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Comments:

I absolutely love spending time in PWS. We kayak there every year, and it THE annual trip that I look forward to taking with my husband each year. We make it a point to bring new friends with us each time to introduce them to the beauty the Sound has to offer. We make sure to teach them to enjoy the beauty responsibly, in an effort to minimize our interactions with nature to preserve it. I love the peace and quiet and beauty of the WILDERNESS. It hurts me every time we arrive at a campsite and see the abuse around the campsites, where people have use chainsaws to cut wood, ignoring the "dead and down" rule, and haven't picked up after themselves. Can you imagine trying to sit by your campfire in the evening and hearing 4 wheelers or chainsaws cutting "personal" use timber? Or skiing in the winter and having to constantly be on your guard for snowmachines roaring through? I'm not saying that everyone will blatantly take advantage of the looser restrictions, but it is the few who will that will destroy the wilderness, taking more than their share of the timber, or taking it from places that are easily accessible and will be an eyesore. It is the few that will destroy the beauty for all if we let them. It takes only one person, one time, to run their 4wheeler or snowmachine through a fragile area to harm the plant life which could take decades to recover fully, or even be destroyed forever.

The CNF is a beautiful place that we need to preserve for our kids and grandkids in the current state it is in. The Wilderness Study Area in PWS was set up to study the land in current condition before the final designation was made. We need to preserve the character of the land as it has been, so that when the time does come for Congress to make a determination, it will still be the Wilderness and can be preserved as such. By changing the areas currently designated as Primitive Wilderness to be open to motorized vehicles, this is not preserving the character of the land as it has been historically. Every time we erode away another piece of true wilderness to make allow for human progress, we open the door to abuse and destruction whether by ignorance or willful action. A little more gets eaten away each time.

Human interaction is what harms the wilderness. Yes, we want to bring in tourists and show them the beauty of our wilderness, but not at the expense of the wilderness itself. By preserving the Primitive Wilderness designation, we limit the interactions, while still allowing people to enjoy it in its natural state. Please keep the designations as they were set forth in the 2002 plan, so we can preserve the wilderness. I'd love to see more protection, instead of less.