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Comments:

Please do not loosen protections on the Chugach Wilderness. Keep your promise to protect the wild character of the entire 1.9 million eligible acres of the Wilderness Study Area by leaving it undeveloped and non-motorized until Congress finalizes its protection. Splitting the WSA would permanently strip 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. These 600,000 acres are vital for maintaining the wilderness character of the area. Furthermore, recreational snowmobiling should be prohibited in the WSA. Snowmobile use has exploded in the WSA in recent years, as it has in many partially protected wildernesses and parks across the country. Snow machines for subsistence and traditional uses should be allowed, but recreational snowmobile use should not.