

# *SAR - DEIS - Chapter 3 - Social and Economic Only*

<i>Comment #</i>	<i>Comment</i>
0026632-003	2. The preferred alternative of the plan does not show any economic impact to said communities. 3. The plan presented cannot be supported due to the fact that studies on historical, social, economic land recreational uses has not been addressed.
0027054-002	The Forest Services Preferred Alternative for the Chugach National Forest Management Plan should give weight to the considerable economic impact snowmobiling has on our winter tourism industry. Snowmobilers buy snowmobiles, gasoline, lodging, food, and supplies during what is otherwise a very slow time for our economy. Limiting the areas available for riding, especially the novice level areas like Twenty Mile and Skookum valleys, will limit the number of people participating in the sport. This is particularly true of families wanting to bring their children along.
0027712-001	From the Comment Book at the Front Desk, Seward, AK  Ron Willo, PO Box 487 Seward, AK 99669 - Concerned about ecom impact of proposed CNF Plan. Esp Restricting Uses
0027723-001	I feel no closure of any areas until unbiased studies are completed the effect on the local economics needs to be addressed as well.
0027724-002	I do not believe that any areas should be closed or restricted without unbiased scientific studies being preferred first. Consideration of traditional use must be addressed along with impacts to the areas economics.
0028091-002	We cannot support the preferred Alternative of the plan, as written, because it's economic input on the local communities has not been adequately evaluated.  I strongly endorse more local user involvement in all CNF [Illegible] management decisions.
0028770-001	wilderness and a healthy economy can be synonymous in Alaska!

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0028773-001

I realize the impact of setting this land aside on the timber industry but what will the impact be if we don't set it aside?

0028777-001

Now is our chance to save some wilderness for future generations by broadening our economic base beyond resource extraction.

0029048-002

I moved to Alaska because it was one of the last places on earth we have not destroyed with over development. The Copper River Delta is so important economically because of its bio-diversity.

0029068-001

Industry will not be conducted because geographical data concerning visitation and expenditures is not available (Page 3-439, Line 714).

We realize that there is a deficiency of tourism data in Alaska as a result of the delay in the updating of the Alaska Visitor Statistics program by the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development. While we are currently in the process of updating that information, it will not be ready until the fall 2001. However, we completed a tourism economic impact analysis in 1998 that coupled with the data collected from commercial tourism operators through their Special Use Permits (SUP) and Actual Use Reports should be sufficient to estimate the quantitative economic impacts of changes in forest management practices to the visitor industry. Have you considered using the information collected through the SUP and the 1998 study to complete an analysis of the economic impacts to the visitor industry in the region? Do you have a copy of the 1998 Alaska Visitor Industry Economic impact Analysis?

I look forward to your written response to these questions. If our office can provide any assistance or provide you with a copy of the 1998 Alaska Visitor Industry economic Impact Analysis, please do not hesitate to contact me at 907-465-3961.

0029120-002

4. According to the draft EIS (Page 3-442, Line 225), there are four industries that use the forest related resources of the Chugach National Forest: commercial fishing and processing, tourism and recreation, wood products, and minerals. Information presented in Figures 3-83, 3-84, and 3-85 show that regional employment in the visitor industry (5.4-13.4%) greatly exceeds that attributable to wood products (0.1% to 1.8%). Even though the importance of the visitor industry to the local economies greatly exceeds that of wood products, a quantitative analysis of the economic impacts will only be conducted for the wood products industry. It is noted on Page 3-439, Line 714, that an impact and efficiency analysis of the visitor.

0029155-001

This history of subsistence and fishing speak for itself on the subject of customary and traditional use. This is my concern. In the draft E.I.S. for the forest under Social and Economic Elements, there is no consideration for activities of local residents who have used PWS and the delta for 110 years. I bring this to your attention because of the trend of locking up areas such as Glacier Bay. If you were to choose wilderness for PWS and the Delta you would have to show the possible long term affect on the local residents in the E.I.S.

