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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please see attached letter.

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To Whom It May Concern:

Thanks for the opportunity to comment upon the proposed Chugach National Forest plan. I have been an active user and supporter of the Chugach National Forest and Prince William Sound. I own a boat and have had a slip at the Whittier harbor for years and years. As such, I have direct, first-hand knowledge of what the area was like before the tunnel and what it is like now. With that background, here are my comments:

Thanks for your continuing commitment to preserve the wilderness character of PWS. That being said, it appears that you have weakened the protections that the area deserves. The area must continue to be treated as wilderness until Congress makes its final decision on protection.

As we users and many others predicted when the tunnel was opened years ago (2001-2002 or so), the impacts upon the PWS have been dramatically increased from all of the additional traffic. This is not the time to weakened standards - it is the time to strengthen the standards to protect for this local, state and national treasure!!!! If the spill was not enough, snowmachines, chainsaws, helicopters - even drones - such uses and impacts are ever increasing and threatening PWS and the wilderness study area. These impacts must be greatly reduced - not allowed to increase.

I adamantly oppose the proposal to allow personal use timber harvests and being able to manipulate the soils, habitats, and watersheds in the study area. Moreover, there are no clear standards or guidelines. Such a proposal is a disaster

Mineral development also has no place in the study area. Wasn't the Exxon Valdez enough for you folks? PWS has still not recovered and yet you folks want to open this area up for mineral exploration and development? That is shameful!!! Likewise for timbering these lands!

The study area needs and deserves permanent protection - Knight, Perry, Esther, Glacier islands, Columbia Glacier, Knight Island Passage, Port Wells, Lake Nellie Juan, College Fjord - all of it.

The Copper River/bering River need to be protected.

Additional wild and scenic rivers should be designated.

Additional non-motarized trails, especially in the Kenai Peninsula should be designated and declared.

The restoration mandate of EVOS must be upheld.

Thank you.

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