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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have spent time traveling within PWS by small motorized sailboat and was struck by the wild beauty of the place. It is past time to designate the Nellie Juan wilderness study area as official wilderness. And it is the responsibility of Forest Service to manage the area in such a way that the natural diversity of habitats and wildlife are maintained.

To that end recent rule making by this administration designed to enhance hunting opportunities in lock step with the State of Alaska will not in my view maintain the natural diversity of wildlife with their emphasis on predator control. They are antithetical to what is considered fair chase, shooting predators over bait when the animals are drawn there simply looking for a meal. With greater access to PWS via Whittier have any baseline studies been done to determine the impacts on bear and wolf populations especially from bear baiting or any other means?

At a minimum if the natural diversity is to be perpetuated into the future these studies if not already on going should be a part of any update to a plan for the area. This recognition if already known should be included in any update to the plan beyond vague statement of their desirability.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment Don Ross