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Comments: 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. 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).

After the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, the federal government purchased lands within the WSA for the purpose of restoring wilderness values, and the promise was made at that time that they would be managed "in perpetuity for conservation and wilderness purposes." This promise must not be betrayed. The entire WSA must be protected as conceived - not merely in its "existing character", as proposed by the Forest Service, but as true wilderness. The right way to do this is to classify all these lands with the Forest Service's "Primitive" standard. Only this, the most protective standard in the agency's recreational classification system, is sufficient to accomplish the objective. Not only must the fitting protective standard be applied, but it must be enforced, for example, by the Chugach NF's addressing ongoing illegal recreational use of chainsaws in the WSA. It is regrettable that this practice has resulted in damaging tree removal along dozens of wilderness beaches, including in sensitive areas, and this must stop.

Thank you for considering my views,

Dr. Karen Hodges