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Comments: The Forest Service's weak proposal to protect just its "existing character."doesn't include a PLAN of how this is to be done. It must be more specific.

To be effective, this Plan must protect the wilderness character of the lands in the WSA by classifying all of them with the Forest Service's "Primitive" standard.

Such a plan needs to provide 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. Right now, no such plan exists.

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. Without such a statement, this area is not truly protected.

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.