

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/18/2016 11:00:00 AM

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Organization:

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Comments: Andrew Nitchman

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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!

Please protect the Chugach. I have been to parks, National Forests and other wild spaces all over this country, but there is no place I have ever seen that can compare with the raw beauty and wildness of the Chugach. Protecting this sacred place benefits not just Alaska residents but it also benefits the world.

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,

Andrew Nitchman