logging or road building will take place in roadless areas.

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0029468-007    In general, ARC supports the wilderness recommendations for Alternative F, although with modifications as outlined below. These areas represent biological diversity as well as local support for protection, and should be designated Wilderness.

Copper River Delta Wilderness (east Delta and Barrier Islands) The Copper River Delta is one of the most outstanding ecological areas in the United States. At 700,000 acres the Delta is the largest wetlands complex on the Pacific coast of North America. The Delta is also one of the most important shorebird habitats in the Western Hemisphere, supporting more than 16 million shorebirds and other waterfowl. The area is home to one of the world's most renowned salmon fisheries; the prized Copper River red salmon.

ARC is extremely concerned that all parts of the Delta (east and west) have not been recommended for full wilderness protection. This concern is augmented by development threats in the region including the construction of a 55-mile road, clearcut logging of 8,000 acres of forestland and sub-surface coal development proposals. The line separating areas recommended for Wilderness protection in the DEIS and those to be not recommended appear to be based on political boundaries rather than biological ones. This entire ecosystem is worthy of ANILCA wilderness designations; nothing less will protect the long-term economic and ecological attributes of this unique area. Please ensure the FEIS remedies this inexcusable failure to protect the southeastern portion of the Delta.

College Fjord/Nellie Juan Wilderness (Wilderness Study Area) Prince William Sound areas are easily accessed by way of the Whittier access road. Wilderness designation would help to address the expected increase in the numbers of people visiting the Sound.

Big Islands Wilderness

Montague, Hinchinbrook, and Hawkins Islands have some of the most productive wildlife populations in the Sound due to the intense upwelling and nutrient rich waters of Hinchinbrook Entrance. They are ecosystems unto themselves. The rugged outer coasts of Montague and Hinchinbrook Islands, where forested mountains ride abruptly behind remote beaches, are unique in Alaska and rare worldwide.

Resurrection Valley Wilderness

This rich watershed drains Resurrection Creek, one of the largest (160 sq. miles) non-glacial watersheds in the Chugach National Forest. Historically, the creek has supported large Dolly Varden populations and salmon runs. At 18 miles in length, this clearwater stream is outstanding in and of itself. The Resurrection Trail, which is a unit of the National Trail System, is world-renowned for its backpacking, day-hiking, mountain-hiking and skiing opportunities. It is one of the most visited trails systems in the state of Alaska, by residents and tourists from all over the world alike, due to its accessibility and scenic beauty.

Alpenglow Wilderness (Seattle Creek area)

This area contains the only remaining unroaded coastline along Turnagain Arm in the Chugach National Forest. The coastal zone supports dense old-growth forest with high wildlife values. It is remote and extremely wild; one of the last road-accessible areas on the Kenai without trails. One is afforded a truly backcountry experience here, with opportunity

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for quiet and solitude.

Kenai Headwaters Wilderness (Snow River drainages)

In recent years, the Kenai River has received ample attention due to its over-popularity. People are loving the river to death in some areas. Yet, it supports a healthy and robust salmon population that fuels the economies of many of the peninsula economies. In large part, the river remains so healthy because its headwaters are still pristine. The Snow River and South Fork Snow River drain millions of gallons of fresh glacial water into Kenai Lake annually. These river valleys are extremely wild and remote; we believe both are eligible for Wild & Scenic River designation.

Primrose Wilderness (Russian Lakes & Primrose areas)

This corridor for Kenai Peninsula brown bears contains very diverse habitat. In a relatively concentrated area one can find extensive alpine tundra vegetation, coastal riparian and mountain forests, and transitional-interior forest. Wilderness would protect a contiguous brown bear corridor through the area and be compatible with the Forest Service's proposed Research Natural Area.

Quartz Creek Wilderness

Wilderness designation for Upper Quartz Creek is a crucial element of protection for the overall ecology of this important anadromous tributary within the Kenai River watershed. The lower portion of Quartz Creek has become subject to increasing pressures from the road system, development, and mining activities. The headwaters of the Quartz Creek watershed are pristine east of the Seward Highway road corridor.

Surprise Valley Wilderness (Just north of Cordova)

Surprise Valley borders Eyak traditional homelands recently acquired by EVOS. A Wilderness designation border would compliment the intent of the acquisition.

Twentymile Wilderness (north of Turnagain Arm)

This watershed contains rich alpine, forest, riparian, and wetland habitat. It provides important seasonal habitat for migratory birds and waterfowl, as well as year-round habitat for resident wildlife populations. The area, known for its wild character, supports large populations of mountain goats, bears, moose, wolverines, and a wolf pack. The Twentymile watershed contains the wildlife values of any watershed on the national forest in the Turnagain Arm drainage. The mix of wetlands, forest, and alpine areas provide extremely high biological diversity in a relatively small area.

