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SERVICE





Origin of the Name Chugach

Long ago Prince William Sound was covered by a solid sheet of ice which extended over the bays and mountains. One day Native hunters were kayaking along the Pacific Ocean, when one man cried out "CHU-GA CHU-GA" (hurry hurry) let's go see what that black thing is sticking out of the ice.

So the hunters paddled closer and closer to see what it was. It turned out to be mountain tops emerging out of the ice. Thus these travelers settled along the outer ice-free shores of the Sound. As the ice retreated, so did the Chugach [people]. They followed the ice and animals as they retreated deep into the heart of Prince William Sound.

Oral history from the late John Kalashnikoff, an Aleut elder from the village of Nuchek on Hinchinbrook Island in Prince William Sound; recorded by John F. C. Johnson, Chugach Alaska Corporation.©

### WELCOME

Ve cannot hope to capture its essence here. Only you can do that by coming to see for yourself. This is merely an invitation to a land of glaciers and forests and bears and overwhelming beauty.

It is Alaska's Chugach National Forest.

The employees of the Chugach National Forest

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### TODAY'S FOREST

Adventure!

Glacial ice! It has sculpted much of America's beauty. Yet, there are few places today where glaciers still wage their ancient battle against the land. Southcentral Alaska's 5.6-million-acre Chugach National Forest is one of these places.

One third of the Chugach (pronounced "Chew'gatch") is rock and moving ice. The remainder is a diverse and majestic tapestry of land, water, plants and animals. In fact, diversity is what makes the Chugach so unique. The mountains and waters of the Kenai Peninsula, the islands and glaciers of Prince William Sound and the wetlands and birds of the Copper River Delta make this national forest a mecca for adventurers the world over.

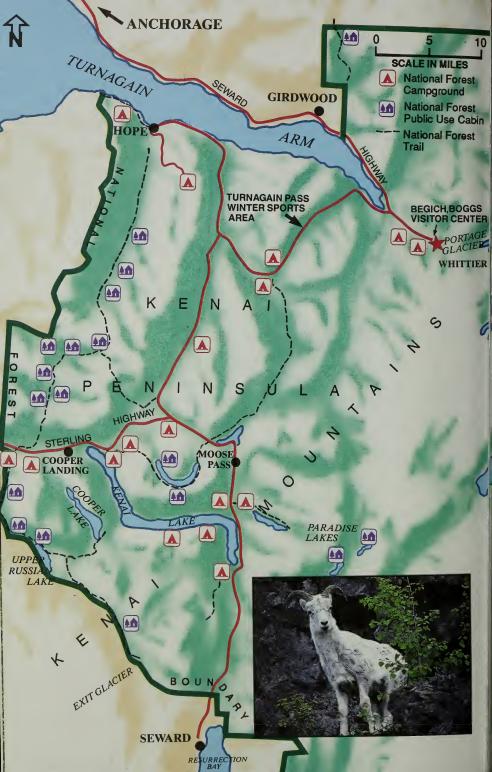
Inspiring beauty is only part of the story. This is also a place for people—in winter and summer. You can cut a Christmas tree, pan for gold, battle a salmon, meet a moose, see a glacier up close, hike a trail, relax in a campground, overnight in a cabin or drive the Seward Highway National Scenic Byway. But this is only the beginning. There is much more as you will see.

Fish and wildlife management and recreation are the forest's major programs. Private and public sector partners contribute vital support to these programs. Although the Chugach is primarily a "recreation and fish and wildlife forest," a few small timber sales and mining operations (mostly for gold) round out the forest's varied activities.

Want to learn more about one of America's oldest and largest national forests? Just turn the page—to adventure!

<sup>◆</sup> The Kenai Mountains from the Lost Lake trail, Kenai Peninsula (Forest Service photo by Jim Tallerico).

<sup>◀</sup> Inset: Icebergs float in front of a tidewater glacier in Prince William Sound (Forest Service photo by Carey Given).



