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Comments:

I am writing to comment on the Chugach NF plan revision and specifically the draft plan that is out for public comment. As background, while I do not live in AK I have taken three separate trips (each from 3-6 days in length) over the past five years into Prince William Sound and hiked/camped/kayaked in the Nellie Juan College Fjord WSA. I have also participated extensively in my backyard forest plan revision (Custer Gallatin) and issues related to management of WSA there.

I want to urge the Chugach NF to select Alternative D which recommends the maximum amount of land for Wilderness. Ideally this alternative in adoption would be slightly amended to also include within Rec. Wilderness boundaries those areas around Lake Nellie Juan that were purchased with Exxon Valdez mitigation funds.

Given the ANILCA provisions that relate to uses in the WSA (and its management) I think most important is for the agency to specify explicitly as a management prescription that it will protect/enhance "wilderness character" rather than just have language about "existing character." Towards this end, I would like to see the final plan classify all the lands within the WSA (or close to all) under the Primitive standard on the ROS as this would help drive later site specific and travel planning decisions to focus on allowing only Wilderness compliant recreational uses to the greatest degree possible.