From: Cooper, Laurie - FS
To: "rep.geran.tarr@akleg.gov"
Subject: RE: RELEASE: Chugach National Forest Plan, draft Record of Decision
Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 8:27:00 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png

Good morning Representative Tarr,

Thank your email and interest in the 2019 Chugach National Forest Plan.

Under the draft record of decision for 2019 Chugach National Forest Land Management Plan, management of inventoried roadless areas on the Chugach National Forest will remain consistent with the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. The 2019 Chugach Plan revision is separate from the ongoing Alaska Roadless Rulemaking process, which is focused on the Tongass National Forest. You can find more detailed information specific to the Alaska Roadless rulemaking on the project website (https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54511) or the Alaska Roadless Rule information page (https://www.fs.usda.gov/roadmain/roadless/alaskaroadlessrule).

During development of the 2019 Chugach Forest Plan, the primary interests of local communities related to wood products was the provision of fuelwood. Based on a timber suitability analysis, the record of decision identifies no lands as suitable for commercial timber production. The decision does allow for management of wood products for other purposes, including small commercial sales for both timber and fuelwood, as part of an integrated vegetation management program.

The Plan also recommends nearly 1.4 million acres, within the 1.9 million acre Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area, for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This recommendation is the same as the 2002 Land Management Plan, except for a slight reduction of total acres due to conveyed lands and shoreline changes from receding tidewater glaciers. Wilderness recommendations were of interest to many stakeholders. Interests communicated with the Forest Service ranged from having no recommended Wilderness to recommending an area larger than the 1.9 million acre Wilderness Study Area. The recommendation in the Record of Decision seeks to provide balance to public and stakeholder interests.

Please let me know if you have any follow-up questions.

Laurie

Laurie Cooper
Legislative Affairs Specialist

Forest Service
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From: Rep. Geran Tarr [mailto:Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov]
Sent: Friday, September 6, 2019 4:18 PM
To: Cooper, Laurie - FS <laurie.cooper@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: RELEASE: Chugach National Forest Plan, draft Record of Decision

Hi Laurie – I really appreciate the outreach. The issue I've been following lately is the roadless policy. I don't recall the Chugach being as impacted as the Tongass, but could you help point me to information on issues related to this and the Chugach? From looking at the maps it looks like this alternative recommends substantial areas of wilderness, but I'm having trouble finding areas that would have active timber management.

Thanks!

Representative Geran Tarr
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From: Cooper, Laurie - FS <laurie.cooper@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 9:17 AM
To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>
Subject: FW: RELEASE: Chugach National Forest Plan, draft Record of Decision

Good morning Representative Tarr,

Today, the USDA Forest Service released its draft record of decision and final environmental impact statement for the 2019 Land Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest. The Forest Service developed the Land Management Plan by working directly with the State, tribes and communities, and people who work, subsist, and recreate on the forest. The 2019 Land Management Plan will allow for flexible, active management of the landscape to foster sustainable, productive use of the national forest, while balancing the need to maintain healthy and resilient forest ecosystems and to help provide for economic stability to meet the needs of the communities served. It will guide all management decisions and activities on the 5.4 million acre Chugach National Forest.

The legal notice of availability was published today in the Federal Register and opens a 60-day objection period. The objection process gives stakeholders a chance to bring forward any unresolved concerns shared during formal comment periods, or concerns related to information not available during comment periods. Objections will be reviewed by the Regional Forester before the Forest Supervisor renders a decision.

More information on how to participate in the objection period, the draft record of decision, the 2019 Land Management Plan, the final environmental impact statement, and associated documents is available on the project website at:
http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/chugach/planrevision

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Laurie

Laurie Cooper
Legislative Affairs Specialist

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Contact: Alicia King 907-231-0172 alicia.king@usda.gov
Twitter: @ChugachForestAK

Release of the Chugach National Forest Land Management Plan Draft Record of Decision Opens 60-day Objection Period

Anchorage, AK, August 30, 2019 - The Chugach National Forest has released its draft record of decision, final environmental impact statement, and final 2019 Land Management Plan, opening a 60-day objection period.

The Chugach National Forest plays a key role in the economic sustainability of south-central Alaska, supporting 4,100 jobs in recreation and the sport and commercial fishing industries, valued at more than $31 million. There are more than 370 special use authorizations on the forest including fish hatcheries, hydroelectric facilities, concessionaires, cabins, resorts and outfitters and guides. Six rural communities within the forest also harvest an average of 203 pounds per person of edible wild renewable resources every year.

"The proposed plan was developed working directly with the state, tribes and communities and people who work, subsist, and recreate on the forest," said Forest Supervisor, Jeff Schramm. "More than 30 public meetings, workshops, and thousands of public comments have shaped its development."

The plan will guide all management decisions and activities on the 5.4 million acre Chugach National Forest. The final environmental impact statement analyzes environmental, social, and economic effects, while the draft record of decision describes the alternative that will become the final Plan, and documents the decision and rationale for its approval.
The plan allows for flexible landscape-scale management that supports sustainable, productive use of the forest. The plan outlines collaborative relationships and social, economic and ecologic sustainability as future management goals. The plan was also designed to adapt management to respond to changing conditions on the landscape and in the social and economic environment. Collaboration and partnerships are emphasized throughout the plan as a means to achieve shared management goals across all land ownerships.

The objection process gives stakeholders a chance to bring forward any unresolved concerns shared during formal comment periods, or concerns related to information not available during comment periods. Objections will be reviewed by the Regional Forester before the Forest Supervisor renders a decision.

Objections must be submitted to the Objection Reviewing Officer by one of the following methods:
1. Electronically to the Objection Reviewing Officer via the CARA objection web form: https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=40816. Electronic submissions must be submitted in a format (Word, PDF, or Rich Text) that is readable and searchable with optical character recognition software. An automated response will confirm that the electronic objection was received.

2. Via regular mail, carrier, or hand delivery to the following address: USDA Forest Service, Attn: Objection Reviewing Officer, Alaska Region, 709 W. 9th Street, Juneau, AK 99801, or P.O. Box 21628, Juneau, AK 99801. Note that the office hours for submitting a hand-delivered objection are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Alaska Time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.
3. Via fax to (907) 586-7840. Faxes must be addressed to "Objection Reviewing Officer." The fax coversheet should specify the number of pages being submitted.
Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

Find more information on how to participate in the objection period, the draft record of decision, the 2019 Land Management Plan, the final environmental impact statement, and associated documents by visiting the project website at http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/chugach/planrevision.

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