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Wednesday, October 31, 2018

Forest Supervisor Terri Marceron

161 East 1st Ave., Door 8

Anchorage, AK 99501

Subject: Please protect the wilderness character of the Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area -- Chugach Forest Plan Revision #40816

Dear Forest Supervisor Terri Marceron,

Thank you for requesting public comments on the Land Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Chugach National Forest. I strongly urge the U.S. Forest Service to ensure that the Plan protects the "wilderness character" of the Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area, rather than protecting just its "existing character." Furthermore, the Plan must protect the wilderness character of the lands in the Wilderness Study Area 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.

"Our duty to the whole, including to the unborn generations, bids us to restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations. The movement for the conservation of wildlife and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose and method."

-- Theodore Roosevelt

The Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area 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.

"If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them with more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them with a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it."

-- Lyndon B. Johnson, upon signing the Wilderness Act, 1964

Please restore strong protection to the lands within the Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area 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.

"I hope the United States of America is not so rich that she can afford to let these wildernesses pass by, or so poor that she cannot afford to keep them."

-- Margaret "Mardy" Murie

The Chugach National Forest must address ongoing illegal recreational use of chainsaws in the Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area, which has resulted in damaging tree removal along dozens of wilderness beaches, including in sensitive areas.

"Every man who appreciates the majesty and beauty of the wilderness and of wild life, should strike hands with the farsighted men who wish to preserve our material resources, in the effort to keep our forests and our game beasts, game-birds, and game-fish-indeed, all the living creatures of prairie and woodland and seashore-from wanton destruction. Above all, we should realize that the effort toward this end is essentially a democratic movement."

-- Theodore Roosevelt

While 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 strongly support a modified Alternative D wilderness recommendation that also includes Lake Nellie Juan and the lands within the Wilderness Study Area boundary that were purchased for restoration of wilderness resources following the oil spill.

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

-- Aldo Leopold

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please do NOT add my name to your mailing list. I will learn about future developments on this issue from other sources.

Sincerely,
Christopher Lish
San Rafael, CA