### THE KENAI PENINSULA

#### Southcentral Alaska's Playground

loon announces the dawn. First light splashes on the mountainside. You crawl from your tent into the crisp air. It's as though you were a hundred miles from civilization, but the highway is only three miles down the trail.

Whether you are an angler, hiker, hunter, skier, mountain biker or simply love to drive for pleasure, Alaska's Kenai Peninsula is a place of almost unlimited opportunities. Just 50 road miles southeast of Anchorage, the Chugach National Forest portion of "the Kenai" begins.

Connecting Anchorage and Seward, the spectacular 127-mile Seward Highway National Scenic Byway winds its way past one Alaska postcard after another. Saltwater bays, hanging glaciers, jagged ridges and alpine meadows combine with wildlife viewing to make the Seward Highway Alaska's most popular route. Fifteen national forest campgrounds, 17 public use cabins and more than 200 miles of trail await visitors to the Kenai Mountains.

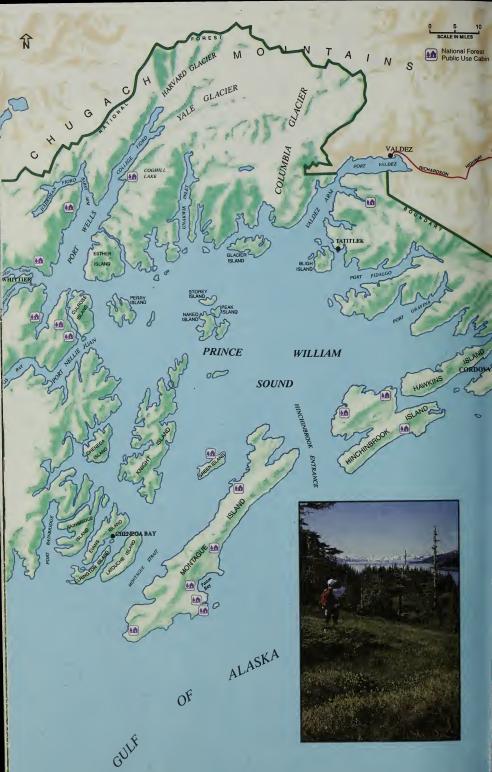
Dramatic Portage Valley, the most visited recreation site in the state, is 55 miles southeast of Anchorage at the northeastern tip of the peninsula. The valley's exceptional icebergs, glaciers and wildlife thrill more than 600,000 visitors annually. The superb Begich, Boggs Visitor Center at Portage is devoted to glaciers.

Anglers test their skill for salmon, Dolly Varden, trout, burbot, grayling and whitefish in the lakes of the Kenai Peninsula. Both road-side and backcountry fishing adventures are commonplace in Southcentral Alaska.

The Kenai Peninsula is also famous for its big game. Hunters trek the high country for moose, bear, caribou, Dall sheep and mountain goat as well as smaller animals.

All this lies at Anchorage's doorstep.

<sup>◀</sup> Inset: Dall sheep along Turnagain Arm. The Chugach National
Forest is the only national forest in America that is inhabited by Dall
sheep. (Forest Service photo by Sandra Frost).



### PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

#### Where the Forest Meets the Sea

kayaker sits spellbound—the world's only witness to a pod of killer whales rolling at the surface. Towering blue-white glaciers grind to the sea through spruce forests. A lone brown bear hikes the spine of Montague Island. This is Prince William Sound.

Visitors come in kayaks, cruise ships, powerboats, sail-boats, ferries and floatplanes to explore the sound's 3,500 miles of coastline and three million acres of forest and alpine beauty. Whether you prefer roughing it in a kayak or first class service on a cruise ship, you can be at home here. Hunting, fishing, sightseeing and solitude are world class.

Thirteen fly-in or boat-in national forest public use cabins provide shelter and serenity. These hideaways are popular with hunters, anglers and folks that just want to get away for a while.

From ancient Chugach Native cultures and 18th century explorers, to fox farmers and gold miners, the history of Prince William Sound is a colorful one. In summer, Forest Service interpreters describe this history to passengers aboard Alaska state ferries.

