

Terri Marceron
Forest Supervisor
Chugach National Forest
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19 February 2016

Dear Ms. Marceron:

Please accept my comments on the Proposed Revised Land Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest (proposed plan). I am a private individual who has been a resident of Alaska for nearly 30 years. During that time I have become very connected with the Wilderness spaces that Alaska has to offer. Not only do I treasure these places for myself but as an emblem to humanity that our integrity as humans is preserved in these Untouched Wild Places.

As an Alaskan I am proud of our National Forests and the Forest Service's recognition that The Chugach National Forest is not just an Alaskan treasure but a World Icon of wild places that will always be there. That individuals from all places will always be able to visit and experience the untouched, inspiring them to embrace our stewardship of this one Earth.

For these reasons I am concerned that the Proposed Management Plan does not fulfill this stewardship through key omissions. I feel that the omission of the WSA designation for Western Prince William Sound represents a loss of critical Wilderness habitat. Without the protection of the designation of WSA these areas have the potential to become susceptible to over use and degradation precluding it from consideration of Wilderness designation. Please reinstate the WSA designation for all qualified areas especially those which have that designation under the current management plan.

A further concern is that of the interpretation of traditional activities as it pertains to snow machine use under ANILCA 1110. With so few places left in which non-motorized designations clearly protect that area from noise, physical land impact, resident animal stressors, air pollution impacts, and conflict with non-motorized travel, it seems imperative that clear restrictions be in place. The limitation of motorized vehicles in these areas are the only clear solution to preservation of Wilderness areas.

Thank you for accepting my comments.

Julie K Wahl
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