

MJ Willard MD FRCPC
2660 Ozark Isle Drive
Camdenton, MO 65020
Phone: 573-346-2790 cell 204-941-3447
mjw@ctlca.com
@MJW

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Re: Chugach Forest Plan Revision #40816

The point behind wilderness protection is to leave the ecosystem intact. The approach is to preserve the ecosystem of the area under wilderness protection. This means guarding against endangerment of species of plants as well as all species of animals. The potential collapse of insects, small invertebrates, and vertebrates as well as unicellular and microscopic multicellular organisms are all part of the ecosystem and all these levels within the ecosystem must be protected.

In some areas, the ecosystem has already been damaged and must be allowed to "rest" to restore the components back into the balance to match the undisturbed areas. It can't just look like it is a wilderness area but must be completely functioning. Restoration to the primitive, pristine manner must be carried out. This is the most protected stand in the classification of the recreational classification of wilderness areas.

Restoration must be back to the standard prior to the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. These lands were acquired for this complete restoration to primitive wilderness values and must be managed "in perpetuity for conservation and wilderness purposes," as promised when they were purchased. This is for the children and grandchildren of today and tomorrow.

Illegal recreational use of chainsaws has resulted in damaging tree removal along dozens of wilderness beaches, including in sensitive areas. A modified Alternative D wilderness that specifies a the amount of wilderness that can be used for legal recreational use. Lake Nellie Juan and the boundary areas can be utilized (those that were purchased after the oil spill).

Please consider these comments fully.

Very truly yours,

MJ Willard, DVM MD FRCPC FCAP