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First name: Carol

Last name: Potter

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service decision makers,

My family and many others depend on the gem that is the Chugach National Forest. With protection reliable renewable jobs are created year after year that do support a large sector of the population of South Central Alaska. We know we are reliant on the habitat the Forest provides and recognize that it is constantly subject to new requests to extract resources from critical areas that support our fish and wildlife. Please take the long term view toward protection of existing use guidelines. We look to you to discourage short term profit taking and to encourage the long term health and protection of the Chugach National Forest.

The current proposed US Forest Service Revision Plan is a step in the wrong direction and undermines existing protections. The 2.3 million acre Chugach National Forest should be protected as much as possible for current and future generations. To summarize:

- 1) The eastern Chugach - including the Copper River/Bering River/Martin Lake & River/Katalla Rivers and watersheds - area should be protected as critical salmon and wildlife habitat and continue to allow existing use for fishers and subsistence harvesters;
- 2) The original 1.9 million acre Wilderness Study Area (WSA) of western Prince William Sound should be recommended to Congress for designation as Wilderness; the WSA should continue to be managed as Wilderness and remain the same size until it is congressionally designated;
- 3) The Forest should be withdrawn from mineral and forestry activity; and additional protective conservation acquisition areas should be identified;
- 4) And the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Restoration mandate for the region must be upheld.

The Proposed Forest Plan Revision, as written, is unacceptable and must be re-written to preserve the region more completely and managed primarily for the protection and conservation of fish and wildlife habitat as ANILCA intended.

Thank you for your consideration, Carol Potter