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First name: Michael

Last name: Steger

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to urge the protection of the "wilderness character" of the WSA, not the Forest Service's weak proposal to protect just its "existing character." In particular, the Plan must protect the wilderness character by classifying all of the lands in the WSA with the Forest Service's "Primitive" standard.

I also urge the restoration of 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.

Given the importance of restoring the primitive wilderness character of the WSA, 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.

Finally, 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.

Thank you for implemented these urgent protections.