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Comments:

I am writing to provide my comments on the revised Chugach National Forest Resource Management plan. I specifically am writing to express my strong support for the highest level of protection for the entire Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area.

Please adopt Alternative D, strengthened by modification to include the lands within the WSA boundary that were purchased for restoration. This alternative will protect the maximum amount of acreage as recommended for formal wilderness designation.

I am a strong supporter of our National Wilderness Preservation System, and I have no patience for the continued absence of formal wilderness on the entire Chugach National Forest. At a minimum, the already designated WSA lands must be maintained in their wild state, untrammled, until such time that the Congress acts formally to designate the Wilderness area.

I believe that the Plan must be very clear that these lands are being managed to protect the wilderness character of the entire WSA lands. The Forest Service must therefore classify all of the WSA as "Primitive."

I also want to suggest that the Resource Plan make specific note of the need to address any recreational activities that are not consistent with the continued wilderness characteristics of the WSA lands. In particular, I understand that visitors on wilderness beaches are using chain saws to cut trees. The Forest Service must not avoid taking action to stop this behavior. It is the responsibility of the Forest Service to maintain the wilderness characteristics of these lands.

Again, I support the strongest protections for the maximum acreage of the Wilderness Study Area and the restoration to wilderness characteristics of those lands within the WSA that were purchased after the Exxon Valdez disaster to be restored to wilderness for conservation.