

Appendix H – Alternative Descriptions

CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST FOREST PLAN REVISION ALTERNATIVE IDENTIFICATION FORM	
1. DATE: <u>March 20, 2000</u>	7. ALTERNATIVE NAME or TITLE: No Action 8. ALTERNATIVE TYPE: FULL <u>XX</u> PARTIAL _____ 9. VERSION of BASE MAP USED: <u>February 1, 2000</u> 10. VERSION of TOOLBOX USED:
2. DEVELOPER(S): IDT 3. ORGANIZATION: CNF 4. CONTACT NAME: IDT 5. CONTACT PHONE #: _____	
6. APPLICABLE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION FORESTWIDE KENAI PENINSULA PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND COPPER RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION (WA#: _____) WATERSHED (Watershed #: _____) OTHER SPECIFIC LOCATION:	11. <u>ALTERNATIVE THEME</u> (Emphasis by Situations) Ecosystems: Emphasize a mix of active and natural processes to sustain ecological systems. Fish & Wildlife: Emphasize a mix of active management and natural processes to maintain or enhance habitats. Recreation: Emphasize a mix of motorized and nonmotorized opportunities, recreation facilities and undeveloped/developed recreation settings. Resource Development: Provide for personal use forest products and commercial forest products. Emphasize mineral development. Special Designations: Provide for Recommended Wilderness within the Wilderness Study Area. Do not provide for any Wild or Scenic River Recommendations.
12. INTERESTS EMPHASIZED <u>Biological and Physical Elements</u> Ecological Systems: Emphasize the conservation of fish and wildlife habitats while reforesting spruce bark beetle infested stands on the Kenai Peninsula. Emphasize a mix of active management and natural processes throughout the remainder of the Forest to sustain ecological systems. Refer to Table H-2 for the Research Natural Area recommendations. Brown Bears: Emphasize active management of human use within bear habitat to minimize the defense of life and property risk and brown bear mortality. Fish and Wildlife: Provide a mix of active management and natural processes to maintain or enhance wildlife habitats. Emphasize habitat restoration in areas where current use patterns have degraded fish and wildlife habitats. Emphasize improving sport, personal use, and subsistence fishing opportunities along all highways and trails, and at selected sites in the Prince William Sound.	

Resource Production

Provide personal use forest products throughout most of the Forest, except within Recommended Wilderness areas. Provide commercial forest products in portions of the Kenai Peninsula, Prince William Sound, and Copper River Delta. Emphasize watershed restoration activities on the Cooper and Resurrection Creeks and Russian River drainages and old timber sale areas in the Prince William Sound. **Minerals:** Emphasize opportunities for mineral exploration and development in areas with moderate to high mineral potential.

Use and Occupancy

Motorized Access: Provide winter and summer motorized recreation opportunities. **Recreation Opportunities:** Provide primitive, semi-primitive, roaded natural and rural recreation opportunities. Develop facilities to accommodate demand on the Kenai Peninsula, Prince William Sound and along the road corridor on the Copper River Delta. **Tourism:** Accommodate demand for tourism opportunities and facilities. Provide opportunities for small groups/minimal facilities and development opportunities for larger groups and facilities to meet demand. **Wild and Scenic River Recommendations:** No recommendations are made. **Wilderness Recommendations:** Wilderness recommendations are emphasized within the Wilderness Study Area. **Private Property Rights:** Category 2 and 3 prescriptions are applied adjacent to most private land.

13. ALTERNATIVE DESCRIPTION NARRATIVE

Kenai Peninsula (Active Management)

The Fish, Wildlife and Recreation prescription is applied throughout most of the area to provide a variety of multiple use activities. The Backcountry prescription is applied to portions of the Russian River/Resurrection drainages to provide a Primitive II Recreation Opportunity Spectrum.

Prince William Sound (Wilderness Values)

The Recommended Wilderness prescription is applied throughout most of the Wilderness Study Area. The Backcountry prescription is applied west of Valdez, primarily to provide opportunities for mineral development. The Backcountry prescription is applied from Unakwik Inlet to Esther Island to provide opportunities for minerals and timber as well as limited recreation facilities. This prescription would not allow for timber harvest this planning period but may provide future opportunities. The Backcountry prescription is applied from Pigot Bay to Bettles Bay to provide mineral opportunities and limited recreation facilities. The Backcountry prescription is applied on Knight Island primarily due to the mineral potential. The Backcountry prescription is applied adjacent to Whittier to provide limited recreation facility development. The Backcountry prescription is applied on Hinchinbrook Island to provide a Primitive II Recreation Opportunity Spectrum.

Copper River Delta (Conservation of Fish and Wildlife)

The 501(b) - 3 prescription is applied to most of the Copper River Delta to provide for a variety of multiple use activities while conserving fish and wildlife and their habitats. On the southeast corner of the Copper River Delta the 501(b) - 2 prescription is applied to provide a Primitive II Recreation Opportunity Spectrum.

The CNI Settlement Agreement of 1982 established two access routes to the Bering River coalfields. These two access routes are shown with the Major Transportation/Utility Systems prescription:

- The Carbon Mountain corridor provides access from the Copper River to the coalfields. The preliminary Carbon Mountain route was consolidated with the state's rights to construct the Bering River Highway as granted under the Omnibus Bill of 1959. A road easement was issued to Chugach Alaska Corporation on March 2000 for the Carbon Mountain access route.
- The second corridor is identified in the CNI Settlement Agreement as the Katalla route; this route provides access from the Bering River coalfields to the anticipated marine terminal.

**CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST
FOREST PLAN REVISION
ALTERNATIVE IDENTIFICATION FORM**

<p>1. DATE: <u>August 15, 2001</u></p> <hr/> <p>2. DEVELOPER (S): <u>Dave Gibbons, Deidre St. Louis, Cal Baker, and Mike Kania</u></p> <p>3. ORGANIZATION: <u>CNF</u></p> <p>4. CONTACT NAME: <u>Dave Gibbons</u></p> <p>5. CONTACT TELEPHONE#: <u>907-271-2500</u></p>	<p>7. ALTERNATIVE NAME or TITLE: Preferred</p> <p>8. ALTERNATIVE TYPE: FULL <u>XX</u> PARTIAL _____</p> <p>9. VERSION of BASE MAP USED:</p> <p>10. VERSION of TOOLBOX USED</p>
<p>6. APPLICABLE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION</p> <p>FORESTWIDE KENAI PENINSULA PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND COPPER RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION #:(_____) WATERSHED #:(_____) OTHER SPECIFIC LOCATION:</p>	<p>11. ALTERNATIVE THEME (Emphasis by Situations)</p> <p>Ecosystems: Ecosystem management will involve consideration of not only goods and services but also the viability of ecological, social, and economic systems now and in the future. Achieving this goal requires that ecosystem conditions, natural processes, natural disturbance patterns, and productive capabilities be incorporated into decision making processes so that human needs are considered in relation to the sustainable capability of the system.</p> <p>Fish & Wildlife: Maintaining viable populations of all native and nonnative desirable, animal and plant species is the central theme. Tools for maintaining viable species populations are likely to be focused on providing habitats in an appropriate spatial and temporal arrangement. Vegetation management may be a major tool not only for commodity production, but also for using habitat management to achieve delisting or to avoid listing of threatened and endangered species.</p> <p>Recreation/Tourism: Allow for human use and occupancy at levels that do not result in significant ecological degradation. Provide a mix of motorized and nonmotorized opportunities (primarily nonmotorized in the summer and motorized in the winter). Provide developed facilities and recreation settings, where appropriate, adjacent to roads and marine waterways. Provide undeveloped recreation settings across most of the Forest.</p> <p>Resource Development: Emphasize the production of goods and services with an emphasis on sustaining ecosystems. Encourage personal use and small-scale commercial forest products development. Provide opportunities for mineral development. Opportunities are present for mineral development in most areas with moderate to high mineral potential.</p> <p>Designations: Establish acceptable levels of wilderness area naturalness while allowing human use. Manage the Chugach National Forest to optimize conditions for human uses while preserving unique wilderness ecosystem resources. Provide representative ecological types within a Research Natural Area network. Recommend a set of Wild and Scenic Rivers for designation that is representative of the full range of biology and geography of the Chugach.</p>

12. INTERESTS EMPHASIZED

Interests by Landscape -- The alternative theme varies by the three Forest landscapes:

Kenai Peninsula

Emphasize active management due to the variety of current human uses and projected resource management activities (prescribed fire, bark beetle restoration, recreation/tourism etc.).

Prince William Sound

Emphasize wilderness values in western Prince William Sound. Provide recreation opportunities near Whittier to address projected increased recreation demand.

Copper River Delta

Emphasize conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats and provide for multiple-use management opportunities that are consistent with the conservation of fish and wildlife values.

Forestwide

Coordinate with Native governments, other government agencies, and adjacent landowners to strive for compatible resource management programs across multiple jurisdictions.

