

Research Natural Areas _ Special

Comment # Comment

- 0148-001 I would like to see Congress from the Copper River Delta into a National Wildlife Refuge. Can the Forest Service help make that happen?
- 0163-003 I want the Black Mtn. Area to become a designated research natural area.
- 0231-001 Designate the headwaters of the Kenai River (under F.S. management) a special management area. Work with local citizens to determine what that might be.
- 0266-005 specifically concerned that the Nellie (ILLEGIBLE) WSA and related resources will be diluted and diminished to a point where their values will be negligible.
- 0269-002 more comprehensive research natural areas that consider past development and future development of adjacent
- 0269-012 I am also interested in areas where non-human habitat can exist without human interference - Natural Research Areas that EXCLUDE humans -- how could this be enforced.
- 0269-014 I want to see the Plan plan for future events by providing natural areas set aside for 2 planning efforts in 100-200 years, areas where the only "management" is no "management," just occasional research.
- 0293-003 - Let's protect the Copper River Delta. I'd like to see lines of protection that enhance ecosystems, not just "areas." -
- 0294-003 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
- 0323-001 With the increasing populations of S.C. Alaska it is important that "Outstandingly Remarkable" places, such as the rivers & glaciers listed in Vol 3 of the Revisions Newsletter, be placed in special protection status for future
- 0339-001 Pete Dahl Slough Area Designated for possible RNA would possibly eliminate or curtail historic use of this area for recreational, subsistence and Cabin use. RNA will close the access to areas which have been historically used for generations. We have Parks and many other areas to which this type of research could happen. Local involvement and ideas mean a lot. We have the background and knowledge that special interest groups, eg. Environmental and non-local. Consider the views of everyone. Both locking up of land and over use can be devastating. Reasonable ideas that allow use of land without damage should be the final goal. Improve the Chugach by: Designated RNA areas could either be relocated or have boundaries changed to allow for historically used recreation/subsistence areas to remain open without restriction. This will allow the large amount of recreation/subsistence to continue
- 0404-024 NATURAL RESEARCH AREAS All Research Natural Areas proposed in 1984 should be designated.
- 0434-008 8. The forest plan should consider eliminating any research natural areas where viable research that can demonstrably justify such designation is not underway, active and budgeted for.
- 0444-009 NATURAL RESEARCH AREAS All Research Natural Areas proposed in 1984 should be designated.
- 0463-016 The Forest Service needs to recognize and protect the special nature of the ANILCA Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area in the Copper River Delta.
- 0463-017 In addition, AWRTA supports the Forest Service's work to identify all potential Research Natural Areas and make recommendations for their protection.
- 0479-031 Other Special Designations on the Forest: The Forest Service needs to recognize and protect the special nature of the ANILCA Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area in the Copper River Delta, as statutorily designated by section 501 of ANILCA, which requires management and protection of this area similar to a National Wildlife Refuge.
- 0479-032 In addition, TWS supports the Forest Service's work to identify all potential Research Natural Areas and make recommendations for their protection.
- 0479-033 Finally, we recommend the Forest Service address designations of special areas of the forest as National Recreation Areas, or any other relevant special designations, to give unique areas on the forest the protection they require and
- 0479-074 and special areas within the Copper River Delta.
- 0480-007 The Copper River Delta is a particularly critical bird habitat. I believe it should receive special protection.

