

**Appendix D**  
**Summary of Responses to Comments on the Draft Report**

**Summary of responses to comments on the draft report for the Terrestrial Vegetation Study.**

Date of Letter/Email	Commenting Party	Comment / Study Request	Chugach Response / Report Changes
4/30/04	USFS	One analysis that we requested for several studies on Cooper Reservoir was to model habitat use and availability at a static reservoir level with established vegetation around the shoreline. This information is needed to provide a reference point for describing the effects of the Project that will be continuing into the future for your Proposed Action. ... We are not proposing that the static reservoir level be used as the “No Action” alternative in FERC’s NEPA analysis.	Chugach notes that all of the studies were conducted consistent with the final study plans and believes the reports do fully describe the ongoing effect of reservoir operations on the resources of interest. Chugach has also summarized in the Initial Consultation Package and Draft License Application all historical information of which it is aware, to qualitatively describe pre-Project conditions. Nevertheless, to address the continuing interest from participants, Chugach has included in the applicable final reports additional discussion using data collected during the 2003 studies to describe conditions that would likely exist if the reservoir level were held “static” at about 1,168 feet msl. [See additional discussion at p. 15 in final report.]
4/30/04	USFS	The discussions of the results in several of the reservoir studies do not respond to our request for habitat evaluations under differing operating scenarios. Specific studies are Cooper Lake fish, Macroinvertebrates, Terrestrial Wildlife, and Water Birds.	Chugach no longer proposes any change in the existing operating regime of Cooper Lake, so did not analyze potential effects of alternative operations. However, the necessary data to analyze the potential effects of an operating range up to 1,206 feet msl were collected as described in the study plans. Although no detailed analysis of these data will be conducted at this time, the final reports have been modified to include a brief, qualitative description of how an increased normal reservoir operating level could have been expected to affect vegetation, fish, and wildlife resources, as applicable. [See additional discussion at p. 15–16 in final report.]

Note:

1. ADFG = Alaska Department of Fish and Game. USFS = USDA Forest Service (Chugach National Forest).