

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/12/2016 1:29:58 AM

First name: Joan

Last name: Arnold

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing as a person who believes in maintaining wildlife habitat for the benefit of the animals/plant life that cannot be supported anywhere else. We are losing too much wildlife habitat as it is now. We need to be preserving more as Climate Change is not being addressed politically. We do not need to go back to the days of just using wildlife habitat for human degradation of it. Please take these specific measures

- * 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.

- * Recommend the 1.9 million eligible acres of the WSA and surrounding roadless lands eligible for wilderness designation 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.

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

I want our government to protect our natural resources for the benefit of all to follow us. We cannot think short term and just take from this earth. We need to focus in on reigning in our unnecessary human activity. We do not need unnecessary snowmobiles ruining habitat and activities as an example.

Please do all you can to stop further degradation. We need trees to clean our air more than anything else.