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- 0482-002 2) Permanently Protect the Copper River Delta.
- 0490-003 The Copper River Delta does not need any further protecting this is a very (ILLEGIBLE) area for humans and any visitors do not stay (ILLEGIBLE)
- 0491-002 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 new forest plan by recommendation for legislative
- 0493-003 I also support the Nellie Juan/College Fjord Wilderness Study area to be retained for Wilderness designation.
- 0494-002 We urge the retention of the proposed Nellie Juan/College Fjord Wilderness Study area to be retained for wilderness designation.
- 0775-003 and stop the road in the Copper river Delta Area. Instead, recommend the Copper River Delta up to and including Band Canyon as a National Wildlife refuge.
- 0777-005 Section 101(d) of ANILCA makes clear that Congress was satisfied with the conservation system units established under the Act, that they afforded "sufficient protection" for the national interest in conservation values, and that "the need for future legislation designating new conservation system units, new national conservation areas, or new national recreation areas, has been obviated thereby." Consistent with this clear congressional intent is the section 1326(b) prohibition against "further studies of Federal lands in the State of Alaska for the single purpose of considering the establishment of a conservation system unit, national recreation area, national conservation area, or for related or similar purposes" absent express congressional authorization. Accordingly, any revisions to the Forest Plan must be consistent with ANILCA's mandate and should not disturb the lasting balance Congress sought to
- 0777-007 For over a decade the Chugach National Forest has managed the College Fjord-Nellie Juan Wilderness Study Area and several Research Natural Areas in just this manner without congressional approval. The revised Forest Plan should bring management of this area into compliance with applicable statutes.
- 0777-014 The recommendation of new protective designations in the proximity of CAC's land holdings would frustrate efficient management of the forest because it would place the Forest Service in the conflicting position of being legally obligated to both facilitate and restrict access across the same forest lands. The Forest Planning Team should avoid recommending protective designations or implementing management practices that will cause legal conflict and confusion, frustrate efficient forest management, or diminish valid private rights of use granted under ANCSA, ANILCA, or the 1982 CNI Settlement Agreement.
- 0781-013 Recognizing the special significance of the Copper River Delta, which is host to one of the largest yearly bird migrations, ACE would like to see special designation given to this region. Already, it is designated an "International Shorebird Reserve" and has a "State Critical Habitat Area" designation. Neither of these provide any real protection, however. Prince William Sound is another ecologically rich area that deserves special designation, especially as a pro-active measure to counter expected increases in use with the proposed Whittier road. ACE would like to see the Forest Service recommend designation that would, at the least, ensure management activities did not jeopardize standing. Possibilities could include national marine sanctuary, national monument or national scenic areas. In Prince William Sound, ACE would like to see the inclusion of Knight, Montague, Hinchinbrook and Hawkins islands over to Cordova. In the Copper River area, ACE would like to see the inclusion of the Delta, then north to and including Tasnuna River, east and south to the edge of the forest, including the Copper, Bering, and Martin Rivers and Kayak Island. We also suggest the inclusion of some road-accessible areas that have special importance to people, such as the Resurrection Trail and trailhead. ACE Would like to see the Resurrection Trail designated a National Historic Trail in recognition of the traditional seasonal migration routes used Eyak and Athabascan peoples between Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound.
- 0787-007 Areas like the Copper River Delta absolutely need to be a National Wildlife Refuge, and no road should be built in this
- 0794-002 The Copper River Delta Area needs to be a National Wildlife Refuge.
- 0802-003 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.
- 0810-011 C. Other Special Designations on the Forest: The Forest Service needs to recognize and protect the special nature of the ANILCA Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area in the Copper River Delta. In addition, AWRTA supports the Forest Service's work to identify all potential Research Natural Areas and make recommendations for their protection.
- 0817-023 shorebirds (oystercatchers, plovers, sandpipers, phalaropes): Tidal flats of the Cooper-Bering River Delta support >8 million shorebirds, primarily Western Sandpipers and Dunlins, during spring migration. The Delta provides critical stopover habitat for these long-distance migrants.

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- 0820-025 Recognizing the special significance of the Copper River Delta, which is host to one of the largest yearly bird migrations, ACE would like to see special designation given to this region. Already, it is designated an "International Shorebird Reserve" and has a "State Critical Habitat Area" designation. Neither of these provide any real protection,
- 0820-026 Prince William Sound is another ecologically rich area that deserves special designation, especially as a pro-active measure to counter expected increases in use with the proposed Whittier road. ACE would like to see the Forest Service recommend designation that would, at the least, ensure management activities did not jeopardize standing. Possibilities could include national marine sanctuary, national monument or national scenic areas. In Prince William Sound, ACE would like to see the inclusion of Knight, Montague, Hinchinbrook and Hawkins islands over to Cordova.
- 0820-027 In the Copper River area, ACE would like to see the inclusion of the Delta, then north to and including Tasnuna River, east and south to the edge of the forest, including the Copper, Bering, and Martin Rivers and Kayak Island.
- 0820-028 We also suggest the inclusion of some road-accessible areas that have special importance to people, such as the Resurrection Trail and trailhead. ACE would like to see the Resurrection Trail designated a National Historic Trail in recognition of the traditional seasonal migration routes used by Eyak and Athabaskan peoples between Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound. Watersheds:
- 0832-012 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.
- 0836-008 Habitat Conservation Areas (HCAs), etc., before timber units are actually laid out. The old-growth forest associated species should be identified, and impacts associated with removing old-growth forest and fragmenting large old-growth blocks should be discussed in detail.
- 0836-010 The HCAs should be identified and strategically placed to ensure long-term maintenance of viable populations. Wildlife travel corridors should be positioned to link HCAs to aid in wildlife dispersal. Wildlife travel corridors associated with roads and second growth should be discouraged unless no other alternatives exist.
- 0836-018 The tidal flats of the Copper-Bering River Delta provides critical stop over habitat for over 8 million shorebirds, primarily western sandpipers and dunlins, during spring migration. Similarly, shorelines on northern Montague Island and Green Island provide critical stop over habitat for black turnstones and surfbirds. Both of these sites qualify as Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network sites of hemispheric importance. Although the Copper River Delta is a designated WHSRN site, Montague/Green Islands have no designated protection.
- 0837-019 The state has generally not supported the creation of new Conservation Systems Units in Alaska, as directed by Congress in Section 10 of ANILCA. Any designation must be carefully tailored to protect traditional uses, including mining and recreation. Because of our authority over the watercolumn and fiduciary responsibilities to the citizens of the state, we believe that any recommendations developed under this Act must be carefully coordinated with DNR. Underlying our concerns is the need for the people of the state to use waters within the National Forest in a traditional
- 0840-001 For the upcoming Chugach Forest Plan, I would like to enter my comments in support of all the proposed Research Natural Areas identified in the 1984 Chugach Plan. I like the concept of RNAs in general and I think that the nine areas proposed in the 1984 plan would make good additions to the - national system. It pleased me to learn that the FS has finally made Green Island in PWS an RNA. I support the expedited inclusion of the Black Mountain proposed RNA into the national system of RNA s. I would recommend to you the Lost Lake area on the Seward Ranger District as an area to consider for RNA status. The Lost Lake area lies about six miles south of the Black Mountain proposed RNA. As a rough approximation I would locate the area as Sections 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27 & 28 all in T. 2 N. R. 1 W. SM. The area has unusual vegetative and geologic characteristics not represented in other proposed RNAs on the Chugach. The centerpiece of the area includes a glacial remnant lake, not now glacially fed and therefore clear. Glaciers clearly shaped the terrain and left numerous eskers, the now dominant terrain feature. They form visually striking features when viewed from the air. Although sub-alpine, the area lacks the dominating brush commonly found in this vegetative belt in the coastal mountains. Instead, low-growing wet alpine vegetation predominates everywhere except on the esker ridges. On the ridges, one finds krummholz mountain hemlocks of great age. I have encountered trees not more than 6 inches d.b.h. with over 300 annual growth rings. I believe that this area merits special consideration. sincerely,
- 0860-005 Worst - Too many wilderness, Research and Study Areas.
- 0860-098 Boundaries and designations that withstand user pressure