Most private land within the national forest in the sound is owned by Alaska Native village and regional corporations. Visitors should contact the appropriate corporation for permission to use these lands.

Although the 1989 oil spill was a tragic event, Prince William Sound is still a beautiful and popular place. Environmental rehabilitation projects continue as ongoing investigations probe the long-term impacts of the spill.

Commercial fishing and tourism are the economic mainstays of Prince William Sound. The Forest Service works with local organizations and other agencies to help maintain these important industries.

<sup>◀</sup> Inset: a crystal-clear day in Prince William Sound (Forest Service photo by Carey Given).



### THE COPPER RIVER DELTA

#### A World-Class Wetland

graceful pair of trumpeter swans glide across a pond through a reflection of the Chugach Mountains. A beaver slaps the surface of the water and heads for the underwater entrance to its lodge. A moose munches on tender willow shoots as she wades through the knee-deep marsh. The Copper River Delta is a wildlife wonderland.

The 700,000-acre delta of the Copper River is one of the world's most productive bird habitats. Tens of millions of birds spend all or part of their lives here. The delta offers the only breeding habitat for the dusky Canada goose. Ten percent of the world's trumpeter swans breed here. Trophy moose and brown bear roam the lowlands. Mountain goat and Dall sheep cling to rocky crags of the Chugach Mountains to the north.

The delta's bird habitat is internationally significant. It is the largest unit in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, a system of critical shorebird habitats throughout the Americas. The remarkable spring shorebird migration attracts hundreds of birders each year.

Organizations like Ducks Unlimited contribute funding and technical support for the management of the delta's exceptional fish and wildlife populations.

Cordova, a picturesque fishing village, is the gateway to the delta. The Copper River Highway extends east of Cordova across the delta to some of North America's best fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing.

The Forest Service maintains a day-use site, complete with exhibits, at mile 49 of the highway. Childs Glacier and the Million Dollar Bridge meld natural and cultural history at this unique spot.

There is much to learn about Alaska's present and its past from the delta of the Copper River.

<sup>◀</sup> Inset: visitors observe the face of Childs Glacier across the Copper River, 49 miles northeast of Cordova (Forest Service photo by Sandra Frost).



#### Remote and Romantic

Shimmering moonlight reflects on a mountain lake. Freshly-caught trout sizzle in the pan, signalling a backcountry feast is at hand. And you have your own cabin for the night.

More than 40 public use cabins throughout the Chugach (note cabin locations on regional maps) attract thousands of winter and summer backcountry travelers each year. The rustic cabins are found on trails, lakes, streams, ocean shorelines and in alpine areas.

Most cabins are about 12'x14' and have wood or oil stoves. Furnishings include a table, chairs and wooden bunks for four or more people. Bring your own food, sleeping bag and pad. Each cabin has its own outhouse and some cabins on lakes have rowboats. We are designing some of our cabins for use by people with disabilities.

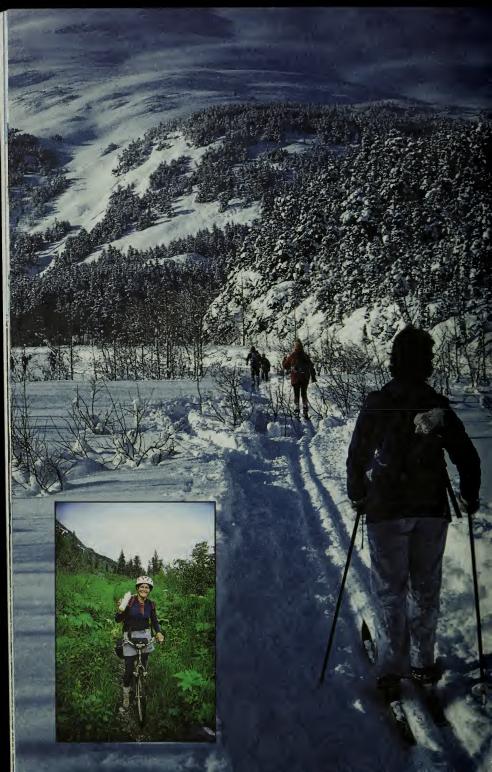
All cabins must be reserved and the cabin fee paid in advance. Cabins may be reserved up to 179 days in advance of the first day of occupancy. The fee is \$20 per night per party but is subject to change, so check with a Forest Service office or the Alaska Public Lands Information Center in Anchorage for current information.