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0036561-004

A national treasure, the Chugach offers tremendous opportunities for sustainable development of tourism and recreation opportunities while maintaining the magnificent natural setting which draws so many to visit Prince William Sound. The natural resources of the Chugach also contribute to subsistence activities, jobs and economic vitality at the local community level and throughout southcentral Alaska. Fishing, recreation, transportation, wood products, and mineral resources are important enterprises with a strong connection to multiple use management of the Chugach.

0028328-039

Wilderness Recommendations:  
The benefits derived from wilderness, ranging from economic to biological and to spiritual, is well known and documented. Wilderness lands provide a wealth of values and resources to the American public through the protection of natural ecosystems, including fish and wildlife habitat, riparian areas, archeological and historic resources, soils, air and water quality, natural quiet, scientific reserves and spiritual opportunities. Recent studies suggest that wilderness provides enduring economic benefits to communities as well, by attracting new residents, stimulating the creation of jobs through wildland recreational opportunities, diversifying rural economies and enhancing property values among other things. Local communities benefit economically from programs such as Watchable Wildlife, which depend on the protections afforded by wilderness designation. In addition, adjacent quiet areas for communities that border the forest greatly enhance the quality of life, the two community surveys produced in conjunction with the Chugach planning process attest. Considering responses from the twelve communities surveyed, the three most important public land factors to quality of life are: clean air and water, beauty of the surrounding area, and open, undeveloped areas.

0029462-003

The natural resources of the Chugach also contribute to subsistence activities, jobs and economic vitality at the local community level and throughout southcentral Alaska, Fishing, recreation, transportation, wood products, and mineral resources are important enterprises with a strong connection to multiple use management of the Chugach.

0034399-002

As you know, I operate a helicopter access skiing/guiding service in the Chugach Range around Valdez. Heli-ski operators have created a new industry that has brought millions of dollars and new jobs to the Valdez economy. The majority of our activity occurs in late winter and early spring-times when tourism, a mainstay of the local economy, has traditionally been non-existent. To provide a quality helicopter skiing experience for our customers and to avoid congestion that could create safety concerns, there is a need to keep lands available for winter motorized activities.

0034413-011

Putting additional lands into restrictive land use classifications in Alaska only serves to unduly restrict our use of these public lands in a state where there is too little private land already. These public lands are used by the timber industry, the tourism industry, and private citizens for a variety of purposes.

0034822-002

The forest should be managed to its greatest economic worth, which is harvesting the trees.

0034890-001

I was thrilled by the attitudes of Alaskans on all kinds of issues, but especially the environment and economics. But I was most intrigued by the intricate and sensitive relationship between the two in a land where natural resources are abundant, wildlife is healthy, and the habitat stunningly beautiful) And as a 'Lower 48' citizen, I had to expand my sense of understanding and appreciation for a different attitudes and ways of life.

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0034891-007

7. Economic Effects. The timber values presented in table 3-106 (p. 3-445) appear to be biased. The last sentence in the second paragraph on page 3-446 states that these estimates 'are based on the assumption that the high market allowable sale quantity is harvested.' Are these numbers therefore not upper bound estimates of potential timber values? If so, the text should clearly indicate this and also present the range of values that would follow from apply low as well as high market assumptions.

0034894-008

The EIS should consider the economic value to local communities of protecting roadless areas. In particular, the analysis should consider the economic vitality in communities surrounding roadless areas that results from the relatively higher quality of life found in these communities that attracts new residents and new businesses, in contrast, the analysis also should consider the link between depressed economies and communities that are heavily specialized in and dependent upon resource extractive industries.

0034895-007

Some issues have not been adequately studied by the EIS, including the direct and cumulative impacts of a number of types of developments that threaten the Copper River Delta and other shorelines of the Chugach National Forest.

0034904-007

6. The DEIS does not include a reasonable range of alternatives and a realistic combination of uses. The public is asked to comment on what amounts to varying degrees of preservation. Again, the local interests are not served through these types of management options. Local timber needs and local economies must be accounted for by national forests as these adjacent communities have suffered needlessly because of reduced ASQs and environmental factions prioritizing preservation without a scientific analysis of forest management options regarding forest health and economic viability of a region.

0034918-001

I am very disappointed to see Knight Island left out. Knight Island is one of the center jewels of the sound, visible from anywhere. It's unique biological, social, and historical (the most recent being the Oil Spill), qualify it for some special designation.