Biological and Physical Elements

Ecological Systems: Manage the Chugach National Forest to maintain ecosystem conditions, natural processes, natural disturbance patterns and productive capabilities across the Forest with active management in selected locations for resource management or forest restoration. Provide opportunities to treat bark beetle infested stands with a variety of methods. Provide a representative network of ecological types within Research Natural Areas. **Brown Bears:** Conserve brown bear habitat using prescriptions that provide adequate habitat and minimize bear-human confrontations in important seasonal feeding areas and travel corridors. Manage human use within bear habitat to minimize the risk of “defense of life and property” mortality of brown bears. **Wildlife Habitat:** Emphasize restoring or maintaining conditions found in constantly changing natural systems. Maintain viable populations of all native and desirable nonnative animal and plant species and provide for habitat complexity and functions necessary for diversity to prosper. Thus, active vegetation management may be a tool used not only for commodity production, but also for maintaining and restoring biodiversity. **Fish Habitat:** Maintain productivity of habitat supporting wild salmon and other aquatic organisms throughout the Forest by applying category 1 and 2 prescriptions in watersheds with important riparian and in-stream habitats. Protect fishery resources to maintain sustainable fisheries for commercial, sport and subsistence uses. Fish habitat projects will emphasize recovery of impacted native populations or improve habitat values adjacent to the Seward/Sterling/Copper River Highways for subsistence, personal use, specific commercial fisheries, or sport fishing opportunities.

Resource Production

Forest products: The production of commodities and services may occur within the context of reproducing or restoring former patterns of natural disturbances. This may entail restricting certain uses on some lands to assure that ecosystem features are protected and selecting other lands that are not as important for maintaining the same ecosystem values, to produce forest products to meet societal needs. Emphasize road accessible personal use/free use forest products, small-scale commercial harvest, and special forest products.

Minerals: Provide opportunities for mineral development. Opportunities are present for mineral development in most areas with moderate to high mineral potential.

Use and Occupancy

Nonmotorized Access: Allow for human use and occupancy at levels that do not result in significant ecological degradation. Use and occupancy levels will be evaluated and permitted, in the context of sustaining natural ecosystem features. Emphasize nonmotorized recreation opportunities in the summer. Emphasize areas and locations, in the winter, that provide easy access from existing transportation corridors. Accommodate nonmotorized interests with a combination of time-shares and prescription allocations. **Natural Quiet:** Provide areas for natural quiet in selected locations with relatively easy access. **Motorized Access:** Emphasize winter motorized recreation use. Allow traditional motorized access for subsistence uses. **Recreation/Tourism:** Provide a range of recreation settings from remote undeveloped to easily accessed developed settings. Do not compete with other landowners for commercial recreation developments.

Wild and Scenic Rivers: Recommend a set of Wild and Scenic Rivers for designation that is representative of the full range of biology and geography of the Chugach. **Wilderness Recommendations:** Establish acceptable levels of wilderness area naturalness while allowing human use. Manage the Chugach National Forest to optimize conditions for human uses while preserving unique wilderness ecosystem resources.

Private Property Rights: Insure reasonable access to lands in other ownership.

13. ALTERNATIVE DESCRIPTION NARRATIVE:**Forestwide**

Provide a range of uses across the Forest with an emphasis on fish, wildlife and recreation. Emphasize developed recreation opportunities, where appropriate, along existing roads and marine waterways.

Kenai Peninsula (Active Management)

A variety of prescriptions are applied across the Kenai Peninsula to accommodate the existing high human use and projected resource management projects. Maintain the natural appearing character along the Seward Highway Scenic Byway. Apply the Fish, Wildlife and Recreation Management Area prescription in selected sites along the Seward Highway, Sterling and Portage Highways and most adjacent existing roads (trailheads, campground access roads, forest development roads, etc.). The prescription is generally used three quarters of a mile on either side of the highways. Apply the Forest Restoration Management Area prescription generally within three-quarters of a mile either side of the Hope and Resurrection Creek Roads and most adjacent existing roads in the Hope area. These prescriptions allow for developed recreation facilities and restoration of spruce bark beetle infested stands.

The majority of the Kenai Peninsula is open to winter motorized activities and closed to summer off highway vehicles.

To address the interest of natural quiet and recreational motorized and nonmotorized opportunities and to protect wildlife habitat values, allowances for winter and summer motorized recreational activities are mapped separately from other activities displayed on the Preferred Alternative Map. **Winter:** The Turnagain Pass east and lower Turnagain Pass west areas, Pyramid Mountain, Manitoba Mountain, Mills Creek, Fresno Creek, Devil's Pass, Quartz Creek, Carter and Crescent lakes area, Russian River trail, Black Mountain, Grayling and Meridian lakes area, Snow River and Tie Hack Mountain areas are closed to motorized use. The Resurrection Pass area is open to motorized use until December 15th and closed to motorized use after December 15th. The Skookum drainage is open to motorized use until March 31st and closed after March 31st. The headwaters of Center and Divide Creeks are open to helicopter access and closed to snowmachine access. The remaining areas of the Kenai Peninsula are open to winter motorized recreation. The lower portion (about 4 miles) of the Twentymile drainage is closed to motorized use except for an access corridor to be designated on the west side of the drainage to allow for snowmachine access to the upper drainage which is open to winter recreational motorized activities. **Summer:** The Hope and Sunrise areas, upper Glacier Creek, Portage Creek, west Grant Lake, Godwin Glacier, Cooper Lake, Resurrection River drainage, and areas within ¼ miles of the Sterling and Seward Highways are open to helicopter landings and OHVs on designated routes only. The Placer River drainage, upper Twentymile River, Whittier Glacier, Turnagain Pass west, Placer River drainage, east Grant Lake, and the area east of Bear Lake is open to helicopter landings and closed to OHV's. The remainder of the Kenai Peninsula is closed to summer motorized use except for subsistence.

Along the Alaska Railroad corridor, from Portage to Moose Pass, allow for the development of a "Whistlestop" campground and recreation cabin development.

Provide for additional Forest Service recreation cabins and trails associated with dispersed recreation activities. Provide for potential expansion of several existing campgrounds and developed sites including: Primrose, Quartz Creek, Russian River, Cooper Creek, Ptarmigan, and Trail River campgrounds and the Eagle Glacier Nordic Training Center.

Motorized suction dredges and equipment are allowed on Bertha Creek for recreational gold panning, consistent with Forest Policy on suction dredge and equipment sizes.

The Kenai Lake/Black Mountain Research Natural Area is recommended for designation to represent: needleleaf forest (including Lutz spruce), alpine tundra types and remnant alpine glaciers.

The following Wild and Scenic River's are recommended for designation:

- East Fork Sixmile Creek (Recreational) – Whitewater boating, scenery, and visual features.
- Sixmile Creek (Recreational) – Whitewater boating, scenery, and visual features.
- Twentymile River (Scenic) – Fish and wildlife habitats and scenery.
- Portage Creek (Recreational) – Scenery and visual features
- Snow River (Scenic and Wild above the gorge) – Scenery and visual features.
- Russian River (Recreational and Wild above Lower Russian Lake) – Fisheries and prehistoric values.

Emphasize important brown bear habitat and corridors with special emphasis on Russian River, Crescent Lake and Lower Trail Creek.

Provide opportunities for management activities such as increased recreation opportunities and bark beetle restoration near Cooper Lake, Grant Lake, Ptarmigan Lake, and north Resurrection Creek.

Emphasize conservation of moose, sheep, brown bear, and mountain goat habitat in the Cooper Landing area, Trail and Palmer Creeks.

Allow winter and summer helicopter/dogsled activities on Godwin Glacier.

Prince William Sound (Wilderness Values)

Emphasize small, dispersed developments to accommodate projected increases in recreation use due to the new Whittier Road. Emphasis on these developments is placed within a projected "day-use" zone from Whittier (see map - Barry Arm, Esther Island, Perry Island, Culross Passage to Blackstone Bay).

Recommend the following areas for Wilderness designation. All areas have outstanding wilderness values:

- College Fiord Recommended Wilderness Area – Harriman Fiord and College Fiord, Eaglek Bay, Unakwik Inlet, Wells Bay, Long Bay, Columbia Bay and the Naked Island group.
- Nellie Juan Recommended Wilderness Area – Kings Bay, Port Nellie Juan, Sargent Ice Field, Icy Bay, Nassau Fiord, Port Banbridge, and Ingot, Disk and Eleanor Islands.

Locate two areas for potential development of lodges or developed visitor facilities. These sites may be considered for development only after other non-National Forest lands have been developed and the demand exceeds the supply. The Forest Service will not compete for commercial sites with private landholders. Large group access with limited facilities may be accommodated in selected sites within areas designated for the Backcountry* prescription.

Accommodate mineral opportunities in areas with favorable mineral potential including Knight Island, Pigot Bay.

Provide for personal use/free use forest products on Glacier Island where village members from Tatitlek acquire house logs.

Ensure Chugach Alaska Corporation will have reasonable access to their property in the Nellie Juan area.

Provide for small, dispersed recreation development opportunities on Evans and Elrington Islands, adjacent to the village of Chenega Bay.

No commercial timber harvest is allowed in Prince William Sound due to continuing resource recovery from the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill.

On Montague Island, protect the high value wildlife resources of this area including several endemic mammals, a small isolated brown bear population, and many marine bird and fisheries species off the northern shore of Montague Island using the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Area Management Area prescription.

West of Shoup Glacier and the northern portion of Columbia Glacier, provide for recreational and commercial helicopter access in close proximity to Valdez.

Prescriptions are applied in northeast Prince William Sound to address compatible management of recreation developments on the uplands and tidelands. Upland resorts and tideland commercial float facilities are encouraged only in Sheep Bay, Simpson Bay, and the entrance to Port Fidalgo. Management prescriptions will be coordinated with the State of Alaska Area Plan.