Cabins that are not used as frequently as others and some cabins during the winter may be reserved for seven consecutive nights. More popular cabins may be reserved for three consecutive nights during high-use periods.

These cabins are very popular, so please reserve yours as early as possible.

<sup>◆</sup> Tranquility from the porch of the Paulson Bay public use cabin in eastern Prince William Sound (Forest Service photo).

Inset: south Culross public use cabin in eastern Prince William Sound (Forest Service photo by Carey Given).



#### Pathways to Solitude

ut on your skis, lace up your boots or climb on your mountain bike. More than 200 miles of national forest trails are your pathways to very scenic places in a very scenic state.

Trails lead to clear mountain lakes and rushing streams, wilderness cabins, alpine meadows and even to a glacier or two. If trails are too civilized, you may want to strike out on your own, but please be cautious (see page 33).

Most of the forest's hiking trails are found on the Kenai Peninsula. The longest is the Resurrection trail system which includes the Resurrection Pass trail, the Resurrection River trail and part of the Russian Lakes trail (70 miles in all); the shortest is the Moraine Glacier trail in Portage Valley at ¼-mile. There are also several beautiful trails in Prince William Sound and on the Copper River Delta.

Trails are popular year-round—backpacking and mountain biking in summer and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmachining and dog mushing in winter. Many visitors stay in public use cabins along the way.

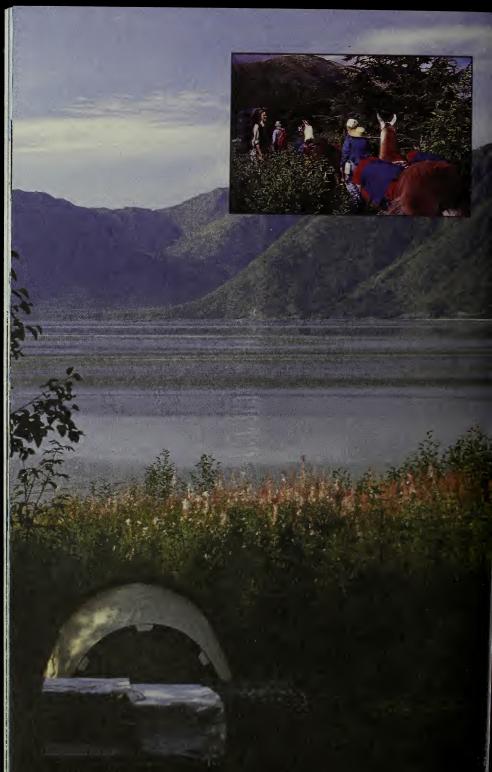
Snowmachines are permitted on some trails during designated periods in winter. Horses are allowed on national forest trails except during April, May and June when the spring thaw leaves the trails soft.

Avalanches are a real danger in winter on the Chugach. Snowmachiners and skiers should select their routes carefully to avoid avalanche zones.

We hope you enjoy **your** national forest trails and the beautiful places that surround them.

Cross-country skiing through the Kenai Mountains (Forest Service photo).

<sup>◀</sup> Inset: along the Russian Lakes trail, Kenai Peninsula (Photo by Dave Blanchet).



#### A Night in the Woods

The only thing better than camping in the forest is camping in a national forest in Alaska! Whether you spend a night in one of your campgrounds or in the backcountry far from civilization, we think you will love the Chugach National Forest. It's simply a great place to camp!

