

Planning for the Future of the Chugach National Forest



A Survey of Alaskan Residents

Please return your completed questionnaire and map
in the enclosed envelope to:



Environmental Science Department
Alaska Pacific University
4101 University Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

PART 1. Your familiarity with the Chugach National Forest.

Q-1 Are you aware that there is a national forest in Southcentral Alaska called the Chugach National Forest? (Please circle one response).

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

GO TO QUESTION 2 BELOW

We do not want to take your time by asking you questions about the Chugach National Forest. We would, however, like to have you answer a few questions about yourself and your family.

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Q-2 About how many times during the last 12 months have you visited the Chugach National Forest? If you are unsure about the boundary of the Forest, see the enclosed Chugach National Forest map. (Please circle one response).

- 1 **Never**
- 2 **1 or 2 times**
- 3 **3 to 5 times**
- 4 **6 to 10 times**
- 5 **More than 10 times**

Q-3 Does anyone in your household earn income from the sales of Chugach National Forest products or from commercial services that depend on access to the forest? (Please circle one response)

- 1 **Yes** **Please describe the source of the income:** _____
- 2 **No** _____
- 3 **Unsure**

Q-4 What percent of your household's food is obtained from subsistence fishing, hunting, or gathering *on Chugach National Forest lands*? (Please circle one response)

- 1 **None**
- 2 **1 - 25%**
- 3 **26 - 50%**
- 4 **51-75%**
- 5 **76 - 100%**
- 6 **No opinion**

Q-5 In general, how interested are you in what happens to the Chugach National Forest in the next 10-15 years? (Please circle one response).

- 1 **Not interested**
- 2 **Somewhat interested**
- 3 **Moderately interested**
- 4 **Very interested**
- 5 **No opinion**

PART 2. What do you think about the possible uses of the Chugach National Forest?

Q-6 There are many possible public uses of the Chugach National Forest. Please tell us whether you *favor* or *oppose* managing the Forest for the following uses. (Please circle one response for each item).

EXAMPLE	STRONGLY FAVOR	FAVOR	NEITHER FAVOR OR OPPOSE	OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE
Siteseeing (including driving for pleasure)	STRONGLY FAVOR	FAVOR	NEITHER FAVOR OR OPPOSE	OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE
Camping and picnicking	STRONGLY FAVOR	FAVOR	NEITHER FAVOR OR OPPOSE	OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE
Fish and wildlife habitat	STRONGLY FAVOR	FAVOR	NEITHER FAVOR OR OPPOSE	OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE
Commercial logging	STRONGLY FAVOR	FAVOR	NEITHER FAVOR OR OPPOSE	OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE
Commercial mining	STRONGLY FAVOR	FAVOR	NEITHER FAVOR OR OPPOSE	OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE
Commercial tourism	STRONGLY FAVOR	FAVOR	NEITHER FAVOR OR OPPOSE	OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE
Sport fishing	STRONGLY FAVOR	FAVOR	NEITHER FAVOR OR OPPOSE	OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE
Sport hunting	STRONGLY FAVOR	FAVOR	NEITHER FAVOR OR OPPOSE	OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE
Subsistence hunting/fishing	STRONGLY FAVOR	FAVOR	NEITHER FAVOR OR OPPOSE	OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE
Wildlife viewing/observing	STRONGLY FAVOR	FAVOR	NEITHER FAVOR OR OPPOSE	OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE
Gathering forest products (e.g., berries, mushrooms)	STRONGLY FAVOR	FAVOR	NEITHER FAVOR OR OPPOSE	OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE
Providing fresh water	STRONGLY FAVOR	FAVOR	NEITHER FAVOR OR OPPOSE	OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE
Non-motorized recreation (e.g., hiking, backpacking, canoeing)	STRONGLY FAVOR	FAVOR	NEITHER FAVOR OR OPPOSE	OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE
Motorized recreation (e.g., off-road vehicles, snowmobiles, power boating, jet skiing)	STRONGLY FAVOR	FAVOR	NEITHER FAVOR OR OPPOSE	OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE
Oil/gas drilling	STRONGLY FAVOR	FAVOR	NEITHER FAVOR OR OPPOSE	OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE
Commercial outfitting/guiding	STRONGLY FAVOR	FAVOR	NEITHER FAVOR OR OPPOSE	OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE
Communication sites & utility easements	STRONGLY FAVOR	FAVOR	NEITHER FAVOR OR OPPOSE	OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE
Helicopter skiing/hiking	STRONGLY FAVOR	FAVOR	NEITHER FAVOR OR OPPOSE	OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE
Wilderness	STRONGLY FAVOR	FAVOR	NEITHER FAVOR OR OPPOSE	OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE
Other _____	STRONGLY FAVOR	FAVOR	NEITHER FAVOR OR OPPOSE	OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE

PART 3. This section seeks your opinions about some important issues for the Chugach National Forest in the next 10-15 years.

