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Title:

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FROM: Gerald R. Brookman, 715 Muir Avenue, Kenai, Alaska 99611-8816

TO: U.S. Forest Service, ATTENTION: Chugach National Forest Supervisor Terri Marceron

SUBJECT: Chugach National Forest Management Plan Revision

I have lived in Alaska since 1957, in South Central Alaska since 1962, and on the Kenai Peninsula since 1978. I have used the Chugach National Forest for the recreational opportunities it affords many times in the past, and plan to continue to do so for as long as my age and health permit. I am also concerned about the recreational opportunities it affords for all Alaskans, and for all Americans (as well as visitors from other countries, a number of whom I have met while hiking there.)

I'm not sure how long the Nellie Juan Wilderness study proposal has been in effect, but I know that it has been a LONG time. I really don't understand why nothing has been done to adopt it. I would like to see a maximum amount of the area within the Chugach that qualifies as wilderness so designated. Also, I would hope that motorized recreation, particularly snowmachines, not be permitted within wilderness areas; I understand that there is some disagreement over whether or not the provision in the Alaska National Interest Lands Act that permits "Customary and Traditional Uses" of certain types of motorized transportation within such areas applies here; I would hope that the USFS will seek a definitive legal determination that it does not, and if this is the case, to enforce this provision strictly.

In addition to the Nellie Juan Wilderness Study Area, I would like to urge that a reasonable amount of the lands which qualify as wilderness under The Wilderness Act are so designated, including those on the Kenai Peninsula, Islands in Prince William Sound, and in the Kodiak-Afognak Island Group. When the Chugach National Forest was created, there was no such thing as formal Wilderness designation, but there now has been for over half a century, and it's long past time for the Forest Service stopped dragging its feet and got with it!

I am a member of the Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition and Prince William Sound Keeper, and I have reviewed the statements of both these organizations on this matter, and I urge you to adopt them.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important matter.

Gerald R. Brookman