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First name: Mary

Last name: Ames

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Forest Service's Draft Land and Resource Management Plan (the Plan) for the Chugach National Forest in Alaska.

1) The Forest Service's proposal to protect merely the "existing character" of the National Forest is too weak to protect its resources effectively in the public interest. The Plan must also protect the "wilderness character" of the Wilderness Study Area (WSA) by classifying all land in that Area with the Forest Service's "Primitive" standard, which is the most protective standard in the agency's recreational classification system.

2) The Plan must 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 for the restoration of wilderness values and must be managed "in perpetuity for conservation and wilderness purposes," as promised when they were purchased.

3) The Chugach National Forest 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.

4) Of the proposed alternatives in the Plan, Alternative D appears to recommend the maximum amount of land to be designated as Wilderness (97 percent of the WSA, or 1.884 million acres). I support a modified Alternative D wilderness recommendation that, in addition, would include Lake Nellie Juan and the lands within the WSA boundary that were purchased for restoration of wilderness resources following the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Thank you for your serious consideration of my views.