0030760-001

I'm writing to urge the adoption of alternation F,

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0034177-001

The Chugach NF needs protection.  
Please support Alternative F strengthened as follows:

Designate as wilderness all qualified federal lands in the Nellie Juan -- College Fjord Wilderness Study Area.

Replace the 'backcountry management areas' with more protective wilderness designation -- except in the immediate environs of the existing developed areas.

Adopt the Citizens' Alternative for wild and scenic rivers which nominates some overlooked rivers.

0034181-001

I write to urge you to adopt a modified Alternative F, strengthened as follows: Recommend that all the Copper River Delta wetlands, east and west of the river, become wilderness. That all qualified lands in the Nellie Juan-college Fjord wilderness Study Area as well as Knight and Montague Islands, Jack and Sawmill Bays become wilderness. That we replace the Brown Bear Core Area on the Kenai with wilderness as the best means of affording the necessary security for these wilderness-dependent creatures, in particular, recommend Resurrection Creek and River areas, and Snow River and Twentymile areas as wilderness. That we reduce the size of the backcountry management areas to the immediate developed environs around Whittier. That we adopt the Citizens' Alternative for wild and scenic rivers - which nominates some rivers overlooked by the Forest Service and drops the glaciers and some rivers that do not qualify. It calls for mile-wide protected river corridors. In addition to the Copper, particularly important rivers are the Martin, Bering and Katalla rivers, Alaganik Slouch and Martin and Bering Lakes. Logging should be used only to protect the safety of communities. Do not use the spruce bark beetle as an excuse for more logging in wild unroaded areas. Restore natural quiet on the forest. Ban jet skis and limit ATVs, helicopters and snowmachines

0034183-001

I am urging you to adopt a modified  
Alternative F. strengthened as follows:

It recommends, as wilderness, all the valuable Copper River Delta Wetlands, east and west of the river. It recommends, as wilderness, all qualified lands in the Nellie Juan-College Fjord Wilderness Study Area as well as Knight and Montague Islands, Jack and Sawmill Bays.

Adopt the Citizen's alternative for wild and scenic rivers, which nominates some rivers overlooked by the Forest Service, It also calls for mile wide protected river corridors. Particularly important rivers are the Copper, Martin, Bering and Katalla rivers, Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering lakes.

Again, adopt a modified Alternative F!

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0034281-001

I am writing to urge the U.S. Forest Service to protect the wilderness, wild rivers and other natural values of the forest, and to adopt a modified Alternative F, strengthened as follows;

\*recommend all the valuable Copper River Delta wetlands as wilderness, both east and west of the river.

\*recommend as wilderness all qualified federal lands on the Nellie Juan-College Fjord Wilderness Study Area as well as Knight and Montague Islands, and Jack and Sawmill Bays;

\*On the Kenai, replace the Brown Bear Core area with wilderness as the best means of affording the necessary degree of security for these wilderness-dependent creatures; in particular, recommend Resurrection Creek and River areas, Snow River and Twentymile areas as Wilderness;

\*reduce the size of the backcountry management areas to the immediate environs of the developed areas around Whittier;

\*adopt the Citizens' Alternative for wild and scenic rivers which nominates some rivers overlooked by the Forest Service and drops the glaciers and some rivers that do not qualify, it calls for mile-wide protected river corridors. In Addition to the Copper, particularly important rivers are the Martin, Bering, and Katalla rivers, Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes.

0034299-001

1) The US Forest Service's preferred alternative falls short on Wilderness recommendations. I support Alternative F, which provides stronger wilderness protection. Some of the key areas within the Chugach that should be given wilderness protection include:

A. COPPER RIVER DELTA: Please keep as wilderness all of the Copper River Delta wetlands both east and west of the river.

B. PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND: the recommended Wilderness for the WSA in their preferred alternative from the 1984 Forest Plan. Please include as wilderness in the plan the entire Wilderness Study Area, Knight and Montague Islands, and Jack and Sawmill Bays to help protect species recovering from the Exxon Valdez oil spill and the Sound from large-scale industrial tourism.

C. KENAI PENINSULA; Please include in the plan Wilderness on the Kenai to protect brown bears and their habitat and to reduce motorized use. Specifically, Resurrection Creek and River areas. Snow River and Twentymile should be included as wilderness on the Kenai.

2. Also, all eligible wild and scenic rivers forest-wide should be given wilderness status, including the Copper, Martin, Bering, Katalla Rivers, Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes.

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0034405-001

It is my recommendation that Alternative F, with the changes recommended by the Alaska Rainforest Campaign, be adopted as the preferred alternative. Wilderness designation is the only way to keep the Copper River Delta as it is now, forever.