0034928-003

Economic needs can fit very well with esthetic and ecologic needs to an extent much greater than contemplated in this plan.

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- 0034938-006    -- Economic Impact. The DEIS does not adequately evaluate the economic impact of the Proposed Revised Plan on the local economy. I found no data in the documentation that supports the performance of an economic evaluation of the revised plan on the economies of immediately adjacent communities, including Seward, Cooper Landing, Sterling, Soldotna, Girdwood, etc. I believe there is a need to consider the long-term economical impact this plan will have on these communities. In my opinion, the plan calls for minimal development in the Chugach National Forest. I believe there is a need to develop additional recreational facilities in the forest to support increases in user pressures. Without these facilities, I believe there is a concomitant negative impact on the local economy. Without facilities to support active use of the public lands, there will be less users to positively impact the local economies. Furthermore, ANILCA identifies the Chugach National Forest area as being underdeveloped. I believe that some development is in order for the forest.
- 0034940-001    I and most all the people that I have talked to are concerned and mad about the Chugach National Forest Management Plan. This is called the Forest Supervisor's Preferred Alternative. We Alaskans are concerned about our land. We feel that local social, cultural and historical uses of the Chugach National Forest have not been evaluated. Where are your unbiased studies that you have conducted to justify land use restrictions and limitations are needed. We are growing as land user, so we don't need more closures or restriction on any new proposed plan with out substantiation scientific studies by an unbiased firm.
- 0034942-010    -- Unbelievably, the alternatives totally disregard any social, traditional, cultural, historical, and economic impacts. The Chugach lies in a State where these issues are critical, not only to Alaska, but to America. Alaskan Natives have traditionally used these lands for subsistence and survival. Local generations have hunted, fished, and recreated in the Chugach for hundreds of years. Studies of these issues are clearly missing. Again, the impacts are critical.
- 0034960-002    We cannot support the Preferred alternative at the plan as written because its economic impact on the local communities has not been adequately evaluated.
- 0034977-002    I cannot support the preferred alternative of the plan, as written, because it's economic impact on the local communities has not been adequately evaluated.
- 0035025-003    It did not accurately evaluate economic impact on [Illegible] local communities.
- 0035065-003    Does not take into account the economics that it will do to the local tours, Seward, Moose Pass, Cooper Landing Soldotna, Homes, Sterling and the Kenai Peninsula borough.

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0035157-005

1) No economic impact studies fully address the impact of the preferred Alternative to local inhabitants.

2) I cannot support the plan because local social, historical, and cultural uses has not been established.

0035162-003

Economic impact needs to be addressed in more detail, more facture scientific input needs to be [Illegible] you need to prove the basis for [Illegible]

0035163-002

1. It limits and [Illegible] hampers many individuals from making a living in the area. Businesses will disappear and many good folks will have to relocate. This is 'not fair'.

0035167-005

The DEIS is extremely environmental / preservation oriented. The drastic restrictions proposed are not supported by adequate studies, data, or reasoning. I do not see why the Chugach can not be further managed in its current state rather than further restricted. I see no reason or cause for such a drastic DEIS change. 2) Have not evaluated economic, social, cultural impact.

0035172-002

I cannot support the preferred alternative plan, as written, because the local social cultural and historical uses of the CNF have not been evaluated.

0035173-003

I can not support this draft because of economic impact on local communities, inadequately evaluated.

0035185-002

We cannot support the preferred alternative of the plan as written. Because no carrying capacity studies have been conducted to justify land use restrictions and / or limitations.

