

SAR - FP - Interests - Brown Bears

<i>Comment #</i>	<i>Comment</i>
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0021682-005

0021558-001

Comment area: Forestwide Document text pertaining to the comment (Forestwide Standards and Guidelines): Bear Habitat Management Standards 1. Manage areas of forest cover approximately 750-feet from both sides of Moderate Gradient/Mixed Control and Flood Plain Class I anadromous stream process groups to provide cover for brown bears while feeding, or between brown bears and humans. Within the 750-foot brown bear cover management zone the following activities will not be allowed: a. New roads and trails parallel to this area. Trails or roads could cross at right angles, b. Any vegetation management not intended to maintain or improve ecological conditions for brown bear. Guidelines 1.

Locate long-term concentrated human activities away from important seasonal brown bear concentrations. A minimum one-mile avoidance distance is recommended but could vary depending on site-specific circumstances.

Comment: please comment

0021838-002

Also designate as wilderness the areas of the Chugach Forest that are habitat for the brown bear, as well as extending the Prince William Sound wilderness study area to help species recover from the 1989 oil spill.

0021902-005

All eligible wild and scenic rivers including the Copper, Martin, Bering, Katalla Rivers along with the Alaganik, Slough, and Bering Lakes should be given Wilderness protection.

In addition, important areas in Prince William Sound, for example, Knight and Montague Islands, along with Jack and Sawmill Bays from industrial development. You should protect all critical brown bear habitat, examples being the Kenai River valley, Resurrection Creek, Snow and Twenty-Mile Valleys.

0022488-004

I want NO utility corridors in the brown bear core prescription.

0022509-003

The following areas should be recommended for wilderness designation:

3) Critical brown bear habitat,

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- 0022970-003 Critical brown bear habitat,
- 0023165-002 Please give wilderness designation to key Brown Bear habitat areas.
- 0026387-003 I urge you to recommend wilderness designation for critical brown bear habitat and all eligible wild and scenic rivers including the Copper, Marton, Bering and Katalla rivers.
- 0026598-001 I urge that the Chugach National Forest be managed as a wild life, fish, plant habitat, sanctuary preserve wilderness and to provide a habitat preserve sanctuary for the following species:
- Harlequin duck, Brown Bear, Black Oyster Catcher, Dusky Canada Goose Moose, Mountain Goat, Gray Wolf, Lynx, Marbled Marmet, Montague Island, Hoary Marmont, River otter, Bistre Black tailed deer, Townsend Warbler, wolverine, Bald Eagle, Humpbacked Whale, Montague Island Tundra Yak, Northern Goshawk Osprey, [Illegible], Peregrine Falcon, Trumpter Swans Chum, Coho, Cutthroat, Dally Varden, Ring, Pink, Sockeye, Eschsoltz's little nightmarer, [Illegible] [Illegible] Goose - grass ledge, [Illegible], Tundna Whitlow - [Illegible], [Illegible] [Illegible], [Illegible] [Illegible] Pale Poppy, smooth [Illegible], mist maiden and circumpolar stanwart
- 0026718-002 Protect brown bear habit & corridor, don't allow a utility corridor through bear habitat.
- 0026775-002 Moreover, the plan allows conditional activities in prime brown bear habitat. With the increasing pressure on brown bear habitat, it is absolutely critical to preclude many of these conditional activities before it is too late.

Comment # Comment

0026810-025 Brown Bears: In the DEIS discussion of brown bears (P. 3-192), there is no direct discussion of the effects of roads and increasing human access on bear conservation, There is also a very limited review of the literature including references to similar issues in southeast Alaska. We recommend a more thorough discussion of these issues because they are directly related to conservation concerns on the Kenai Peninsula.

The DEIS describes forest wide guidelines for brown bear conservation including a 750 ft. buffer of forest cover on both sides of Class 1 anadromous salmon streams. Based on recent studies conducted by the Interagency Brown Bear Study Team (IBBST), these buffers appear inadequate. Based on over 20,000 telemetry locations of female bears, the IBBST recently determined the average distance of female bears to the nearest anadromous stream was over 5,000 ft. (about 7x the distance of the current buffer). We strongly recommend the forest work closely with the IBBST to reconsider their guidelines in light of this new information.

The DEIS (P. 3-212) states 'The likelihood of forest management activities affecting the viability of brown bear on the Forest is low because the Forestwide standards and guidelines will be applied to help maintain the brown bear and its habitat.' We do not believe there has been an adequate analysis to support this conclusion. We believe there is need for a much more comprehensive viability analysis for brown bears on the Kenai Peninsula and recommend that the Forest Service undertake such an analysis.

We encourage the Forest Service to continue supporting IBBST brown bear research on the Kenai and develop a process of adaptive management so that new research findings can be incorporated into management as soon as possible. There should also be a detailed description of how brown bear populations will be monitored throughout this plan.

0027080-005 Specific improvements that I recommend for the Preferred Alternative are:

Protect Brown Bear Habitat on Kenai Peninsula and in Prince William Sound. Restrict development near bear migration corridors.

0028300-002

I Bears to be protected from too many hunters, oil drilling and development.

0029046-005

Brown Bears Please do NOT allow utility corridors in the brown bear core prescription Maintenance of utility lines and brown bears are not a very good match--too much human activity.

0029125-004

Kenai River Headwaters; the College Fjord/Nellie Juan/Whittier Region; Knight Island; Montague Island; Twentymile River Valley; Critical Kenai Peninsula Brown Bear Habitat.

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0034445-001

I appreciate your efforts to include some areas of the Chugach National Forest as critical habitat for brown bears. I do not understand, however, why these areas are open to the development of utilities and the roads and other infrastructure needed to build, run and maintain them.

If we're going to make the effort to protect our brown bears, let's do it right. Close these critical habitat areas to all development.

0034460-002

Moreover, the plan allows conditional activities in prime brown bear habitat. With the increasing pressure on brown bear habitat, it is absolutely critical to preclude many of these conditional activities before it is too late.

0035159-003

They [Illegible] no scientific evidence to support closures on public lands. The idea that Brown Bears need protection during [Illegible] in unbranded. Core Brown Bear [Illegible] areas do not [Illegible]

0036318-005

Mr. Gibbons also mentioned that there was no scientific reasons or studies to support the proposed Brown Bear corridors.