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First name: Shannon

Last name: Jacobs

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 1204 14th Avenue

Address2:

City: Dorothy

State: NJ

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 08317

Country: United States

Email: sherman1971@yahoo.com

Phone: 6094762393

Comments:

Please change the current plan so that it protects the "wilderness character" of the WSA, not the Forest Service's weak proposal to protect just its "existing character." It also 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. It should also 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. Lastly, 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. Thanks for your time.