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0035214-002	<p>I cannot support the preferred alternative because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Its economic impact on the local communities has not been accurately evaluated.</li><li>2. The local social, cultural, and historical uses of the C.N.F. have not been evaluated.</li></ol> <p>No carrying capacity studies have been conducted to justify land restrictions and limitation other comments.</p> <p>I strongly endorse more local user involvement in all CNF recreational management decisions.</p>
0035220-002	<p>I cannot support the Preferred Alternative of the plan as written, because the local social, cultural, &amp; historical uses of the CNF have not been evaluated. ?</p>
0035224-002	<p>- Can't support [Illegible] of local social, cultural and historical, economic. - No studies shown.</p>
0035233-002	<p>I see no use group problems that cannot be resolved under current management.</p>
0035240-002	<p>I think that the impact on local as well as non local Alaskan residents would be far greater than the scientific proof that has not been given to prove there is an impact on the environment.</p>
0035247-003	<p>we cannot support the preferred alternatives of the plan as written of its economic impact on the local communities has not been [Illegible].</p>
0035320-002	<p>The proposed plan will have negative economic impact on local communities without specific, scientific research to support more restriction use of 2nd classification of the land.</p> <p>Decisions and restrictions on the use of the land should be made with the input of local individuals, business, governments and user groups.</p>

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0035321-002

I cannot support the preferred alternative because of no carrying capacity

0035368-001

Need to study what kind of impact it will have on our community.

0035373-002

The preferred alternative would have [Illegible] economic implications for the Kenai Peninsula.

0035384-001

I understand that there is legislation regarding more land closures here in Alaska. Specifically, along Turnagain arm and down the Kenai. I believe this is not in the best interest of Alaskans. Somehow I cannot feel that there is other motives behind it. Certainly, our great state can accommodate all: snowmachiners, skiers, dog mushers alike. The land is much to vast that it cannot be shared. While I agree there are certain areas that are fragile and should be left that way I cannot help but feel this is hardly the case. It appears the land closest to Anchorage suddenly has taken on different meanings. Additionally, the land will feel the stress in other areas that will be overused by the snowmachining community. What about those areas? What about the much needed revenue brought in by snowmobiles to areas that primarily rely on tourist money. I hope that all aspects of this issue is looked at closely and fairly before such judgment is made.

0035565-002

What are your specific comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement?

We cannot suport this plan without substantiation by unbiased scientific studies pretinent to the land involved and because it's economic impact on the local communities has not bben adequately evaluated. In addition, the local social, culteral and historical uses have not been evaluated.

0035816-002

The planning process and the proposed Plan have been illegally biased due to the declared intent of maintaining the 'wild character' of the Forest. Such a process with a predetermined conclusion is arbitrary and capricious No consideration is given to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life of those living within the forest by promoting economic development in support of existing natural resource based industries such as fishing, timber and mining The proposed alternative does not meet the Forest Service's mandate for multiple use, nor does it reflect the 'best combination of uses.'

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0035909-001    Another thing that should be taken into consideration is the potential economic impact of locking up areas. Recently the University of Alaska Anchorage business students performed an economic impact study on the Anchorage and Mat-su area to see how much money snowmobilers put into the economy.

That confirms my feelings that more good places to ride equals more \$\$\$\$ for our economy. If you start taking away some of our best riding areas, it could have a drastic effect on our economy. How much money do you think those handful of skiers put into the economy. Our high mountainous riding areas are so important in that equation because early in the fall and late in the spring those are the only areas that have enough snow to ride on. Believe it or not I am a cross country skier also so I am aware of the limitations of what is physically possible for the average skier to do on a set of skis. Nine out of ten skiers would never be able to even make it up above tree line making the area they are capable of actually utilizing very minute compared to what is being considered for closure. This doesn't seem like the best utilization of the land that is supposed to serve everybody. I would suggest using some of the money that you are talking about spending on alternate riding area trails for improving the existing trails to make it safe for both skiers and snowmobilers to use together, then also take some of that money to build the skiers some new trails to use that are for skiers only. With some of these changes we might start to see some of the projected \$35.5 million added to our economy. I urge you to take these ideas into consideration, and utilize the land to its fullest extent.

0035999-002

Facts:

- The Forest Service has completed a Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for Commercially Guided Helicopter Skiing on the Glacier and Seward Ranger districts. This Decision is based on environmental analysis documented in a 1999 Environmental Assessment.
  
- Well run heli skiing operations can bring great benefits to communities like Valdez. As a year round company in Valdez, H2O provides services and jobs to contribute to the local economy with minimal adverse social, economic, and environmental affects.
  
