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Comments:

Comment on Proposed Plan Revision of Chugach Nellie-Juan WSA

About ten years ago two friends and I kayaked for almost a week from the head of King's Bay through the Port Nellie-Juan and Culross Passage to the Well's Passage.

As a 58-year resident of Interior and Southwest Alaska, I have never experienced such a spectacular kayak trip in my life. Suffice to say, that I felt then, and feel now, that the area should be a part of the Designated Wilderness System in the U.S. I realize that because of political reasons it is still only a Wilderness Study Area. Although WSA's, including the Nellie-Juan, are presently managed "as though they were Wilderness," I strongly believe the entire area (including the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill acquired lands) should be designated as official Wilderness and managed according to the 1964 Wilderness Act. Until this happens, the entire area should remain an original WSA with no attempts to "water down" the management responsibilities attendant to the status of an original WSA. This includes protection of the wilderness character of these lands, according to the most protective "primitive" standard. Alternative D of your revision plan does this.

Thank you.

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