

Ecological Systems

Comment # Comment

- 0002-001 We are particularly concerned about the western section of Prince William Sound. The management plan must be updated to include consideration of the impact of the addition use with the completion of the Whittier access road and the increase in tour boat & tour ship use. Air quality is already being affected in Port Wells when several tour ships go
- 0004-001 Recreation, if that involves fostering industrial tourism, new roads, more trails, etc., can have as deleterious effects as clear-cutting.
- 0005-002 Wildlife should be the number one priority Protect all species and work to maintain the ecosystems
- 0008-001 We need to keep the National Forest protected, and preserved for the wildlife and forest. It belongs to everyone, for the purpose of respecting and appreciating nature. We don't need logging, this is not the place to look to for economic benefits. Roads would also be extremely harmful. I would like to be kept informed on this issue.
- 0009-002 Of course, my choice would be for leaving the forest as-is.
- 0013-001 This forest has historical been managed for fish & wildlife habitat protection & should be continued that way.
- 0013-002 It is not a commercial forest & should not be logged. Logging would change the whole purpose.
- 0015-004 I would like to see at least 31% designated Wilderness & would not be opposed to higher designation. Wilderness areas - Roadless - are important to maintain Wildlife & Fisheries habitat as well as native vegetation.
- 0018-003 Rec & Tourism - Again - recognize the limits the environment can withstand & control use - AK is known for its serenity & beauty - need to keep it that way.
- 0018-004 Limit outfitting & guiding unless it's "without a trace" use. Horsepackers are very careless & sloppy. Horses are
- 0018-005 Road access to Whittier is a mistake - the whole atmosphere will change and the quality of the recreational experience will decline significantly. Impact on fish stocks?? Will be very crowded. Need absolute limits on where to
- 0029-002 Keep 4 wheelers & Snowmachines out of Palmer Creek area. This is a beautiful area with over 50 varieties of wild flowers - and many precious living things that are easily destroyed if not protected -
- 0030-001 Road to Whittier - Those funds could be used much more effectively elsewhere than wasting them to satisfy the weekend warriors from Anchorage. The charm of Whittier will be supplanted with the tourist sprawl that is evident along the (illegible) R., Devali, etc. Kiss the pristine Prince Wm Sound Goodbye.
- 0041-001 Please protect the Wildlife, Botany, and Ecology of the Chugach National Forest. Botany includes Lichens, Mushrooms, Liverworts, and mosses of the forest. Surveys need to be done to find out where special areas for these species are located and/or where management needs to be done.
- 0093-001 As a life long resident and Biologist here in Alaska, I would say I have used the Chugach National forest extensively. Among the many outlets this area offers to the general recreationalist, I find that I most often use this area for kayaking & mountaineering. This is some of the most beautiful & accessible terrain offered to us as Alaskans & I cannot begin to express my concern adequately as for the preservation of this area for generations to come. I don't feel it necessary to recount all the potential strain that logging often puts on an environment, but I would like to simply say that the relatively minute, immediate benefit from logging falls much short of the long-term, encompassing usefulness of the natural beauty that the Chugach National forest provides for all of the residents of Alaska.
- 0107-001 What is important to us is the preservation of our national forests and wildlife for the huge majority of Americans who don't own timber corporations, who don't manufacture, sell & drive snowmobiles, and (94%) who don't mutilate
- 0117-001 No commercial logging in the Kenai River watershed: Houselogs and firewood only.
- 0117-007 Manage the forest for wildlife, fisheries and recreation.
- 0117-008 Give up the idea of picking up the scale of logging - there is too much to lose, and the forest is worth far, far more standing than as pulp or lumber.
- 0118-003 Trails and riverbeds should be closed to motorize re.
- 0149-002 Recreation and tourism: In addition to the questions listed, it will be critical to factor in the individual users affect on the environment in conjunction with the commercial outfitters.

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- 0155-001 I am writing you this letter expressing my opinion of your revision plan. I am from North Carolina and moved to Alaska for all the wilderness areas it has to offer. It makes me sad to see that my new home could be destroyed. The thought that the Chugach National Forest could be clearcutting scares me. By clearcutting logging roads must be put in the bring the lumber out.
- 0177-001 I would like the new Chugach National Forest Land Management Plan to recognize the importance of Chugach National Forest as one of the largest sections of undeveloped land, especially coastal land, remaining in the United States.
- 0177-003 I hope the plan protects coastal areas in Prince William Sound which will see increased use upon the opening of the Whittien road.
- 0177-004 Please prohibit all clear cutting, protect old growth forests, and increase the logging buffer zones around waterways. All timber sales should be at market value, no below cost sales!
- 0180-002 Whereas a single ill conceived, mining operation may cause sufficient damage to disrupt ecological processes, the same river may be able to support thousands of private boaters each, year without measurable impacts.
- 0180-005 Presently commercial rafting use of the river does not conflict with other uses; however, if allowed to expand uncontrolled, conflict will soon occur. I suggest that commercial rafting not be allowed to expand more than 20% above current levels. The current levels of commercial rafting are causing some impacts to put ins and take outs of Sixmile. These include trail erosion, human waste, and degradation of the take out road at the end of the 3rd canyon. These problems should be corrected at the expense of the rafting companies operating on the river.
- 0194-002 Not sure at this point - perhaps by improving certain areas by (water access) could stop others from over use
- 0225-002 They all relate to or affect public fish/wildlife resources - These issues greatly affect the availability of fish/wildlife resources as well as public use, accessibility enjoyment of these resources.
- 0232-002 Logging destroys ecosystems. It is a subsidized, money-losing proposition in many forests including the Chugach. Other uses should pay their own way.
- 0236-008 Maintain the Prince William Sound in its current primitive state.
- 0240-003 Recreational uses that destroy opportunities of other recreational users to enjoy the natural environment more or less as is. Preserve the values inherent in a natural ecological system. I look upon our national forests as a land ethics issue in which not only human but non-human values deserve consideration. Legal context which involves not only those in the area affected but all Americans as stewards of this public forest.
- 0246-005 I believe it is really important to limit road-building and areas where motorized vehicles are allowed.
- 0265-001 1. A. Consider cumulative impacts on Forest Service. Lands and adjacent lands within the same watersheds. Long term improvement. If logging is happening on a large number of adjacent lands, then consider impacts on wildlife and ecosystem/watershed.
- 0265-007 5. A. Ecosystem/watershed approach ties together everyone w/in a watershed. It's in their interest to work together to protect health/sustainability of a watershed.
- 0265-009 seeing the Forest Service take an ecosystem/watershed management approach (i.e., "ecosystem health" vs. "forest
- 0265-014 2. A. I am concerned about all issues stated above. It needs to be acknowledged that a healthy ecosystem is vital to all human interests. My livelihood as an employee of an ecotourism business - so I am very concerned about the overall "health" of the ecosystem. Personally, I am concerned about protecting all native wildlife species and the
- 0269-003 a watershed/bioregional/ecosystem approach to planning;
- 0269-007 2. A. The Chugach is one of the last remaining National Forests with a wild character and healthy abundance of native plants & animals. It also faces a high degree of exploitation from the tourism industry, logging, mining, and oil-related accidents. We need to recognize the Forest for what it is to the broad majority of Americans: a national
- 0283-007 to see taxpayers \$ wasted, new roads that will negatively impact other resources. -
- 0293-001 I would like to applaud your decision to not salvage log the Chugach.