The following Research Natural Areas are recommended:

- Wolverine Glacier – Mid-elevation glacier
- Olsen Creek – Anadromous fish
- Green Island (existing) – Forest types, blanket bog vegetation and sea lion haulout

The Olson Creek Research Natural Area will be delineated to exclude the fish camp rehabilitation site and provide an access route (approximately one hundred feet) between the administrative cabin and the fish camp.

The following Wild and Scenic Rivers are recommended for designation:

- Nellie Juan River (Wild, lower half) – Scenery, visual features and white water boating

Year-round, motorized use is allowed (on designated routes in summer) near Anderson Bay and the unvegetated lands south of Boswell Bay.

Copper River Delta (Conservation of Fish and Wildlife)

Adjacent to Cordova (Heney Range, Power Creek and Scott Glacier) provide both motorized and nonmotorized opportunities.

Provide for a wide variety of multiple use opportunities, consistent with the conservation of fish and wildlife, within one-quarter mile either side of existing roads.

In the west half of the 501(b) - 2 Management Area, north of the Copper River Highway up to Goodwin Glacier and the area north of the Tasnuna River, allow all summer and winter motorized recreation activities. The area south of the Tasnuna River and north of Goodwin Glacier is open to helicopter landings and closed to OHVs.

The areas south of the Copper River Highway and south of the Carbon Mountain Road are open to motorized recreation activities in the winter and closed in the summer. The road is buffered with a 501(b) - 3 Management Area prescription that is ¼ mile wide on each side of the road. The road buffer will allow for the future development of recreation facilities near the road.

The area north of the Carbon Mountain Road, beyond the road buffer, is closed to motorized recreation activities except for subsistence and traditional activities.

Continue the policy to not issue outfitting and guiding special use permits for fishing and hunting in the western Copper River Delta.

Ensure Eyak Corporation will have reasonable access to their property near Nelson Bay.

Provide for a potential developed recreation complex at Childs Glacier.

The following Research Natural Area is recommended:

- Copper Sands – Barrier Island/breakwater sandbar; vegetation succession and gull nesting.

Recommend the northeast section of the Copper River Delta for 501(b) - Wilderness designation.

The 501(b) – 1 Management Area prescription is applied to the southeast Copper River Delta. Responsive to a request from the Chugach Alaska Corporation, the area just north of their private lands in the Carbon Mountain area was buffered with the 501(b) - 3 prescription to avoid the placement of recommended Wilderness immediately adjacent to their lands. This area will be managed to emphasize the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats and provide a variety of recreational opportunities for backcountry activities. This area will also be managed to retain its wild and natural character. This area includes one of the largest wetlands in North America.

The oil and gas areas are divided into four zones (see GIS data layers). The reserved oil and gas estate in Zone 1 is available for exclusive oil and gas development by the Chugach Alaska Corporation consistent with the CNI Settlement Agreement, 1982. Oil and gas development in Zone 2 will be implemented in accordance with the CNI Settlement Agreement, 1982. Zones 3 and 4 are not available for leasing for oil and gas development.

The CNI Settlement Agreement of 1982 established two possible access routes to the Bering River coalfields. These two access routes are shown with the Major Transportation/Utility Corridor Management Area prescription.

- The Carbon Mountain corridor provides access from the Copper River to the coalfields. The preliminary Carbon Mountain route was consolidated with the state's rights to construct the Bering River Highway as granted under the Omnibus Bill of 1959. A road easement was issued to Chugach Alaska Corporation on March 2000 for the Carbon Mountain access route.
- The second corridor is identified in the CNI Settlement Agreement as the Katalla route; this route provides access from the Bering River coalfields to an anticipated marine terminal. The actual route may vary from the map, if constructed, based on site-specific resource needs.

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12. INTERESTS EMPHASIZED <u>Biological and Physical Elements</u> Ecological Systems: Emphasize reforestation of spruce bark beetle infested stands on the Kenai Peninsula. Emphasize active management throughout the forest to sustain ecological systems. Brown Bears: Emphasize active management of human use within bear habitat to minimize the defense of life and property risk and brown bear mortality. Fish and Wildlife: Emphasize active management to maintain or enhance fish and wildlife habitats in areas where demand is currently high or projected to increase. Emphasize habitat restoration in areas where current use patterns have degraded fish and wildlife habitats. Improve sport, personal use, and subsistence fishing opportunities along all highways and trails and at selected sites in Prince William Sound.	
<u>Resource Production</u> Forest Products: Provide personal use forest products throughout the forest. Emphasize commercial forest products adjacent to transportation systems, in beetle-infested areas, and in areas to achieve other resource objectives. Minerals: Emphasize opportunities for mineral development in areas of known mineral potential; yet do not foreclose future opportunities in areas with unknown mineral potential.	
<u>Use and Occupancy</u> Motorized Access: Emphasize winter motorized recreation opportunities. Provide summer-motorized opportunities as demand increases. Winter motorized use is generally allowed throughout the forest. Summer motorized use is allowed on designated routes and areas. New roads and trails may be constructed to meet objectives for resource production and use and occupancy. Recreation/Tourism: Emphasize facilities to accommodate demand on the Kenai Peninsula, the Prince William Sound, and along the road corridor on the Copper River Delta. Provide a variety of settings from primitive to rural recreation, emphasizing the more developed settings as demand increases. Wild and Scenic Rivers: No wild, scenic, or recreational rivers are recommended. Wilderness Recommendations: No areas are recommended for wilderness designations. Refer to Tables H-1 and H-2 for Research Natural Area recommendations. Private Property Rights – Category 3 and 4 prescriptions are applied adjacent to most private land.	

13. ALTERNATIVE DESCRIPTION NARRATIVE

Forestwide

The Resource Development prescription is generally applied in areas with known mineral potential and areas with significant amounts of commercial timber. The Backcountry Motorized prescription is applied in backcountry areas not emphasized for resource development. The Recreation, Fish, and Wildlife prescription is generally applied to allow a variety of multiple use activities including developed recreation facilities and settings. Implement "time-sharing" in areas where conflicts arise between motorized and nonmotorized interests.

Kenai Peninsula (Active Management)

The Forest Restoration prescription is applied in spruce stands on the Kenai Peninsula that have been infested or are threatened. The Resource Development prescription is applied in a number of areas where mineral activities are presently occurring or where favorable mineral potential has been identified. The Resource Development prescription is applied one mile on either side of the Alaska Railroad, from Placer to Trail lakes, to provide an opportunity for recreation/tourism developments adjacent to an existing transportation corridor. The Brown Bear Core Area prescription is applied in the Russian River area to emphasize active management of human use and brown bear conservation. The Forest Restoration prescription is applied one mile on either side of the Seward/Sterling and Hope Highways to emphasize regeneration of bark beetle infested stands.

Prince William Sound (Wilderness Values)

The Fish, Wildlife and Recreation prescription is generally applied to accommodate increased recreation/tourism demand. The Resource Development prescription is applied in areas with most favorable mineral potential including Knight Island, Pigot Bay, St. Matthews Bay and Davis Lake. The Resource Development prescription is applied in areas with significant amounts of commercial spruce timber including Montague Island and at the head of Port Fidalgo. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation prescription is applied to Zaikof and Rocky Bays to conserve habitat in existing wildlife concentration areas.

Copper River Delta (Conservation of Fish and Wildlife)

The 501(b) - 3 prescription is applied in the Copper River area to emphasize the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats while providing for a variety of multiple use activities.

The oil and gas areas are divided into four zones (see GIS data layers). Zone 1 is available for oil and gas development. This area may be developed by the Chugach Alaska Corporation until their oil and gas rights terminate (1982, CNI Settlement Agreement). Zone 2 is available for oil and gas development consistent with the Chugach Alaska Corporation exchange rights in the CNI Settlement Agreement. Zone 3 is available for oil and gas development. Zone 4 is not available for leasing for oil and gas development.

The CNI Settlement Agreement of 1982 established two access routes to the Bering River coalfields. These two access routes are shown with the Major Transportation/Utility Systems prescription:

- The Carbon Mountain corridor provides access from the Copper River to the coalfields. The preliminary Carbon Mountain route was consolidated with the state's rights to construct the Bering River Highway as granted under the Omnibus Bill of 1959. A road easement was issued to Chugach Alaska Corporation on March 2000 for the Carbon Mountain access route.
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resource development and developed recreation opportunities. **Private Property Rights:** A mix of category 2 and 3 prescriptions are located adjacent to most private land.

13. ALTERNATIVE DESCRIPTION NARRATIVE

Forestwide

The Fish, Wildlife and Recreation prescription is applied over large areas on the forest to provide a variety of multiple use activities. This prescription will allow for an emphasis on developed settings and facilities to meet recreation and tourism demand. The Backcountry Motorized prescription is applied over large areas to emphasize motorized opportunities. The Backcountry prescription is applied in limited areas to provide nonmotorized opportunities.

Prescriptions are applied to provide opportunities for mineral development in areas of known favorable mineral potential.