Q-7a In your opinion, how much *new* road building should occur on the Chugach National Forest in the next 10-15 years? (Please circle one response).

- 1 No new roads.**
- 2 A few new roads (5 or fewer).**
- 3 Many new roads (more than 5).**
- 4 No opinion.**

SKIP TO QUESTION 8 ON THIS PAGE

Q-7b Forest roads may be constructed for different purposes. Under what condition(s) is new road building acceptable to you? (Please circle all responses that apply)

- 1 Commercial timber harvesting.**
- 2 Access for backcountry off-road vehicle and snowmachine use.**
- 3 Scenic road touring and siteseeing.**
- 4 Sport and subsistence hunting and fishing.**
- 5 Vegetation management (e.g., cutting dead trees/brush, planting/seeding).**
- 6 No opinion.**
- 7 Other (please specify) _____**

Q-8 Congressionally designated wilderness is devoted to recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical purposes. Wilderness also provides solitude and near pristine environments. In general, road-building, logging, mining, and permanent structures are prohibited in Wilderness areas.

Wilderness areas *in Alaska* may allow the construction and maintenance of cabins; the use of motorized vehicles such as snowmobiles, motorboats and aircraft; temporary fishing and hunting camps; and subsistence uses by both natives and non-natives. The current Forest Plan (1984) recommended some 1.7 million acres (about 1/3 of the Forest) for wilderness designation (which has yet to acted upon by Congress). How much of the Chugach National Forest would you like to see recommended to Congress as Wilderness? (Please circle one response).

- 1 None.**
- 2 Less than 1.7 million acres.**
- 3 1.7 million acres (1984 Forest Plan recommendation).**
- 4 More than 1.7 million acres.**
- 5 No opinion.**

Q-9 Timber harvesting (logging) may occur for any of several management purposes on the Chugach National Forest. Under what conditions is logging acceptable to you? (Please circle **all** that apply)

- 1 Do not support logging for any reason.**
- 2 Logging for commercial profit.**
- 3 Logging to create or improve wildlife habitat.**
- 4 Logging to remove dead or insect-infested trees.**
- 5 Logging for fire prevention to protect human life and property.**
- 6 No opinion.**

Q-10 The current Forest Plan allows an average of 8.5 million board feet of timber to be harvested each year from the Chugach National Forest. Over the past 13 years, an average of 2.1 million board feet has actually been harvested each year. How much timber would you like to see harvested on average on the Forest over the next 10-15 years? (Please circle **one** response).

- 1 None**
- 2 Less than the actual amount harvested (2.1 million board feet per year in the past 13 years).**
- 3 The same amount as actually harvested (2.1 million board feet per year in the past 13 years).**
- 4 The amount allowed in the 1984 Forest Plan (8.5 million board feet per year).**
- 5 More than amount allowed in the 1984 Forest Plan (8.5 million board feet per year).**
- 6 No opinion.**

Q-11 How much of the Forest should be open to snowmachine use? (Please circle one response).

- 1 The current amount.**
- 2 Increase the area open or time available for snowmachine use.**
- 3 Decrease the area open or time available for snowmachine use.**
- 4 No opinion.**

Q-12 How much of the Forest should be open to off-road vehicle/all-terrain vehicle use? (Please circle one response).

- 1 The current amount.**
- 2 Increase the area open or time available for off-road vehicles/all-terrain vehicles.**
- 3 Decrease the area open or time available for off-road vehicles/all-terrain vehicles.**
- 4 No opinion.**

Q-13 Congress may designate rivers as "wild and scenic" to preserve their outstandingly remarkable recreation, scenic, and geologic features, or to protect fisheries. Designation does not restrict current uses of rivers but it may restrict future development if development is incompatible with protection goals. In general, do you support the recommendation of wild and scenic rivers in the Chugach National Forest? (Please circle one response).

- 1 Do not support wild and scenic river designations under any conditions.**
- 2 Support designation of a few rivers (5 or less) that are suitable.**
- 3 Support designation of all rivers that are suitable**
- 4 No opinion.**

Q-14 The road being built to Whittier could change the type and amount of recreation use in Prince William Sound. Much of the land in Prince William Sound is part of the Chugach National Forest. How do you think the Forest Service should respond to the increase in visitation to Prince William Sound? (Please circle one response).