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- 0294-004 The forest around Prince William Sound was scarred by the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and portions have already been logged on a large scale. PWS is one of the last tidewater wilderness left in the world, We need to protect PWS for lower impact uses and not allow large-scale commercial logging, commercial mining or large-scale tourism (such as what has happened with cruise ships in Juneau). Do not allow marinas to be built on public land, and control the number of mooring buoys. We need to protect PWS from individual and cumulative impacts, so that wildlife, kayakers, boaters, fishers, subsistence users, and small independent Alaskan owned tour operators have priority and that the
- 0294-010 According to the CNF Recreation Survey of 1995, "The quality of the visual resources, or scenery, of the forest is by far the single most consideration to visitors of the forest." 91% of respondents put this as the top priority. Maintain the natural visual quality of the forest, This means, do not use logging to interrupt inevitable forest cycles of fire, insects, and disease, which is of little concern to visitors. The public has made it clear that the Chugach is not suited for commercial logging which export logs and jobs and cannot be done sustainably. Sustainable fishing, tourism, recreation, and have higher values. Timber harvesting on public lands caters to a subsidized special interest and is not compatible with all other uses of the forest, especially recreation. Do not allow new roads to be built for logging, even temporary or winter roads. I do recognize small local logging projects near existing roads, can provide value added products for regional use that helps support local economies. With large-scale clearcutting of private and state lands near the Forest, it is especially important that lands on the Chugach be given added protection.
- 0311-001 Wilderness areas full of biologically diverse ecosystems from tidewater to ice fields. The percentage of forested wilderness should equal timber harvesting in order to regenerate resources. The economical benefit of maintaining a designation of wilderness preserve as opposed to the infrastructure cost of changing the designation.
- 0369-007 A. Concern of future conflict of motorized vs. non motorized and the impact of motorized traffic: trash, poaching,
- 0369-009 A. A balance that promotes an ecological balance for the future of the forest to last for generations. 4. A. Wildlife, habitat, good science, public use polling 1. A. It seems to me that a long term forest plan with the view of true ecological health of the forest rather than 10-15 year plans might benefit all involved. 2. A. The forest is something we hope will last forever Let's try to get a plan that addresses some issues for the future.
- 0370-020 Allowing mining abuse was wrong. issues a waste of our tax money.
- 0384-008 A. Work with ADEC water quality protection programs to adopt policies to protect habitat (F&G, DNR too), especially where increased development expected. Learn policies and provide oversight. 2. A. State funds have never been adequate to provide state resource agencies with field staff for PWS/Copper River Delta. 3. A. DEC to train forestry staff who get out in field. 4. A. Communication. Probably need more field staff for both fed & state agencies. Can the revised plan address forest service staffing?
- 0400-002 Despite the Exxon oil spill, these six million acres are among the wildest and least spoiled terrain in the national forest system -- and the Chugach plan should aim to keep them that way.
- 0400-017 The plan should ensure that the Forest Service complies with the Seward Highway Corridor Partnership Plan (SCHPP), which is expected to be complete in January 1998. To fulfill the agency's obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the draft Environmental Impact Statement should include the following concept alternatives: - MAXIMUM FISH AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION: All avoidable use conflicts, including those caused by recreation, are resolved in favor of protecting habitat. This alternative would aim to minimize human disturbances and severely limit "active" management of the forest. There would be no commercial timber harvesting. The plan would include extensive areas for protection as wilderness and wild and scenic rivers, and other conservation-related
- 0401-003 Looking at our larger watersheds and ecosystems, in political and economic terms, as well as biodiversity, is crucial. And we'll hear it again and again into the next century, the economic values of salmon and bears, of roadless areas and viewsheds, well maintained trails and toilets, are the legacy we will leave to the communities of the Chugach.
- 0404-014 ROADS No New Roads No new roads should be constructed on the Forest. The Bering River road, vehicular access to the Copper River road and the Whittier road could cause fragmentation, loss, and isolation of habitat, threaten fisheries and water quality, increase soil erosion, increase human caused fires, create recreation conflicts and create unintended management decisions.
- 0405-004 Protect Prince William Sound from commercial logging, commercial mining and large-scale tourism to preserve the existing character of the Sound and protect wildlife, low-impact and subsistence users, and small independent Alaskan tour operators.
- 0406-001 Preserving the last true natural forests is the prime necessity of the few wilderness areas remaining in the world today. Cutting and harvesting the forests in Chugach La will only be a stop-gap momentarily to those hired to do this. This may sound like a narrow choice - it is however, the last fine area remaining. Over population is the crime against natural habitat everywhere. One more reason to put our attention on conservation and protection. It is a race
- 0409-002 2. see Wilderness designations on the Forest that protect different ecosystem types, including rainforest and transitional boreal forest ecosystems.

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- 0410-001 The chance to visit even just the edge of wilderness was inspiring. A foremost reason to not log your forest to death is the need to keep it roadless and a wilderness experience. The value for wildlife and recreation is worth far more than logging with the loss of soil and wildlife.
- 0411-001 It is my sincere desire to see this area protected as much as possible. I would like the Forest Service to keep this National Forest still over 90% roadless as it is now, and I would like to see Wilderness designations on the Forest that protect different ecosystem types, including rainforest and transitional boreal forest ecosystems, which would protect significant fish and wildlife habitat and outstanding recreational areas. Please retain the Wilderness designation for the proposed Nellie Juan/College Fjord Wilderness Study Area and recommend other areas as
- 0416-001 We have so few large tracts of roadless wilderness left. I believe the Chugach should remain 90% roadless as it is now. Wilderness designations would help protect the different ecosystems such as the rainforest and transitional boreal forest ecosystems. The wilderness designations would help protect significant fish and wildlife habitats as well as outstanding recreational areas. The proposed Nellie Juan/college Fjord Wilderness Study area should get a wilderness designation but other areas should also get wilderness designation to help protect the special
- 0417-001 1) The Chugach NF should remain over 90% roadless, as it is presently; 2) Wilderness designations should be suggested to protect various ecosystem types, including rainforest, transitional boreal forest, fish and wildlife habitat, and outstanding recreational areas; 3) The proposed Nellie Juan/College Fjord Wilderness Study Area should be retained for wilderness designation;
- 0418-001 As the second largest national forest in the United States, the Chugach has exceptional value as wildlife habitat and for the wilderness it harbors. I hold fond memories of the time I spent in the Chugach three years ago. The Chugach should remain largely roadless, managed primarily for wildlife and wilderness values. The Forest Service should confer the highest level of protection (i.e. legislative Wilderness) upon the full range of ecosystem types, including rainforests and transitional boreal forests.
- 0418-004 As the national forest proximate to Prince William Sound, the site of this country's most egregious oil spill, the Chugach holds a high profile in the eyes of many Americans. In the forest plan revision process, the Forest Service has a special opportunity to proceed with the recovery - both ecological and psychological that has begun since the 1989 disaster. I hope the Chugach National Forest will recognize this opportunity and draft a plan that offers exceptional protection to the area as wilderness and wildlife habitat.
- 0420-002 In addition, special attention should be given to the Copper River Delta & Prince William Sound. No roads should be built in the Copper River Delta to protect its wilderness & water fowl values. Prince William Sound should be protected from commercial logging & acquisition of threatened native lands should continued to be acquired.
- 0423-004 Healthy predator populations The plan should consider the maintenance of healthy predator populations as a problem deserving consideration in its own right, especially given the isolation and vulnerability of brown bear and wolf populations on the Kenai, the widespread fragmentation and destruction of habitat that has resulted from the logging, development, and road building that has ravaged the western Kenai and parts of the Sound in recent years, and the increased human activity we can expect to see on the Chugach in the next decade.
- 0423-008 Natural management With so few residents and so few roads, the Chugach provides a unique opportunity to explore the possibilities of managing a forest in a manner that allows natural processes to take their course. There is currently a great deal of scientific doubt as to whether the traditional intensive methods of forest management, such as extensive logging and firefighting, are actually the best way to protect the health of forests. How can the Chugach be managed to encourage natural processes to run their course, and as a laboratory in which less intensive management options can be explored as an alternative to the more intensive options that have already been irrevocably pursued elsewhere in the National Forest system? How might an alternative approach to forest management be implemented on the Chugach, and what might such an approach entail?
- 0423-010 The Chugach within the region As my comments probably suggest, I would like to see the Chugach Forest Plan take a wide-angle view of the Chugach, one that fully accounts for the unique role it will play over the next ten to fifteen years in what is Alaska's most developed region. Given the increased pressures that roadbuilding, logging, and development will place on the entire region, what role should the Chugach play in ensuring that the overall ecological balance and integrity of Southcentral Alaska is maintained?
- 0424-003 Permanently protect the Copper River Delta - the birds need a safe place to land. Protect Prince William Sound - we've seen the damage of the oil spill - no more threats should be accepted.
- 0425-002 Permanently Protect the Copper River Delta: In 1907 President Teddy Roosevelt created the Chugach National Forest primarily to protect the forest and wildlife of the Copper River Delta. The Delta, up to and including Miles Lake and Baird Canyon, with millions of birds and abundant wildlife, must be permanently protected through the new forest plan by recommendation for legislative designation.

