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Comments:

The Nellie Juan-College Fiord WSA is an ecological and scenic treasure. It is nearly two million acres of ancient rainforest, wild salmon, and stunning mountains and glaciers. Its meandering fiords are laced with hundreds of remote islands. I strongly support the incorporation of the WSA for permanent designation as wilderness status and improved protections. The Plan must protect the "wilderness character" of the WSA, not the Forest Service's weak proposal to protect just its "existing character." Furthermore, 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. For proper management and protection I encourage the Forest Service to:

Improve Alternative D to include Lake Nellie Juan and the lands within the WSA boundary that were purchased for restoration of wilderness resources following the oil spill.

Take action and address the continuing illegal use of chainsaws in the WSA. This unlawful activity is resulting in damage and clearing along many wilderness beaches and sensitive area.

Restore strong protections 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.