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Comments: Nick Clarke

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2/9/2016

Chugach National Forest's Supervisor's Office

Attn: Forest Plan Revision, 161 East 1st Street, Door 8

Anchorage, AK 99501

Subject: Protect Chugach National Forest's wildlands

I am writing to urge you to maintain protections for the Chugach National Forest against residential timber harvests, expanded motorized uses, manipulation of habitats, mining, and helicopter-assisted skiing and hiking. It is essential that the U.S. Forest Service protect the wilderness character of the entire Wilderness Study Area until Congress finalizes its protection. This requires maintaining and clarifying rules on all land-based motorized uses and preserving the area's current undeveloped and non-motorized character. In addition, wilderness recommendation would also protect 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 snowmobiles, float planes, and off-road vehicles. The U.S. Forest Service should maintain current protections and recommend their perpetuation into the future. This is the surest way to protect subsistence activities, commercial fishing, backcountry recreation opportunities, tourism, and this national treasure. Please protect the Chugach National Forest's wild lands far into the future.

Sincerely,

Nick Clarke