0034409-001

Alternative F is the best, but it also needs to:

\*Protect roadless areas from logging and road-building

\*Recommend the Copper River Delta (501b area) for Wilderness status

\*Recommend the Prince William Sound WSA for Wilderness status

\*Recommend Knight and Montague Islands for wilderness status

\*Recommend critical brown bear habitat on the Kenai peninsula for Wilderness status

0034414-003

I recommend that you close to helicopter landings those areas listed in the conservation alternative, Alternative F. Since helicopter landings are already permitted on state lands, there is no compelling reason to allow this obnoxious, noisy use into federal lands.

0034419-001

Please support and adopt a modified Alternative F, with many strengthening improvements.

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0034421-001

Having reviewed the information on your web site, I think the best of the alternatives you have developed and presented is Alternative F. In particular, I believe the final plan should:

1. Emphasize natural processes for maintaining intact ecosystems and wildlife habitat.
2. Emphasize nonmotorized recreation in the backcountry, with motorized recreation limited to snowmobiles in the winter.
3. Minimize the area available for mineral development.
4. Recommend Wilderness designation for all or nearly all roadless areas, inventoried and uninventoried.
5. Until designation is accomplished, protect all areas recommended for Wilderness and manage them in essentially the same way as Wilderness.
6. Include in Wilderness recommendations all wetlands in the Copper River Delta on both sides of the river. This is the only way to assure long term protection for this valuable habitat for waterfowl, bears, and wolves, and for the important salmon runs.
7. Include in Wilderness recommendations all critical brown bear habitat on the Kenai Peninsula.
8. Recommend all eligible rivers for designation as Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers.
9. Emphasize Research Natural Areas.

Alternative F should be modified as necessary to accomplish the above.

In addition, there are two other ways that I believe Alternative F could be modified while still achieving the objectives above. First, I would like to see more new hiking trails constructed than called for in this alternative. Second, I think limited additional developed recreation facilities are possible, and I strongly support the concept of 'reduced noise' developed recreation facilities.

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- 0034430-001    Your Alternative F is a good first step, but let me suggest that you modify and improve it by:
1. Making all of the Copper River Delta wetlands, both east and west of the river, de jure wilderness.
  2. Making all qualified lands in the Nellie Juan-College Fjord Wilderness Study Area as well as Knight and Montague Islands, Jack and Sawmill Bays, de jure wilderness.
  3. Replacing the Brown Bear Core Area on the Kenai with wilderness as the best means of giving the necessary security for these magnificent creatures. Wilderness status should also be given to the Resurrection Creek and River areas, and to the Snow River and Twentymile areas to help accomplish this protection for the brown bear.
  4. Reducing the size of the backcountry management areas to the immediate developed environs around Whittier.
  5. Adopting the Citizens' Alternative for wild and scenic rivers, which nominates many rivers overlooked by the Forest Service and drops those that do not need protection because they are glaciers.
  6. Banning jet skis, ATV's, helicopter overflights (except those that are absolutely necessary), and snowmachines. Let's restore natural quiet to our forests.
- 0034434-001    I fully support the implementation of Alternative F as the preferred alternative in the FEIS,
- 0034446-003    We recommend that you close areas that would not be available under the conservation alternative, Alternative F.
- 0034835-002    The forest service preferred plan is a great disappointment. It ignores the value of the forest. Alternative F in the plan is the best option. Even it falls short in that it doesn't do enough to recommend Wild and Scenic rivers. The preferred plan is terribly inadequate and should be abandoned. Alternative F, with additional rivers recommended for wild and Scenic status, is the only option that will protect the area for future generations.

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0034857-001

I urge you to adopt a strengthened Alternative F with more wilderness that includes:  
the Copper River Delta: all the delta wetlands, both east and west of the river.

all wild and scenic rivers forest wide, including the Copper, Martin, Bering, Katalla Rivers, Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes.

Prince William Sound: the entire existing WSA, Knight and Montague Islands, and Jack and Sawmill Bays, to help protect species recovering from the Exxon Valdez oil spill.  
Kenai Peninsula: Resurrection Creek and River areas, Snow River, and Twentymile, to protect brown bears and their habitat and to reduce motorized use.  
Banning jet skis and limiting ATVs, helicopters and snow machines  
Also, do not use the spruce bark beetle as justification to log in roadless areas.

0034858-001

I urge you to adopt a strengthened Alternative F with more wilderness that includes:

-- the Copper River Delta: all the delta wetlands, both east and west of the river.

-- all wild and scenic rivers forest wide, including the Copper, Martin, Bering, Katalla Rivers, Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes.