Fifteen national forest campgrounds on the Sterling and Seward highways on the Kenai Peninsula can accommodate more than 2,000 people at 408 campsites. Each campsite has a parking spur, tent area, fire pit and picnic table. Although campgrounds are open from Memorial Day to Labor Day, the season may be extended if conditions warrant. Water, vault or flush toilets and garbage collection are provided at all national forest campgrounds on the Seward and Sterling highways.

We are proud to have volunteer hosts serving our visitors at many of these campgrounds. These friendly folks provide current recreation and travel information.

Campers may stay in campgrounds for 14 consecutive nights (three consecutive nights at the Russian River campground during the red salmon runs in the Russian River). Campsites are available on a first-come-first-served basis. Campground fees currently range from \$6 to \$16 depending on services offered but are subject to change. Open fires may be prohibited when the fire danger is high.

You are also welcome to pitch a tent in the backcountry. Camping is permitted just about anywhere in the national forest outback. No permit is required. We ask that backpackers camp at least 200 feet from public use cabins.

Consider this your own personal invitation to visit the Chugach and stay the night.

Evening sun on Turnagain Arm and the Chugach Mountains from the Porcupine campground near Hope on the Kenai Peninsula (Forest Service photo by Dan Sawyer).

◀ Inset: llamas pack gear on a camping trip along the Resurrection Pass trail in the Kenai Mountains (Forest Service photo).



### PORTAGE GLACIER

#### Ice and Much More

The most visited recreation site in Alaska, Portage Glacier offers much of what people come to the northland to see—glaciers and wildlife.

Only one hour from Anchorage, Portage Valley draws people from around the world. And why is this place so special? Here are a few reasons:

- \* icebergs larger than office buildings
- \* seven glaciers
- \* two campgrounds
- \* a thriving moose population
- \* a boat tour to the face of Portage Glacier
- \* a safari in search of the elusive iceworm—yes, they really do exist and they live in Portage Valley
- \* the 13,400-square-foot Begich, Boggs Visitor Center devoted to the interpretation of glaciers
- \* the award-winning film "Voices from the Ice"
- friendly, knowledgeable Forest Service interpreters eager to explain the natural and cultural history of Southcentral Alaska

The Portage Glacier Lodge, next to the visitor center, has a restaurant and gift shop and offers shelter from the occasional "interesting weather" in summer. Come prepared for either sunshine or horizontal rain.

In winter the visitor center is open intermittently. Check with the Forest Service for the center's winter schedule. Portage gets heavy snow and the access road can be hazardous, so use caution.

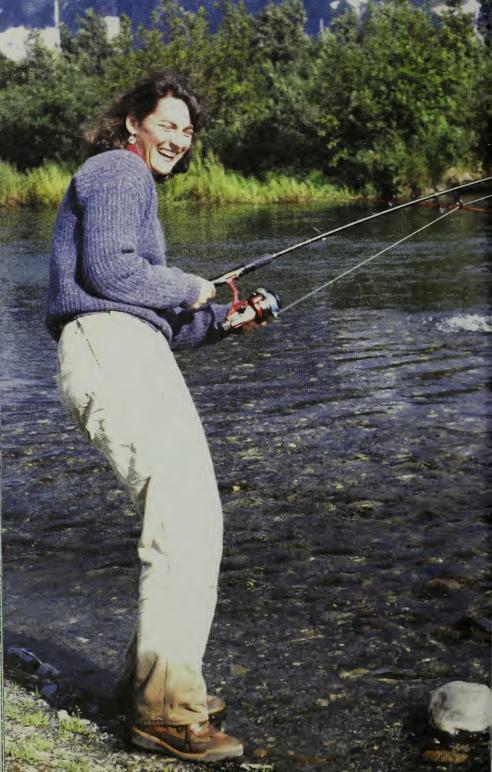
Whatever the weather, a trip to the Chugach National Forest is not complete without seeing Portage Glacier.

<sup>■</sup> Sunlight on Portage Glacier (Forest Service photo by David Allen).

