

SAR - Forest Plan - Chapter 3 - MA Prescriptions

Comment # Comment

0021586-001

Please do what you can to further protect Copper River Delta, and keep it unchanged. We must continue to aid those species harmed by the oil spill of the Exxon Valdez and ensure that other oil spills do not occur in these precious areas...including Knight and Montague Islands, Jack and Sawmill Bays. We must save the brown bear and their habitat since man is doing a wonderful job of driving these magnificent creatures to extinction elsewhere due to selfish greed and development. The Copper River Delta and surrounding areas is their last place...their last chance...to continue to survive in the U. S., so, please keep man's harmful 'progress' out of this area.

0022288-006

- Of the 22 prescriptions used in the alternatives, 1 allows for future resource development, 1 allows for current mineral development, 1 pertains to transportation/utility systems and 19 are preservation oriented.

0022288-008

- Of the 22 prescriptions used in the alternatives, 1 allows for future resource development, 1 allows for current mineral development, 1 pertains to transportation/utility systems and 19 are preservation oriented.

0022483-001

I. Under the preferred alternative none of the Forest's 5.5 million acres is designated for Resource Development. Only 6,860 acres are set aside for pre-existing, site specific mining claims. Less than a quarter of one percent of the forest is available for mineral development and transportation/utility systems.

0026281-001

Re: Chugach Land & Resource Management Plan

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Multiple use of our public lands is the only way to go.

0026640-004

-- Of the eight alternatives (which include the No Action and Preferred) only two provide for any multiple use management.

-- Of the 22 prescriptions used in the alternatives, 1 allows for future resource development, 1 allows for current mineral development, 1 pertains to transportation/utility systems and 19 are preservation oriented.

-- Rather than 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 without access to that which is set aside for multiple use.

. Please revise this plan to reflect what we in Alaska need, which includes access to and alternatives for many uses of our public lands.

Comment # Comment

0026460-001

As a visitor to your beautiful state and national forest, I feel it is in my interest to write in support of a forest management plan of the Chugach that involves more proposed wilderness. I feel that your preferred alternative does not fully consider the opinions of conservationists. I understand your intermediary position between industry and environment as I was in your offices during the summer of 1999 working as an advocate for the Alaska Center for the environment.

I feel that the plan must include wilderness protection for at least the southeastern portion of the Copper River Delta. There are many uses of this area that provide sustained benefit without allowing timber or mining prospects. I am confused as to why the draft EIS changed the recommended wilderness designation for parts of this pristine wetlands.

I hope your plan can suit the needs of all parties while maintaining a policy of continued use and enjoyment by all generations to come.

0026622-001

Please do not make any of the Chugach Forest into wilderness.

0026747-005

The 501(b) Recommended Wilderness prescription (131) would be a good alternative to the Brown Bear Core prescription (242) on the Kenai Peninsula.

0026747-016

Northwest Resurrection Trail: We suggest adding a buffer area designation of Backcountry or Fish and Wildlife Conservation for K053 northwest of the Resurrection Trail.

0026747-017

South of Cooper Lake: We recommend the area south of Cooper Lake should be buffered for brown bear conservation. We suggest a Backcountry prescription or, at least, a Fish and Wildlife Conservation prescription for K222, K225, K228, K227, and K219. It doesn't make sense to have a Brown Bear Core prescription about a Fish, Wildlife, Recreation prescription which allows many activities that would be harmful to bear conservation.

0027628-002

I am opposed to opening up the Snow River to possible development. The Snow River is the headwaters of the Kenai River, This should be kept off limits to development. In addition the plan also designates brown bear habitat but leaves open the possibility of limited development. I oppose that as well.

Comment # Comment

0028289-015 Prescriptions

There is noticeable improvement in the consistency between the allowed activities in each allocation and this prescription titles from earlier draft documents. The effect of the activities should be clearly articulated in the title and future desired condition of the prescriptions. This clear articulation will enable the Forest Service and the public to make better informed and fair recommendations. Following are recommendations for further clarification:

Backcountry and Backcountry Motorized

- It is misleading to the public to have a backcountry and a backcountry motorized prescription where both prescriptions allow motorized activity. Logic would follow, one prescription would be motorized and the other non-motorized (ANILCA exceptions obviously excluded.) Why does the backcountry prescription allow motorized summer and winter use, helicopter landings and fixed wing landings? The title of prescriptions should reflect the reality of the allocation.

