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First name: Jenny

Last name: Lillis

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 14417 Meadow Ct

Address2:

City: Leawood

State:

Province/Region: KS

Zip/Postal Code: 66224

Country: United States

Email: jennyl150@yahoo.com

Phone: 8168058125

Comments:

Re: Forest Service's Draft Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest in Alaska

To whom it might concern:

I am concerned about the Forest Service's plan (the Plan) for the Chugach National Forest and 1.9 million-acre Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area (WSA) in Alaska.

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.

The Plan must note and protect the "wilderness character" of the WSA. In addition 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, in order to provide the most possible protection.

Please restore strong protection 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.

Thank you.