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Organization:

Title:

Comments: See attached letter.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft plan.

I am a long-time Alaska resident who has spent significant time in the Chugach Forest and the waters of Prince William Sound. I very much appreciate the recreational opportunities found there, as well as the ecosystem values. Protection of those lands in a largely natural state, especially as we face the challenges of climate change, is a priority for me—and should be for all Americans and future generations.

I therefore support strong protections for the Wilderness Study Area in Prince William Sound. That would be Alternative D with some modifications. In particular, I support Wilderness status for the lands within the WSA boundary that were purchased with EVOS funds for restoration.

I also suggest that you consider the following revisions to the Forest Plan:

1. Protections should extend beyond [ldquo]existing character.[rdquo] The wilderness character of these lands deserves restoration in many cases, when wilderness values have been eroded.
2. Require monitoring by the Forest Service within the WSA.
3. Allow for a process to fine-tune the WSA standards and guidelines to protect its wilderness character.
4. Provide specific standards and guidelines for winter use.
5. Provide specific protections for lands within Roadless Areas.

Thank you for considering my comments.