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Comments:

Thank you for taking the time to draft a new management plan for Prince William Sound (PWS) and the Chugach National Forest. In short, every square inch of these areas that is more than 100yds from a road is a wilderness area. Unfortunately, your new plan does not reflect this fact. This area is easily accessible from several urban areas in Southcentral, AK, and this does not make it less of a wilderness area.

Allowing increased use of motorized vehicles (snowmachines, helicopters, ATVs) in PWS will damage the scenic, cultural and ecological value that this area possesses....particularly in the management areas marked as Backcountry and Wilderness Study Area. In addition, the inclusion of Personal Timber rights in those areas would do significant damage to popular camping areas. Finally, mineral development has no place in this wilderness. As you mentioned, PWS supports a significant salmon population and mineral extraction is a known serious threat to fish ecosystems and watershed health.

In conclusion, this is a wild area that is under increasing pressure from human interaction. More stewardship and protection is needed, not less.