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Organization:

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Comments: The Chugach National Forest and Nellie Juan-College Fiord WSA are wild lands that are to be treasured and protected. Allowing residential timber harvests, expanded motorized uses, mining, and helicopter-assisted skiing and hiking-would harm this beautiful Wilderness Study Area. Please keep your longstanding promise to protect the wild character of the entire WSA 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, to include:

- * Recommending 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.

- * Reversing the ill-advised 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.

- * Prohibiting 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.