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- 0425-003 Protect Prince William Sound: The forest around Prince William Sound was scarred by the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and portions have already been logged on a large scale. Protect PWS for lower impact uses and not allow large-scale commercial logging, commercial mining or large-scale tourism (such as what has happened with cruise ships in Juneau). Protect PWS from individual and cumulative impacts, so that wildlife, kayakers, boaters, fishers, subsistence users, and small independent Alaskan owned tour operators have priority and that the current character
- 0425-008 Mining Claims: When reviewing mining claim for permits, address them in an environmental assessment. Currently, they are permitted under categorical exclusions which gives the public no information about how their resource is managed or what impacts are expected. Please do a watershed cumulative impacts analysis which includes mining.
- 0426-001 We feel any new roads, constructed trails, mooring buoys, or any other construction to speed up the inevitable over crowding in the Prince William Sound/Copper River portion of the CNF should not be done. We feel the forest service should protect and maintain the existing infrastructure already in place. Easier access will only turn the PWS/CR area of the CNF into an overcrowded user conflicting place such as the Kenai River and Port Valdez during salmon runs. It is a rich and beautiful place for recreation with plenty of access and infrastructure as it is now. One only has to look at the other or nice places along the road systems such as Kenai, Chitna, Valdez, or the Gulkana River during salmon runs to see that easy access is not always the best thing. Alaska has lots of areas that are very hard or expensive to reach. We need areas like the PWS/CR portion of the CNF that has a few areas close to civilization and some a little harder to reach. Please don't ruin the last such place in Alaska.
- 0427-002 Permanently Protect the Copper River Delta: In 1907 President Teddy Roosevelt created the Chugach National Forest primarily to protect the forest and including Miles Lake and Baird Canyon, with millions of birds and abundant wildlife, must be permanently protected through the new forest plan by recommendation for legislative designation.
- 0427-003 Protect Prince William Sound: The forest around Prince William Sound was scarred by the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and portions have already been logged on a large scale. Protect PWS for lower impact uses and not allow large-scale commercial logging, commercial mining or large-scale tourism (such as what has happened with cruise ships in Juneau). Protect PWS from individual and cumulative impacts, so that wildlife, kayakers, boaters, fishers, subsistence users, and small independent Alaskan owned tour operators have priority and that the current character
- 0427-008 Mining Claims: When reviewing mining claims for permits, address them in an environmental assessment. Currently, they are permitted under categorical exclusions which gives the public no information about how their resource is managed or what impacts are expected. Please do a watershed cumulative impacts analysis which includes mining.
- 0428-002 The Copper River Delta is a truly unique and remarkable area, from the salmon, to the resident wildlife, to the largely intact forest, to the millions of birds that pass through in spring and fall. Under the new forest plan, we urge you to recommend Congressional protection of this very special area -- the Delta -- up to and including Miles Lake and Baird
- 0432-001 I want the Chugach National Forest to remain over 90% roadless, as it is today. There must be wilderness designations on the Forest that protect different ecosystem types, including rainforest and transitional boreal forest ecosystems. This would protect significant fish and wildlife habitat as well as outstanding recreational areas. The proposed Nellie Juan/College Fjord Wilderness Study area should be retained for Wilderness designation, and other areas should be recommended for Wilderness as well. I am very concerned about Brown bears on the Kenai Peninsula. For the future viability of their population the forest needs to remain roadless. -
- 0433-001 As a concerned citizen, I would like to see the Chugach National Forest remain over 90% roadless, as it is today. It is time that we introduce Wilderness designations on the Forest that protect different ecosystem types, including rainforest and transitional boreal forest ecosystems, which will protect significant fish and wildlife habitat and outstanding recreational areas. The proposed Nellie Juan/College Fjord Wilderness Study area should be retained for Wilderness designation, but other areas should be recommended for Wilderness as well. I am especially concerned about Brown bears on the Kenai Peninsula. For the future viability of their population the forest needs to remain
- 0438-002 In 1907 President Teddy Roosevelt created the Chugach National Forest primarily to protect the forest and wildlife of the Copper River Delta. The Delta, up to and including Miles Lake and Baird Canyon, with millions of birds and abundant wildlife, must be permanently protected through the now forest plan by recommendation for legislative
- 0438-003 The forest around Prince William Sound was scarred by the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and portions have already been logged on a large scale. Please protect PWS for lower Impact uses and do not allow large-scale commercial logging, commercial mining or large-scale tourism (such as what has happened with cruise ships In Juneau). Protect PWS from individual and cumulative impacts, so that wildlife, kayakers, boaters, fishers, subsistence users, and small Independent Alaskan owned tour operators have priority and the character of the Sound is maintained
- 0447-002 Significant changes have occurred on the Forest since the 1984 Chugach Land Use Plan. Alaska Wildland Adventures is concerned about catastrophic (clearcuts, mining, developed tourism, garbage) and incremental degradation (recreation, tourism, and fisheries development projects) on the ecological health and scenic quality of the entire Chugach National Forest

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- 0447-005 In 1907 President Teddy Roosevelt created the Chugach National Forest primarily to protect the forest and wildlife of the Copper River Delta. The Delta, up to and including Miles Lake and Baird Canyon, with millions of birds and abundant wildlife, must be permanently protected through the new forest plan by recommendation for legislative designation. The Bird festivals in Cordova are a locally based wildlife viewing opportunity that enhances diversity in
- 0447-006 With the construction of the Whittier Access Road, Prince William Sound will need planning to protect its natural resources. Protect this area for lower impact uses and restrict large-scale commercial industries that may jeopardize the wildland integrity of the forest. There is already danger of overcrowding and devaluation of the quality of the wilderness recreation experience.
- 0458-005 The Copper River Delta deserves permanent protection, up to and including Miles Lake and Baird Canyon. Protect the forest and wildlife habitat through the new plan until legislation can be passed to make protection permanent. -
- 0462-004 All human use & traffic has an impact on the forest. Motorized vehicles just have a bigger negative impact.
- 0462-012 Please do not allow new development of alpine ski resorts in the Seward or Lost Lake area. Any such development should remain focused in already disturbed areas such as Girdwood and Anc.
- 0463-010 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.
- 0465-002 Range of Alternatives The Chugach is in a position unique among national forests, vast and endowed with superlative natural values, yet largely unroaded and unencumbered by a timber sale program. The highest and best use of the forest is beyond dispute in the preservation of its natural values -- in particular its roadless character. The challenge of the plan revision process is to develop several meaningfully different alternatives that all maintain the roadless and natural characteristics of the forest for the many local, regional, national and even international visitors who come to the Chugach for its unspoiled qualities. This must not be a planning process in which there is a single "amenity" alternative surrounded by proposals for degrading the forest through varying degrees of commodity extraction. The foundation of the planning process must be a solid understanding of what will be required genuinely to ensure compliance with all applicable legal standards.
- 0465-006 Roadless Area Protection Roads and roadless area entry are among the most controversial issues the Forest Service deals with. Roadless watersheds are crucial to the welfare of fish and wildlife species. They provide unequalled opportunities for remote recreation. Generally they are the healthiest areas, ecologically speaking, and the least good candidates for active management.
- 0465-007 Roads, conversely, cause serious harm. They are associated with water quality degradation, loss of prime fish habitat, and imperilment or disappearance of wildlife species, including those that are disturbance averse, interior adapted, or prone to human take. They also are a vector for the introduction of exotic plant and animal species, including some that seriously affect ecosystem integrity. Most of these effects are also associated with "closed" or "temporary" roads. Unlike most other national forests, the Chugach is very rich in roadless character. Almost all alternatives developed should maintain this asset by assuming a moratorium on the construction of new roads, especially into roadless areas, including "temporary" roads.
- 0469-005 Land Use Intensity "Zoning" A major objective of the plan should be to ensure that Prince William Sound always includes a diverse array of recreational environments. With the coming of the Whittier road and other developments it will not be too difficult to provide more accessible, developed areas for tourists and other recreationists. The challenge lies in preserving a healthy chunk of the wild areas that still exist in the Sound. Doing this on USFS uplands
- 0470-003 I am in favor of it remaining 90% roadless as it is today and want to see Wilderness designations on the Forest that protect different ecosystem types, including rainforest and transitional boreal forest ecosystems, which would protect significant fish and wildlife habitat and outstanding recreational areas.
- 0470-006 The Chugach National Forest is not a viable commercial timber forest, and is much more valuable for its fish and wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. I support the highest level of protection for one of the country's last intact national forest.
- 0472-001 wilderness - wild rivers - no clear cuts, no "salvage" or "forest health" logging - quiet places in the forest & along the coast - bird, brown bear and other wildlife habitats - wilderness-type recreation - continued recovery from Exxon Valley spill - Copper river delta wildlife habitats see also attached letter - hiking - bird watching & wildlife viewing -
- 0473-009 I want the proposed Nellie Juan/College Fjord Wilderness Study area to be retained for Wilderness designation, but large additional areas should also be recommended for Wilderness. There should be Wilderness designations on the Forest that protect different ecosystem types, including rainforest and transitional boreal forest ecosystems in order to protect significant fish and wildlife habitat and outstanding recreational areas. Wilderness designations should include Knight Island, areas on the Kenai Peninsula, and the Copper River Delta.

