

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/19/2016 4:31:46 PM

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Title:

Comments: I am writing to oppose the changes included in the Chugach Forest Plan Revision #40816.

As a business owner who has derived a living from the wilderness aspects of Prince William Sound I find it inconceivable to risk the sustainable commercial activities that currently profit from the wilderness to allow a temporary commercial activity that will leave the wilderness setting of Prince William Sound scarred for decades. For 25 years my clients have consistently commented on the lack of man made structures and evidence of habitation which make Prince William Sound appear to be wilderness. Logging and mining will reduce or eliminate the ability for tourism companies to offer current wilderness activities, put sport and commercial fishing interests at risk and will reduce the needed forest cover needed for deer, bear and other animals to survive, for the sake of a limited number of jobs for a limited amount of time.

There is no place left on earth like Prince William Sound. The easy access to Prince William Sound combined with the lack of logging, mining and floating cabins set Prince William Sound apart from Southeast Alaska. If the Seven Wonders of the World were natural places, Prince William Sound would certainly be one of them.

Prince William Sound is fully utilized. Wilderness tourism including glacier tours, kayaking, camping, recreational boating are sustainable economic engines for the region. Commercial fishing, sport charter and non-charter fishing, sport hunting, both commercial and non-commercial provide hundreds of sustainable jobs and endless hours of recreational opportunity for thousands of Americans. Because Prince William Sound is fully utilized, mining and logging will displace other commercial activities and reduce recreational opportunities for Americans. It will not just be an addition to economic activities.

Although I disagree with the level of some restrictions currently being administered in the proposed wilderness area, the suggestion now to open parts of this area to clear cut logging and mining is outrageous. We need sensible management for the long term preservation of one of America's greatest playgrounds so future generations can experience the same beauty, solitude and magic that Prince William Sound offers today.

Thank you for reading my comments,

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