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Comments:

I urge you to make sure that the Forest Service's Draft Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest (NF) in Alaska preserves the "wilderness character" of the 1.9 million-acre Nellie Juan-College Fjord Wilderness Study Area (WSA) by classifying all of these lands as "Primitive" to ensure that they receive maximum protection. These lands were purchased after the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill for the restoration of wilderness values and must be managed "in perpetuity for conservation and wilderness purposes." This agreement, made during the land's acquisition, must be upheld. 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.