

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500117579	Test	
	Please make no change to the plan and let Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council keep their property. It seems any exchange would precipitate further development. Thank you,	
EastAK-1-500117633	Tim McGowan	
	Hello, I would like to learn more what this new land proposal may entail. This zone in the Thompson pass area is heavily recreated and enjoyed by locals and tourists. It is a beautiful place to go hiking, berry picking, snow machining, and ski touring. It would be a shame to see this land get blocked off to public use. Please consider how this will affect the people who live nearby and are passionate about their freedom to explore this land.	
EastAK-1-500117657		
EastAK-1-500122589	I am a public land owner and I oppose the transfer of Thompson Pass lands to corporations. My family, friends and I regularly use these spaces for outdoor recreation such as skiing and hiking and transfer of these road accessible lands to corporate ownership would threaten these access opportunities. These lands are among the most frequently used and highly treasured for their unique scenic qualities and easy access. I am attaching a photograph I took of a friend of mine (a visitor from Switzerland) photographing this wild and scenic place. It truly is special and needs to be maintained in its current public ownership status.	DSC02407.jpg
EastAK-1-500122590	This is absolutely unacceptable. If this land were to be developed we would certainly lose a large swatch of Alaska's rich wilderness that is currently accessible and we will never have a chance to get that back. This land should be retained by the state or an organization dedicated to preservation.	
EastAK-1-500122606	No, no, no. Im suprised they didnt select more chugach national forest land so they can pillage the land to the highest bidder through timber sales then swap for new land. Why do they always try to select areas where roads and recreationists and hunters traditionally use!?!	
EastAK-1-500122607	I am opposed to the land exchange at Thompson Pass to the Chugach corporation. Public recreation lands should not be given away to private enterprise interests.	
EastAK-1-500122609	Please retain public ownership of public land at Thompson Pass.	
EastAK-1-500122615	I not in favor of the proposed land trade. Also I think the action has been poorly conveyed to the public. There are three major points to access the Chugach mountains to the east of the Richardson Highway. If access is shut down at this point, people can still go from other places; however, it is important to maintain multiple access points to allow for unforeseen circumstances. Sometimes when traveling in the mountains someone can get hurt or something can break. Being able to get back can be life or death.	
EastAK-1-500122619	I do a lot of playing up in this area with my kiddos I would like this land to stay how it is	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500122624	I would like the Property Thompson Pass scheduled to be given to Chugach Native Corp. to REMAIN UNDER STATE MANAGEMENT to guarantee recreational access to all the folks who play in the PASS.	
EastAK-1-500122625	I am against Lisa Murkowski giving private native corporations land in Thompson Pass. I am concerned they will start charging for access like in other areas of the state and preventing recreational freedoms here like we have always enjoyed. I was born and raised in Valdez Alaska and have seen over my 38 years our freedoms being slowly stripped from us. I feel they give prime recreational areas to Native Corporations along roadways solely to profit from the general public and feel this is wrong!!! Leave Thompson pass the way its always been!	
EastAK-1-500122647	I support leaving road accessible areas of Thompson Pass in there current ownership state as public lands for the enjoyment of all. I do not support transferring these lands into private hands.	
EastAK-1-500122666	I do not think that this is a good idea. We have all seen what has been done before just like this it will not turn out good. I would never suggest this. So many people use this area and it would be ruined for everybody.	
EastAK-1-500122681	Please review my attached document. I have spoken to a handful of folks at BLM and I am grateful that each person had an obvious vested interest in their work. It's a tough situation (emotional for me) but BLM's responsiveness and competence sure eased the panic factor. Thanks! -Lisa Wax :)	BLMEARMPAMEND.docx
EastAK-1-500122705	In no way should the government contemplate decreasing public lands in the Thompson Pass area. This area is in enjoyed by so many people on a regular basis it would be criminal to agree to any such nonsense. Allowing Alaska Tribes to seize control of easy access areas to bar or extort monies from the general public to enjoy is absolutely unacceptable! Murkowski and her ilk, plus her father have screwed the Alaskan people over and over when it comes to lands and how they've allowed the tribes to pick and choose what ever they want...and now they want to allow it to happen again...because they chose poorly the first time, so they get to change their minds...absolutely NOT!!!	
EastAK-1-500122716	<p>I oppose amending the East Alaska RMP. I don't trust either the State or Chugach Alaska Corporation to manage the land for the highest public values. I do not want them to have an opportunity to exchange parcels. Americans and Alaskans have been repeatedly burned by an opaque, insulting, restrictive and incomplete public process. After four years of Trump, I am jaded*. And as for the state, AIDEA just decided to buy some ANWR leases despite overwhelming opposition from the public.</p> <p>I fear that if either the state or CAC clear this administrative hurdle (RMP amendment), the interest of the public will be ignored. Again.</p> <p>* yet here I am...</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500122756	<p>Scoping Comments Land Exchange Thompson Pass</p> <p>It seems that when the BLM prepares the EA, all lands potentially affected directly or indirectly by this action(s) should be identified so that the analysis enables one to understand the consequences of the action.</p> <p>Specifically:</p> <p>Which public lands would be available for an exchange?</p> <p>Would any of the BLM Tiekel Block lands or adjacent Chugach lands in the Tiekel or Tonsina Drainages be available for exchange or be affected by this action?</p> <p>What would happen to the Chugach lands at the elbow in Thompson Pass?</p> <p>Would they become private lands?</p> <p>What would happen to the State selection on those two sections?</p> <p>What happens to the EVOS conservation easement?</p>	
EastAK-1-500122758	<p>Why after so many years should The indigenous people of Alaska get to change their minds. The rest of us Alaskans should not get to enjoy the public access of the Thompson Pass area? Or is this just so they indigenous people of Alaska can charge the rest of us Alaskans a fee to use that area.</p> <p>Looking at the area map the highway goes right through that portion will we have to pay a toll to get home to Valdez? Who will be responsible for keeping the highway clear of snow? The highway department does a very good job at this point. So I think we really need to rethink this idea.</p>	
EastAK-1-500122763	<p>I oppose this land exchange. The area in question is a prime recreation spot year-round for locals and travelers alike. My family hikes there in the summer, berry picks in fall and skis there in winter and spring. While I support Alaska Native Corporations getting the land they were promised in ANCSA, this land was not part of the that promise and as much of the area as possible should remain in the public's hands.</p> <p>I'm not alone in feeling that way. The Copper River Basin Area Management Plan (CRBAMP), states "The management unit (Unit 15: Thompson Pass) should be retained in state ownership . . . with an emphasis on expanding recreation opportunities (3-103)". Thompson Pass was one of three areas "recommended for legislative designation (for) hav(ing)e very high recreation value and receiv(ing)e the most public use (A-5)." "The potential for conflict between minerals and other resources is high in these areas. The relative values of fish habitat or recreation are higher than potential mineral values and therefore warrant a closure (A-4)." "Due to land conveyances under the ANSCA and state land disposals, the primary trail issue is to retain and designate existing access to state land (A-6)." "The entire area has spectacular alpine scenery (3-103)."</p>	
EastAK-1-500122765	<p>I am concerned about the implications selling of the hairpin turn area at the pass might have on land use, recreation and tourism. This is one of the most beautiful places in the world and in restricted activity on this land could have far reaching implications for a future use and enjoyment of this area.</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500122885	<p>As a 30 year resident of Valdez I would recommend not proceeding with the Thompson Pass land exchange. The proposed area is highway accessible, south facing and relatively safe recreational terrain. It is traditionally a prime location for skiers, hikers, berry pickers and other recreational pursuits. It is also adjacent to the existing Blueberry Campground and State Park. To turn this high value public land over to private ownership is a great economic and habitat loss for the community of Valdez and surrounding areas. Outdoor enthusiasts travel from all over the world to recreate at Thompson Pass. Generations have marveled at the stupendous scenery and unspoiled habitat. Let us be responsible custodians of this natural wonder and ensure our grandchildren and children for many generations to come also have guaranteed access to this national treasure. Keep the land in the public domain.</p>	
EastAK-1-500122896	<p>Thank you for considering the public's opinion. We all realize that Alaska Native Corporations should get the land they were promised in ANCSA, but these lands in Thompson Pass were never promised to Chugach AK Corporation. Thompson Pass see a tremendous amount of use from the public, so it should stay in public hands. Recreation on and access to public lands helps the economy. Please consider the negative effect this potential land grab would have on the economy, environment, wildlife and the public. Please consider the greater interest of the public, not the selfish, money-driven land grabs made by private entities. This land should NOT be sold off to private entities or corporations.</p>	
EastAK-1-500122904	<p>I strongly oppose the exchange of this prime recreational land. This area has been used by Alaskans for 40 years for backcountry recreation.</p>	
EastAK-1-500122917	<p>Please find a better location. The pass is a treasure for all and largely untouched by humans. The alpine tundra is fragile and should not be spoiled. The grand, sweeping vista should remain unobstructed for all to enjoy!</p>	
EastAK-1-500122918	<p>I am concerned with what this amendment may do to the current recreation/subsistence access that this corridor provides to the Alaskan resident as well as non-resident visitors. I feel that there is not complete transparency in this process and I worry what the direction and motives are. With that said, I can not support this amendment. Many people, including myself, frequently recreate in these areas and they have become places of history to the very large winter sports community.</p> <p>What I could support is the development of this land to accommodate the backcountry enthusiast with safer parking options and maintained snow removal of these land access points. I am a Valdez Local and these lands and the state of there ownership and development directly effect me.</p> <p>Thanks</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500122921	I strongly oppose the proposed land exchange or any selling of federal land in the Thompson pass area. As a resident of Valdez. The Native corps have their land and deserve no more compensation, land trading or easier access.	
