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Comments: Please see attached file.

February 16, 2016

Mary Rasmussen

Forest Plan Revision Team Leader

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907-743-9500

RE: Proposed Revised Land Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest

Dear Mary,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Comment highlights:

The exploding popularity of fat bikes and pack rafts on the CNF must be considered and managed. Previously inaccessible areas, that the plan considers to be protected, are no longer as inaccessible.

As our glaciers and ice melt, keep "ice patch archaeology" in mind.

When building trails, etc, watch for culturally modified trees (CMT), document and protect.

I support the management of the CNF for the sustainability and ecosystem protection above providing recreation, resource extraction, and wood for humans.

Here are my specific comments to page 31, in case I don't have time to comment on the rest.

Sincerely,

Carol Griswold

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P2: Support:

Protection of the resources, stewardship, sustainability, protection of terrestrial, aquatic, riparian, and wetland ecosystem processes and characteristics numerous opportunities for public involvement adaptive plan that includes opportunities for public comment

Do not support Organic Act of 1897 to manage forest to provide a continuous supply of timber to the American public. This forest is far more valuable as an intact ecosystem than a timber farm. Multiple uses should be managed to maintain the long-term health of the ecosystem, not the "productivity" of the land.

P3: Support Section 501(b) of ANILCA to administer the Copper River-Bering River area for conservation of fish and wildlife species and their habitat. In addition this area should be designated by Congress as a Special Area with Wilderness classification.

Support Section 704 of ANILCA creating the Nellie Juan-College Fjord Wilderness Study Area in Prince William Sound, and support designation by Congress as Wilderness.

P4: Suitability determinations must be based on the protection of the habitat/ecosystem first, human needs last.

P7: Yes! Support vision to maintain the terrestrial, aquatic, riparian, and wetland ecosystems, and to sustain an array of ecosystem benefits for southcentral Alaska. Keep these ecosystems intact in their naturally functioning state with limited human influence.

P9: While 96% of the forest is managed to allow natural ecological processes to occur with limited human influence, be careful when considering increasing human activities along the main road/railbelt corridor and Prince William Sound coastal access. These easily accessed parts of the forest need to be managed even more carefully so that human visitors can experience the wonder of intact ecosystems even here.

P9: With so many glaciers and ice fields in the Forest, and climate change, the Forest Service needs to be aware of ice patch archaeology, where long-buried ancient artifacts are now being exposed. A plan to locate, document, and if possible recover these cultural artifacts is needed.

< <http://news.unm.edu/news/archeology-on-ice-exhibit-features-decade-of-alaskan-discoveries>>

< <http://www.nps.gov/articles/glacicepatch.htm>>

< http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2010-04/aion-aar042610.php>

< <http://www.archaeology.org/issues/105-1309/letter-from/1165-glaciers-ice-patches-norway-global-warming>>

P 10 Yellow Cedar in the Prince William Sound area should receive special protection from human impacts.

P10 typo "...dusky the Canada goose..." should be "the Dusky Canada Goose..." This population should be managed for protection.

P11: terrestrial invasive species: the Forest Service should not allow revegetation of any roadsides or other areas with non-native seeds or plants such as alfalfa, bird-vetch, or sweet clover as they have in the past (reference Exit Glacier Road in Seward/aka Herman Leirer Road) All horse feed should be certified weed seed free for horses allowed to use the Forest commercially or privately. Straw, if used for dog sled races etc, should also be certified weed seed free. Education is needed here to help prevent introduction of weeds in the backcountry and along the road system.

P11 Support designation of Nellie Juan-College Fjord as a Wilderness Area by Congress. Until then, support management for the preservation of wilderness character.

P11 Do not support commercial harvesting of berries, such as blueberries, mushrooms, medicinal plants, or wildlife. Do not support rock, sand, and gravel extraction for commercial purposes, or timber harvest. The much larger nonmaterial benefits listed are much more valuable and deserve protection.

P12 Aquatic Ecosystems: Off-road motor vehicle use must be carefully managed if allowed at all, and regulations enforced. If enforcement is not possible, then don't allow it. Snow machines are accessing Lost Lake now, even though it is prohibited due to lack of snow cover from the trailhead. Mining activities are virtually unmonitored; this must change. Miners should post a hefty bond to cover the inevitable cleanup costs when they leave. Recreational mining rules are very lax, and allow suction dredges in streams, a huge impact to the aquatic life without any monitoring.

P12: no need to investigate Elodea; the impacts are well known and studied already. Make plans to eradicate it while the populations are small. Educate boaters, fishers, and float plane operators on how to help stop the spread from lake to lake and in sloughs.

P13 Be careful when trying to manage alders to promote willow growth for moose. Any such proposals should have public input.

