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Comments: The Proposed Plan Revision is not good for conservation or sustainability of the region, and needs considerable improvement. The Plan degrades the proposed wilderness area in western Prince William Sound (PWS); leaves most of the Forest open to mineral development; doesn't protect many of the wilderness and sustainable values of the region; and contravenes goals of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Restoration program.

The Forest Service's nationwide "multiple use" mandate sanctions often conflicting uses, including recreation, timber production, watershed protection, and fish and wildlife protection, etc. This mandate also requires balanced management, providing that no one use can dominate; and requires sustainability. However, the current Proposed Forest Plan Revision continues to emphasize certain high-impact uses (motorized recreation, mining, habitat manipulation, small-scale timber harvests, etc.) in direct conflict with other low-impact, sustainable uses (wilderness recreation, tourism, scenery, fish and wildlife habitat, etc.). The Proposed Plan Revision compromises the legal requirement for balance and sustainability, and this must be corrected.

The Chugach National Forest must be considered a special case in the National Forest System, as it was ground zero for one of the most damaging industrial environmental disasters in U.S. history - the 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill - from which it has not recovered. As well, the region is facing unprecedented pressures from climate change, other changing environmental conditions, and dramatically increasing pressures from human activities.