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Comments: I am writing to ask the Forest Service to improve its Final Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Nellie Juana-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area (WSA) in Alaska.

Specifically, I would like to see the Plan protect the wilderness "character" of the WSA, not just maintain its existing character. It would be ideal to classify these lands as "primitive" which is the most protective standard in the agency's recreational classification program.

In addition, I would like to see restoration of strong protection to the WSA lands that the federal government purchased following the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. These lands were acquired for the restoration of wilderness values and should be managed "in perpetuity for conservation and wilderness purposes," as promised when they were purchased.

The Chugach National Forest should be addressing 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.

Thank you for your consideration of my suggestions for improvements to the Final Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Nellie Juana-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area (WSA) in Alaska.