

## *SAR - Forest Plan - Chapter 3 - 131*

### *Comment #    Comment*

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- 0020939-001    I would like the forest service's support in going wilderness protection to the Chugach Forest. It is a national forest and united states citizens have a legitimate interest in know it is managed. Wilderness designation in the Copper River Delta also wilderness designation world protect one of the most important wetland ecosystem of the entire Forest Service land and forest to the world famous Copper River salmon, 16 million shore birds lives and water live horness bear and wolves. Wilderness designation is the only way to protect the Delta from purely planned, clear - cutting mining, oil drilling and the spoil of industrial [Illegible] that [Illegible] the Delta in salmon, wildlife and the [Illegible] of the commercial and subsistence fisherman who live there. Wilderness Protection is also necessary for the area of the Chugach Forest including citizen [Illegible] habitat on the Kenai [Illegible] and Prince William William Sound wilderness [Illegible] area where species are [Illegible] from the 1989 oil spice.
- 0021166-001    Sir: I write to ask that you give wilderness protection to the Copper River Delta, including the wetlands that are its biological heart. This designation would permanently protect the Delta's salmon, by protecting their spawning and rearing habitat. It would disallow future road building and the ill-conceived development which usually follows. The wilderness designation would protect the livelihood of commercial fishing families and Alaska's native [Illegible] users. and it would protect 16 million plus shorebirds and waterfowl which use the Delta each year. Also, please protect important areas in Prince William Sound as wilderness including knight & Montague Islands, Valdez [Illegible], Jack and spoonbill Bays, to help species still recovering from the 189 oil spill and protect critical Brown Bear habitat on the Kenai Peninsula and designate all eligible wild & Scenic rivers.
- 0021212-001    I support wilderness designation for the Copper River Delta.  
I also believe the Kenai Peninsula and Prince William sound area, part of the Chugach forest, be protected too,
- 0021213-001    As a member of National Wildlife Federation I join with there in supporting wilderness designation for the Copper River Delta.  
Wilderness designation is also necessary for other areas of the Chugach Forest including critical brown bear habitat on the Kenai Peninsula and the Prince William Sound wilderness study area where species are still recovering from the 1989 oil spill.
- 0021440-001

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0021581-001

I strongly urge the Forest Service to recommend Alaska's Copper River Delta, particularly the invaluable wetlands, as wilderness.

Wilderness protection is also necessary for other areas of the Chugach Forest including critical brown bear habitat on the Kenai Peninsula and expanding the Prince William Sound wilderness study area to help species recover from the 1989 oil spill.

0022761-002

I do not believe in themselves, the area should be open or closed. I feel Prince William Sound is an area that deserves more protection, and recommend wilderness designation for the entire coastal region including islands.

0022780-002

Replace back country management areas with more protective wilderness designation

0022938-002

How about replacing those 'backcountry country management areas' with a wilderness designation, expect of course in developed areas.

0022965-001

I am writing to urge you to help preserve the Chugach National Forests in its natural state, as wilderness.

The forests draft plan-preferred option should protect as much wilderness as possible.  
Areas that should be included (in addition to those already under consideration) for wilderness consideration in the plan:

-- The Copper River Delta.

-- Resurrection Creek and River areas.

-- Twentymile & Snow Rivers.

-- Knight and Montague Islands in Prince William Sound.

0023144-004

Finally, I take issue with the Forest Service's interpretation of Section 1110(a) of ANILCA whereby recreational snowmachining in Wilderness Areas (or Wilderness Study Areas) is permitted. The review of the Congressional intent of this ANILCA provision performed by the National Park Service decisively overrules the Forest Service position and I recommend the Forest Service adopt the NPS interpretation.

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0023150-002

Please consider my comments on the proposed plan for areas to be closed and/or limited to snowmobile use. I am behind this 100%. I have been skiing the back country & trails here for over 20 years. My run-ins & frustrations with snowmachines continue to increase. There are many points, I mention only a few.

1. Environmental impact:

Pollution, 2 cycle engines pump out pollution & even hours after they've left an area, with no wind, the fumes hang in the area. Not what other backcountry users are there for. The fumes they leave behind are noxious to other users, not to mention the impact of the noise and damage to vegetation.

2. Access:

There is a growing interest in back county skiing, snow shoeing, snow boarding and yet there are few areas set aside for this use. This is a major problem, these few 'safe' areas are getting over used & to my dismay are often unusable due to snowmachines that have trespassed a closed area only to leave frozen ruts & ridges that make it useless to other users.

3. Enforcement: Licensing & VISIBLE identification is a must. An anonymous rider in full helmet & snowsuit on a machine that looks like 500 others can be very aggressive & intimidating-yes, they can be-but they aren't identifiable. They can run you off a trail, intimidate you or violate closed areas like Manitoba because they can't be identified.

