

Date submitted (UTC): 2/11/2016 5:47:40 AM

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Comments:

I have spent time in the Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area (WSA) in the Chugach National Forest. It is a spectacular place, deserving of permanent Wilderness designation. But until a final decision is made on this designation, it is crucial that it continue to be managed as wilderness with the strongest protections possible.

While I appreciate your commitment to preserve the "character" of wilderness of the Wilderness Study Area in Prince William Sound, I don't think the protections go far enough. I ask you to amend the proposed WSA Management Intent to affirm this magnificent area will continue to be managed as wilderness until Congress makes a final decision on its protection. There is a long-standing policy of modeling WSA protection after the Wilderness Act, with special ANILCA provisions. This has been policy in the Chugach National Forest since 1984.

When I spent time in the WSA, I saw firsthand the impacts of increased visitation due to the opening of the Tunnel to Whittier. This will only continue to put pressure on the wilderness qualities of the WSA. Motorized uses are also increasing and need to be addressed including the use of chain saws, helicopters, drones, and snow machines. None of these things should be allowed in the WSA.

Finally, please recommend to Congress continued and permanent protection of the ENTIRE WSA, including Knight Island, Glacier Island, Perry Island, Columbia Glacier, Esther Island, Port Wells, Lake Nellie Juan, and the mainland along Knight Island Passage.

We only get one chance to preserve wilderness. Once the lands are compromised and non-compatible uses allowed, it's near impossible to go back. You have an extraordinary opportunity today to preserve a magnificent area. Please do so and leave a legacy for those who follow.

Thank you.