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Comments:

We are writing to ask that the Plan protect the "wilderness character" of the WSA. The current Forest Service's proposal just talks about protecting the "existing character" and this isn't strong enough. To do what we suggest with "wilderness character", we think that the Plan should classify all of land with the Forest Service's "Primitive" standard, which is the most protective standard in the agency's recreational classification system.

We also suggest that there is a restoration of strong protection to the lands within the WSA that the federal government purchased following the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. These lands were acquired for the restoration of wilderness values and must be managed "in perpetuity for conservation and wilderness purposes," as promised when they were purchased.

Obviously, the Chugach NF must address 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. It is not acceptable under the terms of use that things like chainsaws be used.

Related to the above point, we support a modified Alternative D wilderness recommendation that also includes Lake Nellie Juan and the lands within the WSA boundary that were purchased for restoration of wilderness resources following the oil spill.