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2/4/2016

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!

I visit the Chugach National Forest countless times every year and it's an important reason I love living here in Anchorage. A special place for me is the Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area--it is a place worth recommending the entirety of the WSA for Wilderness designation to Congress. There is no accessible Wilderness from Anchorage and it's about time that we finally go it. The WSA is a destination already countless visitors and residents appreciate each year either by cruise or kayak and its wild quality needs to be preserved for generations to come.

Alaskan families have benefited from current protections of this precious landscape. Changing that now, by allowing residential timber harvests, expanded motorized uses, manipulation of habitats, mining, and helicopter-assisted skiing and hiking, would hurt people, businesses, and habitat. 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 on all land-based motorized uses and preserving the area's current undeveloped and non-motorized character. 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.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Hajduk