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Comments: From: Wally Elton [mailto:wally.elton@earthlink.net]
Sent: Sunday, November 25, 2018 2:50 PM
To: Downie, Denise E -FS <dedownie@fs.fed.us>
Subject: Chugach Forest Plan Revision #40816

I regret that I have missed the comment period for this project, but I still want to pass along my views as one who has visited the magnificent Chugach National Forest more than once and would like to do so again. My focus will be on protection of Congressionally-designated Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area.

I have long been dismayed that this large and spectacular National Forest does not have even an acre of designated Wilderness protecting its wildness and beauty for future generations. Because Alternative D recommends the maximum amount of land for Wilderness of any of the Alternatives, I would like to see adoption of a modified Alternative D wilderness recommendation that also includes Lake Nellie Juan plus the lands within the WSA boundary that were purchased for restoration of wilderness resources following the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill.

In the meantime, the Forest Plan must protect the "wilderness character" of the entire WSA. Unfortunately, the Forest Service's weak proposal calls only for protection of only its "existing character." The final plan also should protect the wilderness character of the lands in the WSA by classifying all of them with the Forest Service's "Primitive" standard, the most protective standard in the agency's recreational classification system. In addition, the plan should address the illegal use of chainsaws within the WSA, which has damaged vegetation and removed trees along numerous wilderness beaches, including in sensitive areas.

Thank you for considering my views.

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