

# *SAR - DEIS - Chapter 3 - Uses - Wilderness*

<i>Comment #</i>	<i>Comment</i>
0022083-001	I urge that the Forest Service protect the Copper River Delta as a wilderness protection. I believe that the Wild Areas deserve protection. In particular, Wilderness Areas in Prince William Sound and the Kenai Peninsula should be protected.
0029329-001	<p>I believe that EIS 'preferred alternative' is misguided and that the Forest Service should recommend wilderness designation for critical areas of the Delta, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Copper River Delta wetlands, both east and west of the river, to permanently protect habitat of salmon, brown bears, shorebirds and other animals important to the entire ecosystem.</li><li>b. areas in Prince William Sound like Knight and Montague Islands and Jack and Sawmill Bays, to help species continue to recover from the Exxon Valdez oil spill.</li></ul>
0029399-004	5. There is no analysis of the impacts 'wilderness' designations would have on access to private inholdings, adjacent private lands, or potentially developable land within the forest.
0029471-004	For the DEIS to state their isolation is 'uncertain' is misleading. If the Chugach really is the 'crown jewel' of the national forest system, then it deserves to be treated as such. I support wilderness across the forest, representing a diversity of habitat and ecosystems.
0034895-002	I also urge you to consider an alternative in the final plan EIS that has a more expansive wilderness proposal than any in your EIS - one showing all lands determined to be eligible for wilderness.

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0034899-001

As a result of the Draft E. I. S., I wish to request that the Forest Service include in the Chugach's Wilderness areas the following specific areas:

1. KENAI PENINSULA: Include the Resurrection Creek and River areas. The Snow River and the Twentymile. This is necessary to protect brown bears and their habitat, who are experiencing increasing intrusion and loss of habitat in their range.

2. COPPER RIVER DELTA: Include all the delta wetlands, both east and west of the river. The importance of wetlands cannot be over-emphasized.

3. PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND: Include the existing WSA, plus Knight and Montague Islands, along with Jack and Sawmill Bays. This is mandatory to help those species recovering from the Exxon Valdez's oil spill effects.

0034904-006

5. There is no analysis of the impacts 'Wilderness' designations would have on access to private inholdings, adjacent private lands, or potentially developable land within the forest.

0035903-001

In preparing a final EIS, I urge you to include as wilderness areas as much of the national forest as possible. Specifically, the following should be included:

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.

0036573-001

I am writing to urge you to consider recommending far more wilderness in the final Chugach Forest Management Plan than the current preferred alternative. Please retain all lands in the Nellie Juan Wilderness Study area, as removing lands for proposed wilderness from the study area now will decrease its level of legal protection. I also urge you to consider an alternative in the final plan EIS that has a more expansive wilderness proposal than any in your EIS - one showing all lands determined to be eligible for wilderness.

Specifically, I believe that excluding the Copper River Delta was extremely short-sighted in light of the world-class values of this habitat. In Prince William Sound it is important to include Knight Island, Montague Islands, Jack Bay and Sawmill Bay as Wilderness to help protect species recovering from the Exxon Valdez oil spill and to reduce potential impacts from large-scale industrial tourism.