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Comments: The Nellie Juan-College Fjord WSA is an ecological and scenic treasure. It is nearly two million acres of ancient rainforest, wild salmon, and stunning mountains and glaciers. Its meandering fjords are laced with hundreds of remote islands. I have some comments on the Forest Service's Draft Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest (NF) in Alaska:

- It must protect the "wilderness character" of the WSA, not the Forest Service's proposal to protect just its "existing character." The plan must also protect the wilderness character of the lands by classifying all of them with the Forest Service's "Primitive" standard

It should restore strong protection to the lands within the WSA that the federal government purchased following the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. 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.

- The Chugach NF must address ongoing illegal recreational use of chainsaws in the WSA, which has resulted in damaging tree removal along dozens of wilderness beaches, including in sensitive areas.

- Alternative D 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 hope you are taking the future of these lands seriously, and will protect them for our children, and generations to come.