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Comments: Chugach National Forest Draft Management Plan comments

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To the Chugach National Forest Management Plan Revision Team (please note that I have also included these comments on an attached .doc file, in case that's easier for you to add to your many comments):

I wish to make a few suggestions to the existing draft, that I hope you will consider including in the final version of the revised management plan:

- 1) Like other wilderness advocates, I ask that you include "wilderness" in the plan's language, as was done in previous plans, that is, make it clear that the plan would "maintain presently existing wilderness character."
- 2) Make sure that the WSA includes Chenega-EVOS-acquired lands, for instance around Jackpot, Paddy, and Hogan Bays and Junction Island. As you know, the acquisition of those lands is key to restoring the Sound, in the aftermath of the oil spill. It's my understanding that the Sound's wilderness is still considered an "injured resource" and the inclusion of these lands and waters is important to its continued restoration.
- 3) Please choose the Alternative D Wilderness Recommendation, with the addition of the Nellie Juan Lake area- which is recognized as one of the wildest places in the Chugach National Forest-as well as the EVOS-acquired lands and waters mentioned above and FS land on Elrington Island. As others have emphasized, this alternative, with the additions above, will best support a healthy, thriving wilderness ecosystem as well as human interests in the area.
- 4) Continue (or restore?) the monitoring of conditions within the designated wilderness study area (WSA), to ensure that the area's wilderness character is maintained and not degraded over time.
- 5) A friend with longtime connections to the forest and Prince William Sound has pointed out the need to prohibit chainsaw use in the area except for subsistence purposes and I would second that.

The Chugach National Forest, and in particular the WSA, needs a management plan that will keep the place as wild as possible and I thank you for considering my comments.

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