

USDA Forest Service
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Cc:
DENNIS
BSCHOR

October 21, 2002

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As a 25 year resident of Prince William Sound I am very disappointed in the final decision for the **Chugach National Forest Land and Management Plan**. I have participated in the US Forest Service's Chugach National Forest planning revision and have commented on a number of occasions over the past years. I am submitting this **administrative appeal** because the way a number of decisions were made.

A few that concern me are:

Wilderness Study Area in Western Prince William Sound (PWS): My business depends on the wilderness quality of the Chugach National Forest. I, as most others, asked that the western PWS wilderness study area be expanded or at least be classified as wilderness in it's entirety. It ended up being reduced! The lands that were removed were high value fish and wildlife habitat while the lands classified as wilderness have a high percentage of snow, ice and rock. At the very least the original wilderness study area should be classified as wilderness which is what the majority of people asked for.

Copper River Delta: The majority of people want the Delta to be protected from any future harm. Even the residents of Cordova have spoken to the desire to have things stay the way they are and to protect the fish and wildlife of the area. The best way to accomplish this is with wilderness. It seems that you have not listened to the majority of people and sided with big money special interests. The Delta must have the wilderness classification it deserves if it is to bring the same quality of experience and use it has today to future generations.

Non-motorized access: Only a very small area near Cordova was classified as non-motorized. Because it is very close to the community of Cordova and has a road running through it, classifying it as non-motorized has just created a pile of conflicts. Protection is needed in the areas of the Forest where real damage has and continues to be done to Forest Service lands; on Hinchinbrook and Hawkins Islands. There are real threats to other areas which are not now utilized by motorized vehicles but will be in the future. Of special concern are the unique island habitats of PWS; Montague, Perry, Knight, Culross, Bainbridge, Elrington, Naked, Peak, Storey as well as the drainage's of the eastern side of the Kenai Peninsula. I find it irresponsible to not restrict motorized use in a greater area of the Chugach National Forest. Most people wanted restricted motorized use in the remote areas of the Chugach.

The Chugach National Forest was originally created for the protection of fish and wildlife. The damage done to fish and wildlife because of decisions we make today can not be easily reversed if at all. The people were not listened to in the final decision and changes need to be made.

We must protect these lands from the onslaught of modern technology and expanding use; larger, more affordable and longer ranged all terrain vehicles, commercial and private helicopters; industrial tourism with large groups and massive lodges as well as other developments such as fueling facilities, trophy hunting camps, mining, roads. These kinds of developments and use are not what the Chugach was created to do or what people today want it managed for.

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The reason people can and want to fish, hunt, recreate and subsist in the Chugach National Forest is because of it's wilderness characteristics. If development needs to take place it can take place on the private lands surrounding the public's National Forest Lands. Wilderness classification of the public's National Forest Lands will increase the value of the private lands adjacent to it. Otherwise, it all becomes developed and the wildness is lost, with nothing of real value left.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or wish to discuss anything in more detail.

Sincerely,



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