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Comments: I urge the following changes be made to the Chugach Forest Plan in order to protect the 1.9 million-acre Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area (WSA):

1. Restore strong protection to the lands within the WSA that the federal government purchased following the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. When these lands were acquired, we were promised they would be managed "in perpetuity for conservation and wilderness purposes," and for the restoration of wilderness values.
2. The Plan must protect the "wilderness character" of the WSA, not the Forest Service's weak proposal to protect just its "existing character." In addition, the Plan must 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 most protective standard in the agency's recreational classification system.
3. The Chugach NF must prevent ongoing illegal use of chainsaws in the WSA, which has resulted in damaging tree removal along dozens of wilderness beaches, including some in sensitive areas.
4. 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.