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Comments:

Our comments, in 2016, helped strengthen protections for the 1.9 million-acre "Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area" (WSA) in Alaska! Now, our help is needed again, by November 1, to further improve the Forest Service's "Final Plan and Environmental Impact Statement"!

The "Nellie Juan-College Fiord WSA" is an ecological, and, scenic treasure! It is nearly two million acres of ancient rain forest, wild salmon, and, stunning mountains, and, glaciers! Its meandering fiords are laced with hundreds of remote islands!

My family and I are submitting comments on the Forest Service's "Draft Land and Resource Management Plan" for the "Chugach National Forest (NF)" in Alaska! While the 6.9 million-acre "Chugach" does not yet have a single acre of designated Wilderness, this National Forest does have the spectacular, Congressionally-designated "Nellie Juan-College Fiord WSA"!

OUR FAMILY IS ASKING FOR THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO THE CURRENT PROPOSED FOREST PLAN:

The "Plan" must protect the "wilderness character" of the WSA, not, the Forest Service's weak proposal to protect just its "existing character!" Furthermore, the "Plan" must protect the wilderness character of the lands in the WSA by classifying all of them with the Forest Service's "Primitive" standard, which is the most protective standard in the agency's recreational classification system!

Restore 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!

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!

"Alternative D" recommends the maximum amount of land for "Wilderness" of any of the "Alternatives" (97 percent of the "WSA", or, 1.884 million acres)! Our family supports 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!