

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/25/2018 4:15:21 AM

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Comments:

In an age of toxic mine tailings, and creeks damaged for sand to lock into concrete forever, tons and tons, no end in sight, we owe the future our protection of our real wealth--every ecological treasure we have left.

Within the Chugach National Forest is the wealth of ancient rainforest, wild salmon, stunning mountains and glaciers. And meandering fiords laced with hundreds of remote islands. I hope some First Nation people live there, wise in pre-colonial ways to live a good life in wealth like this.

I ask the Forest Service to further improve the Final Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Chugach NF. Please heed the following changes to the current draft Forest Plan, proposed by Wilderness Watch of Missoula, MT:

1. The Plan must protect the "wilderness character" of the WSA, not the Forest Service's weak proposal to protect just its "existing character." Furthermore, the Plan must protect the wilderness character of the lands in the WSA by classifying all of them with the Forest Service's "Primitive" standard, which is the most protective standard in the agency's recreational classification system.
2. Restore strong protection to the lands within the WSA that the federal government purchased following the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. These lands were acquired for the restoration of wilderness values and must be managed "in perpetuity for conservation and wilderness purposes," as promised when they were purchased.
3. The Chugach NF must address ongoing illegal recreational use of chainsaws in the WSA, which has resulted in damaging tree removal along dozens of wilderness beaches, including in sensitive areas.
4. Alternative D recommends the maximum amount of land for Wilderness of any of the Alternatives (97 percent of the WSA, or 1.884 million acres). I support a modified Alternative D wilderness recommendation that also includes Lake Nellie Juan and the lands within the WSA boundary that were purchased for restoration of wilderness resources following the oil spill.