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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on the revised forest plan for the Chugach.

First off, I love the Chugach! I am magnetized by its majestic mountains, besotted with its rainy forests, swept away by its streams, infatuated with its ice, beguiled by its natural beauty, enchanted with its coastline and absolutely wild about its wilderness.

Secondly, I believe we need to protect the things we love! I urge you to recommend to Congress that all areas outlined as Wilderness Study Areas back in 1980 be designated Wilderness. Please recommend all 2.1 million acres of the Nellie Juan-College Fjord WSA in western Prince William Sound and the additional 48,000 acres of the Snow River area on the Kenai Peninsula be preserved as Wilderness before any further degradation or diminution of beauty occurs.

It is not just those of us fortunate enough to live in Alaska who will benefit from the Wilderness designation. Visitors come from all over the world to experience the amazingly diverse landscapes of the Chugach in its natural state-unmarred, unaltered, unspoiled. The pristine wilderness is the experience they seek! Even people who will never touch foot in the Chugach benefit from knowing such a Wilderness exists. Wilderness and wild lands are dwindling worldwide. Let's be leaders and set a good example. We need to designate the original WSA as Wilderness and let nature run wild.

Snow machines do not belong in the Wilderness. Helicopters do not belong in the Wilderness. Chainsaws do not belong in the Wilderness.

I am all for quiet, people-powered activities and abide by a leave no trace ethic. Backcountry touring on the non-motorized side of Turnagain Pass on the Kenai Peninsula for instance, is a real joy-a restorative recreational pursuit. Please keep all motors on the motorized side of the highway-to include motorized grooming equipment! Those looking for groomed ski trails can enjoy the many parks in Anchorage or the ever-widening trails in Girdwood. And when they are ready to make their own tracks, they can feast at the Pass!

You've got a real job ahead of you sorting through all the myriad perspectives. Good luck and may the force be with you.