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Comments: It is important to maintain the wilderness character, rather than the existing character, of all the land contained in the Chugach Forest and the Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area (WSA). Using the "primitive" standard for protection will provide the most safeguards.

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 after the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

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 that oil spill.

We must always use the STRONGEST protections for wilderness, not the most expedient ones.