-- Prince William Sound: the entire existing WSA, Knight and Montague Islands, and Jack and Sawmill Bays, to help protect species recovering from the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

-- Kenai Peninsula: Resurrection Creek and River areas, Snow River, and Twentymile, to protect brown bears and their habitat and to reduce motorized use.

-- Banning jet skis and limiting ATVs, helicopters and snow machines

Also, do not use the spruce bark beetle as justification to log in roadless areas.

0034892-003

I would like to cast my support for Alternative F which calls for Wilderness across many areas of the Kenai, Sound and Delta. I do not want to see any of the Brown Bear Core due to the fact that it allows roads.

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0034896-001

I am writing to urge the U.S. Forest Service to protect the wilderness, wild rivers and other natural values of the forest, and to adopt a modified Alternative F, strengthened as follows:

\* recommend all the valuable Copper River Delta wetlands as wilderness, both east and west of the river.

\* recommend as wilderness all qualified federal lands on the Nellie Juan-College Fjord wilderness Study Area as well as Knight and Montague islands, and Jack and Sawmill Bays;

\* On the Kenai, replace the Brown Bear Core area with wilderness as the best means of affording the necessary degree of security for these wilderness-dependent creatures; in particular, recommend Resurrection Creek and River areas, Snow River and Twentymile areas as Wilderness;

\* reduce the size of the backcountry management areas to the immediate environs of the developed areas around Whittier;

\* adopt the Citizens' Alternative for wild and scenic rivers which nominates some rivers overlooked by the Forest Service and drops the glaciers and some rivers that do not qualify. It calls for mile-wide protected river corridors. In Addition to the Copper, particularly important rivers are the Martin, Bering, and Katalla rivers, Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes.

In addition, I would like to stress that the Forest Service:

\* Use logging only to protect the safety of communities; do not use the spruce bark beetle as an excuse for more logging in wild unroaded areas.

\* Restore natural quiet on the forest. Ban jet skis and limit ATV's, helicopters, and snowmachines.

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0034900-001

I am writing to urge the U.S. Forest Service to protect the wilderness, wild rivers and other natural values of the forest, and to adopt a modified Alternative F, strengthened as follows:

\* recommend all the valuable Copper River Delta wetlands as wilderness, both east and west of the river.

\* recommend as wilderness all qualified federal lands on the Nellie Juan-College Fjord wilderness Study Area as well as Knight and Montague islands, and Jack and Sawmill Bays;

\* On the Kenai, replace the Brown Bear Core area with wilderness as the best means of affording the necessary degree of security for these wilderness-dependent creatures; in particular, recommend Resurrection Creek and River areas, Snow River and Twentymile areas as Wilderness;

\* reduce the size of the backcountry management areas to the immediate environs of the developed areas around Whittier;

\* adopt the Citizens' Alternative for wild and scenic rivers which nominates some rivers overlooked by the Forest Service and drops the glaciers and some rivers that do not qualify. It calls for mile-wide protected river corridors. In Addition to the Copper, particularly important rivers are the Martin, Bering, and Katalla rivers, Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes.

In addition, I would like to stress that the Forest Service:

\* Use logging only to protect the safety of communities; do not use the spruce bark beetle as an excuse for more logging in wild unroaded areas.

\* Restore natural quiet on the forest. Ban jet skis and limit ATV's, helicopters, and snowmachines.

0034929-010

2) We recommend that you close areas that would not be available under the conservation alternative, Alternative F.

0035564-005

Please move the plan closer to alternative F.

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0035897-001    I urge you to adopt a strengthened Alternative F with more wilderness that includes:

- the Copper River Delta: all the delta wetlands, both east and west of the river.
- all wild and scenic rivers forest wide, including the Copper, Martin, Bering, Katalla Rivers, Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes.
- Prince William Sound: the entire existing WSA, Knight and Montague Islands, and Jack and Sawmill Bays, to help protect species recovering from the Exxon Valdez oil spill.
- Kenai Peninsula: Resurrection Creek and River areas. Snow River, and Twentymile, to protect brown bears and their habitat and to reduce motorized use.
- Banning jet skis and limiting ATVs, helicopters and snow machines

Also, do not use the spruce bark beetle as justification to log in roadless areas.

0035934-001    I strongly support protection of road less areas, designation of wilderness, and protection for wildlife in the forest. Therefore, a modification of Alternative F would be best;

Please consider:

1. adding additional river valleys to the list of protected areas/wilderness areas - these areas are critical for protection of all types of wildlife,
2. adding additional rivers to the recommendations for Wild and Scenic River Status - 7 out of 23 is too low a number - I support the Citizens alternative, and
3. designate additional lands in the Nellie Juan-College Fjord wilderness study area as wilderness.

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0036182-001

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on the Chugach Forest Plan Revision Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Please accept the following as our comments.

