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Comments:

I urge you to change the current proposed Forest Plan in these ways:

-- make the Plan protect the wilderness character of the Wilderness Study Area ("WSA"), not just the existing character.

--make the Plan protect the wilderness character of the lands in the WSA by classifying all of them with the Forest Service's Primitive standard, the most protective standard in the agency's recreational classification system.

--restore the strongest protection to lands within the WSA that the federal government purchased following the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill which were purchased for the purpose of restoring wilderness values and were promised to be managed "in perpetuity for conservation and wilderness purposes."

I further urge you to address in the Chugach NF the 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.

Lastly, 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.