- I'm glad to see the specific management direction for Turnagain pass and Resurrection Pass. This level of detail will be important to include for other areas within the Forest that already have existing user conflicts.

Comment # Comment

0028504-009

PRESCRIPTIONS:

We believe the following prescriptions should be changed in ways outlined below:

1) Wilderness:

TWS takes issue with a number of the activities allowed in the Wilderness Prescription, as outlined in the DEIS by the Forest Service. To begin, the Activities Table indicates that OHV/Motorized Recreation Use in winter is conditionally allowed. We strongly disagree with the notion that motorized recreational activities should be allowed in areas that are being managed for wilderness protection -- either Recommended Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas. Please refer to our comments above under motorized activities on the forest, and to the comments submitted by Trustees for Alaska, regarding the interpretation of traditional activities under ANILCA.

Further, we take issue with another of the allowances made under the standards and guidelines in both the Wilderness and Wilderness Study Area prescriptions. Both prescriptions allow, in the case of Fisheries, small, motorized equipment (chainsaws, generators, compressors, etc.) to be used in construction of improvement projects, and larger motorized equipment (backhoes, tracked vehicles, OHV's, etc.) to be used if authorized by the responsible line officer. We do not believe it was the intent of Congress to allow these types of uses within ANILCA wilderness areas.

Further, we believe the Forest Service is way beyond its legal parameters when, under both Recommended Wilderness and Wilderness Study Area prescriptions, the agency allows in the case of Recreation:

Explosives and small, motorized equipment (such as, chainsaws, generators, compressors, and rock drills) are allowed for recreation maintenance, construction and reconstruction projects.

We believe the Forest Service has crossed the legal boundaries of what is allowed in wilderness, both under the Wilderness Act and ANILCA.

Finally, under Transportation and Access, the Forest Service indicates that a, 'responsible line officer must approve motorized access for administrative and permitted use.' It is our position that such motorized access for administrative activities are only allowed for emergency situations as specified in the Wilderness Act. Additionally, permitted motorized activities are somewhat suspect to TWS, unless they fall under the category of traditional uses and for travel to and from village and home sites. We are uncertain at this time what the Forest Service intends when it indicates motorized activities may be permitted in areas being managed to protect wilderness values, and we feel the Forest Service needs to clarify its intent here

0028561-003

I urge you to reclassify the head of Fidalgo as a primitive area This was one designation that received 100% support from all of the local residents involved in the planning process. This is a special area to a lot of Cordovans, and they feel strongly about there being no development in this area, including the permitting of float houses. Please restore this designation.

0028568-004

I would like to see the designation for Montague Island changed to Backcountry non-motorized. The designation for Port Gravina should be either Primitive or Recommended Wilderness. The area along the western shore of Valdez Arm should be changed to a Backcountry designation.

Comment # Comment

0028328-037 None of the prescriptions , including Primitive, WSA, Recommended Wilderness, Wild River, 501(b) Recommended Wilderness, or Brown Bear Core are 'Primitive' under the Recreation Opportunity Classes. We can only assume this is a gross oversight, rather than intentional. All prescriptions listed should be re-classified ROS-Primitive.

0029466-001 I support a 501(b) Wilderness designation for the entire Copper River Delta with a one-quarter mile buffer of 501(b)3 off each side of the Copper River Highway. There are few truly remarkable places in the world with the beauty, bounty, and wildness such as the Copper River Delta, I believe this is truly our LAST CHANCE we have to make the Copper River Delta a Wilderness area and to protect this unique place permanently. The 501(b)2 designation does not provide protection from development projects beyond the next Forest Plan. The 501(b) Wilderness gives future Forest Service rangers and managers the extra backing against the growing forces that are pushing for increased development. Even though there are many different opinions in Cordova, most of us agree we want the Delta to remain as it is. If the 501(b)2 designation stays in place, it will be inevitable that the Delta will slowly lose its unique and wild characteristics that will never be regained as accesses and uses on the Delta are increased in future years. With Chugach Alaska Corporation's road going across the Delta, it is most critical now, more than ever that we protect our surrounding wild lands with a Wilderness designation.

0034429-007 Group size in all wilderness, backcountry and Wildlife Conservation (Green Island, Montague Island) areas should be limited to 15 or less. This includes landings by cruiseship, tourboats and nonprofit groups.

0034990-005 Remove all motorized all timeshare restrictions on the Ingram Creek and Lost Lake areas.