<sup>■</sup> Inset: a member of Portage's healthy moose population takes time out to munch lunch (Forest Service photo by Sandra Frost).







### **HUNTING AND FISHING**

#### A Lifetime of Memories

Hunting and fishing will continue to be traditional uses of the Chugach National Forest.

Anglers are challenged by five species of Pacific salmon (sockeye, chum, coho, chinook and pink). Hunters search for big game such as black and brown bear, Dall sheep, mountain goat, caribou, Sitka black-tailed deer and moose.

Although the Forest is known for its excellent salmon fishing, other species such as Dolly Varden char, lake and rainbow trout, burbot and grayling inhabit many lakes accessible by trails. Ocean fishing for salmon and halibut is preferred by many.

With its two runs of red salmon, the Russian River on the Kenai Peninsula supports the most popular sport fishery in the state. Anglers by the tens of thousands fish the Russian River each year.

A trip to Alaska for big game is a dream of many hunters. Trophy-size moose roam the wetlands of the Copper River. Brown bear thrive on the big islands in Prince William Sound. Black bear are relatively common throughout most of the Forest. Dall sheep and mountain goats may be taken in some areas of the Kenai Peninsula and in the Chugach Mountains overlooking the Copper River Delta.

Smaller game such as spruce grouse, fox, marten, snowshoe hare and ptarmigan are also present. Waterfowl hunting for a variety of species on the Copper River Delta is some of the best anywhere.

For more specific information about hunting and fishing on the national forest, contact one of our biologists at any of the Chugach's four offices in Southcentral Alaska. For hunting and fishing regulations, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

An angler battles a salmon in Clear Creek on the Copper River Delta (Forest Service photo by Sandra Frost).



### **FISHERIES**

#### For Sport and Profit

It is an eternal journey. From birth to years in the open ocean to its return to freshwater to spawn and die, the salmon and its legendary life cycle is one of nature's most fascinating stories.

The story of the salmon is meaningful in other ways to the sport and commercial anglers of Southcentral Alaska. The Chugach has one of the largest fisheries programs of any national forest in the country.

We work with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and organizations like the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation to help keep fish populations healthy through projects like the following:

- constructing fishpasses that give salmon a lift to spawning areas
- \* studying lake and stream habitat and fish populations
- \* stocking lakes throughout the forest
- \* reintroducing salmon in some areas
- \* building salmon spawning channels
- enhancing sport fishing opportunities
- \* boosting lake populations of red and coho salmon

In the years to come, greater emphasis will be placed on providing more information to the public about the forest's large and productive fishery. We will also be working to improve fishing opportunities for families and people with disabilities.

<sup>◀</sup> The forest's large fisheries program helps both commercial and sport anglers. Here a purse seiner in search of salmon maneuvers near Cannery Creek in Unakwik Inlet in Prince William Sound (Forest Service photo).



### WILDLIFE

#### Diversity and Abundance

speck moving slowly across a mountainside sniffs the breeze for danger. It could be a moose, a brown bear, a Dall sheep or a mountain goat. It could even be a wolf.

Working closely with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, we manage the habitat of these exceptional creatures on the national forest.

A few of our ongoing projects include:

- \* studying brown bear habitat
- \* analyzing Dall sheep habitat
- \* building dusky Canada goose nest islands
- \* researching trumpeter swans
- \* inventorying shorebirds and their habitat
- \* inventorying and analyzing baseline data on plants, some threatened and endangered
- \* acquiring baseline data on caribou habitat
- \* improving moose habitat
- developing and implementing vegetative management plans in and around campgrounds

Natural resource education will be a major focus of the future wildlife program. We feel it is important that the public understands and appreciates its priceless wildlife heritage that is so well represented on the Chugach.

Close coordination between the forest's fish and wildlife and recreation programs is essential since many recreation activities are based on wildlife experiences.

<sup>■</sup> Brown bears, some reaching weights of 1,200 pounds, live in many areas of the Chugach National Forest (photo by Larry Aumiller).



