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Comments: Here are my comments on the Chugach Forest plan Revision #40816

This Plan must protect the "wilderness character" of the WSA, not just the very weak proposal to protect its "existing character." All the lands in the WSA must be classified with the Forest Service's "Primitive" standard, the most protective standard in the agency's recreational classification system.

Restore strong protection to the lands within the WSA that were purchased by the federal government following the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. Those lands were acquired for the restoration of wilderness values and must be managed "in perpetuity for conservation and wilderness purposes". This was the promise when they were purchased.

Ongoing illegal recreational use of chainsaws in the WSA must be addressed. Damaging tree removal along dozens of wilderness beaches and sensitive areas has taken place.

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). Alternative D should be modified to include Lake Nellie Juan and the lands within the WSA boundary that were purchased for restoration of wilderness resources following the oil spill.