

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/18/2016 7:36:26 PM

First name: Kneeland

Last name: Taylor

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have lived in Anchorage for 41 years and intend to stay in Alaska for the rest of my life. I have spent many wonderful vacations and weekends kayaking in Prince William Sound. I want to see it preserved, as is, without development and degradation.

My biggest concerns about the future concern the increasing use of jet skis, snow machines, and speed boats, and mineral leasing and logging.

I hope that all of the original 2 million acre Nellie Juan College Fiord Wilderness Study Area be managed as wilderness, and given permanent protection.

I have spent time at Knight Island and Harriman Fiord, in the upper reaches of Nellie Juan and Wells Passage. I have hiked to the summit of Eshamy Mtn. These waters and lands are extraordinary gems, and I strongly favor permanent protection of these waters and lands, as wilderness.

None of these areas should be opened to multiple use management, with the potential for mineral leasing, and logging. While I support putting people into the area in daily tour boats and even large cruise ships, I do not favor on shore development.

I note that I support daily tour boats and even cruise ships because that way thousands of people get to see the wonder of Prince William Sound with a minimum of impact. Tourism and recreation are the highest and best uses of these waters and areas, and the area should be managed for that potential.

I recognize that there are in-holdings, belonging to the State of Alaska, Native Corporations, other corporations, and individuals. I favor the purchase of conservation easements to give these lands protection. Of course, not all will be protected, and there will be onshore development of lodges in the future. If these are done right, then perhaps the area won't be destroyed.

But there shouldn't be any development on public lands.

For that reason I believe that all of the Chugach National Forest should be permanently withdrawn from mineral leasing and commercial forestry; and to the extent possible, I support acquisition and retirement of the subsurface estate beneath all Alaska Native Village Corporation lands in the area.