Comment # Comment

0866-001

1 Code Research natural/ special Admin Land planning

Recognize through the forest planning process that the Copper/Bering Delta is nationally significant and reaffirm commitments to mandate and direction set forth in ANILCA. Direct Funding and staffing commensurate w/the F&W stewardship responsibilities.

2. To insure future sustainability of a nationally significant resource.

3. Yes. This is a reaffirmation of existing direction and management. Adequate funding is currently in lack.

4. Future allocations of staffing and funding to other areas of the forest or region, educating public and decision makers in significance of the DELTA.

5. Fixed or limited pot of money. Must make priority decisions for future issues- funds.

Concerns and interests sheet

1. Future management direction for the Copper River Delta. Is FS best agency to manage? Level of emphasis on F&W. Effects of increased access to East Delta/Bering River.

2. If FS fails to meet ANILCA direction (emphasizing F&W on Delta) and doesn't provide responsible stewardship, delta could transfer to DOI. Given our expertise in Fish hab. Mgt. The FS is best suited to manage Delta in Publics interest.

3. Increased use of forest and demand. Specific Designations

4. Commercial and subsistence fish users, Sport fish and game users, Adjacent land owners.

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0867-001

1) CNF mng't situation

a) CRD – by identifying it as a critical element within the Forest Plan and providing guidance for desired future condition.

2) Improvement desirability

a) Hopefully would provide clear and visible mng't direction and strengthen our management authority.

3) Improvement feasibility

a) The Forest Plan identifies management direction. Cordova RD implements – by work chunk analysis.

4) Obstacles

a) Personal preferences, political pressure.

b) Through strong leadership by Forest Supervisor – FLT

CONCERNS AND INTERESTS

1) Situation map

a) Special management direction to the Copper River Delta and the monitoring aspect.

2) Specific concerns

a) Credibility

b) Our ability to manage and meet intent of the law while demand may pressure us to do otherwise (development of more or bigger facilities).

c) Most monitoring is done from our office – We need to confirm it's importance – fund it – and prioritize it within work chunk.

3) Other issues

a) Citizens attitudes

b) Past decisions and laws.

c) Other federal organizations

d) Non-motorized/motorized use

e) Fish and wildlife

f) Tourism

g) Monitoring - budget

h) Management direction (priorities).

4) Other views

a) Local concerns, national concerns for monitoring – mostly internal – we need to establish monitoring Department of Interior – F&WS.

Comment # Comment

0868-001

- 1) Improve mngt Situation
 - a) Planning team read proposed designation for Copper River delta.
 - b) Planning team read CRDI plan/vision.
 - c) Planning team receive briefing on history of Copper River delta.

- 2) Why desirable?
 - a) To give planning understanding of Cooper River delta.

- 3) Improvement feasibility.
 - a) It's cheap
 - b) Cal or his staff, I would be happy to.

- 4) Obstacles
\$200 travel to Anchorage.

