

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/24/2018 11:53:43 PM

First name: Susie

Last name: O&#39;Keeffe

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing all the way from Maine because I know and love Alaska. I also know that must protect the "wilderness character" of the Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area (WSA), and other Forest Service Areas.

It may be all the rage these days to destroy what little protections exist, and to give the final blow to the wild, but it is the most irresponsible and selfish thing our generation can do.

Climate Chaos is upon us. Extinction is raging. Alaska is one of the last truly wild places. It is a treasure for the entire world, and it is the hope for coming generations.

The Plan must do all it can to protect the WSA. The wilder, the older, the more carbon the forest will absorb. The best way for the forest service to do this is to classify all of the lands under the Forest Service's "Primitive" standard.

Furthermore, the Forest Service must restore strong protection to the lands within the WSA. These lands were acquired by the Federal Government for the restoration of wilderness values and must be managed "in perpetuity for conservation and wilderness purposes," as PROMISED when they were purchased.

In addition, it is my understanding that illegal recreational use of chainsaws in the WSA has resulted in damaging tree removal along dozens of wilderness beaches, including in sensitive areas. This too, must end.

Finally, 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, despite the political and economic pressures, do the right thing for the land, the coming generations. Protect this land as Wilderness.