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Comments:

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To whom it may concern,

Please accept my comments on the Chugach National Forest Management Revision. I am Alaska Native, native Alaskan, a fisherman, subsistence user, and recreationist in the forest. I was involved in helping to craft the revision that happened in 2000, and I thank you for letting myself and the rest of the public guide the direction of the forest as we move forward in 2016 and beyond. My comments are very simple for this current revision. Allow current uses only. Do not remove or weaken any of the current wilderness (501c3, Anilca, or other) prescriptions, that were carefully thought out and have worked well for the last 15 years. With the opening of the Whittier tunnel, visitor use has increased dramatically in the Western Prince William Sound, please put a cap on the number of tour groups before the ecosystem has more than it can handle. Also please consider Wild River status for the Copper River. Protect the areas around Knight Island from additional tour lodges and groups that are harming archaeological and cultural values in the area. Do not allow any more mining of anything in the area, and enforce clean up of tailings and old mining debris. Limit logging to personal use cabin logs, firewood for heating, and the 10,000 board feet for residents. Please discourage tour groups from using chainsaws to collect firewood in sensitive shore bird habitat when camping in the sound. Do not allow any floating gas stations, floating stores, gambling, etc. Helicopters should be limited to protect wildlife from noise disturbance. Basically don't let the Chugach become a Disney like attraction. This forest and its values should be maintained for fishing, subsistence activities, small eco-tourism activities and non-intrusive personal use. Do not allow any more commercial uses of the forest that harms or does not benefit the ecosystems and cottage economies that already exist. Please continue to explore the options of buying back sub-surface minerals rights and working to protect salmon habitat as your highest priority. Thanks for your consideration.