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Comments:

Dear USFS,

I first would like to thank you for your efforts on the Chugach Forest Plan. Conservation of our natural resources is in many respects the only true legacy we leave to our children. Specifically I would commend you for your efforts to ensure proper Minimum Requirement Analysis. I believe it is critical that we obtain reproducible data that will allow unambiguous understanding of future changes in our Wilderness Study Areas. Specifically the proposed change in language from "maintain wilderness character" to "maintain existing character" will only serve to diminish the quality of future attempts to quantify changes in the Chugach over time. It is critical to have an established baseline for future comparisons. On that basis I feel the proposed language change is unacceptable.

I would also like to strongly recommend Alternative D in the EIS. I also think that it is critical that lands acquired in the Exxon-Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Restoration Plan also receive WSA protection and that the Forest Service make every effort to include acquisition of the subsurface lands as part of that Wilderness Management prescription.

I would also like to commend the USFS for its efforts to detect and prevent the spread of invasive species as an essential part of "desired conditions". Certainly invasive species present one of the greatest threats to healthy forests and in many respects are the most the most difficult variables to quantify in terms of both economic and ecological impacts.

Thank you again for listening to my concerns.

William A. Hunt