- The majority of our activity occurs in late winter and early springtime when tourism, a mainstay of the Alaskan economy, has traditionally been non-existent.
  
- Heli-ski operators have created a new industry that has brought millions of dollars and new jobs to Alaska.

0036202-001

This is my concern. In the draft E.I.S. for the forest under Social and Economic Elements, there is no consideration for activities of local residents who have used PWS and the delta for 110 years. I bring this to your attention because of the trend of locking up areas such as Glacier Bay. If you were choose wilderness for PWS and the Delta you would have to show the possible long term affect on the local residents in the E.I.S.

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0036321-007

-- Economic Impact. The DEIS does not adequately evaluate the economic impact of the Proposed Revised Plan on the local economy. I found no data in the documentation that supports the performance of an economic evaluation of the revised plan on the economies of immediately adjacent communities, including Seward, Cooper Landing, Sterling, Soldotna, Girdwood, etc. I believe there is a need to consider the long-term economical impact this plan will have on these communities. In my opinion, the plan calls for minimal development in the Chugach National Forest. I believe there is a need to develop additional recreational facilities in the forest to support increases in user pressures. Without these facilities, I believe there is a concomitant negative impact on the local economy. Without facilities to support active use of the public lands, there will be less users to positively impact the local economies. Furthermore, ANILCA identifies the Chugach National Forest area as being underdeveloped. I believe that some development is in order for the forest.

0036348-001

I am writing in reference to Chugach National Forest. The economy won't even suffer if Alaska is not logged. The logging industry is so big, that if they left Alaska it won't cause them to lose money. Most of what is logged is exported to Asia and Japan so it is not really benefiting our country. When you do clear-cut it dooms wildlife from living. It would take close to 200 years to grow back to what it is today.

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0036667-003

In fact, both the community's economy and quality of life depend on wilderness and thriving wildlife populations. Social research sponsored by the Cordova-based Copper River Watershed Project found that the vast majority of Cordova residents (and, for that matter, other residents of rural communities throughout the watershed) value wilderness for subsistence hunting and gathering, recreation and spiritual renewal. And residents value their cultural heritage, which depends on wild, healthy land (Cordova: CRWP, 1998, 'Making the Most of Copper River Resources-- What Makes Us Special').

The Alaska Dept of Fish and Game found that over 90% of Cordova residents practice a subsistence lifestyle, harvesting and sharing a wide variety of wild foods.

I am specifically interested in discouraging road-building, mineral (coal, gas and oil) developments, clear-cut logging, and industrial scale tourism in the entire Copper River Delta.

Worldwide people are realizing that social and environmental needs must be balanced with economic needs; that there is more to life than can be measured by the exchange of dollars alone.

I strongly support a Wild designation for all the major salmon-producing rivers and lakes in the Copper River Delta - the Copper, Martin, Bering and Katalla Rivers, Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes.

In visiting the Kenai Peninsula in recent years, I have been astounded by the extent of the spruce bark beetle infestation - and by the clear-cutting to allegedly correct this situation and 'salvage' the timber in seeming disregard of every other concern.

In the future, I suggest that the forestry industry should not be allowed to use beetle killed areas as an excuse to open up wild unroaded areas to logging.

I would like to have the natural 'quiet' restored and maintained. I value my time hiking and camping to get away from the commotion and noise of cities. Whining noises of jet skis, ATVs, helicopters and snow machines are incredibly invasive and annoying. I support completely banning jet skis from this forest, and severely limiting the use of ATVs, helicopters and snow machines.

As you (and I and the most Cordova residents) are aware, there is now tremendous political pressure to develop the eastern Delta for:

-- oil and gas through the CNI settlement agreement (the legal clause allowing for this expires in 2004);

-- coal through the private subsurface rights held by KADCO;

-- road-building through Native Corporations and Princess Tours (Copper River Highway), and Chugach Alaska Corporation,

oil companies and KADCO (Katalla route, Martin River corridor);  
and

-- industrial-scale tourism through the Whittier road and the potential for the deep water port in Cordova.

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0036667-006

Worldwide people are realizing that social and environmental needs must be balanced with economic needs; that there is more to life than can be measured by the exchange of dollars alone.