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Comments:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on Chugach Forest Plan Revision #40816.

The Forest Service's proposal fall short. I see that the Plan must protect the "wilderness character" of the WSA by classifying the lands with the Forest Service's "Primitive" standard. This action would restore strong protection to the lands 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). I 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.

Thank you for considering my comments.