4. Safety:

Snowmachines & those on foot, be it skis, snow washer, hikers, don't mix. Tracks, ruts and ridges left by machines make trails & slopes unusable, unsafe for other users. The obvious conflict, is the noise, fumes & activity of a machine a complete opposite of those seeking the quiet of the backcountry. You're on a slope, ready to ski down & a group of machines race past you & start high marking above you-not a safe or fun day.

5. Closing a few more slopes & trails to snowmobiles makes sense. Skiers for example, must skin up & hike, climb for an hour to hours, just to get in a run or two of skiing. A snowmobile can cover miles in minutes & get to areas a skier or snow shore can never see in a day because of time & effort.

Snowmachines need their place, but others need a few safe places & they don't mix.

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0023152-001

I urge you to keep noisy vehicles like Jet skis, airboat, airplanes, snowmobiles out of all wilderness areas, because they destroy the very character of these areas. Peace, quiet, natural sounds are an essential part of wilderness!

I read in my newspaper (Fairbanks Daily News Miner) what snowmachines Dennis Merkes has to say: '.... No group should have precedence over another'. He does not mention however, that only one of these noise makers can destroy the wilderness for dozens of others, because these machines make so much noise that you can hear them miles away, you simply cannot escape them. And they destroy the freshness of the air too.

I have liked in the past to Carter and Crescent Lakes and also the Russian River trail: please, do not let these beautiful parts of the Kenai be destroyed by motorized recreation!

Even motorized vehicles that stay on the roads in parks or wilderness areas, are destructive because of their noise level and because they stink.

Thank you for your work!

Sincerely,

Christa Hollerbach

0026417-002

Additionally, I think 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: I think Knight and Montague Islands, and Jack and Sawmill Bays should be protected as Wilderness, to help safeguard species recovering from the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and to protect the Sound from large-scale industrial tourism.

KENAI PENINSULA: I recommend 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 protected.

0026434-001

0026441-003

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- 0026444-001    On the Copper River Delta, we three recommend complete wilderness for all of the valuable Copper River Delta, inc. Copper, Martin, Bering, Katalla Rivers, Alaganik Slough, and Martin and Bering Lakes. On prince William Sound, Please keep the areas in complete Wilderness for Knight and Montague Islands, and Jack and Sawmill Bays, to help the Sound recover from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. Hopefully they will recover in another 25 years and hopefully no more major disasters like this one. On the Kenai Peninsula, please keep complete wilderness on the Kenai to protect the black bears and their habitat and keep the motorized use down to a minimum. Specifically Resurrection Creek and the River Areas, also Snow River and the Twenty Mile River.
- 0026578-004    Within the Prince William sound, I would like to specifically see the Wilderness Study area, the Knight and Montague Islands and the Jack and Sawmill Bays designated as Wilderness areas. And, within the Kenai peninsula, I would like to see the protection of Resurrection Creek and River areas, the Snow River and Twenty mile.
- 0026814-005    -- I believe that several of the bays, passageways and islands within a 30-mile radius of Whittier should be given a wilderness prescription, including Culross Passage and Blackstone Bay.
- 0028389-006    Wilderness
- While the number of acres designated as Recommended Wilderness is an important factor, it is imperative that Recommended Wilderness areas provide a reasonable cross-section of habitat. While it is acceptable to have some rock and ice, there also needs to be good representation of biologically productive areas.
- our members recommend adding the following area to Recommended Wilderness.
- Kenai Peninsula and Turnagain Arm Region
- Resurrection River-Russian River area,
  - Resurrection Pass area,
  - Snow River area,
  - Twentymile River area
- Prince William Sound
- The entire Nellie Juan-College Fjord Wilderness Study Area
  - The following islands: Knight, Montague, Ingot, Story, Naked, Eleanor, Peak, Disk and Smith.
- Copper River and Delta
- Copper River Delta wetlands
  - The entire Bering Lake Roadless area
- 0028400-003    Prince William Sound  
the draft plan proposes Naked Island as wilderness. The mixed ownership, growing communications facility and large oil-spill response presence within the island group combine to conflict with established notions of wilderness character.  
I suggest a thorough review in this context to identify other lands in the proposal with these shortcomings.

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0028400-004    Prince William Sound  
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wilderness. The mixed ownership, growing communications facility and large oil-spill response  
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character.  
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these shortcomings.

0034412-003  
'Social Systems desired condition' should include the language:  
Recommended Wilderness prescription is tailored to accommodate existing uses such as fish and wildlife  
management and research, conservation and perpetuation of commercial, sport and subsistence fisheries, and  
motorized use for fishing and hunting.