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Comments: The Alaska Airmen Association is a not-for-profit General Aviation (GA) organization that represents over 2000 members. Our mission is to "Promote General Aviation in Alaska." Membership includes pilots, mechanics, aircraft owners and other aviation enthusiasts. On behalf of our membership, thank you for the opportunity to submit the following written comments concerning the Chugach National Forest Draft Land Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Alaska and it's great expanses of rugged lands and majestic waters is a National Treasure and deserves to be managed in a sustainable and responsible way for future generations. However;

The Alaska Airmen Association strongly opposes any increased restrictions to the use of aircraft in the Chugach National Forest.

Aviation is a very low impact means of transportation and recreation in comparison to most surface methods and aircraft accessing the Chugach National Forest leave very little trace that they have been there. With the majority of the 6.9 million acres of the Chugach National Forest being difficult to access year-round by any other means, aviation is an excellent way for users to responsibly enjoy these public lands.

Generally the use of motorized vehicles is prohibited on lands set aside by the Wilderness Act. The Alaska National Interest Lands Act of 1980 has a few Alaska specific provisions that supersedes the Wilderness Act and allow for motorized use in wilderness areas for what are defined as "traditional" activities. Landing airplanes for private, non-commercial, use is one of these traditional activities that are specifically mentioned.

The various sections of code that spell this out are as follows:

ANILCA 11.10a

16 USC 31.70

43 CFR 36.11(f).

Thank you for allowing the Alaska Airmen to comment on this proposal. We look forward to continuing our work with the Chugach National Forest to responsibly manage our public lands and find balanced ways to access and enjoy this National Treasure.

Sincerely,

Adam White

Government Affairs