Kenai Peninsula (Active Management)

The Fish, Wildlife and Recreation prescription is applied throughout the Kenai Peninsula and to one-half mile on either side of the Hope/Sterling/Seward Highways and the Palmer Creek Road. This prescription provides a wide variety of multiple use activities as well as an opportunity to reforest spruce bark beetle infested stands. The Backcountry prescription is applied to provide nonmotorized opportunities on Manitoba Mountain, the east side of Turnagain Pass, east of Six Mile River, and north of Cape Resurrection. A winter "time share" is designed for the Resurrection area with over-snow vehicle use allowed between 12/1 – 2/15 while non-motorized activities are emphasized the remainder of the year.

Prescriptions are located adjacent to the Alaska Railroad to emphasize opportunities for recreation/tourism developments adjacent to an existing transportation corridor. The Recreational River prescription is applied to East Fork Sixmile Creek, Sixmile Creek, and Snow River. The Research Natural Area prescription is applied to the Kenai Lake-Black Mountain area.

Prince William Sound (Wilderness Values)

The Fish, Wildlife and Recreation prescription is applied in the western Prince William Sound to accommodate recreation and tourism demand when consistent with the conservation of fish and wildlife. This prescription is applied in areas with significant amounts of spruce timber to meet potential demand for commercial forest products including portions of Montague Island and at the head of Port Fidalgo. Prescriptions have been distributed across the landscape to provide snowmobile access from the Kenai Peninsula to the Prince William Sound. The Backcountry prescription is applied in Harriman Fiord to provide a backcountry experience within close proximity to the city of Whittier. The Fish, Wildlife and Recreation prescription is applied to accommodate mineral opportunities in areas with most favorable mineral potential including Knight Island, Pigot Bay, St. Matthews Bay, and Davis Lake. The Recommended Wilderness prescription is applied in areas of light recreation use including Unakwik Inlet, Icy Bay, and Port Bainbridge.

The Research Natural Area prescription is applied to Cedar Bay and Olsen Creek areas. The Backcountry Motorized prescription is applied to the area between Sawmill Bay and Columbia Glacier to provide motorized access in close proximity to Valdez, and accommodate an existing snowmobile route on the north edge of the forest.

The Backcountry Motorized prescription is applied on the east side of the Valdez Arm to accommodate potential recreational helicopter use opportunities adjacent to Valdez. The Primitive prescription is applied to Beartrap Bay to maintain its primitive setting. The Backcountry Motorized prescription is applied to provide motorized opportunities on Hawkins Island and Hinchinbrook Island (Anderson and Boswell Bays).

Copper River Delta (Conservation of Fish and Wildlife)

The Backcountry Motorized prescription and Primitive prescriptions are applied adjacent to Cordova (Heney Range, Power Creek and Scott Glacier) to provide both motorized and nonmotorized opportunities. The Backcountry Motorized prescription is applied at the head of Nelson Bay to provide a compatible management strategy with the adjacent state land, where motorized activities are presently occurring (winter heli-skiing). The 501(b) - 3 prescription is applied on the west side of the Copper River to provide a wide variety of multiple uses consistent with the conservation of fish and wildlife. The 501(b) - 2 prescription is applied in the Tasnuna area to allow for winter motorized recreation activities such as winter helicopter opportunities and accommodates existing snowmobile use from Marshall Pass to the Copper River Delta.

The 501(b) - 2 prescription, with summer and winter motorized use, is applied on the south half of the east Delta, primarily for the conservation of fish and wildlife while accommodating winter oversnow vehicle use and summer motorboat/airboat use.

The 501(b) - 2 prescription is applied to the Miles Glacier area to emphasize nonmotorized activities, which are consistent with the conservation of fish and wildlife.

The 501(b) - 3 prescription is applied one quarter mile either side of the Carbon Mountain Road. This provides for a variety of multiple use activities consistent with the conservation of fish and wildlife.

The oil and gas areas are divided into four zones (see GIS data layers). Zone 1 is available for oil and gas development. This area may be developed by the Chugach Alaska Corporation until their oil and gas rights terminate (1982, CNI Settlement Agreement). Zone 2 is available for oil and gas development consistent with the Chugach Alaska Corporation exchange rights in the CNI Settlement Agreement. Zone 3 is available for oil and gas development. Zone 4 is not available for leasing for oil and gas development.

The CNI Settlement Agreement of 1982 established two access routes to the Bering River coalfields. These two access routes are shown with the Major Transportation/Utility Systems prescriptions:

- The Carbon Mountain corridor provides access from the Copper River to the coalfields. The preliminary Carbon Mountain route was consolidated with the state's rights to construct the Bering River Highway as granted under the Omnibus Bill of 1959. A road easement was issued to Chugach Alaska Corporation on March 2000 for the Carbon Mountain access route.
- The second corridor is identified in the CNI Settlement Agreement as the Katalla route; this route provides access from the Bering River coalfields to the anticipated marine terminal.

CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST FOREST PLAN REVISION ALTERNATIVE IDENTIFICATION FORM	
1. DATE: <u>March 20, 2000.</u>	7. ALTERNATIVE NAME or TITLE: <u>C</u> 8. ALTERNATIVE TYPE: FULL <u>XX</u> PARTIAL _____ 9. VERSION of BASE MAP USED: <u>February 1, 2000</u> 10. VERSION of TOOLBOX USED:
2. DEVELOPER(S): <u>Composite</u> 3. ORGANIZATION: <u>CNF/Public</u> 4. CONTACT NAME: <u>IDT</u> 5. CONTACT PHONE #: _____	
6. APPLICABLE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION FORESTWIDE KENAI PENINSULA PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND COPPER RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION (WA#:_) WATERSHED (Watershed #:_____) OTHER SPECIFIC LOCATION:	11. ALTERNATIVE THEME (Emphasis by Situation) Ecosystems: Emphasize a mix of active management and natural processes to sustain ecological systems. Fish & Wildlife: Emphasize a mix of active management and natural processes to maintain or enhance habitats Recreation/Tourism: Emphasize a mix of motorized and nonmotorized opportunities, recreation facilities, and undeveloped/developed recreation settings. Resource Development: Provide personal use forest products throughout most of the Forest and small-scale commercial forest products. Emphasize mineral development. Designations: Minimize recommendations for administrative and congressional designations.
12. INTERESTS EMPHASIZED	
<p><u>Biological and Physical Elements</u> Ecological Systems: Emphasize conservation of fish and wildlife habitats while reforesting spruce bark beetle infested stands on the Kenai Peninsula. Emphasize a mix of active management and natural processes throughout the forest to sustain ecological systems. Brown Bears: Emphasize active management of human use within bear habitat to minimize the defense of life and property risk and brown bear mortality. Fish and Wildlife: Emphasize active management to maintain or enhance fish and wildlife habitats in areas where demand is currently high or projected to increase. Emphasize habitat restoration in areas where current use patterns have degraded fish and wildlife habitats. Improve sport, personal use and subsistence fishing opportunities along all highways and trails and at selected sites in the Prince William Sound.</p> <p><u>Resource Production</u> Forest Products: Provide personal use forest products throughout most of the forest. Emphasize conservation of fish and wildlife habitats while providing commercial forest products adjacent to transportation systems, areas of in beetle infestation, and in areas to achieve other resource objectives. Minerals: Emphasize opportunities for mineral development in areas of known mineral potential, while not foreclosing future opportunities in areas with unknown mineral potential.</p> <p><u>Use and Occupancy</u> Motorized Access: Emphasize a mix of motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities. Summer motorized use is allowed on designated routes and areas. New roads and trails may be constructed to meet objectives for resource production and use and occupancy. Recreation/Tourism: Provide primitive, semi-primitive, roaded natural and rural recreation opportunities. Provide a mix of recreation settings from minimal facilities to developed settings. Wild and Scenic Rivers: A variety of Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers are recommended. Refer to Tables H-1 and H-2 for Wild and Scenic Rivers and Research Natural Areas recommended for designation. Wilderness Recommendations: Emphasize wilderness recommendations within the Wilderness Study Area, on Hinchinbrook, Island and the Miles Glacier area. Private Property Rights: Category 2 prescriptions are applied adjacent to most private lands.</p>	

13. ALTERNATIVE DESCRIPTION NARRATIVE

Kenai Peninsula (Active Management)

The Fish, Wildlife and Recreation prescription is applied to one-half mile on either side of the Hope/Sterling/Seward Highways and the Palmer Creek Road. The Fish, Wildlife and Recreation prescription is applied to various areas on the Kenai Peninsula. This prescription provides an opportunity to reforest spruce bark beetle infested stands where the projects are consistent with the conservation of fish and wildlife. The prescription also allows for a variety of activities that meet developed recreation/tourism interests. The Forest Restoration prescription is applied in limited areas to provide an emphasis on reforesting bark beetle infested stands. The Backcountry prescription is applied to provide nonmotorized opportunities on Manitoba Mountain, east Turnagain Pass, Johns Creek, Bear Valley, Lost Lake, north Kenai Lake and north Cape Resurrection. This alternative consciously provides for nonmotorized activities adjacent to existing roads. A winter "time share" is designed for the Resurrection area, Crow Pass, George Glacier, Crescent Lake, and Lost Lake areas with snowmachines allowed between 12/1 – 2/15. The Lost Lake area was identified as particularly good for spring snowmobiling, and could be open later than 2/15 if resource damage is not occurring. The Backcountry Motorized prescription is applied to Seattle Creek, Twentymile River, Johnson Pass, Ptarmigan Lake, and South Fork of Snow River.

