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Comments: To whom it may concern:

I would like to comment on the Chugach National Forest Plan Revision. With increased access to Prince William Sound due to the Whittier Tunnel user pressure has increased greatly. As one of those users, who takes advantage of the tunnel to get out on sea kayak trips, fishing trips, and family tours, my desire is not to prevent other from enjoying PWS, but to maintain the Wilderness character that draws many of us to the region.

Protecting both the economic value of the fisheries of Prince William Sound as well as the wilderness character of the region should be the focus of the revision. I believe limiting onshore permanent development will be an important part of protecting both sport and commercial fishing in Prince William Sound. Balancing the pressures of commercial as well as private recreation will be difficult, but should be done in a way that maintains the Wilderness character of PWS.

With these goals in mind I believe all areas in the WSA should be classified as Primitive. The entire WSA should be recommended to congress for Wilderness designation. Lands such as Esther Island, Knight Island, Columbia Glacier, Perry Island, Port Wells, College Fjord, and Lake Nellie Juan should be added to the 2002 recommendation.

The Forest should be withdrawn from new mineral activity, and forestry activity should be encouraged only in a sustainable and selective fashion. New acquisitions to protect the resources should be identified.

Damage from the Exxon Valdez oil spill continues to be evident, and the EVOS Restoration mandate should be a part of future planning.

Thank you for your time,

Andy Elsberg