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Comments: As I once have visited the Copper River area on the occasion of the annual shorebird festival and as I know the area as one of the most pristine wilderness and internationally important staging area for Arctic shorebirds I would rather ask for upgrading the protection of the area (e.g. through establishment of a national park) then weakening the present status. From the perspective of Linking Tourism & Conservation (LT&C; www.ltandc.org), we could see a major interest of the local tourism business to strengthen the protection of the Church Forest and promote national park status. Such status, in particular when supported by tourism, would enable us to profile the area among our global LT&C-Examples.