

Chugach National Forest Plan Revision

Fall 2013 Public Forum Series



Meeting Objectives

Have a focused, informed dialogue, regarding:

- The planning process – schedule, milestones, status
- Themes from public input and findings from the preliminary Assessment on specific topics.
- Potential themes/opportunities to inform plan revision.
- Next steps and opportunities for providing feedback.

Meeting Agenda

Welcome + Introductions

- Tonight’s agenda and meeting objectives.
- Overview of process and schedule – what we’ve done; where we are today; challenges along the way.
- “Narrative of the Forest” – what we’ve heard; what you should know about the Chugach.

What We’ve Heard, Learned + Potential Topics/Opportunities for Plan Revision

- Themes from public input-to-date.
- Assessment findings.
- Potential topics/opportunities for Plan Revision.

Closing Comments + Next Steps

- Review key outcomes of tonight’s meeting.
- Revisit schedule and future opportunities to provide feedback.
- Share contact information and tools for providing feedback.

Public Forum Locations + Dates

Where	When
Valdez	Monday, September 23rd
Cooper Landing/Moose Pass	Tuesday, September 24th
Soldotna	Wednesday, September 25th
Seward	Thursday, September 26th
Cordova	Monday, September 30th
Girdwood/Whittier	Wednesday, October 2nd
Anchorage	Thursday, October 3rd
Hope	TBD

For more information: www.fs.usda.gov/chugach



CHUGACH FOREST PLAN REVISION

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND as of 9/20/13

WHO WE ARE

- The mission of the U.S. Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.
- USFS manages the 5.4 million acre Chugach National Forest.
- Current forest plan is the 2002 Revised Land and Resource Management Plan and amendments.

WHAT IS A FOREST PLAN?

- A comprehensive plan to guide forest management over the next fifteen years.
- The Plan provides the framework for integrated resource management (recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, historic and sacred sites, vegetation, mineral exploration and development, and timber) and for guiding project and activity decision making.
- Includes objectives, standards and guidelines for "desired conditions" to be achieved through land management.
- Identifies areas that are or may be suitable for various multiple uses or activities such as research natural areas, wild and scenic rivers, and Wilderness.

WHERE DOES THE PLAN APPLY?

- Management direction applies on National Forest System (NFS) land within the boundaries of Chugach National Forest.

WHY DOES THE REVISION PROCESS MATTER?

- Chugach National Forest is the backyard for nearly half of the State's population. It is a place where hundreds of thousands of people live, work, and play.
- Plan will be in place by 2017 and inform management over the next fifteen years!
- We will confirm what is working with the 2002 plan, and identify where there is a need for change.

WHY REVISE NOW?

- National USFS policy requires plans to be revised at least every fifteen years.
- Chugach National Forest was selected as one of eight forests nationwide to be an "early adopter" of the 2012 National Forest System Planning Rule.

WHAT IS THE "NEW RULE"?

- The USFS recently adopted at the national level an improved process and direction for preparing or revising Forest Plans. Features include:
 - A quicker, more streamlined and efficient three year process.
 - A three phase process: assessment, revision, monitoring.
 - Enhanced commitment to collaboration and public engagement across all three phases including engaging new audiences such as youth.
 - Taking an "all lands" perspective: many trends and emerging issues like demographic shifts and climate change require looking beyond our forest boundaries.
 - Best available science; sustainability and "ecosystem services."
 - Continued emphasis on multiple use.