EastAK-1-500122930	I feel this land need to remain unchanged. I don't feel a transfer is in the best interest of Alaskan people at this time.	
EastAK-1-500122944	Hi Jackson Kinnen here, I was born and raised in Valdez. Ever since I can remember my father has taken myself and friends when we were kids up to blueberry on the pass and rode snowmachine. I am 30 years old now and take my kids up to the location that is in this plan. I hope that this will not ruin access for myself, family and many community members that use the hairpin for access to the mountain areas, Marshall pass, blueberry, road run, the books, etc.	
EastAK-1-500122946	This land is highly praised and used by backcountry skiers and riders having this land possibly cut off to public would be extremely devastating to the tourism of valdez and businesses and locals guides that recreate on this land. This is a very important are and needs to stay the way it is.	
EastAK-1-500122947	Please let this area remain as is. I have been recreating in this area my entire life. It would be tragic to see anything change other than the addition of outhouses to the commonly used lots.	
EastAK-1-500122949	The land exchange with chugach native corporation is a bad idea and I am strongly opposed to it. The lands have little economic value as they cover mountains and glaciers. However, they are prime recreational areas for Alaskans. Chugach will have the opportunity to exclude many hard working Alaskans from these lands that should be open to everyone!	
EastAK-1-500122960	I have been living in Valdez since 1994. Part of the reason I live there is because of the still and quiet in Thompson Pass. There's no place like it in the world! I have traveled all over the world snowboarding and different countries and if you allow this area to be developed it will ruin the pristine wilderness, damage the environment, and are you in the beauty of Valdez. Don't sell this for the money, which I know is the reason why this is happening. Greed is always the cause of destruction in a pristine area like this. Once you destroy it you cannot ever bring it back to its pristine beauty. How are you going to handle The increase of people coming through the past and you can't even take care of the Porta potty's and out houses and keep Thompson Pass clean now. If you can't take care of it now then why would you bother bringing in more people to destroy the pass?	
EastAK-1-500122962	Please don't give away open recreation land to the greedy corporations.	
EastAK-1-500122965	I think it is important to keep the little road access recreation we have in Alaska open to the public. Without these areas, there would be no way for most Alaskans to get out and play in the winter months, creating more depression and anxiety. The Chugach AK Corp is more than welcome to enjoy any of the recreation areas in the state without owning them, so what could possibly be the positive reason for gifting this land to them?	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500122972	<p>To whom it may concern;</p> <p>This land swap with the Chugach Alaska Corporation is a very bad idea. During the winter/spring months the upper Lowe River corridor/Marshall Pass valley is a popular recreational area for many Alaskans, United States Residents and people coming to enjoy are great state from abroad. These are our public lands which grants the rights of all American's to enjoy. If this land swap happens there is a high lickely hood that access to these areas will be restricted. Again, this is a very bad idea and I hope that my federal Government makes the right decision and does not allow this land swap to happen. Thanks.</p> <p>Shawn Davis Fairbanks, AK</p>	
EastAK-1-500122978	<p>Thompson Pass and the area around it has historically been used for recreation by people worldwide for many years. It is one of the most popular areas in Alaska. There is no reason to change ownership of any of the land. There is plenty of other areas that aren't used by so many different people.</p> <p>It is a fragile ecosystem and there is limitless ways the new ownership could affect and or damage this ecosystem permanently.</p> <p>Please don't allow this land swap to occur.</p>	
EastAK-1-500122979	<p>I strongly oppose the proposed land exchange. I live in Copper Center, Alaska, and am an outdoor enthusiast. Most of the highway accessible land around us here has been transferred to AHTNA Corporation, or is held privately, so there is no public access (and no trails) to the millions of acres of public lands which surround us. As a result, the Thompson/Marshall Pass area is one of the few places I can go and access public land from a public Highway. There still are no trails, but because it is located above tree line, we can find a route into the wilds. This is one of the primary places we recreate because of access. We have lived in the area since 2006 and have struggled with lack of access to public lands since we arrived in the area. In addition, we have had other areas that we use threatened to be taken away, or have actually lost a public access route in recent years. We are nonmotorized recreation users, and my husband and I are both over 65 years old. We live in a community with an aging population which does not have the strength and endurance it once had to access public lands and resources. Please stop the erosion of public access to public lands, please do not trade away public lands and public access which are suitable for nonmotorized recreation off of the highway system used by the people who live here, and do not take away accessibility of public lands to the elderly.</p>	
EastAK-1-500122985	<p>I am concerned for environmental impact to this area. Why can't it simply be left alone?</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500122986	<p>To whom it may concern</p> <p>Please consider public access to 100s of square miles of public land that is some of the best winter recreational areas in the state. This proposed land swap could severely limit public access. There would also be the strong possibility of major development in this area which would forever change the face of Thompson Pass.</p> <p>Please do not complete this land trade deal!!</p> <p>Andy Yecny</p>	
EastAK-1-500122987	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>I have been an avid user of the public lands on Thompson Pass since 1994. In fact, Odyssey Mountain was the first mountain I skied in Alaska. I fell so in love with it and the skiing on the pass that I moved to Alaska the following year and have never missed a ski season on Thompson Pass since. I know I am one of hundreds of people who could say something similar and one of thousands of people who have had their life changed for the better by the access to such incredible skiing. In the summer, the fast access to reach the alpine starts here, too. I hope you keep this available for the public to use and cherish for future generations.</p>	
EastAK-1-500122989	<p>Thompson Pass and surround area is known for some world class best area to ski, snowboard and ride sleds in. All 3 of these sports support the city of Valdez through with winter. Transferring the land to a cooperation with no restrictions, management or oversight is just asking for trouble. There are alternative ways to transfer land back to the natives, not a native cooperation.</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500123046	<p>My name is Mark Hanson. I live in Valdez and have worked for the department of transportation on Thompson Pass for the last 24 years. I am currently the Thompson Pass maintenance foreman. I am totally against any action that would or could possibly change the accessibility of the recreation areas that are regularly used in the Thompson Pass area. In reviewing the areas listed for this land give-away I find it hard to believe that this is even being considered. This is prime recreation area used by hundreds of locals and possibly thousands of people state wide. The thought of losing access to these areas makes me feel sick to my stomach.</p> <p>Please consider other options.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Mark Hanson Box 2134 Valdez, AK 907-200-2103 cell 907-835-5471 Home</p>	
EastAK-1-500123092	<p>Comment in opposition of transfer of land in Thompson Pass, Alaska to Chugach Alaska Corporation.</p> <p>Hello BLM, I am writing in opposition to the proposed land transfer at the Thompson Pass hairpin turn to Chugach Alaska Corporation. This is some of the most stunning and publicly valued and used land in Thompson Pass, in Alaska, in America, and in the world and should be held for the recreational use of the general American public. My understanding is that the BLM's East Alaska Resource Management Plan clearly dictates that these 2 sections (Sections 5 and 6, Township 9 South, Range 2 West, Copper River Meridian) are not available for private ownership and rightly so. These lands should be publicly owned for recreational and tourism uses for current and future generations. Please do not allow this proposed transfer to occur.</p>	
EastAK-1-500123162	<p>The proposed ownership changes To the Thompson Pass area, in my opinion, is not a wise action. Hundreds if not thousands of people recreate in this area year around. A restriction as a result of this change could possibly end this opportunity and restrict access as it is now.</p> <p>This change is not in the interest of the general public of Alaska. Please consider this in your deliberations.</p> <p>Kind regards.</p>	
EastAK-1-500123356	<p>Dont you dare give my lands to a company!!</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500123483	In case you don't know, Thompson Pass is world famous for the unbelievable skier/snowboarding and snowmachine terrain. People come from all over the world to recreate on this beautiful setting. It's a shame this area will be sold to highest bidder. This area should be preserved for the people.	
EastAK-1-500123772	Please do not do this. This zone does not need big business possibly coming in to attract more tourists.	
