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Comments: The Congressionally-designated Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area (WSA) on the Chugach National Forest in Alaska's western Prince William Sound is an ecological and scenic treasure. It is two million acres of ancient rainforest, wild salmon, and stunning mountains and glaciers. Its meandering fiords are laced with hundreds of remote islands. And the area is critical to Alaskans, for subsistence, commercial fishing, recreation, and the local tourism industry.

The U.S. Forest Service's recently proposed plan for the Chugach would loosen protections throughout the area and permanently remove protections from some of its most important sites. This changes protections that have been in place for almost forty years and will hurt the wilderness character of this magnificent WSA. The proposed Chugach plan would also allow residential timber harvests, expanded motorized uses, manipulation of habitats, mining, and helicopter-assisted skiing and hiking.

Please withdraw the proposed plan. Start over again if you must, but place environmental protection and wilderness values above commercial despoilers.