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Comments: The Chugach Forest should be kept as natural and free from development as possible. This means, among other things, clarifying rules on all land-based motorized uses-including chainsaw use, vehicles, helicopter landings and such.

* The entire area and Forest, all of it, should be designated 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, and really, prohibit all machinery and development as is possible or practicable. Management of the WSA should follow the Forest Service's Regional Office WSA direction, since ANILCA contains no substantive guidance on WSA protection.

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 harm this beautiful Wilderness Study Area. It defies common sense. Instead, the Forest Service should maintain current protections and recommend to Congress its perpetuation into the future. This world-class wild area deserves permanent protection now and far into the future!