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- 0475-009 Prince William Sound large scale logging has already occurred on portions of the forest around Prince William Sound. The forest has been further damaged by the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Given that this area is extremely important to a large number of no impact & low impact users, the Forest Service should not allow commercial logging, commercial mining or large-scale tourism.
- 0476-001 First, I would like to say that the Chugach National Forest is a treasure used and appreciated by many Alaskans living in south central Alaska, as well as by visitors from other parts of the U.S., as well as such places as Canada, Germany, Switzerland, the U.K., Japan, and Poland. (I have met and discussed the area with people from all those countries on hikes on the Chugach N.F. trail system, and I'm sure many others visit from other parts of the world.)
- 0476-011 Ninth, I would hope that the "salvage logging" myth will be laid to rest; dead trees are dead, and they can't get any deader. Trees have been dying for millions of years now, and their breakdown (slower, at this latitude, than in more southerly climes) enriches and forms the soil necessary to grow more of them. I would hope that the U.S.F.S. will not go along with the efforts of some of the more reactionary senators and congressmen from western states (including Alaska) to push "salvage logging" as a solution to the spruce bark beetle, etc. etc. ad infinitum. This is obviously a transparent effort to convert public resources into dollars to be put into the pockets of people who should be at least making an effort to make an honest living - by growing and harvesting trees on a sustained yield basis on private lands, for instance! Dead trees may not be as pretty to look at as living trees, but they are better to look at, and better
- 0479-004 Home to wolves, brown and black bears, lynx, northern goshawks, marbled murrelets, harlequin ducks and other sensitive wildlife species, the Chugach National Forest is comprised of temperate rainforest, tidewater glaciers, some of the richest salmon spawning habitat in Alaska (including the world famous Kenai and Copper River Watersheds), among other significant ecological attributes
- 0479-005 The Chugach National Forest includes the largest undisturbed wetland on the North American Pacific Coast, and every year hosts one of the largest bird migrations on the globe.
- 0479-011 As we envision the next few decades, the pressure to build roads in the Chugach for logging, increased access demands and/or large-scale tourism pose the most significant threats to the future integrity of the forest.
- 0479-018 The Wilderness Society Vision of the Forest: Our vision of the Chugach National Forest is for it to remain 98% roadless, as it is today, to maintain its integrity, ecological value and primarily natural state.
- 0479-027 TWS would like the Forest Service to identify and address Wilderness designations on the forest in the revision process which protect different ecosystem types, including: 1) the entire Nellie Juan/College Fjord Wilderness Study Area, 2) Roadless Area 001, 002, 003, 004 on the Kenai Peninsula for their brown bear habitat, scenic and recreational values, and 3) special areas in the
- 0479-032 In addition, TWS supports the Forest Service's work to identify all potential Research Natural Areas and make recommendations for their protection.
- 0479-063 ORV's: ORV's should be strictly regulated not just because of noise conflicts but because they have the capacity to do substantial and unacceptable damage to the Forest. At the very least ORV's should be confined to existing trails that have already been designated for their use.
- 0479-064 Helicopters: Landings in the forest should be restricted to a small number of areas that are designated by the Forest Plan as possible landing areas. Permits should be granted for landing in those areas only after an appropriate level of analysis has been completed in compliance with NEPA. Permittees should be required to follow designated routes at designated minimum altitudes, and comply with other conditions established to minimize their impacts on "Natural Quiet," residents, cabin owners, other users and wildlife.
- 0479-066 Jet skis: Jet skis should be strictly regulated and monitored due to noise conflicts, pollution and wildlife impacts, such as disturbance to loon nests, among other impacts.
- 0479-073 TWS would like for the Chugach National Forest to maintain its essentially roadless, wild character by maintaining 98% of the forest as roadless, as it is today. Further, TWS would like to see Wilderness designations realized on the forest which protect different ecosystem types, including: the Nellie Juan/College Fjord Wilderness Study Area, roadless areas on the Kenai Peninsula,
- 0480-005 I been suggesting to out of state friends and relatives who wish to visit Alaska that they consider Prince William Sound, and taking one of the sailing trips that are offered by some of the independent tour outfits. I recommend this area because much of the Sound is still, in spite of the Oil Spill and logging, relatively pristine. The Sound cannot tolerate much more degradation and still maintain its appeal to in state and out of state visitors. I urge you to protect the Sound with a goal of maintaining its natural beauty and wildlife habitat.
- 0480-008 I oppose the building of roads and I oppose commercial logging in the National Forest. I urge you to prohibit such activities on public lands.