The Alaska Rainforest Campaign (ARC) is a coalition of Alaska and national conservation organizations with memberships of 14,000 in Alaska and nearly 2 million nationwide. ARC has been involved with protection of the Chugach and Prince William Sound area for years and has been intimately involved in the entire CLMP process.

ARC is encouraged by the level of access the public has had to the Forest Service Revision Team throughout the revision process. This level of access has been unique in forest planning processes throughout the country, and we applaud the Forest Service for allowing the public to be at the table from the start of the process. Additionally, we are encouraged by a number of aspects incorporated in the preferred alternative, such as the overall direction in management which primarily emphasizes fish and wildlife conservation and recreation, and a zero ASQ.

However, while ARC supports many aspects of the proposed plan, we have several specific concerns that are detailed in the following comments.

\* Roadless Area Protection

We support Alternative F, with the changes necessary to ensure that it is consistent with the final rule on roadless area conservation, due out in the next month or two. The preferred alternative for the Forest Plan should protect all roadless areas from new roads (except as otherwise required by law) and ALL logging (including 'stewardship' or 'salvage' logging). The roadless area protections in the Forest Plan should NOT be established merely by reference to the roadless area conservation rule; instead those protections should be established independently in the Forest Plan as part of the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative should clearly state that no logging or road building will take place in roadless areas.

\* Mining

The lowest average satisfaction ratings for public land uses on the Chugach include both logging and mining. Yet, 72.5% of the forest remains open to mining under the preferred alternative. Of all land uses and opportunities listed in the two community surveys, the lowest average satisfaction rating is for jobs from logging and mining. The most important values to respondents are undeveloped land/wilderness, fishing and hunting.

Mineral potential on the Chugach is generally not high; in fact, only 5% is considered most favorable. The majority of mining claims are small operators in road-accessible areas, such as the Kenai Peninsula. Although the Wilderness Study Area had written into its language specifically stating its availability to mineral exploration, little to none has been explored. If there were significant mineral potential in the Sound, it would have been developed years ago. Table 3-93 shows significant decline in mineral production. And according to a report by Steve Nelson, USGS, 'Current feasibility evaluations suggest that production is unlikely for any of the lode deposits at current prices' (3-397). In other words, the DEIS states there is little favorable potential, reports that production is unlikely, yet the preferred alternative leaves over 75% of the forest open to mineral exploration,

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at the potential expense of other resources enjoyed by a greater majority.

The same logic applies to oil and gas development. The DEIS acknowledges most of the forest has no potential for oil or gas, yet much of the Chugach remains open to exploration. Even the Katalla area has low potential and, in fact, has never produced much even at the height of operations. Over a thirty-year period, 18 wells produced a mere 1.54 thousand barrels.

The preferred alternative should give priority to stated public desires (not industry special interest) by withdrawing significant biologically rich portions of the Chugach to mineral entry. Further, the FEIS should provide adequate cumulative impacts through a baseline environmental assessment of forest-wide mine status, including contaminated sites.

\* Wild And Scenic Rivers

The preferred alternative should include all Wild and Scenic recommendations in Alternative F. The Chugach Forest Plan should be consistent with the level of analysis and recommendation done on the Tongass Forest Plan. Ironically, the Tongass plan did a much better analysis than did the Chugach, examining and evaluating all rivers and streams were examined and evaluated. (For example, the most glaring error is Resurrection River, which borders the remote and pristine Kenai Fjords National Monument, is not seriously inventoried.) The Forest Service should follow suit on the Chugach; using the Tongass model would be a good start.

The current preferred alternative is extraordinarily disappointing regarding its Wild and Scenic river recommendations. Wild river recommendations, in particular should be increased significantly as most on the Chugach qualify as such. Recommendations for Wild & Scenic Rivers within recommended wilderness is highly compatible, as the preferred alternative demonstrates with the recommendation of lower Nellie Juan within recommended wilderness.

On the Tongass, many of the eligible rivers are within wilderness boundaries. Under Suitability Criteria #2: Current Status of Land Ownership, the Tongass FEIS finds rivers within a wilderness highly suitable. Since the same criteria must be applied to the Chugach, the recommendation of wilderness can no longer be used as an excuse for not recommending rivers within the same corridor.

To read the assessments of most inventoried rivers, one would think them all highly eligible. The DEIS fails to discuss how the Forest Service arrived at the conclusion that most do not meet eligibility criteria. The decision appears arbitrary at best, especially when one does an eligibility comparison. For example, (do Portage to 20mile or one of the Delta rivers). With regard to those found eligible, many are under-classified.

Additionally, the preferred alternative should implement a boundary of one-half mile, as allowed for in ANILCA and once supported in IDT planning meetings, on all Wild & Scenic recommendations. A boundary of this size would better protect travel and feeding corridors for wildlife populations.

