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First name: H. Dennis

Last name: Shumaker

Organization:

Title:

Comments: In the Chugach National Forest, the Forest Service is entrusted to manage some of Alaska's most treasured wild lands in the Congressionally-designated 2 million-acre Nellie Juan-College Fiord WSA. Changing that now-by allowing residential timber harvests, expanded motorized uses, manipulation of habitats, mining, and helicopter-assisted skiing and hiking-would irreparably harm this beautiful and precious Wilderness Study Area. The Forest Service must maintain current protections and recommend to Congress its perpetuation into the future.
future!

The following are my comments for the Forest Service on the Chugach National Forest Plan Revision (Forest Plan revision):

* 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.

* I ask that the 1.9 million eligible acres of the WSA and surrounding roadless lands eligible for Wilderness designation be so designated immediately. Do not abandon protection for the nearly 600,000 acres you propose to eliminate from the WSA. This elimination area must not be eliminated, but should be added to the eligible WSA.

* I ask that you reverse the terrible and ill-conceived recommendation to split the WSA 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.

* I ask that you 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 must be terminated.

* I ask that management of the WSA should follow the Forest Service's Regional Office WSA direction, since ANILCA contains no substantive guidance on WSA protection.