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- 0480-011 But this is also what a lot of people love about Alaska and why most of the out of state visitors come here. I believe that these (i.e., wilderness, wildlife, and natural beauty) are sustainable long term aesthetic and economic values, which far outweigh any high impact short term economic enterprises such as commercial logging.
- 0483-003 Unfortunately, some of the most valuable wildlife habitat and scenic beauty have already been decimated by large scale logging in Prince William Sound.
- 0483-010 In effect, I am asking the USFS to do a 180 and start protecting what is left of our forests with their immense diversity of life, quiet and scenic beauty and to resist the pressures of corporate powers to make a quick buck from our public
- 0484-005 Preserving the scenic beauty and wildlife of the Alaskan wilderness must be done in a manner that allows access beyond the ribbon of asphalt that carry us from city to city.
- 0485-001 The increasing human population, the ever increasing use of natural resources, and the attitude of our liberal politicians has resulted in destruction of too much of both privately held and federal "public" lands.
- 0485-003 Irresponsible logging has destroyed habitat, and caused erosion and sedimentation in neighboring rivers and streams. For example, the commercial and recreational salmon industry in the Pacific Northwest, which at one time employed more than the timber industry, has been destroyed in part by logging activities.
- 0485-006 Air pollution is so bad in some areas that visibility in the Grand Canyon, Sequoia and Kings Canyon, Great Smoky Mountain and other National Parks has been sharply reduced. Acid rain damages large tracts of national forest lands and acidifies lakes and rivers affecting fish and other wildlife. over -
- 0487-013 14) A plan to severely limit ATV use. ATVs should be confined to areas where no surface damage will result and noise will not impact quiet recreation or wildlife. No new ATV areas should be opened. Current areas used by ATVs need to be evaluated for damage.
- 0491-003 We need to protect PWS for lower impact uses and not allow large-scale commercial logging, commercial mining or large-scale tourism. Do not allow marinas to be built on public land, and control the number of mooring buoys. We need to protect PWS from individual and cumulative impacts, so that wildlife, kayakers, boaters, fishers, subsistence users, and small independent Alaskan owned tour operators have priority and that the current character of the
- 0491-013 Do not allow the mining project to occur on the Resurrection Creek near Hope. This area is far to important already to the local economy in terms of fish and wildlife, particularly salmon, which generate millions of dollars for the Kenai Peninsula. To jeopardize the health of these watersheds would be a mistake.
- 0493-002 I would like to see Wilderness designations on the Chugach that protect different ecosystem types, including rainforest and transitional boreal forest ecosystems, which would protect significant fish and wildlife habitat and outstanding recreational areas.
- 0493-008 It is a priceless place more valuable for its fish and wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities than logging. Alaska's future economy depends upon keeping forest intact, providing quality wilderness experiences, and fish
- 0494-001 we urge you to protect the native biodiversity of the Chugach National Forest in the revision of the Land Management Plan. For instance, this should be done by continuing the over 90% of the forest that is roadless in totally roadless conditions. We also wish to see wilderness designations on the Chugach that protect different ecosystem types, including rainforest and transitional boreal forest ecosystems. This would serve the purpose of protecting fish and wildlife habitat and outstanding recreational opportunities.
- 0494-005 We feel this entire National Forest is more valuable for biodiversity protection, for wildlife habitat, and for recreational opportunities, than by producing commodities.
- 0495-007 5. Protect Prince William Sound at all costs, close down those ill prepared logging operations that have rushed forward in the last few years and allow only smaller scale operators to achieve a balance in any needed timber
- 0495-008 6. Provide permanent protection status for all of the Chugach Forest, and expand it's protection into Copper River Delta for all of it's established species of wild life as well...
- 0550-001 8) Recommend an effective plan to eradicate the spruce beetle and an ecologically sound plan to harvest spruce beetle killed spruce trees.
- 0566-001 Knight Island (those parts in FS management), with its rugged coves, and pillow lavas, is of personal importance to me. I've always felt an easily cancellable agreement between FS - AOF&G to protect Copper Delta WMA is NOT enough and I'm concerned about upland watershed protection. Despite possible up valley development, I think as much as possible east end wild land should receive formal protection and with NO through road. E.g. Trumpeter Swan habitat under Bethany Glacier, & FS lands adjacent to newly protected state lands.
- 0578-001 I would like to see conservation stressed, rather than extractive resource exploitation.

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- 0579-001 In addition to the above comments, I am particularly concerned by the proliferation of motorized forms of recreation and the effects that off-road vehicle use has on the forests, including creation of new trails, habitat degradation, erosion, conflicts between user groups, increased hunting and fishing pressure. I urge the N.F.S. to use Wilderness designation and Wild & Scenic Recreational River designation to allow the necessary management tools to help eliminate and mitigate the bad effects of motorized recreational use.
- 0581-001 Please do the job you were given by the American people -- namely to PROTECT our National Forests from destruction -- not give them away to the highest bidder.
- 0588-001 I travelled every road in the state except the road to Valdez. Please do the progressive thing and keep some beauty and the awe of the outdoors for all of our grandchildren (and their kids too) -- I guess that means . . . Protect, Protect, Protect!!!! Please consider the long term . . . 500 yrs should be the benchmark lowest common denominator when considering impacts and effects of our "industry needs" and wants. Thanks, Jeff Still PO BX 4845 Falls Church, Va 22044. Hey, help us save it so you can use it! Is this the service you signed me up for - we already get this at work. Another 1/2 foot of snow, but who's saying. Ran into a bull moose skijouring tonight. Didn't have my headlamp on so I guess he didn't see us - and that's just fine. They are pretty inactive this time of year, but still intimidating. Ah, to live in wilderness - downtown Anchorage. Take care - enjoy the weekend! ----- Original Message ----- Another ALASKA Forest needs your help! Remember the EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL, when over 11 million gallons of oil spilled into Prince William Sound? Well the land surrounding the Sound is largely the CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST, the second largest national forest in the U.S., and along with the Tongass National Forest makes up the largest temperate rainforest left in the world. This alert gives more info on the Chugach and how: Just 60 seconds of your time can help shape the next 15 years of the Chugach National Forest COMMENT DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 31, 1997! PLEASE COPY, SIGN AND EMAIL THE ATTACHED MESSAGE TODAY! The Chugach National Forest (Re) visioning process of the Land Use Management Plan has begun and the forest needs you! Your voice makes a huge difference and will help guide forest management for the next 10 - 15 years. Remember, it was due to public outcry that the Forest Service dropped its salvage logging program. What exactly is the Chugach Land Use Management Plan Revision? Every 10-15 years national forest staff revise their land use management plans, the document which sets policy for all aspects of the forest, to take into account changing public opinions, changes which have occurred within the forest, and new data from the forest. This revision process will take approximately 2 years with several opportunities for the public to comment on the future management of the forest. We will keep you posted throughout to let you know how you can make a difference and have a role in the future of your forest. THE CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST Our Chugach National Forest encompasses a little over 5.9 million acres, which makes the Chugach the second largest National Forest in the U.S. Besides the immense beauty of the land, there are many qualities which make the Chugach a unique forest. The Chugach is the northernmost intact rainforest in the world, making it ecologically rich and home to a diverse and abundant population of wildlife species. Site of the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, Prince William Sound is still recovering, yet has no protection from logging or other large-scale impacts. Over 90% of the forest is "inventoried" as roadless, which affords a recreation experience found in few places around the world. Portage Glacier, in Chugach National Forest, is the most visited site in all of Alaska. Over 65% of Alaskans live in or near the forest. The Chugach still has no designated wilderness protection although 90% of it qualifies. The Chugach was created in 1907 by Teddy Roosevelt primarily to protect fish and wildlife of the Copper River Delta. Every year the Delta hosts the largest bird migration in the world and is internationally recognized as a critical flyway. Changes Since the 1984 Chugach Land Use Plan The number of visitors to the forest has dramatically increased. The Exxon Valdez oil spill released 11 million gallons of crude oil into Prince William Sound. Salvage logging became a reality within the forest. Brown bears on the Kenai Peninsula have experienced a 70% reduction in their habitat capability due to logging and rapid development. Biologists' reports indicate that K.P. brown bears are on the brink of meeting the criteria for being listed as a "threatened" species. Snowmachines, ATV and other motorized uses have dramatically increased. Huge tracts of land have been clear-cut near the forest, impacting both habitat and watersheds. Why the Forest Needs You We, as a NATION, need to make our voices heard in shaping the future of the Chugach Forest so that all our priorities and the needs of fish and wildlife are met. The Forest Service wants to hear from all interested parties before it moves ahead with their revision of the Land Management Plan. In order to make certain things a reality within the forest, common points and themes throughout our individual comments are necessary. The attached letter includes some of these points. Be sure to include personal items of interest, such as a special area, trail, animal, river, or activity you would like to see protected, or just general principles you value in a national forest, like no large-scale commercial logging, quiet areas, etc. This gives the Forest Service better work direction when deciding what the public wants in their forest.