- 1 Take no action and continue current management (including no new construction of recreation facilities in the Sound).**
- 2 Develop or permit minimal new facilities for the sole purpose of protecting the Sound's environment.**
- 3 Develop or permit new water-oriented facilities for the purpose of expanding public recreation opportunities in the Sound.**
- 4 No opinion.**

Q-15 In your opinion, what role should the public play in the planning of the Chugach National Forest? (Please circle one response).

- 1 None--let the land management agency (Forest Service) decide.**
- 2 Provide suggestions but let land management agency (Forest Service) decide.**
- 3 Public should be full and equal partner in decision-making.**
- 4 Public should decide and land management agency (Forest Service) should carry out.**
- 5 No opinion.**

PART 4. What are possible values for using or maintaining the Chugach National Forest?

Q-16 The Chugach National Forest holds different values to different people. Some of these values are connected to the direct use of the forest (such as for recreation). Some people value the Forest without setting foot on it (such as knowing that future generations will have the opportunity to enjoy it as it is now). Listed below are some of the best known values of national forests. **We would like to know how important each of the following values of the Chugach National Forest is to you.**

Imagine that you could "spend" \$100 to insure that the Chugach National Forest keeps its existing values. You may allocate or spend the \$100 in any way you like, but your total spending may not exceed \$100. You might spend all \$100 on one value (and \$0 on all others), or you might spend \$50 on one value, \$25 on another value, and \$25 on yet another value. Remember, the total dollars you spend should equal \$100.

- \$_____ **Aesthetic value**— I value the forest because I enjoy the forest scenery, sights, sounds, smells, etc.)
- \$_____ **Economic value**— I value the forest because it provides timber, fisheries, minerals, or tourism opportunities such as outfitting and guiding.
- \$_____ **Recreation value**— I value the forest because it provides a place for my favorite outdoor recreation activities.
- \$_____ **Life Sustaining value**— I value the forest because it helps produce, preserve, clean, and renew air, soil, and water.
- \$_____ **Learning value**— I value the forest because we can learn about the environment through scientific observation or experimentation.
- \$_____ **Biological diversity value**—I value the forest because it provides a variety of fish, wildlife, plant life, etc.).
- \$_____ **Spiritual value**— I value the forest because it is a sacred, religious, or spiritually special place to me or because I feel reverence and respect for nature there.
- \$_____ **Intrinsic value**— I value the forest in and of itself for its existence, no matter what I or others think about the forest.
- \$_____ **Historic value**— I value the forest because it has places and things of natural and human history that matter to me, others, or the nation.
- \$_____ **Future value**— I value the forest because it allows future generations to know and experience the forest as it is now.
- \$_____ **Subsistence value**— I value the forest because it provides necessary food and supplies to sustain my life.
- \$_____ **Therapeutic value**— I value the forest because it makes me feel better, physically and/or mentally.
- \$_____ **Cultural value**— I value the forest because it is a place for me to continue and pass down the wisdom and knowledge, traditions, and way of life of my ancestors.

\$100 Total

Q-17 For this question, we would like you to tell us *where* in the Forest you can find examples of the important values you selected in Q-16 (previous question). To do this, use the enclosed Chugach National Forest map and colored dots on the map. Please follow the step-by-step instructions below.

STEP ① Find and unfold the map of the Chugach National Forest enclosed with the questionnaire.

STEP ② Find the 13 sets of 4 colored dots attached to the map in the lower right corner. Each set of 4 colored dots represents one of the 13 forest values from the previous question.

STEP ③ For *each* of the forest values that you spent *any* of the imaginary \$100, place the colored dots for those values directly on the map over those locations on the Forest that you feel best represent those values. ***YOU ONLY NEED TO PLACE DOTS FOR THOSE VALUES THAT YOU SPENT SOME OF YOUR IMAGINARY \$100 FROM THE PREVIOUS QUESTION.*** Each dot represents a separate location. If you think there is only one location for a particular value, you would only place one dot for that value. You may select up to 4 different locations for a given value. Where you place the dots is completely up to you but they should be placed somewhere inside the Chugach National Forest boundary (dark green area). ***Remember--it is not necessary for you to have visited or used the Forest location where you place your dots. Some values may be related to forest use while others are not.***

STEP ④ After placing the dots on the map, refold the map and place it in the postage-paid, self-addressed return envelope.

STEP ⑤ Please go on to complete the remainder of this questionnaire.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the Chugach National Forest and what you would like to see happen in the next 10-15 years or is there *any* other issue that you would like the Forest Service to know about? We would appreciate any comments.

Please check this box if you would like us to send you the Chugach map and survey results.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!