The Backcountry Motorized prescription is applied in the Godwin Glacier area to allow for motorized use such as the existing helicopter/dog sled activities.

Appropriate prescriptions were located adjacent to the Alaska Railroad to provide an opportunity for recreation/tourism developments adjacent to an existing transportation corridor.

Prince William Sound (Wilderness Values)

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation prescription is applied in Passage Canal to accommodate recreation demand consistent with the conservation of fish and wildlife. A variety of prescriptions are applied in the thirty-mile radius from Whittier to provide a variety of recreation settings. Prescriptions have been distributed across the landscape to provide snowmobile access from the Kenai Peninsula to the Prince William Sound. The Recommended Wilderness prescription is applied in Harriman Fiord to provide a primitive experience within close proximity to Whittier. The Recommended Wilderness prescription is applied in areas of light recreation use including Unakwik Inlet, Icy Bay and Port Bainbridge. A variety of prescriptions are applied to accommodate mineral opportunities in areas with most favorable mineral potential including Knight Island, Pigot Bay, St. Matthews Bay and Davis Lake. The Backcountry Motorized prescription is applied to the area between Sawmill Bay and Columbia Glacier to provide motorized access in close proximity to Valdez and accommodates existing snowmobile use on the north edge of the forest. The Backcountry Motorized prescription is applied between Harvard and Columbia Glaciers to provide motorized uses such as special use permitting of film projects.

The Backcountry Motorized prescription is applied on the east side of the Valdez Arm to accommodate potential recreation helicopter opportunities adjacent to Valdez. The Primitive prescription is applied to Beartrap Bay to maintain its primitive setting. The Backcountry Motorized prescription is applied to provide motorized opportunities on the east half of Hawkins Island and Hinchinbrook Island (Anderson and Boswell Bays).

Due to the continuing resource effects of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, no commercial timber harvest is allowed in the Prince William Sound.

The Backcountry Group prescription was applied in a number of areas in Prince William Sound, but no more than four of these sites would be developed within the planning period (10-15 years).

A number of Backcountry prescription enclaves are included to provide backcountry areas for large group opportunities with limited facilities.

Copper River Delta (Conservation of Fish and Wildlife)

The Backcountry Motorized prescription and Primitive prescription is applied adjacent to Cordova (Heney Range, Power Creek and Scott Glacier) to provide both motorized and nonmotorized opportunities adjacent to Cordova. The 501(b) - 3 prescription is applied on one-half mile to either side of the Copper River Highway to provide a wide variety of multiple uses consistent with the conservation of fish and wildlife. The 501(b) - 2 prescription is applied in the Tasnuna Area with winter motorized recreation activities allowed. This prescription allows for winter helicopter skiing and accommodates existing snowmobile use from Marshall Pass to the Copper River. The 501(b) - 2 prescription is applied to the remainder of the west half

of the 501(b) area with summer and winter motorized recreation activities allowed. This prescription will accommodate some existing all terrain vehicle use.

The 501(b) - 2 prescription is applied on the southeast portion of the Copper River to emphasize nonmotorized recreation activities in a backcountry setting..

The Recommended Wilderness prescription is applied in the Miles Glacier area. This prescription is consistent with the management of the adjacent St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

There are a number of areas in the Copper River Delta where the Backcountry Groups prescription, to be consistent with the conservation of fish and wildlife, was applied .

The oil and gas areas are divided into four zones (see GIS data layers). Zone 1 is available for oil and gas development. This area is available for development by the Chugach Alaska Corporation until their oil and gas rights terminate (1982, CNI Settlement Agreement). Zone 2 is available for oil and gas development consistent with the Chugach Alaska Corporation exchange rights in the CNI Settlement Agreement. Zone 3 is available for oil and gas development. Zone 4 is not available for leasing for oil and gas development.

The CNI Settlement Agreement of 1982 established two access routes to the Bering River coalfields. These two access routes are shown with the Major Transportation/Utility Systems prescriptions:

- The Carbon Mountain corridor provides access from the Copper River to the coalfields. The preliminary Carbon Mountain route was consolidated with the state's rights to construct the Bering River Highway as granted under the Omnibus Bill of 1959. A road easement was issued to Chugach Alaska Corporation on March 2000 for the Carbon Mountain access route.
- The second corridor is identified in the CNI Settlement Agreement as the Katalla route; this route provides access from the Bering River coalfields to the anticipated marine terminal.

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6. APPLICABLE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION FORESTWIDE KENAI PENINSULA PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND COPPER RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION (WA#: <u> </u>) WATERSHED (Watershed #: <u> </u>) OTHER SPECIFIC LOCATION:	11. ALTERNATIVE THEME (Emphasis by Situations) Ecosystems: Emphasize maintenance of ecological systems through conservation of fish and wildlife habitats, natural landscapes, and naturally occurring disturbance processes. Fish & Wildlife: Emphasize a mix of active management and natural processes to maintain or enhance habitats. Recreation/Tourism: Emphasize a mix of motorized and nonmotorized opportunities adjacent to communities and established roads. In backcountry areas emphasize nonmotorized activities, small groups, and minimal facilities. Emphasize opportunities for the experience of natural quiet. Provide for reduced noise campground areas. Provide helicopter access to areas where conflicts with wildlife and backcountry nonmotorized recreation are minimal. Resource Development: Emphasize personal use of forest products, and small-scale commercial forests product opportunities within ¼ mile of roads. Designations: Emphasize a variety of wilderness areas within the Prince William Sound, Copper River Delta, and Kenai Peninsula. Include a diversity of habitats within the wilderness areas. Provide a moderate level of Wild and Scenic River and Research Natural Area recommendations.
12. INTERESTS EMPHASIZED	
Biological and Physical Elements Ecological Systems: Emphasize maintenance of natural processes to sustain ecological systems. Allow natural processes to dominate over most of the Forest. Actively manage vegetation primarily in areas adjacent to roads and areas throughout the Kenai Peninsula and Copper River Delta for fish and wildlife projects, recreation facility development, and for personal uses. Brown Bears: Conserve brown bear habitat through category 1 and 2 prescriptions in important seasonal feeding areas and travel corridors. Manage human use within bear habitat to minimize the defense of life and property risk and brown bear mortality. Wildlife Habitat: Emphasize conservation of habitats to support wildlife populations for subsistence use, sport hunting, and other recreational activities through application of category 1 and 2 prescriptions. Maintain the current abundance and distribution of habitats necessary to support existing levels of native and desired non-native species. Fish Habitat: Maintain productivity of habitat supporting wild salmon and other aquatic organisms throughout the Forest by applying category 1 and 2 prescriptions in watersheds with important riparian and in-stream habitats. Protect fishery resources to maintain sustainable fisheries for commercial, sport, and subsistence uses. Fish habitat projects will emphasize recovery of impacted native populations or	

improve habitat values adjacent to Seward/Sterling/Copper River Highways for subsistence, personal use, specific commercial fisheries, or sport fishing opportunities.

Resource Production

Forest Products: Road accessible personal use, small scale commercial uses, and special forest products are the primary focus, concentrating actions within the existing transportation corridors and other areas where they are compatible with the fish and wildlife conservation, recreation and tourism emphasis. **Minerals:** Moderate amounts of acreage are withdrawn from mineral production to emphasize areas where fish and wildlife habitat, recreation and tourism opportunities, and wilderness resources are the primary values.

Use and Occupancy

Nonmotorized Access: Emphasize nonmotorized winter recreation while providing some areas for motorized use. Provide summer nonmotorized recreation opportunities. Allow motorized access for traditional subsistence uses. In designated areas separate motorized and nonmotorized users, provide for a variety of zones of use, either by area, season, or yearly allocation. Provide winter snowmobile access for traditional activities in Recommended Wilderness areas. **Natural Quiet:** Provide areas of reduced human generated noise close to communities and roads. Opportunities for solitude and quiet will be very high within 5 miles of the road system. Reduced noise will be designated around some campgrounds on the Kenai Peninsula. **Motorized Access:** Provide some areas for motorized use. In backcountry areas provide nonmotorized and motorized opportunities while emphasizing nonmotorized opportunities. Provide limited areas for summer off highway vehicle use. New roads may be built on limited portions of the Kenai Peninsula and from the Copper River Highway, primarily along the highway buffers. **Recreation/Tourism:** A mix of recreation opportunities will occur, with emphasis on nonmotorized recreation opportunities. Motorized recreation opportunities will occur with summer and winter opportunities available on the western Copper River Delta and winter motorized opportunities on the eastern Copper River Delta, current use areas within Prince William Sound, and specific areas on the Kenai Peninsula. Provide a variety of settings from primitive to rural recreation emphasizing the more primitive settings. **Wild and Scenic Rivers:** Approximately fifty percent of the eligible wild and scenic rivers are recommended. The recommended rivers and their level would be recommended where they are consistent with adjacent prescription. Refer to Tables H-1 and H-2 for the Wild and Scenic River and Research Natural Areas recommended for designation. **Wilderness Recommendations:** Recommend a diversity of wilderness within the Kenai Peninsula, Prince William Sound, and the Copper River Delta so that all ecological types are included within wilderness designation. **Private Property Rights:** Category 1 and 2 prescriptions are applied adjacent to most private property lands.

