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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

I strongly recommend a modified Alternative D that also includes Lake Nellie Juan and the lands that are within the external Wilderness Study Area boundary.

That would include the important lands that were purchased for the restoration of wilderness resources that were damaged and injured by the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989. Those lands purchased by the federal government on behalf of all Americans from Exxon Valdez settlement funds should be managed in a way that respects and upholds the commitment to manage them "in perpetuity for conservation and wilderness purposes."

I witnessed first hand the oiled beaches and the chaos, massive vessel, aircraft, ineffective oil spill clean up and other operations in 1989 that were out in Prince William Sound which constituted industrial transformation of formerly peaceful places including beaches within the boundaries of the proposed Nellie Juan Wilderness Area. That experience led me to more firmly support the permanent commitment that Wilderness designation embraces for the Nellie Juan WSA -- all the more important due to the long-term damage to ecosystems and the wilderness values and character which resulted from the Exxon Valdez.

At this juncture, having endured the tragedy of the Exxon Valdez spill, witnessing the death of birds, sea otters, and life up and down the food chain, it would be disrespectful to backtrack on the 30 years of policy to protect the wilderness character of the WSA. It is not good enough to protect only its "existing character." It is vital to protect the wilderness character to maintaining healthy ecosystems and the quiet undeveloped conditions in western Prince William sound.

It is important to restore the WAS to the Forest Monitoring Program in Appendix A, which is necessary for effective management based on science and factual information, and recovery of wilderness resources damaged during the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

The lands within the WSA purchased by the federal government following the Exxon Valdez oil spill should not be moved from the WSA Management prescription (MA1) to "EVOS-acquired lands" (MA6) which is a weaker prescription.

I have kayaked on the sound, and years after the spill have seen oil still in the beaches. As a Fairbanks resident, Prince William Sound and the Nellie Juan Wilderness Study Area is stunning and important to me as a representative area of our nation's richest wild places deserving of permanent protection.

In conclusion, please choose a modified Alt D that includes Lake Nellie Juan and the lands purchased for restoration of wilderness resources by the federal government after the Exxon Valdez spill.

Sincerely,

Pam Miller