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Comments:

Please keep your promise to protect the wild character of the entire Wilderness Study Area (WSA) until Congress finalizes its protection. Maintain and clarify rules on all land-based motorized uses-including chainsaw use-and preserve the area's current undeveloped and non-motorized character.

I understand there is a recommendation that the 1.9 million eligible acres of the WSA and surrounding roadless lands are eligible for wilderness designation as Wilderness. Please do not abandon protection for the nearly 600,000 acres you propose to eliminate from the WSA.

Please reverse the terrible recommendation to split the Wilderness Study Area into two smaller units. This would dramatically shrink the area by permanently stripping long-established protections for Knight Island, Columbia Glacier, Perry Island, Glacier Island, Culross Island, Esther Island, Port Wells, mainland Knight Island Passage, and Lake Nellie Juan.

Prohibit recreational snowmobile use in the WSA. Snow machines for subsistence and traditional uses may be allowed, but recreational snowmobile use should not be.

In the Chugach National Forest, the Forest Service is entrusted to manage some of Alaska's most treasured wild lands in the Congressionally-designated 2 million-acre Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area. Changing that now-by allowing residential timber harvests, expanded motorized uses, manipulation of habitats, mining, and helicopter-assisted skiing and hiking-would harm this beautiful WSA. It doesn't make sense. Instead, the Forest Service should maintain current protections and recommend to Congress its perpetuation into the future. This world-class wild area deserves permanent protection now and far into the future.