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Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area has the densest collection of tidewater glaciers in North America. There are a thousand reasons to protect this region, but isn't this one reason alone enough to give this wild landscape permanent protection?

This spectacular 2 million acre landscape has become a centerpiece of our family's life: it's where we recreate throughout the year--skiing, hiking and kayaking, it's where we get our food for our freezer, and it's where we work. We value this place for many reasons--it's where we find solitude, spiritual guidance, and peace. It's a place where we feel humbled, challenged, defeated, empowered and inspired. What a gift to have all of this right in our backyard.

Because of its close proximity to Anchorage and convenient accessibility with the tunnel, I think it's particularly important to put forth a revised plan that includes the following:

- Preservation of the area's wild character, with strong, clear language to leave it undeveloped, untrammeled and free of snow machines, drones, helicopters, chainsaws, and other motorized equipment, except for subsistence and other activities as described in ANILCA or under special use permit.

- The Forest Service should recommend full wilderness protection of all lands within the border of the WSA, including spectacular Knight Island, Glacier Island, Elrington Island, and upper Columbia basin.

- All areas within the WSA boundary should be withdrawn from forestry and mineral activity, and subsurface rights should be purchased for all split-estate lands.

The Chugach National Forest needs more protection, not less, with a plan offering direction that will provide clear management for the next 15 years.

When our daughter was born, we couldn't wait to share the magic and awe of this place with her, and at 6 months old, we sat with her on a beach overlooking floating icebergs and swimming seals. We spent 30 days camping and kayaking in the quiet coves with her out there this past summer. When I think about what is being left for the next generation, I can only hope that in time, our daughter will experience this same wild landscape, protected and unchanged, with her children just as we have with her. Please help assure that we can pass this along. And with our changing climate, protecting Nellie Juan-College Fiord is even more important than ever.