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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Good day,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Chugach National Forest draft land management plan (LMP). Please implement a STRONG protective final plan.

Alternative D has the largest wilderness recommendation-most of the WSA-and some good management language. Please add the language "maintain wilderness character" as it speaks of keeping a clear meaning related to the areas natural, undeveloped, and untrammelled qualities.

The language on snowmachines in WSA is good. The proposal to develop a WSA stewardship plan is good.

Please recommend:

- * Wilderness (all) as WSA lands
- * Keep EVOS-acquired lands as recommended wilderness
- * Commit to acquisition of subsurface EVOS-acquired lands
- * Recommend Montague as Wilderness
- * Very Important to keep the current and longstanding commitment to maintain the wilderness character of WSA. Changing the language from "existing wilderness character" to "presently existing character" is not good.
- * Keep EVOS-acquired lands in the wilderness management prescription.
- * Clearly state that EVOS-acquired lands be maintained "in perpetuity for conservation and wilderness purposes."
- * Keep the current and longstanding commitment to monitor the wilderness character of the WSA.
- * Assure proper minimum requirements analysis (MRA) of all management actions affecting WSA wilderness character.

Until Congress acts on the lands recommended for wilderness, a strong, protective management is so important.

Please care for the Chugach National Forest in a protective nurturing manner. Stewardship must be paramount.

Sincerely,

Charlie and Linda Rutledge