\* Zero ASQ

We strongly support the Zero ASQ (allowable sale quantity) in the preferred alternative.

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\* Stewardship Logging /Salvage Logging

The preferred alternative is ambiguous as to where and when 'salvage' or 'stewardship' logging or 'commercial timber harvest, non-chargeable' is permitted. The preferred alternative should explicitly state that it does not permit 'stewardship' or 'salvage' or 'commercial non-chargeable' logging in roadless areas. Additionally, the final plan must include a 'no salvage logging / no stewardship logging' alternative.

\* Wilderness Recommendations

The DEIS's recommendations for Wilderness areas falls far short of recommending protection for candidate areas for Wilderness designations. The Chugach National Forest encompasses 5.5 million acres and is the northern-most temperate rainforest in the nation. At 98% roadless, it includes one of the world's last remaining intact rainforests. It is the second largest national forest in the country, and although 98% of the Chugach is classified as roadless and qualifies for Wilderness designation, there is no designated Wilderness on the forest. Comprised of Alaska's Kenai Peninsula, Prince William Sound, and the Copper River Delta, the issues and threats facing these three regions vary and demand wilderness protection for all regions.

In general, ARC supports the wilderness recommendations for Alternative F, although with modifications as outlined below. These areas represent biological diversity as well as local support for protection, and should be designated Wilderness.

Copper River Delta Wilderness (east Delta and Barrier Islands) The Copper River Delta is one of the most outstanding ecological areas in the United States. At 700,000 acres the Delta is the largest wetlands complex on the Pacific coast of North America. The Delta is also one of the most important shorebird habitats in the Western Hemisphere, supporting more than 16 million shorebirds and other waterfowl. The area is home to one of the world's most renowned salmon fisheries; the prized Copper River red salmon.

ARC is extremely concerned that all parts of the Delta (east and west) have not been recommended for full wilderness protection. This concern is augmented by development threats in the region including the construction of a 55-mile road, clearcut logging of 8,000 acres of forestland and sub-surface coal development proposals. The line separating areas recommended for Wilderness protection in the DEIS and those to be not recommended appear to be based on political boundaries rather than biological ones. This entire ecosystem is worthy of ANILCA wilderness designations; nothing less will protect the long-term economic and ecological attributes of this unique area. Please ensure the FEIS remedies this inexcusable failure to protect the southeastern portion of the Delta.

College Fjord/Nellie Juan Wilderness (Wilderness Study Area) Prince William Sound areas are easily accessed by way of the Whittier access road. Wilderness designation would help to address the expected increase in the numbers of people visiting the Sound.

Big Islands Wilderness

Montague, Hinchinbrook, and Hawkins Islands have some of the most productive wildlife populations in the Sound due to the intense upwelling and nutrient rich waters of Hinchinbrook Entrance. They are ecosystems unto themselves. The rugged outer coasts of Montague and

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Hinchinbrook Islands, where forested mountains rise abruptly behind remote beaches, are unique in Alaska and rare worldwide.

Resurrection Valley Wilderness

This rich watershed drains Resurrection Creek, one of the largest (160 sq. miles) non-glacial watersheds in the Chugach National Forest. Historically, the creek has supported large Dolly Varden populations and salmon runs. At 18 miles in length, this clearwater stream is outstanding in and of itself. The Resurrection Trail, which is a unit of the National Trail System, is world-renowned for its backpacking, day-hiking, mountain-hiking and skiing opportunities. It is one of the most visited trails systems in the state of Alaska, by residents and tourists from all over the world alike, due to its accessibility and scenic beauty.

Alpenglow Wilderness (Seattle Creek area)

This area contains the only remaining unroaded coastline along Turnagain Arm in the Chugach National Forest. The coastal zone supports dense old-growth forest with high wildlife values. It is remote and extremely wild; one of the last road-accessible areas on the Kenai without trails. One is afforded a truly backcountry experience here, with opportunity for quiet and solitude.

Kenai Headwaters Wilderness (Snow River drainages)

In recent years, the Kenai River has received ample attention due to its over-popularity. People are loving the river to death in some areas. Yet, it supports a healthy and robust salmon population that fuels the economies of many of the peninsula economies. In large part, the river remains so healthy because its headwaters are still pristine. The Snow River and South Fork Snow River drain millions of gallons of fresh glacial water into Kenai Lake annually. These river valleys are extremely wild and remote; we believe both are eligible for Wild & Scenic River designation.