13. ALTERNATIVE DESCRIPTION NARRATIVE:

Forestwide

The Backcountry or Wilderness prescriptions are applied over areas with high value for fish and wildlife, or have outstanding scenic or backcountry recreational values. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Area prescription is applied to areas where endemic wildlife exist or zones where wildlife values have national significance. On portions of the Forest where motorized and nonmotorized recreation occurs, a combination of backcountry and backcountry motorized prescriptions are applied. In order to reduce conflicts between nonmotorized and motorized activities various "time shares" are utilized.

Kenai Peninsula (Active Management)

On the Kenai Peninsula, emphasize nonmotorized, dispersed recreation opportunities in the Johnson Pass, East Fork Sixmile, Grant Lake, and Resurrection River areas. These provide areas of reduced human generated noise close to communities and roads. The Developed Recreation Complex-Reduced Noise prescription is applied to the Cour d'Alene, Trail Creek, Bertha Creek, Blackbear and Primrose campgrounds to emphasize reduced human generated noise conditions close to the road system. The Fish, Wildlife and Recreation prescription is applied one-quarter mile on either side of the Seward/Sterling Hwy/Hope Highways and the Palmer Creek Road to emphasize developed recreation opportunities. The Fish, Wildlife and Recreation prescription is applied within the area near Hope, Portage Valley, and near Cooper Landing to emphasize a range of recreation opportunities and management options. Winter motorized use on the Kenai Peninsula is allowed; at Turnagain Pass on the west side of the highway, on the northwest side of Twentymile, on the west side of the Placer River all season, and the Lost Lake area from 12/1-2/15. The Backcountry Motorized prescription is applied on the northwest side of Turnagain Pass, Lost Lake, and Placer Valleys to provide continuation of current motorized patterns. The later two are "timeshare" with backcountry users. Lost Lake is motorized from 12/1 to 2/15, and Placer is nonmotorized after 3/1. Johnson Pass has the backcountry prescription applied, using a timeshare plan with snowmobile users on a year on/year off pattern.

The Resurrection Pass Trail allows the current 12/1 to 2/15 period of motorized use. The Backcountry prescription is applied to several larger areas (particularly the East side of Turnagain Pass, Seattle Creek and Manitoba Mountain areas) to provide for nonmotorized, quiet backcountry opportunities. Brown Bear Core Area is applied to the Resurrection and Russian River drainages, and the Crescent Lake and Trail Creek areas to provide emphasis for human use management in these important bear/human interface zones. The above designations, together with the backcountry and wilderness recommendations consolidate large blocks of lands together and should provide adequate long-term protection for brown bears within the Chugach Forest on the Kenai Peninsula. The Snow River Drainage, south to the forest boundary, has the Recommended Wilderness prescription applied. This provides wilderness in an ecologically representative area, while also serving as a conservation tool for brown bears on the Kenai.

Prince William Sound (Wilderness Values)

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation prescription is applied on Montague Island to protect the high value wildlife resources of this area, including several endemic mammals, a small isolated brown bear population, and many marine bird and fisheries species off the northern shore of Montague Island. The Recommended Wilderness prescription is applied to Hinchinbrook Island to provide representative wilderness on the outer islands of Prince William Sound. The Recommended Wilderness prescription is applied to the College Fjord/Upper Prince William Sound areas, including a two-mile wilderness buffer along the upper College Fjord tidewater glaciers to provide for a diversity of ecological and geographic conditions within wilderness areas. The upper Harvard Glacier, Yale Glacier, and Columbia Glacier areas are backcountry motorized to allow summer and winter helicopter recreation access from Valdez. Along the west side of the Port of Valdez, Recommended Wilderness is applied to protect the mountain goat population. Kings Bay and southwest Prince William Sound is designated as the Recommended Wilderness prescription to provide for the long-term protection of fish and wildlife habitat and provide a representative wilderness in the southwestern Prince William Sound area. The Backcountry prescription is applied on Evans and Elrington Islands to provide for small groups and minimal facilities with development nodes adjacent to the community of Chenega Bay. The backcountry prescription is applied to the area between Cordova and Valdez to provide for existing uses and patterns. The Backcountry prescription is applied around Passage Canal to Ester Island, through lower Port Wells south to the southeast section of Port Nellie Juan, to provide opportunities for small groups with minimal facilities, except for small nodes of development. The Recommended Wilderness prescription is applied to Blackstone Bay to provide a wilderness close to Whittier.

Copper River Delta (Conservation of Fish and Wildlife)

The 501(b) - Recommended Wilderness prescription on the eastern Copper River Delta is applied for the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats. Wilderness on the eastern Delta will additionally allow wildlife habitat restoration, enhancement, and research, as well as fisheries habitat restoration and enhancement (ANILCA 1315 (b)). The 501(b) - 2 prescription, with winter and summer motorized recreation use, is applied to the western side of the Copper River to emphasize the conservation for fish and wildlife and their habitats. This provides for dispersed recreational opportunities, as well as fish and wildlife habitat projects. Winter motorized uses are generally allowed within the western side of the Copper River Delta, though summer motorized uses are allowed within designated areas north and south of the Copper River Highway. Airboats and off highway vehicles (within designated areas) are allowed south of the Copper River Highway outside the critical nesting period (May 1-August 10). The 501(b) - 3 prescription is applied one half mile either side of the Copper River highway to provide for a variety of multiple uses, such as recreation/tourism opportunities, fish and wildlife habitat improvement projects, and personal uses of forest resources. Backcountry Motorized and Backcountry prescriptions are applied around Cordova to provide a mixture of motorized and nonmotorized opportunities. The Primitive prescription is applied to Power Creek to provide quiet and solitude close to Cordova.

The oil and gas areas are divided into four zones (see GIS data layers). Zone 1 is available for oil and gas development by the Chugach Alaska Corporation until their oil and gas rights terminate (1982, CNI Settlement Agreement). Zones 2, 3 and 4 are not available for leasing for oil and gas development.

The CNI Settlement Agreement of 1982 established two access routes to the Bering River coalfields. These two access routes are shown with the Major Transportation/Utility Systems prescription:

- The Carbon Mountain corridor provides access from the Copper River to the coalfields. The preliminary Carbon Mountain route was consolidated with the state's rights to construct the Bering River Highway as granted under the Omnibus Bill of 1959. A road easement was issued to Chugach Alaska Corporation on March 2000 for the Carbon Mountain access route.
- The second corridor is identified in the CNI Settlement Agreement as the Katalla route; this route provides access from the Bering River coalfields to the anticipated marine terminal.

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12. INTERESTS EMPHASIZED	
<p><u>Biological and Physical Elements</u> Ecological Systems: Emphasize preservation of intact ecosystems. Allow natural disturbances to occur over most of the forest. Emphasize natural processes throughout the forest to sustain ecological systems. Reforestation activities on the Kenai Peninsula highway corridor or around local communities should only include salvage of dead trees. Brown Bears: Emphasize protection of brown bear habitat. Minimize human induced disturbance to brown bear habitat on the Kenai Peninsula and Montague Island. Maintain travel corridors for brown bears from the Kenai Peninsula to the mainland. Fish and Wildlife: Protect existing riparian vegetation and habitats to protect anadromous fish and other aquatic organisms. Maintain the biodiversity and integrity of wild fish stocks and their habitats. Minimize any industrial activities within riparian zones, floodplains, and streambeds. Emphasize habitat restoration in areas where current use patterns have degraded fish and wildlife habitats.</p> <p><u>Resource Production</u> Forest Products: Provide for personal use of forest products throughout the forest. Provide for small scale, value added commercial forest product sales along the Kenai Peninsula Highway corridor and around the communities of Hope and Cooper Landing, Portage Valley, and the Copper River Highway. Minerals: Withdraw large areas from mineral entry.</p> <p><u>Use and Occupancy</u> Motorized Access: Emphasize nonmotorized recreation opportunities. Summer motorized uses are allowed only on designated routes and areas. Allow motorized uses for traditional subsistence uses. Provide opportunities for winter motorized users in backcountry motorized areas, and summer motorized uses in designated areas or trails with current motorized uses. In areas where conflicts exist with nonmotorized backcountry users implement time-share to segregate users. Recreation/Tourism: Provide primitive and</p>	

semi-primitive opportunities. Provide recreation settings of minimal facilities within undeveloped settings. **Natural Quiet:** Provide large areas of reduced human noise. Provide areas of reduced human noise adjacent to roads and communities. **Private Property Rights:** Category 1 prescriptions are applied adjacent to most private property lands. **Wild and Scenic Rivers:** Recommend most eligible rivers at the highest level each river segment qualifies. Refer to Tables H-1 and H-2 for the Wild and Scenic River and Research Natural Areas recommended for designation. **Wilderness Recommendations:** Large amounts of the Forest are recommended for wilderness.