### A HEALTHY FOREST

#### An Ecosystem Approach

A forest is more than simply trees or animals or grass. It is a complex network of interrelated parts. Change one element and the others are altered, too. The future of the Chugach National Forest will depend on how well all of us can work together to ensure its health. This includes the role of fire, insects and disease in the management of the forest.

Past fire suppression efforts on the Kenai Peninsula have helped create an older forest with fewer tree species and more even-aged stands. This, in combination with other management practices, has made the forest more prone to insects, disease and fire.

A small rice-grain-size insect called the spruce bark beetle has killed millions of spruce trees on the Kenai Peninsula. These dead trees now create a serious fire danger. We are building firebreaks and creating backcountry staging areas for fire crews. We are also working to reduce large accumulations of dead trees by using them for house logs, firewood and wood chips.

Managing the forest for a natural mix of tree species will improve the defense against outbreaks of the beetle and other diseases. This can also promote healthy populations of diverse animal species.

We are continuing to experiment with vegetative management techniques throughout the forest to help foster a more natural, diverse and stable environment.

Spruce buds on the Kenai Peninsula (Forest Service photo by Sandra Frost).

<sup>◀</sup> Inset: arctic lupine in Portage Valley (Forest Service photo by David Allen).



### **PARTNERSHIPS**

#### Help from Others

Your Chugach National Forest is not managed by the Forest Service alone. We get lots of help. The list of our partners is a long one. Here are a few:

- Ducks Unlimited has provided major funding for nest islands for dusky Canada geese on the Copper River Delta
- \* the Alaska Natural History Association sells publications that help visitors enjoy the national forest
- the University of Alaska–Anchorage has conducted a forest visitor survey
- \* in 1991, "venturers" from Raleigh International (a British conservation organization) completed projects valued at \$230,000
- \* Grayline of Alaska-Westours offers a tour boat to the face of Portage Glacier complete with Forest Service interpreters to describe the natural and cultural history of Southcentral Alaska
- Challenge Alaska, an organization promoting outdoor activities for people with disabilities, is helping us develop barrier-free facilities
- \* The Nature Conservancy is aiding us in establishing baseline ecological data
- \* national forest interpreters help visitors enjoy magnificent Prince William Sound aboard ferries of the Alaska Marine Highway System

We are very proud of our relationships with all of our partners. We could not do our job without them. If you want to be a partner, let us know. We are always looking for better ways of doing business.

◀ The Kiwanis Club of University (Anchorage) and the American Hiking Society helped the Forest Service construct the Barber public use cabin on the Kenai Peninsula (Forest Service photo).

■ Inset: with help from a veterinarian from Cordova and the University of Idaho, the Forest Service attaches radio collars to wolves on the Copper River Delta (Forest Service photo by Sandra Frost).



### TAKE CARE...

#### ...Of Yourself and the Forest

Protect yourself and the environment as you experience your national forest. Here are a few tips on how to do both.

Take care of yourself:

- \* have the right gear and know how to use it
- \* know how to hike and camp in bear country
- ★ view moose from a distance—they can be dangerous
- \* we have big mosquitoes—insect repellent is a must
- \* boil surface drinking water for 5 minutes
- \* avoid snow avalanche areas in winter
- \* know the symptoms and treatment of hypothermia
- \* know the basics of first aid
- \* notify a friend of your itinerary

#### Take care of the forest:

- \* generally select a previously-used campsite
- \* carry out or burn all of your garbage
- \* use only dead and down branches for small campfires
- \* camp and hike without a trace
- \* make sure campfires are completely out
- \* walk in single file to protect trailside vegetation
- \* ride mountain bikes and snowmachines responsibly
- \* report forest fires to the nearest Forest Service office

And finally, know the area and your own limitations—**good judgment** leads to wonderful backcountry experiences. For more information about a safe trip, just ask us.

<sup>■</sup> Kayak Island's Cape St. Elias is an example of the treacherous shorelines (sailors beware) throughout the Chugach National Forest. An automated lighthouse and navigational aid is maintained here by the U.S. Coast Guard (Forest Service photo by Sandra Frost).