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- 0610-001 There are so few truly wild areas left in the U.S. The American spirit began with a love of the outdoors and wilderness. Please help to save the wildness we have left so that future generations may also be able to understand
- 0617-001 I am against commercial clearing in the Chugach. Do protect scenery & do no salvage logging. With large-scale clearcutting of private and state lands near the Forest, it is important that the lands on the Chugach be given added protection. Protect wild life & don't make new roads that people will spoil with trash.
- 0661-001 Areas of Vital importance to me, as an Alaska Resident, are the Logging & Wildlife Protection. Commercial Logging is devastating - we must work to save what's left. Scenery has little to do with my concerns - it's the long term destruction to ourselves that concerns me. Trees are vital.
- 0667-001 This forest is "common ground" belonging to everyone to enjoy, not to strip in any way. Can't there be some place on the globe that needn't be turned into human economy? Please save this forest in every way possible.
- 0691-001 Please ensure protection of the already damaged PWS from further destruction of its magnificent character & Alaskan tourism/ subsistence use.
- 0696-001 Protect Prince William Sound: This is B.S. - Oil in ocean doesn't harm forest.
- 0699-001 Alaska has the chance now to preserve our forest, fishing streams and its pristine beauty spots. Save it for the future generations. I have five grandchildren all born in Alaska & in March will have five great-grandchildren, all youngsters. Please consider it for them 7 thousands of others to enjoy when they grow up. We also need stricter rules for tankers and fishing ships.
- 0710-001 Our forest is worth more as it is than chopped up & dug up. Please protect it.
- 0714-001 We really appreciate the natural treasure at our doorstep and beyond and urge you, to the largest extent possible, to maintain its integrity now and for generations to come.
- 0715-001 Please help preserve this still natural gem, and don't allow economic or business pressures (logging, mining, cruise ships) rule your decisions.
- 0716-001 Somethings should be left along on Mother Earth, and Chugach N.F. is one of them.
- 0739-001 Please protect the forest.
- 0746-001 The above comments echo my sentiments very well. Especially for the Copper River Delta. Even though I live in S.E. Alaska, I care very much about the rest of our lovely state. Do not think we have to "develop" it to the extent the South 48 have suffered.
- 0752-001 Please follow the above suggestions to preserve this national treasure. Preservation=long-term sustainable value!
- 0757-001 Please institute the above. Undisturbed healthy wilderness remains Alaska's greatest state treasure and we should do everything to preserve it. Thanks.
- 0770-001 After working for the U.S. Forest Service for 16 years - some of those years were spent as a timber technician marking sales, & then cleaning up slash & replanting--I am convinced that we as Americans are just destroying our natural resources for the sake of timber sales that will never make a profit for the government. Our resources are worth more than that.
- 0771-001 I totally oppose any logging in the Chugach. There are no justifiable reasons to support such devastating destruction of the earth.
- 0772-001 Spruce beetles are nature they have been around as long as spruce trees. Stop using it and listening to people (corp.) that use that as an excuse to destroy!
- 0775-001 The Protection of Prince William Sound & should be a very high priority.
- 0775-008 Do not allow the mine to happen on the resurrection River. Please halt new mining permits until there is a better understanding of the existing operations. Require an Environmental Assessment for mining operations.
- 0784-002 Dealing with the spruce bark beetle infestation is one of my main priorities for the Kenai Peninsula and logging of beetle-killed timber should be the first stage of a reforestation process. This tactic will help create a healthier forest faster than if nothing is done.
- 0786-001 Overuse will cause closures in any areas opened in the future so yes I want to be part of any group formed so as to get the necessary rules & roads for protection of the forest but also to make sure no facilities are built to ease the burdens of getting a machine to the Island or beach & causing over crowding.

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- 0787-013 Prince William Sound needs further protection to help recovery from the 1989 oil spill of 11 plus million gallons. Please do not allow marinas to be built on public lands and no more mooring buoys. I would also like the public to be informed of the interdisciplinary team meeting
- 0788-001 I wish to express my belief that it ought to remain as pristine as it is today. Massachusetts
- 0788-004 Very little of our nation's commercial timber comes from National Forest lands. Protecting the Chugach will benefit future generations. I absolutely do not support increased logging on the Chugach. Please protect this unique forest ecosystem completely
- 0791-001 I am writing to add my voice to those seeking to expand long term protection for forests in the Chugach National Forest. Like many people I am concerned to hear of the growing threats to this area, which I am intending to visit next year, and wish to see you consider all possible means for its protection, in particular the full protection for those areas definable as wilderness and those areas of importance for migratory birds (including Copper River Delta),
- 0793-001 Given the close proximity of the Chugach National Forest to Alaska's major population centers and with consideration to the cumulative impacts of a burgeoning tourism sector, it seems imperative that to the greatest extent possible, the Chugach National Forest must be preserved in its natural state.
- 0793-002 As more and more people seek out high quality, low cost recreational opportunities for their families in South-Central Alaska, the "best value" determination concerning this resource and its availability to our children will be realized through its preservation, not through marginally profitable development options. We are firmly opposed to any of the following activities in the Chugach NF: 1. salvage logging, timber harvests, and the construction of logging roads. 2. mining and or minerals exploration 3. oil and gas development 4. helicopter tourism access 5. other motorized access, i.e. 4 wheelers, snow machines, etc.
- 0794-001 We need to protect Prince William Sound which will see a dramatic increase in visitors due to the road to Whittier. Please do the utmost to stop this road.
- 0794-007 We need to curtail the extent to which mining operations occur in the forest. Some recreational mining sites are a permanent taking of public resources when shelters and equipment are present year round.
- 0800-004 It is a proven fact that forests providing habitat types through the various developmental stages offers the maximum benefit to the widest diversity of wildlife species. This, due to the nature of the CNF, can only be achieved through management. It is further a proven fact that there is no long term impact or threat to water quality or fisheries that results from such management if done, properly.
- 0802-004 Protect Prince William Sound: The forest around Prince William Sound was scarred by the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and portions have already been logged on a large scale. Protect PWS for lower impact-uses and not allow large-scale commercial logging,
- 0802-005 Commercial mining or large scale tourism (such as what has happened with cruise ships in Juneau) Protect PWS from individual and cumulative impacts, so that wildlife, kayakers, boaters, fishers, subsistence-users, and small independent Alaskan owned tour operators have priority and that the current character of the Sound is maintained.
- 0802-017 The Chugach National Forest is extremely important to members of the Alaska Wilderness League.
- 0804-003 The Chugach National Forest is not a viable commercial timber forest, and is much more valuable for its fish and wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.
- 0810-003 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. As the population of areas adjacent to the Forest growth demands for recreation and other uses increase. The value of the forest for nature and Wilderness based recreation and tourism is growing rapidly, and has major social and economic benefits that need to be recognized in the plan. Alaska 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. We believe that the economic benefits to the region from existing wilderness and wildlife values on the forest far exceed any economic benefits from development in roadless areas, or any development of large-scale logging on the Forest. For the reasons and vision stated above, AWRTA believes the Chugach National Forest Revision Process must address the following list of concerns and related issues in the revision process and
- 0810-005 RECREATION A. The wilderness and wildlife of the Chugach National Forest are as important to Alaskan residents as to visitors. Due to the proximity of the Forest to a significant portion of Alaska's population base, the Forest Plan must include the role of the motorized and non motorized private user in the future vision of the Forest. In order to get a complete picture of use patterns and subsequent impacts, the Forest Service needs to consider this growing demand