13. ALTERNATIVE DESCRIPTION NARRATIVE

Kenai Peninsula (Active Management)

The Recommended Wilderness prescription is applied throughout the Peninsula. Wilderness recommendations are located in the Twentymile River, Seattle Creek, Resurrection Creek, Russian River, Resurrection River, and the upper North Fork Snow River to Trail Lake area to provide wilderness areas close to the major communities on the Peninsula and include ecologically representative areas. A 300-foot wide 501b - 2 prescription is applied along the Resurrection Pass and Devils Pass Trails, American Pass and Chickaloon Pass Trails, primarily to provide mountain bike, and other nonmotorized mechanized access uses. The Backcountry prescription is applied to the Ptarmigan Lake, Southeast Turnagain Pass, Manitoba Mountain/Canyon Creek areas to emphasize current backcountry uses adjacent to the highway system. Slopes along Kenai Lake have the Backcountry prescription applied to minimize interactions between humans and brown bears. The 501b - 2 prescription, modified to allow winter snowmobile uses, is applied to the Placer River drainage, Summit Lake, Palmer Creek, lower Sixmile Creek and Summit Lake area to emphasize protection of fish and wildlife habitat, backcountry recreation values, but still provide for winter snowmobile use. Fish and Wildlife Conservation prescription is applied through the central Kenai Peninsula to emphasize protection of fish and wildlife, particularly brown bears in this bear/human interface zone. This prescription also allows winter motorized use if it is consistent with the conservation of fish and wildlife. All Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers (except Bear Creek and the Kenai River) and Research Natural Areas are included.

Prince William Sound (Wilderness Values)

The Recommended Wilderness prescription is applied in all areas of western Prince William Sound, except for the Passage Canal area, Esther Island, and the area between Main and McClure Bays. This provides large contiguous block of representative ecosystems within wilderness. Wilderness is also in close proximity to Whittier and Valdez to provide a primitive experience adjacent to these communities. The Recommended Wilderness prescription is distributed across the landscape to allow snowmobile access from the Kenai Peninsula to the Prince William Sound. The upper Harvard Glacier, Yale Glacier, and Columbia Glacier areas are backcountry motorized to allow helicopter access from Valdez. The Backcountry prescription is applied in Passage Canal to accommodate recreation demand consistent with dispersed recreation opportunities with few or minimal facilities. The Backcountry prescription (large group access with no or limited facilities) is applied to Harrison Lagoon, Northern Culross Island, the northwest entrance to Culross Passage, and in McClure Bay to provide large group access opportunities in primitive settings. The Backcountry prescription is applied to the area between Sawmill Bay and Columbia Glacier to provide access to backcountry recreation opportunities close to Valdez.

The Backcountry prescription is applied on the east side of the Valdez Arm to Nelson Bay to provide for existing uses, primarily from the communities of Tatitlek and Cordova. The Primitive prescription is applied to St. Matthews Bay, Beartrap Bay, and Gravina River to emphasize preservation of the intact ecosystem in upper Port Gravina. The Recommended Wilderness prescription is applied to Hinchinbrook Island to preserve wildlife habitats and populations, as well as provide an ecologically representative (outer island) wilderness area. The Backcountry Motorized prescription is applied to provide for existing motorized opportunities on the east end of Hinchinbrook Island at Boswell Bay. The Backcountry prescription is applied on Montague and Hawkins Islands to maintain existing uses, primarily from the communities of Cordova and Tatitlek, and to protect important wildlife habitats from increasing use of off highway vehicles and other recreational activities.

Copper River Delta (Conservation of Fish and Wildlife)

The Backcountry Motorized prescription and Recommended Wilderness prescription are applied adjacent to Cordova (Heney Range, Power Creek and Scott Glacier) to provide for both motorized and nonmotorized opportunities adjacent to Cordova. The 501(b) - Recommended Wilderness prescription is applied to the east side of the Copper River Delta and upper east and west sides of Copper River to emphasize the protection of the abundant fish and wildlife and their natural ecosystem processes and disturbances. The 501(b) - 2 prescription, with allowance for summer and winter recreation motorized use, is applied to the western side of

the Copper River Delta, south of the Copper River Highway to emphasize the conservation for fish and wildlife and their habitats. This provides for dispersed recreational opportunities, as well as fish and wildlife habitat projects. Winter motorized uses are generally allowed within the western side of the Copper River Delta, though in addition summer motorized uses are allowed within designated areas north of the Copper River Highway. Airboats and off highway vehicles (within designated areas) are allowed south of the Copper River Highway outside of the critical nesting period (May 1- Aug 10).

The oil and gas areas are divided into four zones (see GIS data layers). Zone 1 is available for oil and gas development by the Chugach Alaska Corporation until their oil and gas rights terminate (1982, CNI Settlement Agreement). Zones 2, 3 and 4 are not available for leasing for oil and gas development.

The CNI Settlement Agreement of 1982 established two access routes to the Bering River coalfields. These two access routes are shown with the Major Transportation/Utility Systems prescription:

- The Carbon Mountain corridor provides access from the Copper River to the coalfields. The preliminary Carbon Mountain route was consolidated with the state's rights to construct the Bering River Highway as granted under the Omnibus Bill of 1959. A road easement was issued to Chugach Alaska Corporation on March 2000 for the Carbon Mountain access route.
- The second corridor is identified in the CNI Settlement Agreement as the Katalla route; this route provides access from the Bering River coalfields to the anticipated marine terminal.

CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST FOREST PLAN REVISION ALTERNATIVE IDENTIFICATION FORM	
1. DATE: <u>March 20, 2000.</u>	7. ALTERNATIVE NAME or TITLE: <u>F</u> 8. ALTERNATIVE TYPE: FULL <u>XX</u> PARTIAL _____ 9. VERSION of BASE MAP USED: <u>February 1, 2000</u> 10. VERSION of TOOLBOX USED:
2. DEVELOPER(S): <u>Composite</u> 3. ORGANIZATION: <u>CNF/Public</u> 4. CONTACT NAME: <u>IDT</u> 5. CONTACT PHONE #: _____	6. APPLICABLE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION FORESTWIDE KENAI PENINSULA PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND COPPER RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION (WA#:_) WATERSHED (Watershed #:_____) OTHER SPECIFIC LOCATION:
11. ALTERNATIVE THEME (Emphasis by Situations) Ecosystems: Emphasize maintenance of ecological systems through an active mix of conservation of fish and wildlife habitats, natural landscapes, prescribed burns, reforestation and naturally occurring disturbance processes. Fish & Wildlife: Emphasize primarily natural processes to sustain and conserve habitats of fish and wildlife species. Recreation/Tourism: Emphasize nonmotorized backcountry opportunities, minimal recreation facilities, and undeveloped recreation settings. Emphasize a mix of motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities adjacent to communities. Resource Development: Emphasize personal use forest products throughout the forest and small-scale commercial opportunities. Provide access to resources traditionally used for subsistence. Designations: Emphasize wilderness, wild and scenic river designation, and research natural area designations to maintain the integrity of wildlands and protect a diversity of important fish and wildlife habitats within wilderness or Wild and Scenic River recommendations.	12. INTERESTS EMPHASIZED <u>Biological and Physical Elements</u> Ecological Systems: Emphasize preservation of intact ecosystems and integrity of roadless areas across the Forest. Allow natural disturbances to occur over most of the Forest. Emphasize natural processes throughout the Forest to sustain ecological systems and healthy watersheds. Emphasize vegetative management adjacent to Kenai Peninsula communities to reduce fuels and enhance wildlife habitat. Reforestation activities related to spruce bark beetle mortality on the Kenai Peninsula highway corridor or around local communities should only include salvage of dead trees. Brown Bears: Emphasize active management of human use within bear habitat to minimize the defense of life and property risk and brown bear mortality through protection of important seasonal feeding areas and contiguous travel corridors on the Kenai Peninsula and Montague Island. Fish and Wildlife: Protect existing riparian vegetation and habitats to sustain anadromous fish and other aquatic organisms. Protect the biodiversity and integrity of wild fish stocks and their habitats to maintain sustainable fisheries for subsistence, commercial, and sport uses. Emphasize restoration of degraded fish and wildlife habitats. <u>Resource Production</u> Forest Products: Provide personal use forest products throughout the forest. Emphasize conservation of fish and wildlife habitats and roadless areas while providing commercial forest products consistent with consensus of local preferences. Minerals: Withdrawal of large areas from mineral entry.

Use and Occupancy

Motorized and Nonmotorized Access: Emphasize a mix of motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities. Summer motorized use is allowed only as designated on routes and roads. Reduce conflicts between winter nonmotorized and motorized users by maximizing temporal zoning where fish and wildlife conservation objectives are met. Provide additional recreation opportunities through winter helicopter landings utilizing temporal zoning, where fish and wildlife conservation objectives are met. Provide a variety of zoning, by area, season, or year allocation, in areas where conflict exists. Apply prescriptions to maintain historic snowmachine use. **Recreation/Tourism:** Provide a mix of recreation opportunities, with emphasis on nonmotorized and primitive settings to compliment access on adjacent lands. Motorized recreation and tourism opportunities occur consistent with the time-share areas specified. Provide a range of settings from primitive to semi-developed recreation, with emphasis on primitive. Provide settings with minimal facilities within undeveloped areas to offset and compliment more developed recreation/tourism activities on adjacent lands. **Private Property Rights:** Category 1 prescriptions are applied adjacent to most private property lands. **Wild and Scenic Rivers:** All eligible Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers are recommended.. **Wilderness Recommendations:** Large areas within inventoried roadless areas are recommended for wilderness to protect their roadless character while providing for wilderness tourism opportunities. Wilderness areas are recommended to provide for fish and wildlife habitat protection important for non-consumptive, subsistence, commercial, and sport uses.

Road construction and reconstruction activities including temporary road construction is prohibited in the unroaded portions of inventoried roadless areas.

