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Comments:

In the course of residing in Alaska for many years, most of this time in Anchorage, I used Chugach National Forest land on the Kenai Peninsula, and in the Prince William Sound area, for hiking, mountain biking, kayaking, wildlife viewing, and visiting undeveloped forest areas clearly qualified for addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

I support Alternative D, which recommends that Congress add nearly all of the two-million-acre Wilderness Study Area to the National Wilderness Preservation System, and the six suitable rivers to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. In addition, the lands purchased following the Exxon Valdez oil spill are currently managed for conservation and wilderness purposes. I recommend that alternative D include purchased lands that can qualify for addition to the Wilderness System.

In the section on Special Land Considerations, the authors on page 4-5 write that the Wilderness Study Area is "...governed by regional manual direction to manage the WSA to maintain presently existing character and potential for Wilderness until Congress considers the wilderness study." On p. 4-12 the WSA "...is managed to maintain presently existing wilderness character and potential for inclusion into the [Wilderness System]."

The second statement above is clearer than the first, but is still insufficient. Congress, in establishing the WSA, required the Service to secure the Area's wilderness qualities and resources pending consideration by Congress for potential addition to the Wilderness System. Thus the Service should reaffirm Congress's mandate by stating in the final revised plan that the WSA lands are managed to protect and maintain wilderness values and resources.

Thank you for considering my comments.