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- 0810-006 III. POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACTS OF TOURISM & RECREATION A. Current Trends: 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 2 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
- 0810-019 In conclusion, AWRTA would like to see the Chugach National Forest managed to protect its wilderness and wildlife values and subsequently to assist the outfitters, guides and other businesses dependent on those natural resources.
- 0813-009 7. The Chugach Plan should emphasize management of a tourism group (logistical planning) rather than party size as the solution to low impact land use. There are many ways in which impact can be kept to a minimum with larger parties, i.e. scheduling larger group departures early so small groups know where they are and can avoid them, using porta-potties, hauling in fuel, using firepans and establishing designated campsites.
- 0817-005 The high wildlife, fisheries, and recreational/tourism values of the forest can be sustained to provide many benefits. Large-scale, industrial forestry focused on exports and clearcutting are unlikely to provide the greatest public benefits sustained over the long-term.
- 0819-001 It is very important to me that wild lands be preserved in their wild state. Alaska is the last place in the US where there is a lot of wilderness land left so far reasonably untouched and unspoiled, and it is very, very important that we
- 0820-001 Our membership utilizes the forests and waters of the Chugach for recreation, sightseeing, subsistence, boating, hunting, wildlife viewing, backcountry opportunities, and for low-impact commercial operations that include tourism enterprises and small-scale logging. Our membership appreciates the unique ecological and biological diversity and overall pristine quality of the Chugach National Forest.
- 0820-004 The new Forest Service chief has indicated his desire for a shift in overall management from logging, mining and grazing priorities to priorities which include biological diversity, wildlife habitats and ecosystem health. The Forest Service is in the unique position to forward Chief Dombeck's vision of national forest lands on the Chugach while maintaining recreation and wildlife habitat as the traditional management priorities.
- 0820-022 Roadless Areas; In recognition of the special importance that roadless areas play in Contiguous habitat, intact watersheds, subsistence uses and for primitive recreation experiences, ACE supports the current boundaries as outlined in the 1977 RARE II inventory. Alaskans and those who visit here are fortunate that our national forest is not intersected with roaded areas.
- 0820-030 Prince William Sound, at the heart of the Chugach, is the site of recovery from the nation's worst oil spill as well as large scale logging on private lands. These impacts must be weighed with the increase in tour boat activity. In particular, should the Whittier road be completed, we understand that Princess plans on moving a large portion of their operations from Seward to Whittier. With watershed inventories in hand, the Forest Service will be better equipped to address the potential of these impacts on surrounding forests, wildlife and fisheries, and to water quality.
- 0820-046 Helicopters: Helicopters are both noisier and far more irritating to wildlife and humans than other aircraft. It has been documented, for example, that bears will move their winter den in order to avoid helicopter noise and during summertime use will leave valleys where helicopters are present. Landings in the Forest should be severely restricted. The Forest should be closed to helicopter landings except for a small number of areas that are designated by the plan as possible landing areas. Permits should be granted for landing in those areas only after an EA has been completed in compliance with NEPA. Permittees should be required to follow designated routes at designated minimum altitudes, and to comply with other conditions established to minimize their impacts on residents, cabin owners, other users, and wildlife. Fixed-wing airplanes: Although fixed-wing airplanes are generally less obtrusive than helicopters, they are hardly without their impacts (especially when flying frequent fixed flightseeing routes) when they are left unregulated. In addition to common sense monitoring and controls, especially on flightseeing, and a carrying capacity analysis, landings should not be allowed on lakes with road accessible hiking trails (like
- 0820-049 Mining: Most watersheds on the Chugach have current mining claims, yet the public has no information in which to gauge what potential risks these claims pose to fish and wildlife habitat, to watershed health and viability, or to biological diversity. Negative visual impacts are the only way in which the public may gauge the impact of a mining operation. Many streams and rivers within the boundaries of the Chugach have extremely high fishery values and high visual and/or recreation values, yet these are not taken into account when mining permits are granted. This process is incongruous with how other uses are analyzed. A cumulative assessment of watersheds, as outlined earlier, should be conducted to include past and present mining operations and its impacts. ACE would like to see the Forest Service include recommendations in its alternatives for mineral withdrawals. ACE would like the Forest Service to review, by way of environmental assessments, all mining claims prior to them being permitted. This will give the public the opportunity to be involved in the determination of an activity which impacts their resource.

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- 0821-005 Sierra Club advocates a conservative approach to fish and wildlife management that emphasizes the long-term health and viability of species within the Chugach National Forest, maintenance of healthy fish and wildlife populations must be the key goal of Chugach National Forest's land management plan. This approach will provide for the continuation of existing commercial fishing and subsistence uses of fish and wildlife.
- 0821-007 We further endorse the National Audubon Society's recommendations for a "gap analysis."
- 0821-001 Overall, Sierra Club advocates managing the Chugach National Forest to protect its fish, wildlife, and wilderness
- 0827-002 Permanently Protect the Copper River Delta: In 1907 President Teddy Roosevelt created the Chugach National Forest primarily to protect the forest and wildlife of the Copper River Delta. The Delta, up to and including Miles Lake and Baird Canyon, with millions of birds and abundant wildlife, must be permanently protected through the new forest plan by recommendation for legislative designation.
- 0827-003 Protect Prince William Sound: The forest around Prince William Sound was scarred by the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and portions have already been logged on a large scale. Protect PWS for lower impact uses and not allow large-scale commercial logging, commercial mining or large-scale tourism (such as what has happened with cruise ships in Juneau). Protect PWS from individual and cumulative impacts, so that wildlife, kayakers, boaters, fishers, subsistence users, and small independent Alaskan owned tour operators have priority and that the current character of the Sound is maintained.
- 0828-002 2) Protect the Copper River Delta! This is a unique area where hundreds of thousands of migratory birds gather in an awe-inspiring spectacle. The Delta, up to and including Miles Lake & Baird Canyon, and its abundant wildlife, needs to be permanently protected through the new forest plan.
- 0828-003 3) Prince William Sound is perhaps the most spectacular region of Alaska's coast that is easily accessible. This stunning area needs to be protected for lower impact uses and users. Commercial logging, commercial mining, and large-scale tourism (the thought of many huge cruise ships plying the Sound is not pleasant!) must not be allowed.
- 0829-002 The original intentions of the Chugach National Forest was to protect the forest and wildlife of the Copper River Delta. Please place permanent protection for this area specifically including the Miles Lake and Baird Canyon. This area must be protected through the new forest plan by recommendation for legislative designation.
- 0829-003 Protect Prince William Sound and the forest around Prince William Sound as this area was scarred from the oil spill and has been logged in a large Scale since. As a kayaker and a sport fisherman I would be very sad if this area was not protected for the things that I have visited it for in the past. Protect this area from the cumulative and individual impacts so that smaller tour operators and wildlife have priority for use and the current state of the sound is
- 0829-008 When reviewing mining claims for permits, address them in an environmental assessment. Currently, they are permitted under categorical exclusions which gives the public no information about how their resource is managed or what impacts are expected. Please do a watershed cumulative impacts analysis which includes mining.
- 0830-001 It is because Prince William Sound and the Chugach National Forest has retained the wild and beautiful that Alaska is most desired for, with an integrated human history, making it a living entity. Unfortunately special interests have been extracting and compromising many of the irreplaceable resources of the Forest. This not only includes irresponsible clearcutting and mining of the forests but also the large scale, impersonal tourism, out of control sport hunting/trapping and ORV's and growing uncontrolled access. These impacted and exploited resources are what my type of business as well as my family and I rely upon. These interests take much and give little to anyone but themselves. I am very concerned that there will be a further erosion of the Chugach Forest unless we help through a use plan that will learn from the mistakes of the past and finally leave the people of Alaska, the country and the world a U. S. National Forest to be proud of. I would like to see the future Chugach Land Use Management Plan have strong protection and expansion capabilities for the Forests irreplaceable riches
- 0830-005 CONTROL ACCESS. Stop the Whittier road and permanently stop any possible Copper River Highway. At this point a modern, efficient vehicle/rail transfer facility at Bear Valley would accomplish 95% of what most people want and not compromise the worries that unrestricted access brings.
- 0831-002 2) Do not let the road go through to Whittier or the Bering river! Instead upgrade the railway to Whittier.
- 0831-003 3) Protect one of Americas and the worlds last great forests from logging and over use.
- 0831-004 4) The Copper River Delta already has an economic industry (fishing) that will be sustainable if managed properly and the Copper River Delta habitat is protected from over development and logging.