A 501(b) – 2 prescription buffer on established trails is applied to provide opportunities for continued use of nonmotorized, mechanized equipment in the Recommended wilderness areas. Refer to Tables H-1 and H-2 for the Wild and Scenic River and Research Natural Areas recommended for designation within the alternative.

13. ALTERNATIVE DESCRIPTION NARRATIVE**Forestwide**

A variety of prescriptions are applied across the Forest both to meet a diversity of interests while ensuring naturally functioning ecosystems. The Recommended Wilderness prescription is applied across the forest to embody ecologically representative areas, which include natural quiet, subsistence resources, small-scale logging, spiritual opportunities, scenic integrity, air and water quality, recreation, local values for primitive settings, and the economic diversification derived from wilderness values.

Kenai Peninsula (Active Management)

A variety of prescriptions are used on the Peninsula to accommodate a diversity of interests while prioritizing the health and viability of intact naturally functioning ecosystems. Prescriptions presume current general use patterns, while attempting to minimize conflicts between motorized/nonmotorized uses and provide contiguous travel/feeding corridors for brown bears and other wildlife in order to provide long-term protection. The Fish, Wildlife and Recreation prescription is applied one-quarter mile on either side of most road corridors to allow for developed recreation opportunities. Exceptions are applied where there are known wildlife populations, wildlife travel corridors, or sensitive habitat. The Fish, Wildlife and Conservation prescription is applied to the areas along Turnagain Arm on its southern shore, the corridor along the Whittier tunnel/road (to provide an important wildlife travel routes on and off the Peninsula), the Sterling Highway (south of Resurrection Trail) where biologists have identified a brown bear travel route, and the Sterling Highway where Quartz Creek runs parallel, in order to prioritize its fishery values. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation prescription is applied in areas where fish and wildlife values are identified and prioritized. This prescription allows for motorized recreation activities on the condition that fish and wildlife priorities are met. In areas where this prescription is used and current conflict is recognized between motorized and nonmotorized users, temporal zoning was used. Timesharing is applied as follows: Placer River Valley south to the Spencer Glacier to allow for snow machining and heli-skiing 12/1 to 2/15; Lost Lake area to allow for snow machining 12/1 to 2/15; Johnson Pass to allow for snow machining year on/year off.

Other areas of conflict may also have temporal zoning applied. The Backcountry Motorized prescription is applied in areas of established snow machining activities and areas that have been identified for winter heli-skiing activities. This prescription and the Backcountry prescription are applied to approximately maintain the current motorized/nonmotorized divisions, such as in Turnagain Pass. The Developed Recreation Reduced Noise prescription is applied to campgrounds along Portage Road to give visitors opportunities for quiet experiences. Utilizing this prescription gives visitors using motorized methods of transportation an opportunity for quiet.

Wilderness recommendations are located in the Twentymile River, Seattle Creek, Resurrection Valley, Russian River, Snow River to Trail Lakes, and Quartz Creek areas to provide wilderness values adjacent to major communities and include ecologically representative areas. The western Recommended Wilderness areas (Resurrection and Russian Lakes) that border Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and Kenai Fjords National Park are compatible with management activities on those bordering lands. Where there are established trail systems, such as the Resurrection, a 1/8-mile corridor is in place to exclude the trail itself to ensure established and accepted uses, such as mountain biking and snow machining, are continued.

Prince William Sound (Wilderness Values)

The Recommended Wilderness prescription is applied in all areas of western Prince William Sound, except for the Passage Canal area, Esther Island, and the area between Main and McClure Bays. This provides large contiguous blocks of representative ecosystems throughout the area, maintaining compatibility with the intent of the Wilderness Study Area and with EVOS acquisitions. Wilderness is also recommended in close proximity to Whittier and Valdez to provide a primitive experience close to these communities. Wilderness will also maintain current use patterns of important subsistence and commercial fisheries in Prince William Sound. Wilderness is recommended in close proximity to Whittier and Valdez to provide a primitive experience close to these communities. Recommended Wilderness is applied to Montague Island to preserve the high value wildlife resources of this area, including several endemic mammals, a small isolated brown bear population, and many marine bird and fisheries species off the northern shore. Hawkins and Hinchinbrook Islands are recommended wilderness to preserve wildlife habitats and populations, as well as ecologically representative wilderness areas on the outer islands of Prince William Sound.

The Backcountry prescription is applied in Passage Canal to accommodate recreation demand for dispersed recreation opportunities with few or minimal facilities. Private or state lands in the area are assumed to provide opportunities for larger group demand. The Backcountry prescription (large group access with no or limited facilities) is applied at sites near Harrison Lagoon, Northern Culross Island and the northwest entrance to Culross Passage to provide for additional bow landing opportunities for up to 60 people. No facilities will be built on these sites in order to provide large group sizes with a primitive experience. The Backcountry prescription is applied on the east side of Valdez Arm to Nelson Bay to provide for existing uses, primarily from the communities of Tatitlek and Cordova. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation prescription is applied to St. Matthews and Beartrap Bays to emphasize management of brown bear populations in the area.

The Backcountry Motorized prescription is applied to the area between Sawmill Bay and Columbia Glacier to provide motorized access in close proximity to Valdez and accommodate existing snowmobile use on the north edge of the forest. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation prescription is applied to the east end of Hinchinbrook Island at Boswell Bay to provide for continued motorized use while emphasizing the priority of important fish and wildlife habitats in the area.

Copper River Delta (Conservation of Fish and Wildlife)

The Backcountry Motorized and Recommended Wilderness prescriptions are applied adjacent to Cordova (Heney Range, Power Creek and Scott Glacier) to provide both motorized and nonmotorized opportunities close to town. Backcountry Motorized and Fish and Wildlife Conservation prescriptions (Humpback Creek area) also allow for personal uses of forest products.

The Recommended Wilderness prescription is applied to the remaining western and eastern Copper River Delta to emphasize the protection of abundant fish and wildlife and natural ecosystem processes and disturbances. Wilderness on the west Delta should allow for wildlife habitat restoration, enhancement, and research.

The Fish, Wildlife and Recreation prescription is applied ¼ mile on either side of the road corridor to allow for developed recreation nodes along the highway.

All Research Natural Areas and eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers are included in the Copper River Delta.

The oil and gas areas are divided into four zones (see GIS data layers). Zone 1 is available for oil and gas development by the Chugach Alaska Corporation until their oil and gas rights terminate (1982, CNI Settlement Agreement). Zones 2, 3 and 4 are not available for leasing for oil and gas development.

The CNI Settlement Agreement of 1982 established two access routes to the Bering River coalfields. These two access routes are shown with the Major Transportation/Utility Systems prescription:

- The Carbon Mountain corridor provides access from the Copper River to the coalfields. The preliminary Carbon Mountain route was consolidated with the state's rights to construct the Bering River Highway as granted under the Omnibus Bill of 1959. A road easement was issued to Chugach Alaska Corporation on March 2000 for the Carbon Mountain access route.
- The second corridor is identified in the CNI Settlement Agreement as the Katalla route; this route provides access from the Bering River coalfields to the anticipated marine terminal.

Table H-1: Wild and Scenic River designation by alternative.

Wild and Scenic River Name	Alternative							
	No Action	Preferred	A	B	C	D	E	F
Alaganik Slough							S	S
Bear Creek								R
Bering River - lower							S	S
Bering River – upper							W*	W*
Canyon Creek							S	S
Cascade Creek					W*	W*	W*	W*
Coghill River							W*	W*
Columbia Glacier					S	S		W*
Copper Delta Road Corridor							S	S
Copper River - lower							W*	W*
Copper River - upper							W*	W*
East Fork Sixmile Creek		R		R	R	S	S	S
Katalla River - lower							S	S
Katalla River – upper							W*	W*
Kenai River								R
Martin River – CNI Rd Corr						S	S	S
Martin River						W*	W*	W*
Martin Glacier						W*	W*	W*
Nellie Juan River		W*			S	S	W*	W*
Nellie Martin River - lower							S	S
Nellie Martin River - upper							W	W*
Number One River								W*
Palmer Creek					R	S	S	S
Portage Creek		R					R	R
Portage Lake - lower							S	S
Portage Lake - upper							W	W
Portage Glacier							W	W
Russian River – lower		R					S	S
Russian River - upper		W					W*	W*
Sixmile Creek		R		R	S	S	S	S
Snow River - lower		S		R	S	W*	W	W*
Snow River - upper		W		R	S	W*	W	W*
Twentymile River		S					W*	W*

R= Recreational River
 S= Scenic
 W= Wild

* These sections of Wild and Scenic Rivers are also within Recommended Wilderness.

Table H-2: Research Natural Area by alternative.

RNA Name	Alternative							
	No Action	Preferred	A	B	C	D	E	F
Green Island	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
Cedar Bay				P*	P*	P*	P*	P*
Columbia Glacier-Granite Cove	P*					P*	P*	P*
Copper Sands	P	P			P	P	P*	P*
Cutoff Creek						P*		P*
Kenai Lake-Black Mountain	P	P		P	P	P	P	P
Olsen Creek		P		P	P	P	P	P
Wolverine Glacier	P*	P*				P*	P*	P*
Blackstone Glacier	P*							
Harvard Glacier	P*							
Pete Dahl Slough	P							
Schwan Glacier Terminus	P							

E = existing RNA

P = proposed RNA

* These Research Natural Areas are also within Recommended Wilderness