

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/15/2016 10:42:36 PM

First name: James

Last name: Pierson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I've read a good deal of the Proposed Revised Land Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest. I also have read a letter to USFS from the Resource Development Council for Alaska.

Pages 13 and 14 of the USFS Revised Plan mention "pressures" on the forest, stating that, "Human use in these limited areas will continue to increase, presenting challenges for the long term management of natural resources..."

How can it be that the solution to the problem of natural resource destruction by "human use" is to allow in more humans, along with their snowmobiles, chainsaws, and mining equipment?

Damn it, it is not right to open thousands of acres of de facto wilderness to so many destructive practices simply because some people want it. Political and social pressures may exist, but "pressures" do no harm to the environment. Your bowing to "pressures" is what will degrade the Chugash.

I am saddened, distressed, that USFS is proposing to reduce protections that have been in place for decades primarily to accommodate a few people and companies who can make money by drilling, mining, logging, paving, and otherwise destroying wilderness. Thousands of acres opened to mining? Noisy helicopters ferrying skiers? The Resource Development letter makes it clear that some people wish to turn the Chugach into their cash cow. This appears to be acceptable to USFS.

But this is not right.

You have already allowed the philosophy of wilderness-equals-cash to enter into the Revised Plan. You should outright dismiss this philosophy and the people who peddle it. Similarly, just because somebody thinks driving their 200 decibel snowmobile through a forest is legitimate recreational activity on national lands does not make it so.

There is no such thing as environmentally responsible road building, no such thing as environmentally responsible snowmobiling, no such thing as environmentally responsible mining.

Please designate all 1.9 million acres as wilderness. Please preserve the area's undeveloped and non-motorized character.

Thank you.