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2/12/2016

Chugach National Forest's Supervisor's Office
Attn: Forest Plan Revision, 161 East 1st Street, Door 8
Anchorage, AK 99501

Subject: Protect the wild character of the Chugach!

The proposed development in the Chugach National Forest is not sustainable. Allowing residential timber harvests, expanded motorized uses, manipulation of habitats, mining, and helicopter-assisted skiing and hiking would be highly detrimental to the environment, wildlife, and local communities. Keep your longstanding promise to protect the wild character of the entire Wilderness Study Area until Congress finalizes its protection. This means maintaining and clarifying rules for all the stakeholders involved. A wilderness recommendation would also protect our communities, especially those dependent on subsistence traditions and activities. Lands with wilderness characteristics benefit subsistence by protecting the lands and waters in order to support fish and wildlife resources. Subsistence activities are protected in Alaskan wilderness by the provisions of the National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), including those reliant on snow machines, float planes, and off-road vehicles. The Forest Service should maintain current protections and recommend their perpetuation into the future. It's the best way to protect subsistence, commercial fishing, recreation, tourism, and great places that Alaskan families have enjoyed for decades. Please keep your promise to protect the Chugach National Forest for generations to come, and show that U. S. can take on a leading role in sustainability.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Cullers