EastAK-1-500123829	Please keep this area open to public use. As of now many people recreate in this area and would hate to see its future uncertain. Thank you	
EastAK-1-500124206	<p>First I would like to ask for an extension to the comment period regarding this land exchange. Public awareness of this proposed land exchange is, for the most part, non-existent. I only learned of this through word of mouth from someone who had just happened to stumble on it. I am not sure if there was any attempt to make the public aware of this or not but I personally did not see, hear, or read any notices in our area of Valdez. That being said, I would like the BLM to look for other lands that would be acceptable for the exchange other than the parcels proposed. The area adjacent to the proposed exchange areas are used in many ways by many different user groups. Hiking, skiing, snowboarding, berry picking, snowmobiling, sledding, camping, fishing, photography, picnicing, kiting, and hunting are just some of the activities that people enjoy this area for. The proposed land for exchange is use as well for many of these activities or as a way to access areas for outdoor recreating. I do understand that there has been an agreement regarding an easement to access the Lowe River on the west side of Section 6. I would hope that the same would hold for the RST 404 (Tasnuna Route) and RST 1359 (Keystone Canyon-Thompson Pass) trails. The areas of Section 5 & 6 proposed for exchange have been used for recreational, hunting, and subsistence purposes for many many years by many different user groups.</p> <p>Changing this or limiting this would be, I think, detrimental overall to what people come to Thompson Pass for. People come to Thompson Pass for a variety of reasons and all these reasons are to be outside in nature in one way or another. Thompson Pass is an area that many different groups can use the same area and enjoy the area, at times doing several different activities in day. Thompson Pass is a unique area that allows this to happen. Please consider other areas of land for exchange.</p> <p>Personally I think the views looking across Thompson Pass and towards Marshall Pass to be one of the most spectacular in the whole state. I would hate to see that change due to exchanged lands with no bounds on what can be done on them.</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124247	<p>Please don't agree to a land swap with native corps for road access land in Thompson Pass. As a Valdez resident, skier and hunter, I use this land all the time. It is some of the best road access alpine in the State and allows for multiple types of recreation. There is also no historical evidence that Native groups ever occupied this land. Roadside opportunities for recreation in Alaska are already limited with little expansion, especially in this area of the State. Please don't take any of this limited resource away from the People.</p> <p>The BLM's East AK Resource Management Plan, the document that dictates how BLM should manage this land, does not consider it (arguably the most breathtaking accessible AK viewshed) available for private ownership. I encourage you to keep this land for all the people; white, black, native, whatever. We are all Alaskans and Americans now.</p>	
EastAK-1-500124272	<p>I understand the land rights and laws. However, there should be an easement for recreational access. Access to outdoor pursuits is a huge economic driver in the State of Alaska and needs to be considered. Historically after allocation Native Corporations often "lock up" the land. Please consider a different parcel or area altogether or consider a recreational easement and access.</p>	
EastAK-1-500124283	<p>The City of Valdez, Alaska would request an extension of the time period to comment to the Bureau of Land Management. Our City Council is not meeting again till January 5, 2021 and they will be discussing the matter and potential input that the City will want to provide the Bureau of Land Management. We would request more time to comment on the matter and provide more thorough commentary to the Bureau. The January 4, 2021 deadline simply does not provide the time period our community needs to assess the current proposal.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Mark R. Detter mdetter@valdezak.gov City Manager City of Valdez PO BOX 307 212 Chenega Avenue Valdez, AK 99686 907-834-3466 (Office) 907-313-9443 (Cell)</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124332	<p>The access across the Lowe River valley looks like it would be all but eliminated by this transaction to parties that do not have rights to be on native owned land.</p> <p>Currently there is a winter snowmachine trail that gets put in from the Worthington flats area on the highway, up and over the mountains to the Lowe River area (near the border of sections 4 and 5) and then climbs back up toward the deserted glacier and Marshall glacier.</p> <p>It looks like it would be cut off by this land exchange if there was not an easement or some provision for travel across the native land seasonally in winter. That would be a real shame if it were the case- because those are some really nice areas to ride snowmachines and ski and snowboard- and the access is a lot safer than going from the road maintenance gravel pit closer to Valdez. That access way involves skipping across often open parts of the Lowe river, travelling through treed forest transition zone, and then gaining access to the alpine near the area called "the Books". From travelling both routes, the route over the mountains from Worthington flats to the Lowe River and back up toward Marshall glacier and deserted glacier is a lot less hairy.</p> <p>The proposed land swap area topography is mostly canyon land that would not provide much useful homestead land or navigable (from the highway without bridges) access to the native owned land nearby. It would, however, separate two current easily (winter) accessible plots of BLM land that are able to be traversed legally with the current BLM land status.</p> <p>I would be less opposed to the land swap if it were made clear that seasonal access to users who are not native could be maintained. Travel across the land is what I am concerned about losing the ability to do. I do not wish to mine, hunt, or homestead on the land- just travel across it when it is covered in snow.</p>	
EastAK-1-500124356	<p>My family vehemently opposes any change of land ownership at or near Thompson Pass that could restrict access.</p> <p>Thompson Pass is a small area. It is not like parks and publicly accessible land elsewhere. There is only one road with less than half a dozen pull-outs along the highway between Mileposts 18 and 40 along the Richardson Highway. The area is intensely used, especially during winter, especially by my family.</p> <p>Do not transfer any public land at Thompson Pass.</p>	
EastAK-1-500124360	<p>Please consider retaining the public's ownership of this prime section of land in the Chugach mountains. As an outdoor recreationalist and enthusiast, I believe this land is (and will remain) far more valuable to the Alaskans who use and cherish it most as it is, rather than the property of private corporations who can do with it what they please in the years and generations to come.</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124430	<p>Hello. I would like to comment about the proposed amendment to the Regional Management Plan to allow the BLM to consider a land transfer of Thompson Pass Area land to the Chugach Corporation. I understand that a substantial legacy has led the Chugach Corporation to desire this accessible land that connects much of their holdings to the road system, and I do not oppose the transfer. However, I do have personal concerns that I would like to see addressed in the negotiation of the land transfer. I live in this area specifically because of the backcountry ski opportunities, which I have been participating in for over 20 years. In the event that Chugach Corporation develops any ski, snowboard, or snowmachine tourism operations in the area accessed by the land, I fear that they could seek to stop other users from recreating in the area in order to preserve the experience for their own guests. Backcountry skiers in the Valdez area already experience enormous pressure from heli-ski operations and from festivals such as Tailgate. I have felt this pressure increase substantially over the past 20 years. The combination of this with the potential for Chugach Corporation to close its land to backcountry skiing would deal an enormous blow to the ski community. Many backcountry users bought houses, got jobs, and raised families in the Valdez area specifically because of the backcountry ski opportunities. The Heiden Glacier, also known as "The Books" is an incredible refuge of backcountry skiing. It would really hurt if the Chugach Corporation decided that backcountry users could no longer access the Heiden Glacier for skiing.</p>	
EastAK-1-500124471	<p>We can not move land that is available to all public user to private hands with no use or development restrictions. Stopping historical public use on these parcels that have huge recreational use is not right. There are large tracks of Native allotment land close to these areas. It is redundant to transfer more of this land.</p>	
EastAK-1-500124567	<p>I do not believe that this land should be made available for exchange. It's "economic viability" should include more than what we can dig up from the ground, and it's consequent destruction would ensure the death of its ecosystem (which would have wide ripples to us all). Until a TRUE economic value can be placed on carbon conversion, climate stability and homes for endangered species, any "testing" using incomplete quantification of values are irrelevant.</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124672	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>This brief comment concerns the proposal for a land exchange that would transfer land in the Thompson Pass area to the Chugach Alaska Corporation. My understanding is that CAC has selected and/or received its full entitlement under ANCSA. The Thompson Pass lands should remain in public ownership because of their very high recreational and scenic public values and their value as habitat. As a resident of the Copper River watershed (Kenny Lake), I am well aware of the very significant public value of these lands and oppose their transfer into private hands.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of this comment.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Cliff Eames Kenny Lake, AK</p>	
EastAK-1-500124727	<p>Greetings,</p> <p>I am opposed to the transfer of the Thompson Pass land area to any private corporation, Native Corporation or otherwise. This is prime public recreational land and should be treated as such for the equal benefit of all Alaskans, not just those who are shareholders of a private corporation.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I encourage denial in the interests of all Alaskan.</p>	
EastAK-1-500124737	<p>Please do not allow land exchanges in Thompson Pass. Please consider alternative locations outside of Thompson Pass.</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124751	<p>Greetings:</p> <p>Starting in 1997, my wife and I bought property in both Valdez, Alaska and remote Ellamar (near Tatitlek), Alaska and have constructed improvements on both properties. The Tatitlek Corporation (TTC) is a Multi-\$Million Native Corporation that has many (mostly government) services contracts around the world. In May of 2019, TTC bought out the remaining 88 parcels (54%) of the Ellamar recreational lots from the original early 1980's developer, Ellamar Properties. TTC has stated their intent is to eventually acquire all the remaining Ellamar lots now in private ownership, like ours, for eventual transfer to the local Village of Tatitlek through their Palutaq Holdings LLC. TTC and/or Chugach AK Corp, thru ANSCA of 1971, has already acquired most of the nearby Prince William Sound ocean-front property in and around Tatitlek Village, which has a historically-documented and steadily declining resident population. They have basically cut off non-native public access to all of their previously ANSCA-acquired lands in the area, effectively denying access to the non-native owned, mostly public lands further inland. Without a doubt, they would do the same thing, under the Lisa Murkowski-sponsored 2019 Dingell Act exchange program, to the roughly 1260 acres (2 square miles) of the popular public recreation area located at the Thompson Pass hairpin turn on the south side of Odyssey mountain, if acquired. The natives have already been granted ownership of 4 square miles to the east and 22 square miles to the south/southwest of the hairpin turn property. They already control many square miles of Alaskan lands.</p> <p>As a result, we are opposed to the transfer of any more Thompson Pass land area to any private corporation, Native Corporation or otherwise, effectively removing public access to all but a select few. This is prime public recreational land, with a long history of beneficial public use and should be treated as such for the equal benefit of all Alaskans, not just those who are shareholders of a semi-private corporation. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I encourage denial in the interests of all Alaskans. (Submitted via Email on 1Jan2021)</p>	
EastAK-1-500124760	<p>Dear BLM,</p> <p>Please don't give any land in the Thompson Pass area over to private ownership, especially the property by the hairpin turn. I haven't spoken with anyone who supports this, and if it goes through it will be generally resented by people in the Valdez area, especially those who forage and recreate there.</p> <p>Tory Dugan Mile 19 Richardson Hwy</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124774	Please do not proceed with this land exchange. It is nowhere near any established native settlements and will limit access to winter recreation areas and is currently being used for hunting as well. To exchange this land would be a disservice to the community's use. There is already massive amounts of land throughout prince William sound, copper river delta and all along the Richardson highway as well as all over the state of Alaska that is littered with no trespassing signs and locked up. This land could potentially have value and should be value to all Alaskans and not entitled to 1 group	
EastAK-1-500124777	i'm a 30 yr resident & yr round & continuing user of the area in question in Thompson Pass. i'm totally against the give away of any of our public land to a private corporation free to lock up, dig up & exploit any way they see enriching for themselves. private profit should not trump public good. paul may	
EastAK-1-500124780	I am against this land grab, the general public has been using the area and trails for over 100 years, historical trails that would include an RS2477 public access must be addressed and a completed platted public historical use trail before anything can be done, anything short of that would be a back door deal not doing justice to the best use of this customary and traditional public use!	
