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First name: Derek

Last name: Hart

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The current project proposal/plan requires changes as it does not adequately protect the WSA's "wilderness character" (it should do more than just protect its "existing character"). Additionally, the plan must include classifying all of the WSA lands with the Forest Service's "Primitive" standard in order to afford them the most protective standard in the agency's recreational classification system.

The plan should also restore strong protection to the lands within the WSA that the federal government purchased in 1989. The acquisition of these lands following the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill was done to ensure restoration of these wilderness areas. The promise that they be managed "in perpetuity for conservation and wilderness purposes," must be upheld. This promise includes addressing issues such as the illegal use of chainsaws in the WSA.

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.