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Comments:

I stand strongly opposed to the proposal to open the Prince William Sound wilderness study area for any activity other than responsible Eco tourism, scientific study or wilderness camping using strict leave nothing but footprint rules. This pristine area is vital to the coastal ecosystems as a breeding, feeding and habitat grounds for many species. There are already an alarming amount of signs of severe abuse, damage and disregard in many areas of the study area from local residents who destroy the delicate habitat, leave trash and garbage behind and cut down live trees for campfires. There is much more economic and recreational advantages to making this entire area a national park to protect it further instead of downgrading its status to one of natural assets deemed open for exploitation. If they are not protected, it is proven based on other examples throughout the country, that they will be stripped, environmentally ruined, Eco systems devastated and then abandoned. Rather, if they were better protected, they could bring, via responsible tourism, an annuity in perpetuity of jobs, opportunity and research potential.