



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Chugach National
Forest

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Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99503

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Date: August 2, 2001,

Route to:

Subject: Planning Direction for the Regulation of Motorized Access to NFS Lands by Rural and Nonrural
Alaska Residents.

To: Forest Plan Revision ID Team

Subsistence use in Alaska is the customary and traditional use by rural Alaska residents of wild, renewable resources for direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools, or transportation; for the making and selling of handicraft articles out of non edible by-products of fish and wildlife resources taken for personal or family consumption; for barter, or sharing for personal or family consumption; and for customary trade (Section 803 of ANILCA) on all public lands, including National Forest System lands, (including wilderness areas). Customary and traditional use means a long-established, consistent pattern of use, incorporating beliefs and customs that have been transmitted from generation to generation. This use plays an important role in the economy of the community.

Rural residents engaged in subsistence uses shall have reasonable access to subsistence resources on the public lands. Subsistence resources include any wild, renewable, resources that may be used as a source of food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools, or transportation, as well as for the other social and ceremonial purposes described in the definition of subsistence use. Fish, wildlife, associated by-products, and firewood are representative examples. Reasonable access includes the appropriate use of snow machines, motorboats, and other means of surface transportation traditionally employed for such purposes by local residents. Access shall be permitted for subsistence purposes, subject to reasonable regulation including protection of other resource values (Section 811 of ANILCA). Rural means any community or area of Alaska determined by the Federal Subsistence Board to qualify as rural, using the process described in federal subsistence regulations. Resident means any person whose primary, permanent home for the previous twelve months was within Alaska. Whenever absent from their primary or permanent home, the person has the intention of returning to it.

Any administrative closure, such as restrictions imposed by application of the Primitive management area prescription, must meet the criteria of reasonable regulation. An ANILCA Section 810 evaluation and determination is not required for approval of a Revised Forest Plan, a programmatic-level decision that is not a determination whether to "withdraw, reserve, lease, or otherwise permit the use, occupancy, or disposition" of National Forest lands. However, a Forest-wide evaluation and determination is included for the Forest Plan revision to facilitate future project-level planning and decision-making in compliance with ANILCA Section 810. Consistent with Section 810 of ANILCA, the Forest Plan has been evaluated for potential effects on subsistence uses and needs. An effects analysis of resource developments on subsistence resources is included in the Final EIS (Chapter 3, "Subsistence"). Based on this analysis, implementation of the Revised Forest Plan will not result in a significant restriction on the abundance and distribution of subsistence resources, and on competition for these resources.

To qualify as a rural resident a person's primary, permanent residence must be in a rural area. A seasonal residence does not qualify a person as a rural resident. Unless otherwise specified pursuant to regulation, permits are not required for subsistence uses, by means of motorized surface transportation traditionally employed for such purposes, on any National Forest System lands.

As of the date of this letter, all communities and areas in Alaska are rural except:

- Adak
- Anchorage (Municipality)



- **Fairbanks** North Star Borough
- **Homer** area (including Homer, Anchor Point, Kachemak City, and Fritz Creek)
- **Juneau** area (Douglas, Juneau, West Juneau)
- **Kenai** area (including Kenai, Soldotna, Sterling, Nikiski, Salamatof, Kalifornsky, Kasilof, and Clam Gulch)
- **Ketchikan** area (Clover Pass, Herring Cove, Ketchikan City, Ketchikan East, Mountain Point, North Tongass Highway, parts of Pennock Island, Saxman East)
- **Seward** area (including Seward and Moose Pass)
- **Valdez**
- **Wasilla** area (Big Lake, Bodenberf Butte, Houston, Palmer, Wasilla)

Motorized access by residents of any of the communities listed above, for any purpose, (including subsistence uses) may be restricted in accordance with Revised Forest Plan map direction for winter and summer motorized recreation and for specific routes listed in the Roads, Trails and Routes Management Proposal (Appendix C in the Revised Forest Plan).



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