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Comments:

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 WSA. 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 Wilderness Study Area.

I urge you to keep your longstanding promise to protect the wild character of the entire Wilderness Study Area until Congress finalizes its protection. This means maintaining and clarifying rules on all land-based motorized uses including chainsaw use and preserving the area's current undeveloped and non-motorized character.

Recommend that the 1.9 million eligible acres of the WSA and surrounding road-less lands be eligible for wilderness designation as Wilderness. Also, 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.