

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/24/2018 6:43:30 PM

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Comments: I should start by saying I am not a resident of the state of Alaska, and that I have only visited the state once in my lifetime, although I very much want to go back one day and take some time to properly appreciate the place. Please accept this comment as one from an American citizen with concerns about proposed rule changes; I hope that's still valid.

Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area (WSA), within the Chugach National Forest, deserves a significant degree of protection under Forest Service regulations. The Service's current proposal is to protect the area's 'existing character'; this is not enough. I understand that some places need to be used and made available for frequent use, but the WSA is an ecologically significant wilderness and should be treated as such, using the 'wilderness character' rules to ensure maximum health and safety of the area. Ideally, it should be granted 'primitive' status, the most protective standard within the Forest Service's classification system. I understand that may be problematic, but one can hope.

Much of the territory within the WSA was purchased by the federal government following the fiasco that was the Exxon Valdez oil spill, as an effort to counterbalance the worst damage done by that disaster. These lands were acquired for the restoration of wilderness values and must be managed "in perpetuity for conservation and wilderness purposes," as promised when they were purchased. Reclassification of those lands to something more convenient is not an option.

Alternative D of this proposal recommends the maximum amount of land for Wilderness of any of the Alternatives (97 percent of the WSA, or 1.884 million acres). I support a modified Alternative D wilderness recommendation that also includes Lake Nellie Juan and the lands within the WSA boundary that were purchased for restoration of wilderness resources following the oil spill. I realize this, too, may not be possible, but it's still a vitally important move for area protection, and I hope you'll take that into account.

Thank you for your time, trouble, and consideration. Please remember that we do not get a do-over on this, when you make your final decision.