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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am submitting my public communication regarding the land management plan revision for the Chugach Forest Plan Revision #40816.

I am objecting to the Proposed Revised Plan that will drastically change the Chugach Forest. I ask that any revisions made must include the following:

The Plan must protect the "wilderness character" of the WSA, not the Forest Service's weak proposal to protect just its "existing character." Furthermore, 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.

Restore strong protection to the lands within the WSA that the federal government purchased following the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. These lands were acquired specifically 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 many 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 that were purchased for restoration of wilderness resources following the oil spill.

The Chugach Forest and its surrounding Wilderness Areas must be maintained as NATURE intended. The changes that would be proposed will change the elements of our wildlife and the natural beauty that has been created by nature. Man must not be the destructing factor by making unnatural changes.