### A Forest's Past

#### A Look Back

As the ice of 10,000 years ago began to ease its grip on Southcentral Alaska, great coastal forests gradually emerged. Diverse plant and animal life and the mild coastal weather set the stage for the establishment of vigorous Native societies in the centuries ahead.

Four great Native cultures developed in Southcentral Alaska. The Chugach Natives settled in Prince William Sound. The Eyak occupied the Copper River Delta area. Although the Ahtna lived in Southcentral Alaska, they remained inland. The Kenaitze band of the Taniana Nation settled on the Kenai Peninsula.

The Native peoples of Southcentral Alaska have left us a legacy rich in myth, legend and the drama of everyday life. Their heritage is much of what residents and visitors from around the world come here to see.

In the mid-18th century, the European exploration of Alaska began. Crew members from the *St. Peter*, a Russian vessel commanded by Vitus Bering, became the first Europeans to set foot on Alaskan soil (Kayak Island) in 1741. Other explorers followed from Spain, England, France and later the United States. Southcentral Alaska's place names echo the international past of the Chugach National Forest.

After the United States purchased Alaska from Russia in 1867, American exploration and survey reports told of extensive timber and mineral resources. The turn-of-the-century gold rush in Southcentral Alaska focused even more attention on the new territory.

To help protect these valuable resources, President Theodore Roosevelt established the Chugach National Forest on July 23, 1907, making it one of the oldest national forests in America.

<sup>■</sup> Natives trading with Captain James Cook in Snug Corner Cove in Prince William Sound (1780) (courtesy of the Anchorage Museum of History and Art).



### **Tomorrow's Forest**

A Look Ahead

This forest belongs to you. We, the Forest Service, are its stewards and manage it as a public trust.

It is our responsibility to respond to you, the American people, and administer this forest, like all national forests, in the public interest. This is a challenge since there are many varied, legitimate and often controversial issues confronting forest management these days. People want much from their national forests.

The Chugach will be considering some thorny issues in the years ahead:

- \* how much formal wilderness is appropriate on the forest, if any, and where should it be?
- \* should more public use cabins be built?
- \* how much visitation can the Copper River Delta take without major impacts to its valuable wildlife?
- should the Forest Service charge additional fees for recreation uses?
- \* how can we work with other land managers to provide an appropriate mix of recreation opportunities?

Good communication and strong, lasting working relationships between the forest's owners and the Forest Service are essential for a national forest that really meets the needs of the public.

Please let us know what you are thinking.

<sup>■</sup> Moonrise over the Kenai Mountains (photo by Bill Shuster).



### FOR MORE INFORMATION...

#### ...About Your Forest

# For more information about the Chugach National Forest:

Supervisor's Office Chugach National Forest 201 E. 9th. Ave., Suite 206 Anchorage, Alaska 99501 Glacier Ranger District Chugach National Forest 129 Monarch Mine Rd. Girdwood, Alaska 99587

Seward Ranger District Chugach National Forest P.O. Box 390 Seward, Alaska 99664 Cordova Ranger District Chugach National Forest P.O. Box 280 Cordova, Alaska 99574

#### For information about Anchorage as a visitor destination:

Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau 1600 "A" St.
Suite 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99501–5162

### For information about reserving national forest public use cabins and information about public lands statewide:

Alaska Public Lands Information Center 605 W. 4th. Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

## For information about vacationing in Alaska and recreation opportunities throughout the state:

Alaska Division of Tourism P.O. Box 110801 Juneau, Alaska 99811–0801

### For information about hunting and fishing regulations throughout Alaska:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game 333 Raspberry Rd. Anchorage, Alaska 99518

- ◀ The Copper River Delta, one of the North America's premier wetlands, hosts millions of birds annually (Forest Service photo).
- ◀ Inset: the world's entire population of western sandpipers passes
  through the delta (Forest Service photo by Sandra Frost).

# Notes

