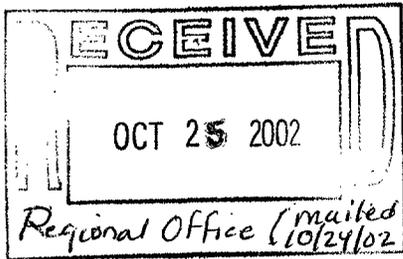


October 22, 2002

Regarding, Management Plan of the Chugach
National Forest



I Judith Odhner and my husband Jan Odhner as well as our two children are active daily users of the Chugach National Forest. We have a combined residence in Moose Pass 35 years. We are both business owners. My husband has a fine woodworking business and I am a baker at local lodges. We are very concerned citizens, of Moose Pass. We both came to Alaska because of our love of the outdoors and adventure. The "promise" of a multi-use portion of the forest. As parents the forest is a teaching tool for our children. For them it is a constant change, wonder and miracle. Our family feels threatened that the "promise" of a multi-use portion of the forest is in real jeopardy. The Moose Pass Sportsman Club is our local form of government. In the year 2000 the Forest Service conducted an unofficial meeting concerning management plans for the forest. Since that time the Forest Service has neglected to have any meeting in Moose Pass or Cooper Landing concerning forest closures. The land sited for closure is our backyard.

October 22, 2002

The community was never told or involved in this Forest Service planning process. We are well aware that many procedures were not followed in arriving at a decision. Closing selected areas of the forest is not in the best interest of the Moose Pass community. As members of this community we suggest a fair usage of the forest to all user groups. The Odhner family suggests that the Forest Service facilitate and maintain ski trails to Graw Lake, Grayling Lake and the old ski slope at Summit Lake.

We have enclosed a letter of appeal to better quality these statements.

Thank you

JAN, Judith, Carson and JAZ Odhner

October 22, 2002

Dear Sirs;

I Judith Odhner and my husband Jan Odhner have filed " This letter is a Notice of Appeal filed pursuant to 36 CFR part 217, page 46 in the Record of Decision."

I Judith Odhner live at mile 3A Seward Hwy Moose Pass, Alaska 99671 phone (907) 288-3678. My husband Jan Odhner and two children live at this same address. I have lived in Moose Pass for 12 years, my husband has lived here 22 years. Our children were born here. We have raised our family with respect and love for the forest that surrounds us. We choose Moose Pass because of the forest and the simple traditional ways we have passed down to our children. The decision we are appealing is the Preferred Alternative as described in the FEIS and the resulting Revised Forest Plan, specifically areas available for motorized and non-motorized winter activities, with modifications as further described in the ROD, as stated on page 3 of the ROD.

OCTOBER 22, 2002

The document in which the decision is contained is the Revised Land and Resource Management Plan of the Chugach National Forest Record of Decision, R10 MB-480b. The date of the decision was May 31, 2002 and the Deciding Officer is Regional Forester Dennis E. Bschor. The specific portion of the document to which I object is the closing of the Crescent Lake / Carter Lake area to all winter motorized use. We also object to the closing of areas along the Sterling Highway and Seward Highway from Cooper Landing to Summit Lake and Moose Pass to all winter motorized use.

We realize that proper procedures were not taken in reaching this unconscionable decision. There were no meetings in Moose Pass or Cooper Landing the most highly effected communities. In EIS 3-508 (This means the Environmental Impact Statement, Chapter 3 page 508) this clearly states that residents of effected areas would have input into the planning decisions. This was ignored by the Forest Service and Mike Kania the ranger. Mr. Kania is in clear violation of this policy.

The same Mr. Kanica who is the ranger for the Forest Service. The meeting he conducted in Seward were not all advertised especially to residents in Moose Pass.

The Forest Service of which Mr. Kanica is part of blatantly left out the residents of Moose Pass. He has never wanted to deal or face the residents at the Moose Pass Sportsmans Club. We are appalled and outraged at this type of planning process.

@CFR (Code of Federal Regulation) 219.12 Collaboration and cooperatively developed landscape goals. This regulation states that the communities involved will have early, frequent and open participation in the planning. Again this procedure never occurred. Moose Pass and Cooper Landing were never advised on any drafts or comments concerning the closure of Crescent Lake / Carter Lake / Tern Lake / Summit Lake / Trail Lake. This is our backyard and we have a right to know what the Forest Service plans including the community that lives there. Mr. Kanica patchwork by closures in the Moose Pass area is no accident. How can one man as Mr. Kanica hold the power to control our lives as we have lived them in a simple tradition farm for over 22 years?

Moose Pass, Alaska is considered a HUB ZONE we are a disadvantaged area. When people spend a dollar in Moose Pass it has more of an impact than spending a dollar in Anchorage. It helps to support the economic growth of Moose Pass.

There was not any studies done to show the impact that these closures will have on Moose Pass, Cooper Landing.

We have restaurants, lodges, Med and breakfasts and Estes Brother Store that needs the revenue of the motorized vehicles to survive. Revenue the motorized vehicles generated in the Mat-Su and Anchorage area in 1999 was 53 million dollars. Moose Pass has been cut off completely from ever getting a dollar of this. Thus;

keeping us as a disadvantaged area. This is not where Moose Pass wants to be. Let us at least have a chance at making some revenue in the winters to come.

In reference these codes that have not been followed as procedure by the Forest Service. This is a violation of our rights as citizens. 36 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) 219.21 Social and Economic Suitability, EIS 3-518, EIS 3-525, EIS 3-527. All these codes specifically speaks about recreation and tourism contributing to the communities

economic growth.

As a young family in Moose Pass we enjoy snow machining up to Carter Lake to fish and enjoy the beauty of winter. Carter Lake is not a trail one can ski. It is very steep with many switch backs that are impossible to negotiate on skis. The cabin at Crescent requires fuel. Not many skiers will be able to ski up with gear and fuel for the cabin. This area is our duckyard. This area is a teaching tool for our children. This area links us with fish and wood to heat our home. This decision to close Carter and Crescent Lakes is leaving open only for extreme skiers, closing out families, our family. The decision to close this area is arbitrary and capricious.

The Alaska National Interest Conservation Act

says it is not legal to close areas to snow machining for "social" reasons. We use our snow machine for visits with friends in Cooper Landing, Moose Pass and Summit Lake. We have traversed these areas for years. Visiting friends, enjoying meals and games together. These are our traditional activities we do as a family and have been doing for years.

As a family we haul wood to heat our home. These are a few of the subsistence things we do - by not allowing snow machining our traditional way of living and surviving will end. Please consider this appeal very seriously it affects of many families and their way of life. Let us all be users of the forest in a fair and respectful way. The Odhner family suggests we keep Carter Lake / Crescent Lake, Sterling and Seward Highway open to motorized use. We suggests the Forest Service facilitate and maintain ski trails on Grant Lake, Grayling Lake and open the old ski hill at Summit Lake. These areas would be for all levels of skiers and families. Please explore all options and review the areas and procedure that were clearly neglected concerning these decisions

Sincerely,

JAN Odhner

Judith Odhner