EastAK-1-500124783	Hello, my name is Robbin Capers and I am a 10-year resident of Valdez, Alaska. I am a board member of Valdez Adventure Alliance, a local non-profit organization dedicated to the development of recreational opportunities in the Valdez area and the current contracted operator of state recreational lands in the area, including Shoup Bay Marine Park and Worthington Glacier and Blueberry Lake State Recreation Sites. I am also a former member of the Valdez area State Parks Citizens' Advisory Board and an avid outdoor recreationalist. I am very concerned about any potential loss of access to popular local recreational and subsistence harvesting areas. The lands identified in this action are used by skiers, snowmachiners, hunters, berry pickers, hikers, photographers, and mountain bikers, among others. They are within sightlines of people enjoying Blueberry Lake SRS and other surrounding public lands, where development could reduce the recreational experience. Additional development and traffic could also pose problems on an already dangerous and often crowded section of highway in an area with poor visibility and many other weather-related difficulties. Federal and state-supported recreational development in this area is severely lacking, and small groups and individuals have to work hard to maintain recreational opportunities here. We simply cannot lose this land and the opportunities it provides. Please leave it as it is now - accessible to all.	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124787	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>As a resident of Valdez, outdoor enthusiast, and local outdoor guiding business owner, I am very much interested in this case, and am hoping to input my interest in preventing the land at and adjacent to the hairpin turn on Thompson Pass, on the south side of Odyssey Mountain from being transferred, unconditionally into the hands of the Chugach AK Corporation. This is such a remarkable natural setting that has long been used by outdoor recreationists for hiking, climbing, skiing and snow machining, and it would undoubtedly be a sad day to see an area of such distinctly high natural value along with such good access to not only become off-limits, but also potentially become developed in some way or another. I was just up there on the final day of 2020 for a ski in the fresh and quiet air, and sure enough, the experience was brilliant. There were as many as 8 or 9 other cars also parked at the pull-out that day, and everyone I encountered appeared to be enjoying the place immensely. This is such a rare and special place, with uniquely valuable access, that I hope it remains accessible for all people of all kinds to experience, and I ask you to carefully consider all factors (including the long-term outcome!) when deciding what to do with this specific plot of precious land. Thanks for listening.</p>	
EastAK-1-500124792	<p>Greetings and Salutations</p> <p>I would like to see more state land geared towards a veterans memorial similar to many throughout the state.</p> <p>They are a great destination for families here in south central and Fairbanks. This trail has so many stories to tell. Let me know yours.</p> <p>Thanks ??</p>	
EastAK-1-500124799	<p>I request that any lands transferred, conveyed or exchanged, that easements, trails, roads and access routes be they traditional, historic or recent be identified, surveyed, cleared with access points identified and preserved as legal access routes for future public use. This should apply to all lands involved in these transactions.</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124802	<p>As an Alaska resident who values wilderness and backcountry access, my primary concern with this land exchange is the impact it will have on recreational access on the parcels, and right-of-way to lands beyond it. The land in question provides access to a high-traffic Thompson Pass backcountry recreation area including the Lowe River and backcountry ski runs, and includes sections of three historic and recreational trails (Keystone Canyon-Thompson Pass Trail, the Tasnuna Route, and 1899 Pack Trail).</p> <p>I request that the BLM adhere to their current East Alaska Resource Management Plan, which accurately identifies the value of these parcels as wilderness recreation areas. The BLM should retain public ownership on behalf of the Alaskan people rather than turning it over to a corporation which has publically stated its goal for the lands is to extract maximum economic value.</p> <p>At very least, it is extremely important to maintain public right-of-ways and easements enshrined in law, rather than vacating them during the exchange. Restrictions of public access to large regions have been an especially concerning issue recently, including issues in Ram Valley (Chugach State Park), Tolovana Hot Springs access off the Elliott Highway, Matanuska Glacier access, etc.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124811	<p>are a small non-profit, that currently manages Blueberry Lake SRS and Worthington Glacier SRS under permit with the Alaska Division of State Parks and Outdoor Recreation. I would like to comment regarding the impacts of making additional lands near Thompson Pass available for potential exchanges.</p> <p>I have two concerns regarding the parcels in this issue:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. making them available for exchange will set up a potential nightmare of trespass management conflicts 2. it will detract from the overall rec experience on Thompson Pass. <p>There is clear recreational value and use in and around the area of these parcels being considered: family-friendly skiing at Moonlight Basin, Road Runs at the Thompson Pass hairpin turn, and recreational snowmobile touring, berry picking, and ptarmigan hunting on the ridgeline.</p> <p>Regarding trespass conflicts: Part of our non-profit work is to improve access to outdoor recreation resources. As a nation, there are already problems with public lands that are not accessible for public recreation because they are locked inside (or "behind") lands belonging to private individuals, enterprises, or other agencies. Exchanging these two parcels into private ownership creates another island of private land in a sea of general use state land that has been a worldwide recreation mecca since the birth of extreme skiing here in the 1980s.</p> <p>These parcels are in close proximity to Blueberry Lake SRS. Visitors to this beautiful campground on Thompson Pass currently enjoy spectacular 360-degree mountain views from 20 camp sites on a paved loop road near the lake. There are fire pits and picnic tables, vault toilets and a water pump. Several sites work well as group camping sites that are frequented by youth and church groups, wedding parties and others. I have attached photos of people climbing, kayaking, biking, fishing, and camping in the Blueberry Lake SRS area.</p> <p>Currently people are willing to trade the amenities of water and electric RV hookups in exchange for the very affordable experience of submersion in nature for these kinds of activities. Proceeds from camping fees at Blueberry Lake are a key revenue steam that helps VAA cover the cost of maintaining that site as well as Worthington Glacier SRS, and the Shoup Bay Trail in Prince William Sound. Conversion of those parcels to private land raises the specter of development that could threaten the appeal and hence revenue-earning potential of</p>	<p>All jpg files are posted in the scoping comments</p> <p>camping.jpg fishing.jpg rv use.jpg day use.jpg kayaks bikes.jpg thompsonpass.bigbackdrop.jpg climbing.jpg</p>
EastAK-1-500124815	<p>I believe this is a poorly thought out idea that will negatively impact outdoor access and recreation in this area of Thompson pass.</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124820	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am perplexed and bothered by the exchange of the Thompson Pass area from BLM to corporation owned. This area has not only a pristine ecology, but also a historical context to the people who live within the Valdez corridor. The historical trails of the late 19th century pass through this area and a state park (Blueberry Lake) is located across the current highway from the proposed land swap. The recreational opportunities abound in this area as well. I personally have skied and backpacked in the hairpin turn area and out towards Marshall Pass. I also enjoy fishing in Blueberry Lake and in the colder months before the snow flies my family enjoys ice skating there as well. It is well known that in Prince William Sound much of the corporate or native lands restrict access for hiking and camping. Thus limiting the recreational opportunities for folks. Also, this particular corporation has made a mark in the sound by logging. Who is to say that they will not attempt this in Thompson Pass as well? Why would I suppose that this would be any different? A lodge would produce such an eyesore that I would hate to see that as the proposed use of the land. So many tourists, and locals alike, can be seen at all times of the year pulled over to take advantage of the pristine beauty that abounds in this corridor. Quintessentially Alaska- high peaks, long range views and untouched by man. As it is unknown as to the purpose for the land exchange this makes for a dubious proposal where community members remain in the dark.</p> <p>I therefore cannot support this transfer of ownership.</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124828	<p>utilize the federal lands (BLM, NPS, NWS, DOD, etc) as well as State lands under various designations for many purposes that sustain our lifestyle in Alaska. We even utilize the Native Corporation and other private lands for these purposes where and when authorized. Hunting, fishing, camping, berry picking, hiking, recreation and spiritual renewal are some of the things we have consistently utilized all these lands for. With this in mind, ACCESS TO THESE LANDS is of utmost importance to us.</p> <p>Access from the highways is often difficult and limited. The highways are often bordered by private lands that limit access opportunities to the state and federal lands beyond the private lands along the roads. Although, BLM has identified easements in locations along the Richardson Highway, many remain unsigned, obscure, with little or no parking opportunities. This situation makes access to state and federal lands difficult. Before any additional lands are made available for transfer to private ownership, Highway access to state and federal lands should be re-examined throughout the Eastern Alaska Planing Area. This should properly be completed in a planning area wide RMP Amendment prior to changing the designation on existing lands, now designated for retention, to disposal. To fail to complete this planning area look, could result in a piecemeal disposal of federal lands that further hamper access and even result in a checkerboard ownership pattern that is almost impossible to manage effectively. In some cases this could lead to private lands being utilized to curtail access to state and federal lands. This exact situation is notable in the lower 48, where strategically located private lands are utilized to control access to the federal public lands beyond. This must not be allowed to happen here and should be mitigated where it currently exists.</p> <p>My wife and I have utilized the lands under consideration in this amendment for access to recreational pursuits such as hiking, x-country skiing and berry picking. We are currently planning a more extensive excursion further into the Marshall pass area. The Thompson Pass area, including the area near the hairpin turn is extensively utilized for recreational purposes by many people. A few days ago we witnessed extensive use of the area for what appears to be skiing. The pull outs are often occupied in both winter and summer. Maintaining public access and even improving it is important in this area and throughout the planning area. In particular it is important to establish access to the mainstream of the Copper River at various locations</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124831	<p>Dear BLM land managers,</p> <p>I am not in favor of opening Thompson Pass vicinity lands to Dingell Act land exchanges. I think any potential development would detract from the scenic and wild experience one has in the Pass. And especially forever alter the amazing view one sees when looking down the Marshall Pass towards the Copper River and over the land in question. I very much appreciate the untouched feeling the Pass offers. Please keep this land as it currently classed, as NOT available for Dingell Act exchange.</p> <p>Thank You, Jeremy Robida</p>	
