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Comments: The Forest Service proposal's wording to protect the "existing character.." of the WSA is too weak. The plan must explicitly protect the "wilderness character" of the WSA, and must also protect the wilderness character of the lands in the WSA by classifying all of them with the Forest Service's "Primitive" standard, which is the highest protective standard in its recreational classification system.

Strong protection must be restored 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.

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.

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 purchased for restoring wilderness resources following the devastating Exxon Valdez oil spill.