



United States
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Alaska Region
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Helicopter Access to Conduct Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) in Wilderness

Final Environmental Impact Statement



Helicopter Access to Conduct Forest Inventory and Analysis in Wilderness EIS

Key Acronyms

ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
ANILCA	Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act
BA	Biological Assessment
BE	Biological Evaluation
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CSU	Conservation System Unit
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DLP	Defense of Life and Property
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FIA	Forest Inventory and Analysis Program
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
Forest Plan	Chugach or Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan
FSM	Forest Service Manual
GIS	Geographic Information System
IDT	Interdisciplinary Team
LUD	Land Use Designation
MIS	Management Indicator Species
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFMA	National Forest Management Act
NFS	National Forest System
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOI	Notice of Intent
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
PNW	Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station
ROD	Record of Decision
ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SOPA	Schedule of Proposed Actions
TTRA	Tongass Timber Reform Act
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WSA	Wilderness Study Area

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Lead Agency:	USDA Forest Service Alaska Regional Office
Responsible Official	Dennis E. Bschor Regional Forester Alaska Region
For Information Contact:	Ken Post Alaska Regional Office P.O. Box 21628 Juneau, AK 99802-1628 (907) 586-8796

Abstract:

The USDA Forest Service considered authorizing the use of helicopters to access FIA plots within the wilderness areas of the Tongass National Forest and a wilderness study area on the Chugach National Forest. This Final EIS describes five action alternatives, including the Proposed Action, and the No Action alternative. There are a total of 913 plots that would be inventoried over a ten-year period. The Proposed Action would authorize helicopter access to 540 plots. The significant issues identified are effects to wilderness character, wildlife, and employee safety. The Preferred Alternative is Alternative 1 (walk to all plots). In addition, excluding the non-forested plots (267 plots) was analyzed and could be applied to any of the action alternatives.

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