EastAK-1-500124833	<p>I am writing in regards to the potential land exchange on Thompson Pass.</p> <p>I would assume that you are receiving many comments regarding the fact that this particular spot is prime recreational area for locals and visitors. It is used by many snowmachiners, skiers, hunters, berry pickers, hikers...it is also one of the most scenic locations on the pass.</p> <p>But more of a concern to me is the fact that this land is next to my home: Heidenview Subdivision. We have about 40 residents at this point, and several families raising young children. All of us have built beautiful homes, and love where we live. All of us enjoy the access to the surrounding mountains, the silence, the dark nights, the clean air and water. Many of us have water rights to use nearby streams for our water sources.</p> <p>I am worried about the unknown development that will take place once a corporation has private ownership. While none of us know what the native corporation will do with the land, I feel quite certain that the main purpose is to have it be financially equitable. Mining? logging? Being in such close proximity to potential industrial activities would ruin our neighborhood, and the reasons we live there.</p> <p>Noise pollution, light pollution, toxic runoff into streams and the Lowe River (all species of salmon and Dolly Varden are in the river). Air pollution from dust (very windy corridor).</p> <p>I would request that other land is considered for this exchange..somewhere that would not be so impactful to a residential neighborhood.</p> <p>thank you</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124834	<p>I am an Alaskan resident and reside at 19 Mile on the Richardson Highway outside Valdez Alaska. I have lived here below Thompson Pass since 1998. I am a property owner here.</p> <p>Please DO NOT allow this land offer to commence! The area of discussion is public land. I do not feel it is right for native corporations to re-select lands and get a right to target these resources for private gain. This land is public use and should stay that way. It is pristine wilderness that should remain owned and protected by the BLM. The native corporations were awarded their rightful lands in the past. It seems like an unfair negotiation for the United States of America. Lets keep the land for the people by the people. Why would it be fair for a "for profit" entity to grab natural resources to profitable gain? I really hope the public commentary period can address some of these serious questions and issues. It's heartbreaking to see this area become pressured with demands such as this!!</p>	
EastAK-1-500124835	<p>This seems an unlikely and uneven land swap. The area of Thompson Pass that is being considered is currently a popular, accessible property. If there are arguments to be made to uphold this action it would be wise to publish them and gain support from our residents. If not, as Alaskans making good long term decisions, we should halt the process and reconsider.</p>	
EastAK-1-500124836	<p>I am a concerned Valdez, Alaska resident asking the BLM not to trade our public land in Thompson Pass to a private entity. Thompson pass is a vital part of valdez. It brings people from all over the world, to recreate, sightsee, hunt and be able to enjoy pristine wildness right off the road system. It is also the head waters of the Lowe River which feeds into Prince William Sound. These public lands are used everyday by many different groups and it should stay the peoples land.</p> <p>Thank you, Hope VanDerMeulen</p>	
EastAK-1-500124837	<p>Please keep Thompson Pass public! This is a natural resource providing a one of a kind recreational area for locals and tourists. Turning this into a privately owned area will not only jeopardize access to one of the best and most iconic places to ski and snowboard in the world, but open up the possibility that the land and natural beauty be destroyed by commercial interests.,4,,</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124841	<p>Good morning on the final day of comments</p> <p>I just became aware of this land swap and want to strongly oppose it ..</p> <p>We are at a time that outdoor recreational area need to be preserved more than ever ..</p> <p>The actual pandemic show clearly that people are in need of safe, beautiful, interesting outdoor space to recharge their energy !</p> <p>The long lasting effect of the pandemic will be with us for years to come unfortunately and a growing number of citizens depend on this designated area to access their favorite backcountry and privatizing this area would be devastating at a time they need it the most and would prevent them to access their favorite backcountry and re energizing their body and soul ...</p> <p>I hope you take this seriously and realize that this area is a prime access to the backcountry and privatization of it would bloc the access to a large portion of the prime Alaska wilderness This need to stay in the public sector and for the use of all Alaskans..</p> <p>Thank you so much for your time and I hope I made light on the importance of this specific area</p> <p>Thank you</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124845	<p>concerning Thompson Pass Land acquisitions By Chugach Native Corp.</p> <p>The actions that have lead us to this point have taken years and the a final 30 day window of opportunity for the public to comment, not participate but to comment is unreasonable and unacceptable. The public has not had the time or resources to formulate good, civil responses to this action. The public was the last to know of this action. Outreach appears to have been minimal. The public has jobs and other consideration of life that do not allow for constant scrutiny of the CFR's to see what is being thrust upon them and to prepare intelligent comments and responses to them.</p> <p>There are many problems with this action including the behind closed doors that got us here including the BLM's extreme reticence to process RS2477's state wide and in particular in Thompson Pass while at the same time rushing headlong into an ill conceived land swap that will only profit a major corporation with no benefit to the public.</p> <p>The land being swapped has not been to my knowledge published. is it accessible to the public?</p> <p>Harm to the public in this heavily used area.</p> <p>Chugach Native Corp. role in attempting take over the EVOS funds and management.</p> <p>The ill conceived easement the the state "negotiated" to provide access to the cliff above the Lowe River.</p> <p>Historically Land conveyances to corporations from public ownership have never resulted in a benefit to the citizens of the country.</p> <p>The need to finalize 600' RS2477's in the Pass.</p> <p>An ongoing investigation into the closed negotiations between the DNR and Chugach Native</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124846	<p>Thompson Pass property to private Native Corporation ownership. This is Valdez's back yard need for mental health and physical exercise year round. This area is a prime draw for tourism using Valdez as a base camp. This is inexcusable to take such widely needed and used property in such a big state with so many other options. I add the following written by another but I support every word.</p> <p>PROBLEM: (Potentially the most) Prime public recreation land in Alaska is proposed to be transferred to a private enterprise.</p> <p>Against the Federal guiding doctrine. BLM's East Alaska Resource Management Plan clearly states that these land sections are not available.</p> <p>Against the State guiding doctrine. The Copper River Basin Area Plan clearly states, "The management unit (Unit 15: Thompson Pass) should be retained in state ownership . . . with an emphasis on expanding recreation opportunities (3-103)". Thompson Pass was one of three areas "recommended for legislative designation (for) hav(ing)e very high recreation value and receiv(ing)e the most public use (A-5)." "The potential for conflict between minerals and other resources is high in these areas. The relative values of fish habitat or recreation are higher than potential mineral values and therefore warrant a closure (A-4)." "Due to land conveyances under the ANSCA and state land disposals, the primary trail issue is to retain and designate existing access to state land (A-6)."</p> <p>Against Public (the landowner's) opinion. The public and the (now "abandoned" by the State) Citizen's Advisory Board has, for many years, unanimously opposed commercial development in Thompson Pass. Example - On 10/1/04 the Citizens Advisory Board (chosen by the Director of the Division of Parks and Recreation to ensure that a broad spectrum of public interest would be represented), sent a (yet another) letter to the DNR stating "For the better part of the last decade the Citizens Advisory Board has had numerous instances to hear public comment about development in the Thompson Pass area. The board can state unequivocally that the overwhelming majority of public comments have been against permanent year-round commercial development of the Thompson Pass area."</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124848	<p>I would like to add a voice to speak of the importance of keeping access to these lands for the public to recreate.</p> <p>As a passionate back-country skier and mountain adventurer, I believe Access to the mountains like this is becoming harder to find worldwide. Thompson pass accesses so much, for so many.</p> <p>Please keep the access to these mountains open. These are amazing places for scenic beauty, and good places to improve physical, mental and emotional well being</p> <p>The Heiden, Worthington, and Deserted glaciers are very unique in how easy it is to access such a seemingly remote glacier and should be protected and access allowed.</p> <p>It would be a tragedy if they ever get mined or exploited.</p> <p>Thankyou for reading my comment</p>	
