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First name: Juliann

Last name: Rule

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 35002 115th Ave.

Address2:

City: Avon

State: MN

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 56310

Country: United States

Email: schugrule@aol.com

Phone:

Comments:

I would like to see protections strengthened for the Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area.

I believe that the Plan must protect the wilderness character of the area, not the Forest Service's weaker proposal to protect just its existing character. Additionally, the Plan 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.

I also believe that strong protection needs to be restored 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.

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). Therefore, 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.