

Reasons for Protecting Natural Areas and Providing for Natural Elements in the Managed Forest Matrix of the Chugach National Forest

Assessment:

Invitational Roundtable Forum

Coordinator:

Pat Reed

**Summary of Key Assessment Findings
(To be Completed by Assessment Coordinator)**

Key Finding 1:

Protection of scarce terrestrial vegetation conditions or communities.

- a) Protection of old -growth, ancient of primary forests.
- b) Protection of degraded ecosystems.
- c) Providing for multiple species
- d) Providing for invertebrates.

Key Finding 2:

Protecting vertebrate and invertebrate wildlife.

- a) Providing for rare or viable populations or individual species.
- b) Providing for multiple species (assemblages, guilds, communities, richness).
- c) Providing for multiple species (island biogeography theory).
- d) Providing for invertebrates.

Key Finding 3:

Protecting aquatic and riparian systems.

Key Finding 4:

Providing for research and management.

- a) Protection of baseline conditions for measuring change and effects of management.
- b) Providing for other research use, including experimental forestry.

Key Finding 5:

Providing for specific ecological conditions or processes.

- a) Soil conservation.
- b) Providing for natural disturbance events and regimes (e.g., fire, hydrology, natural succession).
- c) Accounting for climate change effects.
- d) Representing ecological conditions.
- e) Staving off invasion by exotic species.
- f) Accounting for natural spatial and temporal variation in resources and in the distribution and abundance of species that use them.
- g) Dispersal and movement of organisms as a major ecological process – genetic and demographic components.

Key Finding 6:

Providing for, or considerations of, human uses, interests, and needs.

- a) Areas for economic income and incentives.
- b) Areas to offset adverse effects of urbanization on habitat loss.
- c) Areas for other uses by non-indigenous peoples (esp. recreation).
- d) Areas for traditional (indigenous) resource use (also benefits non-indigenous peoples).
 - i. Ethnobotanical or ethnobiomedical uses (also benefits non-indigenous peoples).
 - ii. Forestry
 - iii. Providing for other cultural or economic values.
 - iv. Accounting for poaching.
 - v. Sites of religious or ritual significance (e.g., spirit groves).
- e) Providing for a long-term source of plant and animals that may contribute to the productivity of adjacent managed forests used mostly for commodity production.