EastAK-1-500124849	<p>I support the land exchange for Chugach Alaska at the top of Thompson Pass (C009S002W), provided that BLM allow the state of Alaska's DNR to recommend public 17(b) easements across the two sections AND that both BLM and Chugach Alaska recognize the two RS2477 trails (Keystone Canyon -Thompson Pass Trail, RST 1357 and the Tasnunu Route, RST 404) as public rights of way across these lands. I also support a 17(b) easement to be placed on any roads that may be constructed in the future to facilitate development of these and adjoining lands.</p> <p>I also suggest that Tatilek and Chugach Corps. reconsider the route for the existing 17(b) easements on their adjoining lands to ensure continuity of access to and through these lands.</p>	
EastAK-1-500124851	<p>As a resident of Valdez I am opposed to the transfer of public land to private corporations.</p> <p>Please retain prime, road accessible public lands for the public!</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124852	<p>I moved to Anchorage, Alaska 10 years ago as a school teacher. During my second summer vacation, I took the opportunity to explore Alaska (mostly on the road system) but found myself enthralled with Thompson Pass all the way down to Valdez. After spending just a brief moment in the area, I returned to Anchorage with the plan to move to the area. Throughout the school year I would visit and recreate there (foregoing my season pass at Alyeska Resort to be in the “backcountry” of Thompson Pass and in June moved Valdez. Within a week of moving, I had the opportunity to work for Alaska State Parks, maintaining its public use areas from Worthington Glacier in Thompson Pass to Sawmill Bay in Prince William Sound. For two summers, I had the best job of my 40 years on this orbiting rock, until funding would no longer support our post. The following spring, I found myself living in Thompson Pass and getting employment with a seasonal coffee shop just to be in the area that I had truly found to be “home”. That tradition of playing, working, and living in Thompson Pass lasted for five springs. I was eventually lucky enough to land a summer job that provided me with the opportunity to once again be in the Thompson Pass area. Then 2020 happened and there were no tourism jobs, yet I was still living in Thompson Pass and enjoying all that it offers while respecting the area. It’s now 2021, and I look forward to continually enjoying the area that has been so graciously kept natural for recreational purposes. Please consider the pleas of those who use, respect, and love the area to keep them as they are today. Thank you.</p>	
EastAK-1-500124853	<p>The law should not be amended to allow this prime public land to become private. This land is rightly protected under the BLM East Alaska Resource Management Plan and the Alaska Copper River Basin Area Plan. It is a resource best extracted through untouched outdoor recreation.</p>	
EastAK-1-500124859	<p>Greetings from Heidenveiw resident R.Mike Maze(19 mile Richardson Hiway). I am writing today out of concern regarding the proposed land along the Thompson Pass corridor being transferd to a private enterprise(Chugach Corporation). I have spent the majority of my adult life building my homestead here at 19 mile, Richardson Hwy. My main concern is the potential curtailment of access to these aforementioned lands. It breaks my heart to think that I may not be able to have access to these lands for traditional hunting and gathering and recreation. Of primary concern is that my family won't have access to these lands that I have had in the past that have enabled me to pursue this life style. I am great full for the opportunity to comment in regard to this situation. Please reconsider this transfer so that all people will have unfettered access to these lands. Sincerely, R.Mike Maze</p>	
EastAK-1-500124862	<p>Regarding the East Alaska resource management plan I believe Thompson pass should be retained in state management and oppose commercial development. Thank you.</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124863	<p>I have lived in the copper river valley my whole life. Most of my family and extended family still live in the area as well, many in Valdez. I spend a great deal of time in Thompson pass, even on the exact proposed land exchange, the hairpin turn and the skiers paradise of "odyssey".</p> <p>I fully support Alaska native corps, being able to exchange land and for us as a state to do better in supporting and lifting up our valuable native cultures.</p> <p>I believe the land proposed to be switched in Thompson pass is the wrong land. The probability of commercial development in these areas is terrifying. Not only is it directly above the watershed to Valdez making the danger of a commercial enterprise all the more dangerous to local ecology, it is among the most prized Alaskan recreational land.</p> <p>In conclusion, I believe there is land that needs to be protected from all human development, native corporations included. There must be a better option for the land swap.</p>	
EastAK-1-500124865	<p>I have traveled from the lower 48 to Thompson Pass approximately 20 times to recreate and film its natural beauty.</p> <p>Mostly during the months of March and April. Every year for 15 years straight starting in 1998. Spending a couple months on the pass enjoying all aspects of it.</p> <p>It would be a dis service and frankly a disgrace to sell any part of our public lands to a private company.</p> <p>I have skied and snowmachined in this area and for it to be off limits is un acceptable.</p> <p>DO NOT SELL. We need to keep this public for generations to come.</p> <p>You start to sell when will it stop? DO NOT SELL OUR PUBLIC LANDS TO PRIVATE INTEREST.</p>	
EastAK-1-500124866	<p>I fully support Alaska native corps, being able to exchange land and for us as a state to do better in supporting and lifting up our valuable native cultures. I also believe in and have voted for our Alaskan Senators who have supported the development in other Native owned land including ANWR. In this instance the land proposed to be switched in Thompson pass is the WRONG land.</p> <p>The probability of commercial development in these areas is unnecessary and could be disastrous. Not only is it directly above the watershed to Valdez making the danger of a commercial enterprise all the more concerning to local ecology, it is among the most prized Alaskan recreational land. The hairpin turn and skiers paradise of "odyssey" is better served for sustainable recreational use for generations to come. My family has spent generations in the Copper River Valley and are deeply concerned by this situation. In conclusion, I believe there is land that needs to be protected from all human development, native corporations included.</p> <p>There must be a better option for the land swap.</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to express my concern about the proposed land swap in Thompson Pass, near Marshall Pass. I am worried that the corporation that would be taking over ownership/management of this land will not have any restrictions on the development of the land, and no public process would be required for any development of private land after the exchange. I also have concerns that travel restrictions on the property could be enacted after the swap, that could negatively impact existing activities on that land, such as hunting, berry picking, hiking, and skiing.</p> <p>I would like to learn more about the potential developments of this property, as well as impacts of the recreational opportunities thereon, before supporting any such transfer of this public asset to private hands.</p>	
EastAK-1-500124868	<p>Thank you.</p>	
	<p>Due to the high recreation value of this property, I would prefer to see this land retained by the State of Alaska.</p>	
EastAK-1-500124869	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I'm writing to oppose the planned land swap of prime recreational land near Thompson Pass to Chugach Alaska Corp. I'm a landowner nearby and a life-long Alaskan who doesn't know a different home. While I'm not Alaska Native, I am employed by an Alaska Native owned corporation and have worked for multiple other ones besides my current employer. The Dingell Act waded into complex and contentious territory, and while I have no easy answers to the issues it brings up, the conveyance of this land for possible resource extraction/development in an area of import to so many other people belies the commonly held goals of Alaska Native peoples as captured in the Alaska Federation of Native's listed mission statement of "protect, enhance, and retain all lands owned by Alaska Natives and their organizations."</p> <p>If Chugach AK Corp is planning to use that land for some other reason, they should say so, and we can debate that, however, the current process threatens access for myself and others to enjoy our public lands--see the case in point RE the now limited access to Tolovona Hot Springs outside of Fairbanks. The Thompson pass proposed land swap brings up both environmental impact concerns and restriction of public access in a location where I and others have been unfettered for generations. I don't dispute Chugach AK Corp's right to advocate for economic benefit to its tribal members, but do not think that action can take precedence over my right to have continued access to a healthy landscape and watershed that we all can enjoy.</p>	
	<p>EastAK-1-500124870</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124872	<p>Please don't give up the land on Thompson Pass to the Native Corporation. That land should remain in the hands of the public. We have utilized Thompson Pass since the early 70's. It's greatness is in the fact that it is NOT commercialized. Whatever the plans for those 22 acres, it is not worth getting rid of land that is free of commercialization. There are so few places to rather easily go with the integrity and power of Thompson Pass in order to be in the wilds that to change that seems a crime. The hair pins should remain blank pages to use for all.</p> <p>We live in the Wrangell/St. Elias National Park. If you ponder the map of the Park you will see how the native land was chosen... i assume that will be changing as it seems weird and non-productive.. It makes it hard to utilize the public lands because of the Native lands sprinkled throughout....</p> <p>One of us served on a Subsistence Board for 20 years and we are both commercial and subsistence users in the WRST. We are WELL acquainted with ANILCA and ANSCA. Now the new act is adding onto that. If a Corporation sees that their choices in the original were not optimal they get another chance... Sure wish that worked for us in the Park too. We owned our land before it was a Park but we have no ability to change those boundaries even as the glacier river takes acres away every year.The Park has clear demarcations about keeping land empty.</p> <p>BLM should stand by their rules and the letter of the law and keep land for those of us who at this moment own it, all of the American public, especially in an area renowned over the world for it's outdoor recreational opportunity. NOT for its Glitter Gulch.....</p> <p>Anyway, please keep Thompson Pass as non commercial as possible. I too see the potential of commercialism there. We own a very successful tourism site in the park and know potential when we see it, but we also see wild open country that should stay that way despite it's potential...</p>	
