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**Date:** August 3, 2018

Dear Interested Reader:

I'm pleased to announce the release of our draft Land Management Plan (LMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Chugach National Forest. The LMP, once finalized, will revise the 2002 Chugach National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. The LMP describes the 15-year strategic vision for managing the approximately 5.4 million acres of National Forest System lands in southcentral Alaska. These draft documents are available for review during a 90-day public comment period beginning August 4, 2018 through November 1, 2018. These documents are available on our plan revision website located at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/chugach/planrevision>.

The LMP capitalizes on the strengths of the 2002 Plan and builds on the commitment to contribute to the regional economy through recreation and tourism, salmon fisheries, and wild renewable resources. The LMP continues the forest commitment to working relationships with southcentral Alaska Native Tribes and Corporations, the State of Alaska, and local stakeholders to support delivery of benefits to all who enjoy and utilize the forest.

The LMP is organized in three main parts: part 1 Vision, part 2 Strategy, and part 3 Design Criteria. Plan components in each of these main sections are arranged under three main goal statements:

- Foster collaborative relationships;
- Contribute to social and economic sustainability; and
- Provide for ecological sustainability.

Plan components for each of the three goals are then arranged according to where the plan components apply: forest-wide, specific to a management area, specific to a geographic area, or specific to a special designated area. Appendices and a set of maps are also included.

Based on 10 community open houses, 27 public meetings and workshops, and targeted outreach to federally recognized southcentral Alaska Native Tribes and Corporations, youth, permittees, and neighboring landowners, including the State of Alaska, we released the Proposed Revised Land Management Plan in December 2015. Comments on the Proposed Revised Land Management Plan were used to develop the LMP and informed the range of alternatives evaluated in the DEIS.

The DEIS is organized into four chapters plus appendices. Chapter 1 describes why we are updating management direction, Chapter 2 describes the alternatives, and Chapter 3 describes environmental consequences of implementing each of the alternatives. A good way to become familiar with the alternatives is to look at the alternative comparison tables at the end of Chapter 2. Both the LMP and DEIS include a glossary of terms used in the documents and a set of maps. The DEIS includes maps depicting all four alternatives considered in detail. In addition to maps that can be downloaded, our website includes an interactive map page where you can easily compare the maps of the alternatives and zoom in to see areas of interest in more detail at this website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/chugach/planrevision>



I am asking for your feedback in reviewing and commenting on these draft documents during the 90-day comment period. Be as specific as possible in your comments, identifying locations and activities of specific interest or concern to you.

During the 90-day public comment period, comments may be submitted using any of the following methods:

1. Electronically at [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/chugach/plancomments](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/chugach/plancomments)
2. FAX to (907) 743-9476
3. Submit in writing at any public meeting hosted during the 90-day comment period
4. Send or deliver written comments to:  
Chugach National Forest's Supervisor's Office, Attn: Draft Land Management Plan,  
161 East 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Door 8  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Nine public open house meetings will be scheduled starting in mid-September to provide information about the LMP and the DEIS. Meetings will be hosted in Anchorage, Girdwood, Seward, Hope, Cooper Landing, Moose Pass, Cordova, Soldotna and Valdez. Dates and meeting locations will be posted on our website located here:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/chugach/planrevision>

Public comments will be incorporated into a final environmental impact statement (FEIS) and Land Management Plan to be published in 2019. For more information about the public comment process, please visit the website.

Questions about the LMP and DEIS may be directed to the plan revision team leader, Denise Downie at 907-743-9426 or [chugachplanrevision@fs.fed.us](mailto:chugachplanrevision@fs.fed.us).

Thank you for your interest and engagement in the Chugach National Forest.

Sincerely,



TERRI MARCERON  
Forest Supervisor