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First name: Leda

Last name: Zimmerman

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Dear Sir or madam,

I am a citizen deeply committed to the creation, restoration and stewardship of this nation's wilderness areas.

Today I ask you to adopt guidelines for the Chugach Forest and related tracts that establish the strictest terms of wilderness.

I respectfully ask that in your revised Plan you protect the "wilderness character" of the WSA, not just its "existing character." Furthermore, I believe the Plan must protect the wilderness character of the lands in the WSA by classifying *all* of them with the Forest Service's "Primitive" standard, which is the most protective standard in the agency's recreational classification system.

In addition, I ask that you 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.

It is also extremely important that you 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.

Please do not shortchange this pristine, and vital wilderness areas. Future generations are counting on you.

Thank you for your consideration.