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Organization:

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Comments: To the Forest Service's Draft Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest (NF) in Alaska Planning Team:

Public lands are very important to me, especially wilderness lands. These are valuable to me to regain sanity in this increasingly noisy, busy and trampled world. They are also important to me as I know the ecosystem stays in its perfectly balanced state, which supplies wildlife with a sanctuary and protects our clean air, water and climate. I am a frequent visitor to Alaska to visit these lands, as we don't have the quality and quantity of wilderness that Alaska has in Colorado anymore. We spend a lot of money on our visits as well, supporting the local people and businesses there. We also see many tourists doing the same thing when we visit.

Please protect the "wilderness character" of the Nellie Juan Fiord WSA, not just its "existing character." Please also classify these lands as "Primitive" to protect them as much as possible. Since there is not designated wilderness in the 6.9 million acre Chugach forest, it is of utmost importance to protect this WSA. 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 Chugach National Forest must also address ongoing illegal recreational use of chainsaws in the WSA, which has resulted in damaging tree removal along dozens of wilderness beaches, including in sensitive areas.

As the pressure on our natural world is increasing with a larger population and more demands for extractive and other damaging uses such as recreation, we need to protect every bit of wilderness type land that is available.

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 Exxon Valdez oil spill.