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Comments:

Hello. I'm writing with comments RE: Chugach National Forest. I have learned about the Forest Service's Draft Land and Resources Management Plan, here are my thoughts:

First, any plan for this area MUST protect the *pristine* character of the Chugash and the larger wilderness study area. This is best achieved by classifying all of the WSA lands with the your agency's most protective recreational standard, "Primitive".

Additionally FS must 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. The plan must also address ongoing illegal recreational use of chainsaws in the WSA (who uses chainsaws for recreation?!). This egregious practice has resulted in damaging tree removal along dozens of wilderness beaches, including in sensitive areas--for no good reason.

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

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

all my best,

Tito Galdo