

SAR - Forest Plan - Chapter 2 - Goals Objectives

Comment # Comment

0027576-002 In general, we feel that the forest plan should focus on the preservation of fish and wildlife habitat, scenic view sheds, timber for personal use and small-scale local mills, and providing the full spectrum of recreational and tourism activities in a sustainable manner (for both tourists and Alaska residents). The quality of recreational experiences should be considered and preserved as well. If we want to preserve the wilderness character of the forest, all users must be able to accept the possibility of limits to protect the resources.

0028289-011

Forest Wide Direction

Goals and Objectives

A. Recreation and Tourism: As we all know, tourism and recreation are major and growing uses of the Forest. The major challenge for this plan will be to balance access to the Forest with the quality of experience of the Forest.

a) Capacity and Allocation Objective: This objective is one of the most critical components of this revision process. The trash, trampled vegetation, missing wildlife and overcrowding on the Forest reflect the increasing pressure on the ecosystem. The Forest Service must gain control over the level of current and projected use on the Forest, the impacts of that use and the associated significant threats including road-building, structural developments, and increased access, both motorized and non-motorized, among other issues. These major threats coupled with the significant impacts the forest and its resources endured related to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill in 1989, have the potential to indefinitely alter the character of the forest. The Forest Service needs to address these types of impacts and increased uses and demands in the revision process.

B. Ecological Stability

a) Capacity and Allocation Objective: If ecosystem management shall provide multiple use outputs and sustain habitats, a capacity objective should not only apply to recreation and tourism. The concept of capacity and subsequently allocations should be applied to all types of uses on the Forest. Addressing this objective for each interest will contribute to the Forest Service's ability to manage the appropriate intensity levels for each prescription.

C. Resource Development

a) Economic Value of Wilderness as an Objective: The competing uses and/or values for an area under consideration for resource development should be included as needed information. Local tourism businesses operate commercial activities and derive revenue from the wilderness qualities of the Forest. These enterprises are vital to local employment and provide both economic diversity and stability to local communities. The economic benefits to the region from existing wilderness and wildlife values should be considered in the decision making process.

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0035630-001 :

The proposed revised Chugach Management Plan does not appear to uphold the U.S. Forest Services mandate for multiple-use, but will instead create more defacto wilderness for the elite environmentalist. What happened to multiple-use? I believe National Forest lands are for everyone's use, not just reserved for a few.

Why not leave the forest open to mining claims? Mining has not posed a problem in the past and in fact has created local economies in places such as Girdwood and Seward.

The cutting of trees for lumber mills and other uses have not caused problems either. It seems illogical to prohibit quantities of lumber sales large enough to provide for local jobs and businesses,

Obviously, the folks writing this document have not ventured into the Chugach beyond the roads and bays around the edge or you would know that the ruggedness of the country naturally protects itself. It is by definition wild and scenic and does not need formal protection, which only serves to prohibit multiple-uses.

The draft plan makes no effort to protect the rights of the private land in-holders; rather it proposes countless new access restrictions and other prohibitions.

National Forests are supposed to be managed for multiple use and the Chugach Plan should be changed to reflect that. If the U.S. Forest Service has decided not to continue this shared use, why not ask Congress to designate another national park or wilderness area and stop putting us through this long, predetermined exclusionary process.

0035633-001

I remain committed to the Multiple Use principle of the Forest. I believe that means all forms of use, including mining, hunting, fishing, snow machines, wilderness, ski only areas, motorized and non-motorized areas, quiet zones, and even timber harvest (at least beetle kill areas, if not actual live timber harvest). It is impossible to think that if the Forest Service still accepts Multiple Use as a management concept, that if large areas will be placed in wilderness/roadless status, the Forest can still meet that Multiple Use goal.

I know you are beset with a large number of vocal protesters who will not be happy until ALL of the National Forests are wilderness areas. I suggest to you that these protesters are NOT the majority of people who use the Forest so close to our Anchorage home, and most Alaskans, as well as most non-Alaskans, want to see an equitable balance.

Please make a Multiple Use choice that truly reflects that goal, and do not err on the side of those views held by the noisy minority.