EastAK-1-500124874	<p>Please do not sell to private companies.</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124877	<p>Alaska Outdoor Council is a nonprofit organization that represents over 48 member clubs and over 10,000 members statewide on assuring public access to public lands/waters for outdoor activities in Alaska. The timing of this land exchange and the potentially opening up of an area that is highly valued for public recreation is unacceptable. The lack of clarity and unclear description of the land that the public will receive is also unacceptable. This land belongs to all Americans. The Public interest in accessible public land should be our first priority . It is our feeling that this is a potentially rushed exchange while the public is in some cases fighting for their lives due to the Covid 19 pandemic. We believe the public access of Thompson Pass and the land therein is a valuable resource that outweighs the potential commercial interests of private corporations. We also believe the public feels the same as the East Alaska Resource Management Plan made it clear that these lands are not available. The Alaska DNR "The Copper River Basin Area Plan" clearly states the importance of keeping this area public for it's high recreational value and potential conflicts of commercialization of the mineral deposits.</p> <p>We ask that this land exchange not take place due to its high recreational value for Alaskans year around that is road accessible. Most of Alaska's public lands are beyond the reach of most Alaskan's who use highway accessible vehicles.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Caleb Martin Executive Director of Alaska Outdoor Council</p>	
EastAK-1-500124878	<p>I am writing in opposition to proposed BLM Thompson Pass land transfer to the private corporation Chugach Alaska. This land is a prized public resource, unique in this word, and is of unquantifiable value in its current undeveloped state. Thompson Pass is a recreation venue unlike any other, and the transfer of this public resource to private hands would dramatically affect the access and the experience currently offered by this beautiful area. The current proposed land transfer goes against the existing BLM East Alaska Resource Management plan, against the existing Copper River Basin Area Plan, and against the overwhelming public opinion that Thompson Pass should remain free of permanent year round commercial development. Please stop this transfer from going forward and consider other viable locations that would yield similar benefit for Chugach Alaska and less detriment to the public at large. Thank you for your consideration.</p>	
EastAK-1-500124879	<p>Keep the land as it is, for the public!</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124882	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. Comments on behalf of Winter Wildlands Alliance and Outdoor Alliance are attached as a pdf file (WWA_OA BLM Thompson Pass comments.pdf). A hard copy can be provided upon request.	WWA OA BLM Thompson Pass comments.pdf
EastAK-1-500124883	Seems like a bad deal for Alaskans	
EastAK-1-500124884	I think a vague trade without clear details on the actually land traded is an irresponsible use of public resources. This area is widely used even at the moment I type this comment, there are members of the public using this area. The BLM should be doing what is best for the public interest in public resources. The public losing access is not in its best interests	
EastAK-1-500124886	Keep this public land public!	
EastAK-1-500124889	<p>I was born and raised in Alaska and have lived with my family in Valdez for the past 6 years. Most of my family and extended family still live in the area as well, many. We spend most of our time recreating in Thompson pass all year round, even on the exact proposed land exchange, the hairpin turn and the skiers paradise of "odyssey".</p> <p>Our family has always supported Alaska native corps and their rights to the land designated by ANCSA but I believe the land proposed to be switched in Thompson pass should not be privatized because it is used and loved by all Alaskans. The probability of commercial development is a serious concern for those of us who live locally. We are all for economic development and privatizing of other federal lands around Alaska, but not this portion. This is our backyard, and a rare gem of an accessible playground. Please hold on to Thompson Pass for the good of our community, visitors, and future generations to enjoy. Thank you.</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124891	<p>I have been researching the proposed amendment to the East Alaska RMP.</p> <p>My problem lies first and foremost in the definition of what is being proposed. This is not an exchange “an act of giving one thing and receiving another (especially of the same type or value) in return.” Chugach is not offering any land that will be of equal value to the public, especially the users of Thompson Pass. There is no identified positive for the general American public, if the land they want to exchange is undevelopable now it won’t be developable after the exchange nor any better protected. The primary public BLM should be concerned with are the users of the land. Very little, if any recreation is possible on the prospective lands they may exchange. The access certainly isn’t comparable to Thompson Pass.</p> <p>I have read what info is available searching for ways that this might be beneficial to our local community or the Alaskan public in general and I haven’t found any. Reviewing their website, Chugach generates some of their revenue by selling carbon credits and development rights to environmental groups, some of which could be funded with federal grants or even EVOS funding. Who knows if Chugach intends on stripping the protections for these lands only to sell them back to an environmental group? Of course, that would be one of the more benign paths regarding their options.</p> <p>Contrary to it seeming as though BLM identified the land on the pass, the fact is Chugach proposed a list of land they wanted and these were the only unencumbered parcels that could potentially be exchanged. Since these were lands Chugach selected, there is reason to believe that they have some sort of plan for their use. They have not released any information regarding this land or the others they own or have selected in the area.</p> <p>I ask that anyone who enjoys unimpeded access to the Thompson Pass lands indicated in the proposal please comment against this exchange and to also send Don Young, Dan Sullivan and Lisa Murkowski a note expressing any dissatisfaction from the process.</p>	
EastAK-1-500124896	<p>As a longtime Alaska resident, I would like to see all of the remaining blm land around the hairpin curve in Thompson pass stay in a recreational category so it can not be transferred into private hands. This area has exceptional recreation value which will be potentially lost by recategorizing it so it can be transferred. Alaska is a big state, but there is extremely limited access to the land, and this area is one of the premier areas for accessing surrounding public land as well as recreating. This chunk of land provides safe skiing and sledding opportunities for Valdez locals. Any land exchange will not make up for this.</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
	<p>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EZMrJjuK0bPmG5MAxgCga_O55sgZsDDR/view?usp=sharing</p> <p>Not sure if this link will work in this comment box so I will also upload same doc below (which is a different doc than previously submitted and if necessary, this submission can supercede the previous one, which is likely not an issue as Brenda indicated that multiple submissions are acceptable).</p> <p>The cart is being put before the horse. In order to follow the letter of the law, I am requesting an "All Systems Stop" until the Dingell Act's required study is complete. Not only does the Dingell Act require a study, within one year (it has been nearly 2 years), but then BLM is also obligated to make Federal lands (not lands that the State has quietly relinquished in a deal with a private corporation) available and to recommend a land exchange. BLM should not proceed with action based on a plan that has yet to be submitted. Step 2 of the Act is being pushed forward before Step 1 is complete. And when the study is complete, BLM should look at the full scope of the "Chugach Region" (not being foreclosed to just this one option) as dictated by the Act.</p> <p>The proposed parcels are arguably the most scenic public accessible land on the planet. And it's year-round recreation and hunting value are undeniable. There is plenty of "accessible and economically viable" land in the Chugach region that will not have such an enormous negative impact on the native (but not Chugach shareholders) and non-native public land users. Please look closely at the alternatives. And consider the many other issues I have introduced in the attached document, particularly energy security and national security.</p>	
EastAK-1-500124898	Thank you for your attention to this sudden and precarious situation.	ThompsonPassParadise Lost?.docx
EastAK-1-500124899	I'm opposed to the transfer and privatization of blm land in thompson pass and Marshall pass. Marshall pass is an area of profound scenic recreational and environmental value and should be preserved as is where is. Please extend the assessment comment dead line by at least 30 days to allow for more public input . Thank you peter lowney	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124903	<p>I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed amendment of the Bureau of Land Management's 2007 East Alaska Resource Management Plan. In particular, I would like to express my opposition to any actions that would allow the transfer of land Sections 5 and 6, T9S, R2W, CM into private ownership. Additionally, I am opposed to the transfer of any public access land into private ownership that is valuable to the public for any of the following reasons: recreational activities, social and economic impacts, rural and traditional lifestyles, subsistence use and access, public access, wildlife and biological resources, special status species, fish and aquatic species, water, wilderness characteristics, cultural resources and reasonably foreseeable future activities.</p> <p>Any changes to the RMP that would allow land sections 5 and 6 to be transferred to private ownership are undesirable to me personally because I, along with numerous others, use this public access land for hunting and recreation, and value the wilderness and scenic characteristics of the area. These 2 land sections provide moose and ptarmigan hunting opportunities. They also provide the safest and most convenient snowmachine access to ski terrain to the east of the Richardson Highway hairpin turn. Section 6 provides the only access from the highway to the Lowe River for kayaking through Heiden Canyon. Any development in sections 5 and 6 would blemish the currently unblemished scenic views from Thompson Pass and the Richardson Highway.</p> <p>In conclusion, any actions that could possibly restrict public access or allow any development of public lands in the vicinity of Thompson Pass are undesirable. In order to satisfy the provisions of section 1113 of the Dingle Act, please look elsewhere.</p>	
EastAK-1-500124905	I am opposed to any private ownership of this land. I go hunting and snow machining on these lands and would prefer to see them kept as they are. Thanks!	