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- 0831-005 I hope that the decisions that are made about the Chugach National forest will help protect the forest until the end of time. I don't have kids yet but I hope that I can live to see the day that my kids and grandkids can enjoy one of the last great forest on this planet. And I will not have to Say "I remember the time when this area was filled with fishes, bears, trees, fungus, flowers, mountains, stream and all the other things that make up a complete ecosystem". We as humans are ruining the planet at an alarming rate and here in Alaska and in the Chugach we have a chance to make the right decisions before it is to late. Please make the right choices to save our National Forest The Chugach!
- 0832-004 Mining Claims: When reviewing mining claims for permits, address them in an environmental assessment. Currently, they are permitted under categorical exclusions which gives the public no information about how their resource is managed or what impacts are expected.
- 0835-001 Please ensure that the revised Chugach National Forest Plan protects the biological diversity, ecological productivity, environmental health, and magnificent pristine beauty of these federal lands belonging to all Americans. Please also oppose increased logging, Copper River area coal mining, and other harmful developments.
- 0836-007 Vegetation Management Proposed timber sales, salvage sales, etc., should be identified and cumulative impacts discussed. The Forest Plan should direct timber sale analysis from a holistic (landscape scale) approach, identifying sensitive habitats, travel corridors,
- 0836-009 The Forest Plan should include ample old-growth retention blocks. The Plan should address retention areas to be managed to maintain the uneven-age structure of old-growth habitat components required to maintain population levels of old growth dependent wildlife. These retention areas are critical in conserving old-growth habitat.
- 0836-011 Timber harvest units should be located and harvested in a method that will minimize forest fragmentation. Selective cutting should be encouraged in order to maintain diversity of habitats and a multiple-canopy structure. If clear cuts are utilized, small units close together are more desirable than scattering large harvest units, which would have a greater adverse impact on species sensitive to edge effect.
- 0836-023 Process Comments The Forest Plan should attempt a broad landscape approach to ensure biodiversity. Maintaining viable, well-distributed populations of wildlife across the Chugach National Forest is required by the 1976 National Forest Management Act. An important first step in maintaining viable populations is to determine habitat requirements for species and then provide sufficient area of habitat for the desired population. This stepping stone approach should assist in making decisions for maintaining viable, well distributed populations. Habitat and other resources values should be documented to ensure there is adequate biological information available on which to make informed decisions in the planning process. The goal should be to provide a reasoned basis for predicting impacts associated with the proposed action and alternatives, and to define baseline values to which post-project conditions can be compared. Several types of habitat capability, landscape, and population viability models are available as planning tools. We suggest that the FS begin to collect appropriate information for use with these statistical models and to employ their use as soon as possible. The latest scientific information should be utilized to update existing statistical models. The Forest Plan should direct and include cumulative impact assessments at the landscape level to address losses of habitats and steps for assessing site-specific impacts throughout the Chugach National Forest.
- 0839-001 The Chugach is our second largest national forest, and one of our last remaining intact forests. We urge you to promote wilderness designations which would protect rainforest and boreal ecosystems within the Chugach, as well as significant fish and wildlife habitat.
- 0843-001 We've visited Alaska twice, and were stunned by its peace and beauty. You have an opportunity to save some of the most wonderful places on earth - please do so -
- 0847-001 All of the above items are of concern, but of most importance is the last one LOGGING - No large scale commercial logging should be permitted in the Chugach.
- 0848-002 I have seen studies that 95% (approx.) of public lands on Kenai peninsula are open to snow machine use and snow machine lobbies are pushing for more. This is ridiculous and severely impacts those areas as well as increasing access to areas of wildlife, negatively impacting these ecosystems.
- 0860-021 Leave the Forest alone Pristine and natural beauty here before us and will be after us
- 0860-060 The best thing that could happen is for the forest to be left alone, let nature take course Preservation of the pristine nature of the National Forest
- 0860-064 Develop a plan under which our resources can be used but not at the expense of the environment, develop value added products
- 0860-066 Resources are extracted in a manner that sustains biological diversity and ecosystem processes and recreational activities are compatible with wildlife use

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0860-069	Develop a plan that reflects a concerned publics appreciation for and desire to care for public lands A plan that emphasizes sustainable recreational and wildlife habitat value to assure that future generations and wildlife will enjoy the forest quality that we have today
0860-071	Exploit timber/mining/hydro resources to meet short-term monetary/development gains Log it all Salvage logging. No
0860-076	Extensive clear cut logging Forest all logged and sold. No forest left Clearcut it all Destroyed environment. No longer usable by animals and humans
0860-083	Leave forest as is
0860-097	Large areas ((720,000 ha) of representative cover types
0860-099	Lots of wildlife, fish, beautiful scenery, jobs and recreation Preserved in pristine state; infra-structure only in places where it already exists
0860-113	Protect critical habitat for native species
0860-125	Balance the needs of people and the land Remains pristine, with intact habitats supporting multiple uses Healthy ecosystem providing lots of opportunity for recreation, jobs, and resource outputs Preserved for recreation,
0860-131	Over-development destroys the natural character that draws people Prince William Sound is developed
0860-135	Clearcut of all forests No forest
0860-143	Management eliminates natural cycles
0862-017	Increased and changing patterns. PWS impacts on natural resources and ecosystem dynamics
0869-004	2) Specific concerns a) Provide the public with the opportunities they desire, while accommodating diverse user groups and protecting the resource through sustainable management.
0875-001	We have got to get ready for Whittier Road – ID important wildlife and sensitive areas and carefully plan land use. We must consider cumulative impacts on Forest based on adjacent lands. We have not been approaching or even considering it on this side of the sound. Have CRDI identify important wildlife/sensitive areas & “safe, non-intrusive camping sites. Have recreation build and permit camp sites.
0875-002	Lack of vision stops it! They are not funding a 2nd year of recreational use on the Westside of the PWS let alone east side.
0875-004	Tourism/Public recreation use is going to become the #1 issue on this Forest. We must have a plan/consider Issue- Tourism and carrying capacity of tourism. Tourism: Whittier road will cause huge increase throughout sound. Until now East sound and Delta low numbers. We must identify important wildlife areas and identify camping sites that will not impact them and start permitting those sites before the road.
0886-002	PWS is changing regardless of our actions – I do not think the agency is prepared for helicopter access, motorized/non-motorized affect wildlife and peoples values. Internal collaboration is weaker than it should be – it gives a bad impression to public.
0887-001	What are the issues? Increased and changing uses. Increasing uses can have impact on natural resources, disturbing the natural working of the ecosystem, including fisheries, wildlife and plant dynamics.

Comment # Comment

- 0890-003 3) Preserve large blocks of unroaded lands and old-growth to support well-distributed, viable populations of native species. Wilderness recommendations must include lands within Prince William Sound, the Kenai Peninsula, and the Copper River Delta, particularly the Bering and Martin River drainages.
- 0890-004 4) Emphasize sustainable fisheries, recreation, and tourism. Large-scale commercial and/or salvage logging is not an appropriate use of the Chugach National Forest.
- 0891-003 3) protect Prince William Sound from commercial logging and mining;
- 0891-008 given that large-scale logging is taking place elsewhere in the region (especially on the Kenai), I believe the Chugach is not an appropriate forest for commercial logging.
- 0892-004 Protect Prince William Sound: The forest around Prince William Sound was scarred by the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and portions have already been logged on a large scale. Protect PWS for lower impact uses and not allow large-scale commercial logging, commercial mining or large-scale tourism (such as what has happened with cruise ships in Juneau). Protect PWS from individual and cumulative impacts, so that wildlife, kayakers, boaters, fishers, subsistence users, and small independent Alaskan owned tour operators have priority and that the current character of the
- 0892-009 Mining: When reviewing mining claims for permits, address them in an environmental assessment. Currently, they are permitted under categorical exclusions which gives the public no information about how their resource is managed or what impacts are expected. Please do a watershed cumulative impacts analysis which includes mining.
- 0892-011 Logging: The public has made it clear that the Chugach is not suited for commercial logging which exports logs and jobs and cannot be done sustainably. Sustainable fishing, tourism, and recreation have higher values. Additionally, small local logging projects can provide value added products for regional use that helps support local economies. With large-scale clearcutting of private and state lands near the Forest, it is especially important that lands on the Chugach be given added protection.