- 5) Improvement relationships
It relates to specific designation, access, roads, tourism, other laws, other organizations.

CONCERNS AND INTERESTS

- 1) Situation map
 - a) equal treatment.
 - b) specific designation
 - c) forest plan monitoring

- 2) Specific concerns
 - a) It appears that the forest is divided into 2 areas – Kenai/Western Sound and 2) Cordova.
 - b) The FLT/Planning Team does not understand Cordova issues but are very familiar with Kenai. This is due to location of S.O. and Anchorage.

- 3) Other issues
 - a) The Copper River Delta has unique management situations different than the rest of the nation such as ANILCA .
 - b) Direction specific to CRD, it has been nominated for biosphere reserve, Dept. of Interior has made several attempts to put CRD in Interior, and we have a research branch (CRDI) within the district. What do we do with all of this?

- 4) Other views
 - a) Cordova/PWS residents
 - b) USFWS
 - c) Cordova Ranger District.

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- 0872-001 Increased use of the CNF and Copper River Delta. This involves the wildlife, fishing, tourism, outfitter useage, subsistence, motorized recreation, non motorized issues.
- I am concerned about management of a new area. They are important to me because I live here year round and plan to live here the rest of my life.
- If you make rules. Etc. how will they be monitored? Do we need more people "protecting" the rules. Maybe work with Fish and Wildlife or other partners. Make maps of areas designated for certain things – ATV, trails, hunting etc.
- All local people and all other State and Federal agencies in town need to be involved in the process. Outfitters guides, city, CRD, Delta Institute, biologists, hunters, sporting clubs, tourism folks. Everyone has a right to voice their opinions on this as it is their Forest we are managing for the people. But it is also important to have the FS and local folks in agreement for the most part. "Care for the land, serve the people"
- The Chugach National Forest could be improved by having a better understanding of the Copper River Delta. It is different from anything else they manage. If they don't want to take the time/money to do this then maybe they should consider "giving" it to another agency to manage – Fish and Widlife, Wrangell St. Allias National Park etc.
- I want what is best for the Delta to preserve it and to manage it properly.
- The FS management team needs to look at all the issues in the Copper River Delta and not clump us in with other Forest issues. Other agencies have been trying to "take over" for some time.
- If the CNF management team became familiar, educated and aware of the issues, concerns ecosystem etc. of Cordova and the Delta they could better make decisions concerning them.
- The delta is so different from any other area on this forest. I don't think the CNF team realizes or understands the significance of managing such a place. Talk to the staff here. I hope Cordova and the Copper River Delta will be well represented in making this revision . Good Luck
- 0874-001 The forest should focus more attention & resources on the Copper River Delta. The "alligators" of the Kenai and PWS seem to consume the forest's attention.
- We have an incredible opportunity to work with a network of local, regional, national partners to make it work.
- Improvement – Management of delta is focused on ANILCA direction – obtain special designation (ie. biosphere reserve)
- The Copper River Delta is unique within the FS. We stand to lose the delta to the USFWS and most importantly, we stand to degrade the globally significant fish and wildlife of the delta.
- Forest leaders need to become more familiar with the delta. They rarely visit and often have little knowledge of the special circumstances in this area. Need to have decision makers who can "think not of the box"
- The principle tenants of ecosystem management apply to management of the Delta and all other regions. I am not suggesting that other regions of the forest be ignored in favor of the eastern half of the Forest. I am suggesting that the forest balance its focus on the management of the two halves of the forest. There are huge emerging issues in the eastern half of the forest (eg. Bering River Road, EVOS lands, Biosphere Reserve, subsistence, "ownership" of Delta (USDA vs. USDI). The forest needs to be a pro-active on these issues as they have been on "Westside" issues.
- Equal attention should be given to all parts of the forest. The Delta is globally significant. However, it rarely gets the time and energy that more "local" (ie. Kenai Pen., Western PWS) regions get. Planning must treat all regions of the forest the same. The Plan should strongly reflect ANILCA direction for the CR Delta or it should suggest that the Delta be managed by USDI. Under ANILCA, the global significance of the Delta for fish and wildlife was recognized and management direction was established by Congress. USDI has made the case that they are (USFWS) the more appropriate agency to fulfill Congress'es mandate. The plan needs to address these issues strongly and with forethought or perhaps suggest that USFWS should manage the Delta. I do not believe that but the forest needs to
- 0875-003 Other – Research must be included as an ongoing need and responsibility of the Forest. The Delta especially given its unique ecological system and PWS because of the ongoing oil spill impacts.
- Because the Delta is mandated for Fish and Wildlife Management the Forest Plan should include research as a

Comment # Comment

- 0881-002 P Review content KRSMA Plan & incorporate what's important
P Recommend KRSMA as a management area
- 0891-002 2) permanently protect the Copper River Delta;
- 0892-003 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.