

SAR - DEIS - Appendix H - Preferred

Comment # Comment

0022288-002

- Under the preferred alternative there is no allowable sale quantity (ASQ) of timber, and no attempt to establish guidelines for a sustainable timber harvest.

0026730-004

Road Corridor:

We are pleased that the Preferred Alternative limits development to the road corridor. This is environmentally and economically appropriate.

0029063-031

Preferred Alternative - The preferred alternative for the Forest Plan include category 1 management area prescriptions adjacent to WRST and a combination of category 2 and 3 management prescriptions adjacent to the northern boundary of KEFJ. The portion of WRST adjacent to CNF is a designated Wilderness area managed according to the provisions of the Wilderness Act. The preferred alternative category 1 management prescription of ANILCA 501(b) recommended Wilderness complements NPS management of the boundary area

With the exception of the Exit Glacier Developed Area, KEFJ manages the Resurrection River boundary area as a wilderness study area. The category 1 prescriptions (backcountry winter motorized and brown bear core area) would be considered reasonable for the Resurrection River Boundary Area. As per USFS management guidelines, NPS concurs that utility systems should be discouraged in Units K260 and K262, which are designated as brown bear core area. The category 3 management prescription (Fish, Wildlife, & Recreation) would be reasonable for the Exit Glacier Road Corridor. The Resurrection River clear boundary defines the political boundary between agencies. However, a cooperative management strategy under one prescription (category 1) may help both agencies meet common recreational/ecological objectives along this riparian zone boundary

0028328-003

In addition, PWS is home to two Federally listed endangered species, the stellar sea lion and the Humpback whale, in addition to two species whose numbers are in serious decline, harbor seals and transient orcas. These, coupled with an estimated 600% increase in the number of recreational and sport-fishing boats in the western Sound with the Whittier access road opening, ought to compel the FS to set conservative carrying capacity limits in PWS. Regardless of jurisdiction disputes or pressures from the tourism industry, the FS must comply with laws that mandate assessment of the preferred alternative (such as the Endangered Species Act or ESA). The preferred alternative ought to be a conservative plan; the last thing the Sound and its inhabitants need are to be further stressed by pollution or overuse.

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0028328-004

On the Kenai Peninsula access and overuse threaten sustainability. Of the three C/NF regions, the Kenai has sustained the greatest direct and cumulative impacts (3-54), many of which are from historical and on-going uses permitted or administered by the Forest Service. For example, while peninsula brown bear habitat effectiveness has been reduced by 70% on CNF lands, adjacent habitat on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (KNWR) been reduced by thirty percent (KNWR). Most management activities have occurred in the lower elevations, fragmenting valleys and wildlife travel routes. However, under the preferred alternative management activities will continue to change the distribution of certain species across the forest by continuing to concentrate activities in these valleys. The Kenai song sparrow and seven subspecies of mammals are restricted to the Kenai Peninsula (3-58). Ironically however, the preferred alternative places the most change, with the least amount of protections here.

Several telemetry studies give compelling evidence to the island-like geography of the Kenai. There is little to no genetic interchange between the Kenai and mainland Alaska for some wildlife populations, such as brown bears, lynx and wolves. All of these species are on Federally listed in the lower '48 due to isolation, habitat fragmentation, development and human disturbance, conditions not unlike those that exist on the Kenai. The geographic landbridge, which enables genetic interchange, was severed this summer with the Whinier access road. It took wolves nearly 50 years to naturally colonize the peninsula after being eradicated in the early 1900s. Caribou had to be reintroduced after their decimation, never naturally colonizing. (KNWR) Human impacts were much lower at the time of colonization than they are now. Future management of C-NF lands will determine the outcome for some of these species. The preferred alternative must permanently protect habitat of critical importance, especially for those species, which may be isolated. We strongly recommend coordination with federal landholders that share CNF boundaries, such as the Park Service and Fish and Wildlife.

0034200-001

First, I generally support the plan as I think it offers a good balance of fish and wildlife preservation and resource management, while offering recreational opportunities to a variety of user groups.

0034420-001

The preferred Alternative is by far a great improvement over the No Action Alternative but does not address present controversies, climatic phenomenon, or deficient regulations, which will loom larger in our future as human populations grow.

0034942-012

I strongly oppose the Preferred Alternative and all the proposed Alternatives. Six of the Alternatives are strongly preservation oriented and only two provide for slight multiple use management. They do not guarantee my rights to the Chugach National Forest as specified by law. They are too restrictive and conditional. They support a singular and prejudice use of our public resources (preservation) rather than a multiple use. They are a poor excuse for managing the Chugach. Finally, they over-step the intent of our National Forests and the intent of Congress. We can not live 15 years with the Preferred Alternative or any of the Forest Services Alternatives!

- The Preferred Alternative does not allow for potential resource development, and it leaves only a minute portion available for mineral development, transportation and utility systems. There are no provisions for mitigating, harvesting, and reforestation hundreds of thousands of acres of Spruce Bark Beetle infestation. Not only is this a fire hazard for residents in the area, but it is an economical disaster. Once again, a total preservation tone.
- Surprisingly, the Preferred Alternative is not backed by the substantiation of up-to-date, unbiased scientific studies and data. I found some data used to be over 20 years old and very inaccurate. A modern geophysical survey does not exist. Mining data used is 70 years old. Brown Bear Core areas are mysteriously established and include no proof of where or why they should even exist. A Brown Bear count in this area is unavailable. Unbelievably, local fish, game, and wildlife experts have not been contacted. Scientific data is absent. Considering telemetry studies as scientific information for establishment of Core areas is ignorant.

Comment # Comment

0035648-003 :

Within the Glacier Ranger District, per the district ranger, the preferred alternative seeks to increase areas where people could find quiet in the winter. The current forest plan allows these activities in a number of areas within the district that do not see a high level of use until spring, if even then. An example is Turnagain Pass where through February the East parking lot is nearly empty on the weekends when the West parking lot is overflowing with motorized users. The most unreasonable area closure in the preferred alternative is the Seattle Creek (USFS prescription K076) area. Closing this area to Increase quiet recreating does not make sense considering that it must be accessed through a motorized area. Closing Seattle Creek also significantly reduces the snowmobile use area at Turnagain Pass where non-motorized users

0036573-009

, I also recommend that all roadless areas in the Chugach Forest be included in the wilderness recommendation for the Forest Service's preferred alternative.