

# Reader's Guide

This guide briefly describes the contents of the Chugach National Forest Draft Land Management Plan (Forest Plan) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Its purpose is to assist readers in understanding the documents and finding the information of greatest interest to them. Each of the two volumes includes appendices and a set of maps, which may be downloaded separately. A glossary defining terms used in the documents is also included.

## Draft Land Management Plan

The Draft Land Management Plan, or forest plan, 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. Plan components for each of the three goals are then arranged according to where the plan components apply: forestwide, specific to a management area, specific to a geographic area, or specific to a specially designated area. Appendices and a set of maps are also included.

### Plan Introduction

This section explains the purpose of the plan, describes the roles and contributions of the Chugach National Forest, explains how to use the plan to guide management decisions, and defines each of the types of plan components that comprise the management direction.

### Part 1 Vision

The goals and desired conditions comprise the overall vision for the Chugach National Forest. Desired conditions are long term aspirations that describe the specific ecological, social, and/or economic attributes toward which management of the land and resources should be directed. The outcome of land management activities implemented over the next 10-15 years should be to move the plan area toward achievement or maintenance of the desired conditions.

### Part 2 Strategy

This section describes how the forest intends to move the plan area toward the desired conditions. Suitable uses for each management area are defined. Specific management objectives to move the plan area towards the desired conditions are set forth. Management approaches describe the principal strategies and program priorities used in designing and implementing projects and activities. This section also includes information about lands suitable for timber production.

### Part 3 Design Criteria

This section is comprised of the standards and guidelines which establish constraints and boundaries for management activities. Standards and guidelines are established to help achieve or maintain the desired condition or conditions, to avoid or mitigate undesirable effects, or to meet applicable legal requirements. Consistency of projects is required for both standards and guidelines, but is defined differently. Projects and activities must be consistent with the exact wording of a standard, but need only meet the purpose of a guideline.

### Glossary

The glossary defines terms used in the Forest Plan and DEIS.

## Appendices

**Appendix A Monitoring Program:** is comprised of a set of required monitoring questions and associated indicators. The plan monitoring program is designed to determine if a change in the forest plan is needed to improve management results. Additional detail related to the monitoring program will be included in a monitoring guide to be developed at a later date. While the Forest Plan monitoring program includes only the elements required by the 2012 planning rule, the Chugach National Forest may implement additional monitoring.

**Appendix B Timber and Wood Products Suitability:** describes how lands are suited for timber production were determined, based on compatibility with the forest plan. It also describes lands suitable for forest wood product management, such as fuelwood production and harvest.

**Appendix C Proposed and Possible Actions:** describes forestwide forest vegetation management practices and the approximate acres of treatment planned for the first and second decade. Planned practices are the types of treatments needed to achieve or maintain desired conditions and objectives within the plan area accessible for forest wood products management. These estimates are not a commitment to take action.

**Appendix D Priority Watersheds:** identifies watersheds prioritized through the USDA Forest Service Watershed Condition Framework. These are the watersheds where restoration and enhancement work will be prioritized. As work is completed, new priority watersheds may be identified during the planning period.

**Appendix E Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation:** describes the process used to identify rivers eligible and suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System during the 2002 forest plan revision process and the results of the analysis of changed circumstances conducted during the current forest plan revision. A list of suitable and recommended and eligible rivers within the Chugach National Forest is included.

## Draft Environmental Impact Statement

**Executive Summary:** a brief overview of the planning process, the alternatives, and the issues on which the alternatives are based.

**Chapter 1 – Purpose and Need:** describes the plan area and sets forth the purpose and need for plan revision. The regulatory framework is described, including how forest plan decisions fit into a broader planning framework. Plan components comprising the management direction in the plan are briefly described along with their application. Public involvement in the planning process is summarized. The major plan revision topics are introduced, accompanied by brief descriptions of the issues around which alternatives were developed. Chapter 1 concludes with a description of the decision framework, including transition to the revised plan.

**Chapter 2 – Alternatives:** describes the four alternatives analyzed in detail along with the alternatives considered but not analyzed in detail. Elements common to all or some of the alternatives are described. The four alternatives are characterized in terms of, how they address the relevant revision topics and issues. Chapter 2 concludes with several tables that compare the alternatives in different ways.

**Chapter 3 - Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences:** description of the affected environment and the analysis of the environmental consequences of implementing each of

the four alternatives. This chapter includes an affected environment description and effects analysis specific to each of the resources with the potential to be affected. Also included are findings about environmental justice, the relationship of short term uses and long term productivity, unavoidable adverse impacts, and irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources.

**Chapter 4 – Consultation and Coordination:** lists the interdisciplinary team members and other contributors to the document, describes the Alaska Native Tribes and Corporations, agencies, and individuals consulted during document development, and provides a preliminary list of individuals and groups to whom the document has been distributed.

**References** – lists all references cited in the DEIS

## **Appendices**

**Appendix A Wilderness Evaluation:** describes how lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System were identified and inventoried, and how wilderness characteristics of each area were evaluated and selected for recommendation in the alternatives.

**Appendix B Relevant Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding:** lists the agreements and memoranda of understanding applicable to the Chugach National Forest.

## **Glossary**

The glossary defines terms used in the Forest Plan and DEIS.

## **Index**

The index lists the page numbers where subjects in the DEIS may be found.