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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Chugach National Forest Plan. I first worked in Prince William Sound for the Department of Fish and Game in 1976 and thereafter commercial fished (salmon and herring gillnet and purse seine) for 20 years. I have directed a killer whale research program in Prince William Sound for 35 years. I am intimately connected to this place and my entire family annually assembles to hunt deer and fish in the Sound.

I support the Alternative D Wilderness Recommendation, but with the addition of the Nellie Juan Lake area, arguably the most pristine and remote part of the WSA, and the EVOS-acquired lands around Jackpot Bay, Paddy Bay, and on Knight Island. I believe from the perspective of commercial fishing, recreational use and research opportunities this alternative best supports the fish, wildlife, ecology, and human interests of the area.

I stand aligned with the Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation and strongly support the proposed adoption of a Wilderness Study Area stewardship plan. It should be integral to the area's upkeep and include goals for invasive species treatment, campsite restoration, protection of sensitive sites, and other on-the-ground measures. Having a stewardship plan in place would increase the effectiveness and ability to leverage funding, new partnerships, and public support for these goals.

PWS Wilderness Study area comments

Please find attached my comments on the PWS Chugach Forest Plan. Thank you. Craig Matkin

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