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Comments:
February 19, 2016

Terri Marceron
Forest Supervisor
Chugach National Forest
161 East 1st Avenue, Door 8
Anchorage, AK 99502

Dear Supervisor Marceron,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Revised Land Management Plan (PRLMP) for the Chugach National Forest. Alaska Wilderness League works to preserve wild lands and waters in Alaska by engaging citizens and decision makers alike. In Alaska, our organization has a growing network of residents who care deeply about the longevity and productivity of wilderness areas in all regions of the state.

First, we want to commend the Forest Service for acknowledging, in the first paragraph of the revised plan, that "the Chugach National Forest has played an important role in shaping the environment, cultures, customs, and economies of southcentral Alaska." We couldn't agree more with this statement. However, we believe two changes to the PRLMP are necessary to ensure that the forest continues to provide for Alaska residents, both today and long into the future:

1. The Forest Service should revise its recommendation for the Wilderness Study Area (WSA), so that the entirety of the original 1.9 million acre WSA is recommended for Wilderness designation.
2. Until Congress acts on the WSA recommendation, the Forest Service should strengthen the Management Plan to highlight and explain how management standards of the WSA will match those of federally designated Wilderness. This includes keeping language from the 2002 plan, which cites the Wilderness Act and Regional Manual and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) as guiding documents. The current draft only references ANILCA, which leaves the management directive unclear.

Alaska Wilderness League reached out to members in southcentral Alaska this past week, alerting them to our recommended changes to the PRLMP referenced above, while also providing them with a place to add additional comments. 21 people signed, on expressing support for the two recommended changes above, and some offered additional comments. A list of signees and their additional comments are attached to this letter.

Thank you for your consideration, and if you have any questions on this matter, don't hesitate to contact me.

Andy Moderow
Alaska State Director
Alaska Wilderness League
907-331-6098
andy@alaskawild.org

Amy Dalton
Anchorage, AK

I'd like to begin by asserting that the WSA should be managed with the highest of standards, that of the Wilderness Act of 1964 with applicable ANILCA provisions. All areas within the WSA should be classified as "primitive."

I also urge that Congress designate the entire WSA as Wilderness designation with Knight Island, Columbia Glacier, Perry Island, Esther Island, Port Wells, College Fiord, Lake Nellie Juan, and the mainland along Knight Island added to those lands already included in the 2002 recommendation.

The Copper River/Bering River area should be protected.

The Forest should be withdrawn from mineral and forestry activity with additional protective acquisitions being identified.

Additional Wild and Scenic River designations should be recommended.

It is critical that the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Restoration mandate for the region be upheld.

Finally, I support additional non-motorized areas for inclusion on the Kenai Peninsula.

Ryan Aсталos
Anchorage, AK

I love hiking and backpacking in the Chugach with my dog and love to see the awesome wilderness that it has to provide!

Edward Schmitt
Soldotna, AK

Please help leave wilderness for my children and grandchildren to experience. There is so little of it left in the world.

Deborah Voves
Anchorage, AK

Please. This is my home and I love it so much. Wild animals cross my property. The trees bring me oxygen and peace. The snow in winter is beautiful and the full greenery in summer is too.

Leslie Kerr
Anchorage, AK

The Chugach is my backyard? And backyard for my neighbors as well as my visitors from Outside and from other countries. It is jewel in the crown of our Nation and deserves to be managed as such. I fully support Wilderness Designation and interim management consistent with this designation. Thank you for "listening".

Louis Dupree
Homer, AK

We are running out of wilderness, so we should save all that we have left.

Nina Gondos
Anchorage, AK

Joe Jacob
Clam Gulch, AK

Martin Antuna

Anchorage, AK

Sheila Clark
Eagle River, AK

Angela Ferrari
Anchorage, AK

Gary Moore
Eagle River, AK

Shawn Knudeson
Anchorage, AK

Dana Durham
Girdwood, AK

Kimberly Mcconkey
Anchorage, AK

Anja Phenix
Healy, AK

Barbara Poss
Anchorage, AK

Mariah Johnson
Seward, AK

Arlene Reber
Anchorage, AK

Helen Wasson
Seward, AK

Kay Underwood
Anchorage, AK