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Comments:

Since the Chugach NF does not have any designated Wilderness, the plan should provide full protection of the Wilderness Study Areas on the forest, especially the Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area (WSA).

The plan must protect the "Wilderness Character" of the WSA and provide specific standards and guidelines to ensure their protection, which means classifying the area with its "Primitive" standard.

The plan should provide the same protection for lands acquired as a result of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, as promised "in perpetuity for conservation and wilderness purposes."

The Chugach NF must also enforce these protections, including addressing ongoing illegal recreational use of chainsaws in the WSA, which has resulted in damaging tree removal along dozens of wilderness beaches, including in sensitive areas.

Finally, the plan should select Alternative D's recommendation for the maximum amount of Wilderness or 97 percent of the WSA.

Thank you.