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Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed revisions for the management of Chugach National Forest Lands. My concern for comment pertains to page 69 item #14, which would prohibit domestic sheep & goats from being on Chugach National Forest lands.

I am opposed to the proposed revision that would ban domestic goats and sheep within Chugach National Forest. This revision is not just about banning pack goats or hiking goat companions in sensitive habitat areas. This is about banning domestic goats and sheep on private property in communities within Chugach National Forest. These areas have private homes, cabins, farms and homesteads that depend on their domestic goats and sheep for milk, meat and fiber. I personally have no problem with livestock restrictions within critical habitat areas, and I wish the ADF&G would start mapping sensitive habitat areas for Dall sheep. I also believe pack goats should be certified disease free of major pathogens that are a possible risk to wildlife before being allowed in the backcountry. But I am vehemently opposed to a blanket ban on domestic goats and sheep on private property in regions of Alaska where there is no significant risk to wildlife. There are better ways to protect wildlife and forest land without trampling on the civil rights of private property owners.

To my knowledge there has been no environmental impact statement to support the banning of domestic goats and sheep within Chugach National Forest. I would certainly think an environmental impact study would need to be completed before such a drastic measure was taken to permanently ban domestic goats and sheep on private property.

Sincerely, Tina Starr Judd