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Title:

Comments: I have heard a lot of rumblings about what the new forest plan may or may not entail. I am having a very difficult time narrowing down exactly what is being proposed, so I will instead submit my own comments about the Nellie-Juan/College Fjord Wilderness Study Area.

I've been working in the ecotourism industry and have been recreating in this area for nearly 10 years as a mariner, hiker and kayaker. The "untouched" quality of the area that currently is in place is incomparable to areas in the lower 48, and as such, are so extremely valuable. Being able to walk in or view areas that have not had human interference is almost surreal. As a recreational guide, I have had the luxury of showing this area to guests from all over the country and world that are just as impressed as I am, and do take a moment of pause to digest the fact that these areas are truly rare and special. I am very much in favor of keeping the Wilderness Study Area intact, as congress intended, and as promised when lands were purchased after the oil spill.

What disrupts this special quality? Seeing the destruction of trees, grown over hundreds of years in a delicate environment, for the use of firewood or camp setups. Camps for numerous users set up on the extremely delicate peat bog, and in the process permanently destroying it. I cannot fathom what motorized access to these same areas would do if the presence of human feet can cause such impact. Trash in intertidal areas. Bear bating stations not cleaned up and removed. Drones appearing out of nowhere and intentionally or unintentionally harrassing wildlife or other users. The sound of helicopters buzzing closely overhead.

I do feel an increase in a monitoring program is vital for continued healthy management. I support the intentions of Alternative D recommendations.