EastAK-1-500124908	See attached.	2021 01 04 Defenders comment on BLM Nol to Amend East AK RMP.pdf
EastAK-1-500124909	See attached.	East Alaska RMP Comments AWL FINAL.pdf
EastAK-1-500124911	Please keep the lands for public use and not sell to private companies. I am totally against any transfer of land in the pristine Thompson's Pass area to individuals or companies.	
EastAK-1-500124912	This is vintage AHTNA tying up access close to the road to limit access to "public" lands. All of these deals are bad for the country.	
EastAK-1-500124913	I oppose giving public land away to private companies, most of which are not even Alaska based. We need to keep this land public so the Alaskan residents can have access.	
EastAK-1-500124914	I am a life long Alaskan who has lived in Valdez the past three years. As a healthcare worker (medical assistant, EMT and nursing student) I can't overstate the importance recreating has on my mental health, especially in these times. Thompson Pass, and particularly the Odyssey and Little odyssey arena is a personal favorite of mine for backcountry skiing. I am so grateful for the freedom and access that is available to EVERYONE for free in this area. I strongly urge consideration of Valdez locals in the decision to privatize this land.	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124916	Stop giving up our land! It's public land and all you people just see dollar signs! I was born here in 1982 and have been watching this place get destroyed! Populations rising so let's leave public land alone to remember this place for what it is!	
EastAK-1-500124918	I enjoy my time exploring the area around Thompson Pass. If a corporation wants a land swap, do so with land off the road system and an area that doesn't change outdoor recreation for the public. I've seen too many no trespassing signs pop up in areas I grew up playing from the result of a land swap. I'd hate to see the area in question lost to another no trespassing sign.	
EastAK-1-500124919	<p>Thanks to the Glenallen Field Office for its interest in transparency and opening up to public comment this proposed RMP amendment which could set the stage for a land exchange between BLM and Chugach Alaska Corp.</p> <p>I'm writing as a former resident of Valdez looking forward to moving back. I founded the Valdez Adventure Alliance to promote more year-round economic activity through outdoor recreation from Valdez to 46-mile. I am writing as a private citizen with the following questions and comments.</p> <p>Are these the only parcels BLM has to consider for possible exchange with Chugach Alaska Corp.? Will others be proposed to satisfy the federal mandate in the Dingell Act of 2019 or are these the only parcels under consideration? Are we getting the full picture of possible land exchanges?</p> <p>Is it time to refresh the entire Eastern Alaska RMP? The current plan is 14 years old! The iPhone was first introduced in 2007, 4-stroke lightweight snow machines were still a new innovation making headlines at trade shows, and the seeds of Tailgate AK were sown. Isn't it past time to update the entirety of this RMP? I know RMP revisions take years that we don't have in order to satisfy the timelines mandated in the Dingell Act, but there may be another option.</p> <p>State and federal documents recognize the recreation value of Thompson Pass. Much of the land in the vicinity of these parcels are general use state land and could be discussed during the public process creating the new Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The current SCORP expires this year so the new plan must be completed by Dec. 31. The SCORP process provides a timely opportunity for state, federal, public and tribal entities to develop a shared vision about future development for this area that should be considered before the RMP is amended.</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124920	<p>As someone who relies on public lands as a means of enjoying the outdoors, I find this land transfer concerning. Alaska Natives deserve more economic opportunity but not at the expense of public lands through privatization. Across Alaska, be it federal, state, or local land, there is an increasing problem of using public funds and/or public resources to fund private enterprise and, in doing so, taking away ownership from the American populace. Thompson Pass is the only official access to the alpine in the area, is publicly accessible, and is very valuable to the public interest to remain public.</p> <p>I have attached my full letter outlining my thoughts, but here is the summation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any land that GCN receives that is currently managed by BLM should remain publicly accessible as the American public, of which Natives are included, have already paid for the land through taxes and support. 2. GCN should be allowed to utilize the public land if it will not limit current public access and lead to substantial benefits for their minority shareholders (not just majority shareholders), included but not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Right to establish road access to any currently held land. The road should remain public where it crosses currently-public land. b. The right to establish selective logging roads in the region. These roads should remain public. c. The right to priority subsistence hunting on currently-public land. d. A percentage of value extracted from the region through resource development or tourism should be reinvested toward further access and conservation of the surrounding region. <p>I do believe that there is a way in which BLM, the public, and GCN can all work together to develop the region in a way that promotes economics, builds upon recreational opportunities in the region, and doesn't impact the rights of the public to access lands that are currently public.</p>	<p>BLM Thompson Pass Transfer to Chugach Native Corporation.docx</p>
EastAK-1-500124921	<p>I oppose the amendment to the EARMP that would make the lands near Thompson Pass available for transfer to private ownership. Transfer of public land to private ownership is not in the interest of the public land holders and therefore the community at large. The lands proposed for transfer are prime recreation lands that are road accessible which is important because it makes them usable to people across the economic spectrum. The proposed lands for transfer are frequently used for hunting, skiing, hiking, snow machining, river sports, and many other outdoor activities, by my family and many other people. While the community in this area is lucky to be surrounded by large areas of public land, it is important to remember that public land is NOT A RENEWABLE RESOURCE! Once land has been transferred to private ownership it will never again be public. These lands, being roadside accessible and used for so many healthy activities, are not appropriate for transfer from public to private ownership.</p>	

Comment Submission Report
EARMP Amend ThompsonPassArea Land 508.pdf (11/23/2020 - 01/04/2021)

01/05/21 09:42

Submission ID	Comment	Attachment(s)
EastAK-1-500124922	<p>the identified lands near Thompson Pass to become available for potential exchanges. I oppose such an amendment, as it would allow important, well-used, and easy-to-access public lands to be transferred into private ownership, excluding the public from using the lands.</p> <p>The identified lands are prime public lands used often by myself and my family, hundreds of Alaskans, and others for recreation, hunting, and mental health. Allowing the lands to be exchanged into private ownership would eliminate easy to access public lands that currently and historically have seen extensive public use.</p> <p>The Thompson Pass area in general and the identified lands specifically provide access to wilderness and recreation for people of all abilities and economic means. The identified lands sit adjacent to the Richardson Highway and a parking pullout maintained all year. Thus it is some of the easiest, safest (due to the pullout), and least expensive public lands to access and use. For decades the identified lands have been used extensively for winter and summer recreation by skiers, boarders, kites, snowmachiners, hikers, climbers, runners, hunters, and others.</p> <p>The identified land is part of a large tract of undeveloped public land, which provides an immeasurable (and often overlooked) value to the community, the State, and the flora and fauna supported by the large, intact ecosystem. Allowing the identified land to be exchanged into private ownership will fragment the large public land area and potentially eliminate the view shed, recreational and hunting opportunities, and negatively impact animal behavior and movements.</p> <p>Finally I oppose the project because the project description fails to identify (1) any alternative lands for the potential exchange, (2) what lands the public would obtain in exchange for this prime public land, and (3) what RS2477 and other public use easements (including prescriptive easements) exists for continued use of the identified land.</p> <p>In sum, I oppose any amendment to the 2007 East Alaska Resource Management Plan that would allow the identified lands near Thompson Pass to be available for potential exchanges.</p>	
EastAK-1-500124923	<p>1200 acres in Thompson pass being sold off to private party and restricting the access to residents and non residents alike is a terrible thing. We need to maintain the wilds of alaska as much as possible and allow hunters and hikers to access these areas without the need of a plane. Which almost non of us can afford. Please consider what would be the repercussions would be if there is never an end. This state would look like the lower 48 with no privileges to anyone without Money to pay.</p>	
EastAK-1-500124924	<p>Keep public land public!</p>	
EastAK-1-500124925	<p>Keep public land public!</p>	