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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Chugach National Forest planning staff,

I am writing to urge you to strengthen current protections for one of Alaska's greatest treasures; the Chugach National Forest. I strongly request that in your planning revisions you maintain the wilderness character of this world-class area and ensure it will be a place for Alaskans, but maybe more importantly other Americans to visit.

I ask that you consider these points in your planning:

- I ask that you make a formal Wilderness recommendation to Congress for the original 1.9 million acres of the Wilderness Study Area created by ANILCA.
- activities such as timber, mining, over hunting and use of chainsaws should be prohibited in the WSA, considering that the Forest Service is charged to manage and maintain the "wilderness character" of the WSA until Congress can act.
- allowing recreational snowmachining in the WSA as supposed "traditional activity" should not be allowed as it totally undercuts "wilderness" values.
- I ask that you strengthen the current protection of the WSA and maintain the character of this world-class area that attracts large numbers of visitors each year. The Chugach Nat'l Forest has not one acre of official wilderness, please act to be sure an adequate portion of this amazing gift to Alaska and America be preserved. We can't return a jewel such as this to its pristine state once activity has effected it.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and for your integrity to the land and sea.

Respectfully,

Gretchen Nelson