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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Chugach National Forest Plan

Put the word [ldquo]wilderness[rdquo] back in the Plan language as it has been in the 1984 and 2002 forest plans. This proposed Plan changes [ldquo]maintain presently existing wilderness character[rdquo] to [ldquo]maintain presently existing character.[rdquo] Omitting the word [ldquo]wilderness[rdquo] creates confusion and undermines management of the WSA.

Restore to the Forest Monitoring Program the monitoring of conditions in the WSA. Monitoring specific to the WSA is necessary to inform the USFS of how best to manage this area for wilderness characteristics, ensuring that these wilderness characteristics are adequately maintained.

Add a Forest Order to clearly deny use of chainsaws except for subsistence purposes. I have personally witnessed how chainsaw vandalism is destroying scenic beaches and camping areas. It[rsquo]s unnecessary and a travesty to a place so many of us wish to enjoy.

Include within the WSA the Chenega EVOS-acquired lands around Jackpot Bay, Paddy Bay, Hogan Bay, and Junction Island. Restore these lands to the MA1 designation Choose Alternative D Wilderness Recommendation, with the addition of the Nellie Juan Lake area[mdash]one of the most wild and remote places in the Chugach Forest[mdash]and USFS land on Elrington Island, and the EVOS-acquired lands around Jackpot Bay, Paddy Bay, Hogan Bay, and Junction Island.

The Chugach National Forest, Prince William Sound, and in particular the WSA, is in dire need of a strong management plan that will guide managers toward keeping it as wild as possible[mdash]for it[rsquo]s that wildness, and the concurrent fish and wildlife and scenery, that people flock to experience, and that we as humans need.

Sincerely,

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