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First name: Milada

Last name: Vachudova

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to ask you to keep your longstanding promise to protect the wild character of the entire Wilderness Study Area until Congress finalizes its protection. Please do not go forward with your 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.

Also, please 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.

This is one of our nation's great wilderness treasures. Once we allow it to be exploited and ruined, it will be lost forever. I ask you to please stand up to those you wish to exploit it today so that we can pass it on as priceless wilderness to future generations.

I thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Milada Anna Vachudova, PhD