

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/11/2016 11:07:16 PM

First name: Richanna

Last name: Patrick

Organization:

Title:

Comments: You can't keep chipping away at pristine Wildlife areas until most of it is gone or what remains has lost it's untouched, pristine qualities of true wilderness. Not all people with snowmobiles have respect for the areas they ride in, but you'll open these up to those that may not. Near impossible to take the privilege away once you've granted it.

We expect you to keep your longstanding promise to protect the wild character of the entire Wilderness Study Area until Congress finalizes its protection. This means maintaining and clarifying rules on all land-based motorized uses-including chainsaw use-and preserving the area's current undeveloped and non-motorized character.

The 1.9 million eligible acres of the WSA and surrounding roadless lands eligible for wilderness designation should stay as Wilderness. Do not abandon protection for the nearly 600,000 acres you propose to eliminate from the WSA.

Reverse the terrible recommendation to split the Wilderness Study Area into two smaller units. This would dramatically shrink the area by permanently stripping long-established protections for Knight Island, Columbia Glacier, Perry Island, Glacier Island, Culross Island, Esther Island, Port Wells, mainland Knight Island Passage, and Lake Nellie Juan.

Prohibit recreational snowmobile use in the WSA. Snowmobile use has exploded in the WSA in recent years. Snow machines for subsistence and traditional uses may be allowed, but recreational snowmobile use is not. There are enough areas for sport.

Management of the WSA should follow the Forest Service's Regional Office WSA direction, since ANILCA contains no substantive guidance on WSA protection.