P14 Free firewood for poorly insulated homes is not a good use of a national forest. The USFS should support

higher standards for energy efficiency, and require recipients of this national firewood to upgrade their homes. There will never be enough wood to supply all the poorly insulated homes near the National Forest. IF trees are to be cut anyway, THAT is an opportunity to make it available to non-commercial users, but don't create opportunities to cut trees just to provide firewood. Slash piles should not be burned on site if at all possible, that wood should be used for firewood.

P 14 LIMIT the number of human visitors to the Nellie Juan-College Fjord WSA by permit. Humans don't have to be everywhere; they can visit other fjords, especially commercial users.

P 14: note the explosion of fat tire bikes and pack rafts will open up previously inaccessible areas, and this revolution must be addressed. For example, fat bikes can disturb/destroy black oystercatcher nests along beaches, mar wetlands, and degrade trails.

P14 Other common trees in the Kenai Peninsula area are the Mountain Hemlock, Black Cottonwood, Willows, and Alders.

P15 Kenai Peninsula area: don't forget black bears, and mountain goats.

P 15/16: Address increased accessibility to remote areas by pack rafts and fat bike impacts and in PWS and Copper River.

P 17: Yes! Support Ecological Sustainability Goals.

Air: do not burn slash piles. Either make the wood available for free firewood, or let it decompose naturally. Consider leaving dead standing trees for wildlife habitat.

P 20: FW-G2-DC-02: add ice patch archaeology

P 20: Land Ownership: get those maps on the web too.

P 21: yes to clean air and water

P 22: yes to high scenic integrity, sustainable practices to preserve the ecosystem, education to prevent human-bear interactions, yes to sustainable recreational opportunities that minimize impact to habitat. Yes to low-impact recreation facilities and operations. No to helicopter use to service Hut-to-Hut operations, no to Hut-to-Hut facilities that privatize special areas of the national forest. Yes, to limited, controlled commercial use such as rafting/kayaking at Spencer Glacier via the Whistle Stop. Do not build more infrastructure than can be properly maintained.

P 23: Roads and Trails Access: remember to build trails to accommodate wildly popular fat bikes. Educate users about invasive weeds.

P 23: Minerals: require a hefty bond to clean up mining sites after the miners leave. Enforce rules, and monitor operations.

P 24: Provide public education about subsistence activities. Visitors to the Russian River Falls get very upset when they see subsistence dip netters at the Falls. Post more signs by the overlooks; put it on the website.

P 24: FW-G2-DC-19: "Recreation events rarely affect the experience of the other national forest users." I would recommend changing "rarely" to "rarely or temporarily." Events definitely impact other users while the event is being staged, eg Lost Lake Run, on days of trail clear cutting, training, and day of event.

P 24: FW-G2-DC-20: yes, put the info on the web.

P 24: FW-G2-DC-21: yes, restrictions are essential.

P 24: FW-GW-DC-22: Totally support Iditarod Historic National Trail to be managed in accordance with the comprehensive plan.

P 25: FW-G2-DC-25: Can't help but mention the importance of accuracy on the KMTA interpretive signs. The Point signs, and the Johnson Pass trailhead sign about L. V. Ray Peak have too many errors.

P 26: FW-OB-01 Wetland protection is much cheaper than restoration. Get the weed infestations while they are small.

P 26: Interesting Objectives. Make sure they are affordable and sustainable. Put as much info on the web.

P 27: FW-OB-13: I hope this means remove mineral extraction areas and add recreation areas. I believe most miners use the national forest more for their own private cabin/exclusive recreation than actual economic benefit. Then leave a mess of blue tarps, Visqueen, fuel containers, broken machinery, and other trash. These permits must be monitored and rules enforced.

P 27 FW-OB-17: yes, I support INHT connectivity.

P 27: yes on other sustainability objectives

P 28: put this research, education and interp on the web.

P 28: Yes! Sustainability, mitigation of any impacts, and use of Best Management Practices are crucial. Riparian and wetland areas are especially sensitive.

P 29: FW-G1-GL-11 How is heli-skiing monitored and enforced? They seem to fly right over Mt Goat habitat, who knows how close they land and ski to the sheep and goats? I would like to restrict the helicopters from flying over local recreational trails; people can only hike so many places, but helicopters can go anywhere. Why allow them to impact the hikers' experience? Helicopter flight over Bald Eagle nests should be restricted too as per FW-G1-GL-12.

P 29: FW-G1-GL-13: YES. Timing restrictions on fishing hours on the Russian River was effective at reducing brown bear-human interaction.

P 29: FW-G1-GL-14: YES. Thanks for thinking about the bats.

P 30: Vegetation, yes on natural vegetation. FW-G1-GL-16 Note use weed-free seed if revegetating. Leave wildlife corridors, snags, and buffers; reduce size and scope to minimum.

FW-G1-GL-17 Not supportive of logging, but if necessary, I appreciate the guidelines.

P 31: Table 1: 10" diameter aspen is a pretty big aspen. Consider a smaller diameter.