Primrose Wilderness (Russian Lakes & Primrose areas)

This corridor for Kenai Peninsula brown bears contains very diverse habitat. In a relatively concentrated area one can find extensive alpine tundra vegetation, coastal riparian and mountain forests, and transitional-interior forest. Wilderness would protect a contiguous brown bear corridor through the area and be compatible with the Forest Service's proposed Research Natural Area.

Quartz Creek Wilderness

Wilderness designation for Upper Quartz Creek is a crucial element of protection for the overall ecology of this important anadromous tributary within the Kenai River watershed. The lower portion of Quartz Creek has become subject to increasing pressures from the road system, development, and mining activities. The headwaters of the Quartz Creek watershed are pristine east of the Seward Highway road corridor.

Surprise Valley Wilderness (Just north of Cordova)

Surprise Valley borders Eyak traditional homelands recently acquired by EVOS. A Wilderness designation border would compliment the intent of the acquisition.

Twentymile Wilderness (north of Turnagain Arm)

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This watershed contains rich alpine, forest, riparian, and wetland habitat. It provides important seasonal habitat for migratory birds and waterfowl, as well as year-round habitat for resident wildlife populations. The area, known for its wild character, supports large populations of mountain goats, bears, moose, wolverines, and a wolf pack. The Twentymile watershed contains the wildlife values of any watershed on the national forest in the Turnagain Arm drainage. The mix of wetlands, forest, and alpine areas provide extremely high biological diversity in a relatively small area.

\* Brown Bear Core

ARC supports the concept of the brown bear core prescription, and is encouraged that the Forest Service created a prescription that recognizes the sensitivity of the brown bear population within Chugach Forest boundaries, primarily on the Kenai Peninsula. By creating this prescription, the Forest Service responded to many peoples' scoping comments, about brown bears on the Kenai Peninsula that need added protection in order to maintain the population's viability.

The Brown Bear Core prescription falls short of its intent to protect brown bears in a number of ways. A serious deficiency with this prescription is that it allows the development of utility systems as a 'conditional' activity. The management intent for the prescription states, 'Utility corridors, power generation facilities, power transmission lines, marine transfer facilities and administrative facilities are discouraged in this management area.' However, 'discouraged' is a nebulous term. Furthermore, the following sentence stating that projects 'may be allowed if no feasible alternative is available' sends confusing signals. It can be expected that project developers will hire consultants and lawyers to demonstrate that no other alternative is feasible and that disturbance of a brown bear core area is essential for their project.

Any project that is likely to seek access across a proposed Brown Bear Core areas will be a major construction project that will necessitate not only road construction, but also vehicle access throughout the life of the project. Mentioning that, 'Resource projects in roadless areas must be accomplished without construction of new roads' will be seen as only a speed bump, not a stop sign, on the way to proving that there is 'no feasible alternative.'

Furthermore, the 'no feasible alternative' language in the prescription does not give any suggestion as to how feasibility should be determined. Consequently, it will be only a matter of time before the Forest Service is faced with a project proposal that will require technical and economic expertise well beyond that of managing a forest. The only way to avoid the time and money that will be needed to sort out the claims when this issue arises is to change Utility Systems in the Brown Bear Core Activities Table from 'C' to 'N.' Without this change, this prescription will not accomplish its intent.

\* Submerged Lands

The DEIS is incomplete because it does not adequately address the management of and impacts to the submerged lands within the Chugach National Forest Boundary. We believe, as the Forest Service has recognized, that the tidelands and submerged lands within the proclamation boundary of the forest are part of the Chugach National Forest.

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This is perhaps the most fatally flawed area in the DEIS. The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requires that the CNF Land and Resource Management Plan must form one integrated plan for all of the lands and resources of the conservation unit. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) further requires that the Forest Service prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the CNF that encompasses all of the resources found there. As the 1907 CNF boundary was drawn to include the tidelands and submerged lands of Prince William Sound, the Forest Service must address these resources, regardless of agreements with other land management agencies. Implications of this omission resound throughout the DEIS, from lack of adequate cumulative impacts to administrative rules and guidelines.

The Forest Service itself seems confused about its management in the Sound. For example, 3- 201 of the DEIS lists two Federally listed endangered species 'within the boundaries of the Chugach National Forest,' both of which are aquatic mammals whose habitat is Prince William Sound (PWS). Yet, the DEIS fails to even consider visitor use on PWS as an impact to air quality, instead citing neighboring communities as the most likely source of air contamination (3-6). Rather than attempt to protect its resources, the Forest Service is continuing a pattern of abdicating management responsibility. In fact, the Forest Service cannot sidestep its responsibility, being required, for example, to prepare biological assessments for ESA-listed species within its boundaries.

The Forest Service has yet to address the jurisdiction issue through the NEPA process, although relinquishing management of the waters of Prince William Sound is certainly 'a major federal action significantly affecting the environment.' The final plan should make it very clear that the tidelands and submerged lands within the proclamation boundary of the forest are part of the Chugach National Forest and will be included in its management.

