

SAR - Forest Plan - Chapter 3 - 141

Comment # Comment

0026654-002 On the Copper River Delta the revision plan is asking for a research area at Copper Sands. This is not necessary. Research can and does happen without designating the land as Research Natural Area. If you look at it, its just another way the Federal Government ties up land and takes it away from the public. It becomes nonproductive land.

0029049-003 remove R.N.A. prescription from Coeur D'Alane, grandview, & primrose.

0029063-001 However, we believe that the Primitive and Proposed Natural Research Area prescriptions are under rpresented in all altematives.. In ad of these prescriptions allow development and access activities likely to adversely impact fish and wildlife resources. For example, the Research Natural Area prescription allows dition, a number `-' new roads, trails, motorized subsistence, and fixed-wing flight seeing landings. The Primitive ./ does not allow new trails, roads, motorized subsistence use, cabins, hardened dispersed t}-t v-t ivo-s)-5 campsites, prescription allows cabins, hardened dispersed campsites, and new roads and trails. To ensure r/t~ --,~ at,o, that highly sensitive fish and wildlife habitat areas are afforded as much protection ffrom ~,gC(i a IR/ ~ development and human access as possible, we recommend that a prescription be developed that oranytypeuSofmotoriZede h~cdeUe,7/ {fe udat /;-t vsed {9 --yo~e

0029063-006 However, even the Wilderness prescription may allow activities such as mining, roads, trails, hardened campsites, and motorized access. Depending on the location and magnitude of these activities, even this prescription could cause major impacts to fish and wildlife resources. To ensure significant fish and wildlife habitats within the Copper and Bering River watersheds are protected, we recommend managing specific unique and/or sensitive areas as Research Natural Area or Primitive prescriptions; or managing activities allowed under the Wilderness prescription so they are located far enough away from these significant species and their habitats so as not to impose any direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts.

Comment # Comment

- 0029063-011 The Back Country prescription was also designated on Porpoise Island in the preferred alternative. Porpoise Island supports very large seabird colonies that include black-legged kittiwake, common murre, hooded murrelet, and tufted puffin, and glaucous-winged gull. Marine habitat adjacent to the island also provides substrate for capelin spawn, an important forage item for seabirds. We recommend that the prescription for Porpoise Island be changed to either Research Natural Area or Primitive to ensure greater protection to these significant fish and wildlife resources. In addition, we recommend that hardened campsites not be allowed in these areas and a special designation be applied to prohibit all public access such as boat landings (including kayaks) or any other type of public use between April 15 and August 31.
- Channel Island In your preferred alternative, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Management prescription has been designated for Channel Island. Channel Island supports abundant and diverse fish and wildlife resources that include arctic tern, pigeon guillemot, and tufted puffin seabird colonies; harbor seal haulouts; and significant capelin and herring spawn that is a vital food source for numerous seabirds. We are concerned that the type of activities allowed in this prescription (e.g., mining; roads; motorized access; recreational facilities such as campgrounds, cabins, and trails; boat docks; and boat ramps) could have major impacts on these resources. Due to the significant fish and wildlife resources at Channel Island, we recommend a more restrictive prescription, such as Research Natural Area or Primitive, be applied. In addition, we recommend that hardened campsites not be allowed in these areas and a special designation be applied to prohibit any public access such as boat landings (including kayaks) or any other type of public use between April 15 and August 31. Lands adjacent to Harriman, Nassau, and College Fjords: Serpentine, Long, Whale, Kings, Icy, and Wells Bays: Naked, Seal, Agnes, Fool, Little Smith, and Smith Island: Unakwik Inlet; and =
- Port Nellie Juan The Wilderness Management Area prescription for these areas will limit impacts to fish and wildlife and associated habitats by not allowing activities such as a (' :1/ campgrounds, timber harvest, and boat docks. However, activities such as mining, recreation cabins, hardened camping sites, new trails and roads, and fixed-wing flightseeing landings are allowed, and depending on their location, could adversely impact important fish and wildlife resources. For most areas in this region we concur with your preferred Wilderness Management prescription, provided the allowable activities are located far enough away from important fish and wildlife resources to prevent any direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts.
- However, we are aware of some specific areas where activities allowed under the preferred Wilderness prescription could adversely impact significant bird breeding and forage habitat. We recommend these areas be re-designated to either the Research Natural Area or Primitive prescriptions. These areas include Little Smith Island, Serpentine Bay/Island, Fool Island, Agnes Island (south of Naked Island), Jackpot Island, and Seal Island--where significant seabird colonies, seabird foraging areas, and or, harbor seal haulouts occur. Some of these areas were oiled by the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Seabirds in these and other areas are still recovering from that 1989 spill and have also declined due to a climatic regime shift in Prince William Sound (PWS) Gulf of Alaska (Prunty et al. 2000, Agler et al. 1999). In addition, we recommend that hardened campsites not be allowed in these areas and special designations be applied to prohibit public access from activities such as boat landings (including kayaks) or any other type of public use between April 15 and August 31. 1
- 0029063-016 Due to their unique vegetative features, we also recommend that Cedar Bay (a large Alaska yellow cedar population at the northern limit of the species range) and Cutoff Creek (a needle leaf forest on depositional surface) be included as Research Natural Areas in the final Forest Plan
- 0034169-006 As the Forest Service has recognized, the north end of Montague Island is one of the most biologically productive areas in the entire Sound. The Forest Service has explained that due to these values, it has designated Montague Island as a Fish and Wildlife Conservation Area. This prescription, however, does very little to definitively protect fish and wildlife. For example, the prescription conditionally allows destination lodges, summer and winter helicopter landings, utility systems, Forest Service-built roads, parking lots, ferry terminals, boat docks and ramps, marine transfer facilities, campgrounds, summer motorized recreation use, and miner entry, none of which is allowed in wilderness and all of which pose threats to fish and wildlife. The only prohibited activity is commercial timber harvest, making a misnomer of the "Fish and Wildlife Conservation Area" prescription, as it is actually one of the least protective prescriptions for fish and wildlife.
- Given the high biological importance of Montague Island, it is clear that the protections currently recommended are insufficient and that a 100-level designation such as Wilderness, Primitive, Natural Processes, or Research Natural Area is required. We urge the Forest Service to remove the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Area prescription from Montague Island and replace it with a 100-level designation.

Comment # Comment

0036284-001

Please accept my following comments concerning the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, proposed revised Landlord Resource Management Plans Chugach National Forest.

I urge that each of the following areas, with across [Illegible] established as a Research Natural area as located on the Chugach National Forest as such areas are unique, varied and fragile and of contain significance:

[Illegible] Island (Additions, only) 1250
Columbia [Illegible] - [Illegible] Cove 15,375
Copper Lands 1800
River Lake / Black Mountain 8,100
[Illegible] Glacier 8,750
Cedar Bay 6,840
Cut off Creek 6,125
[Illegible] Creek 8375
Black [Illegible] Glacier 5,535
[Illegible] Glacier 27,500
Pate Dahl Slough 10,695
Dehwan [Illegible] 11,610