\* Prescriptions:

ARC has several concerns regarding the prescriptions described in the DEIS. The following prescriptions should be changed so that they fulfill their intent:

1) Wilderness:

ARC is concerned with a number of the activities allowed in the Wilderness Prescription, as outlined in the DEIS by the Forest Service. The Activities Table indicates that OHV/Motorized Recreation Use in winter is conditionally allowed. We strongly disagree with the notion that motorized recreational activities should be allowed in areas that are being managed for wilderness protection, either recommended wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas. Further, we take issue with another of the allowances made under the standards and guidelines in both the Wilderness and Wilderness Study Area prescriptions. Both prescriptions allow, in the case of Fisheries, small, motorized equipment (chainsaws, generators, compressors, etc.) to be used in construction of improvement projects and larger motorized equipment (backhoes, tracked vehicles, OHV's, etc.) to be used if authorized by the responsible line officer. We do not believe it was the intent of Congress to allow these types of uses within ANILCA wilderness areas.

Further, we believe the Forest Service is beyond its legal parameters when, under both prescriptions, it allows in the case of Recreation, 'Explosives and small, motorized equipment (such as, chainsaws, generators, compressors, and rock drills) are allowed for recreation

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maintenance, construction and reconstruction projects.' The Forest Service has crossed over the line of wilderness management when allowing these types of motorized uses for recreation improvements in areas managed for possible future wilderness designation.

Finally, under Transportation and Access, the Forest Service indicates that a, 'responsible line officer must approve motorized access for administrative and permitted use.' Motorized access for administrative activities should only be a last resort option, when all other possible methods of access are exhausted. We are uncertain at this time what the Forest Service intends when it indicates motorized activities may be permitted in areas being managed to protect wilderness values.

2) Fish and Wildlife Conservation:

ARC feels strongly that the Fish and Wildlife Conservation prescription is not restrictive enough to ensure proper fish and wildlife habitat conservation, and thus fails to accomplish what the designers of the prescription set out to achieve. For example, as in the Brown Bear Core prescription, the Forest Service has turned a blind eye to the impacts of motorized activities on fish and wildlife populations, and the agency is much too liberal in its approach to motorized activities within this prescription.

Further, other aspects of this prescription are not restrictive enough to ensure the conservation and long-term viability of fish and wildlife populations. For example, destination lodges are conditionally allowed in this prescription. It is the combination of all the activities allowed or conditionally allowed within this prescription, such as destination lodges, heavy motorized activity, utility corridors, hut to hut recreation cabins, commercial timber harvest non-chargeable, etc., and their cumulative impacts which render this prescription insufficient to adequately protect fish and wildlife habitat and populations.

The Forest Service should review this prescription and change it so that motorized access and other types of development are significantly restricted to ensure the long-term protection of fish and wildlife species and habitat on the forest.

\* Summary

Please modify the plan to ensure that it is consistent with the final National Roadless Policy including no new road and no logging construction in roadless areas of the Chugach. The DEIS should be modified to ensure that the Chugach is managed for ecological integrity, fish and wildlife first and foremost. This is best addressed by selecting DEIS Alternative F modified to include additional Wilderness areas as discussed above.

In addition to these comments, ARC has reviewed and it supports the comments submitted by The Audubon Society, The Alaska Center For The Environment, The Wilderness Society, and the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Brian McNitt, Director  
Alaska Rainforest Campaign

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0036326-001

Please adopt a modified Alternative F for the Chugach National Forest plan including;

- Designating all qualified federal lands in the Nellie Juan-College Fjord Wilderness Study Area as wilderness,
- Replacing the 'backcountry management areas' with a stronger protective wilderness designation - except in the immediate environs of the existing developed areas,
- Adopting the Citizens' Alternative for wild and scenic rivers, which nominates some rivers overlooked by the Forest Service.

0036567-001

The Chugach National Forest should be protected. The beauty of the fjords, bays and inlets of Prince William Sound, the Copper River Delta, which serves migratory birds, and the Kenai Peninsula bear habitat should all be preserved for future generations. I urge you to adopt modified Alternative F in the forest plan, strengthened as follows:

- \* Designate all qualified federal lands in the Nellie Juan-College Fjord Wilderness Study Area as wilderness.
- \* Replace the 'backcountry management areas' with the more protective designation of 'wilderness,' with the exception of the immediate environs of the existing developed areas.
- \* Adopt the 'Citizens' Alternative' for wild and scenic rivers, which nominates additional rivers previously overlooked.

0036577-001

I strongly urge your adoption of Alternative F for the Chugach Forest land use plan.