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This comment is to ensure that my voice is heard.

My friends and my family regularly recreate in the Chugach National Forest. Many of our activities include mountain bikes or motorized access in designated areas on our ATVs and snowmobiles.

We love to recreate in the following areas:

- Girdwood and surrounding areas.
- 20-mile River Valley
- Placer River Valley
- Turnagain Pass
- Moose Pass – Trail Lake – Trail Glacier
- Bartlett, Trail and Spencer Glaciers
- Lost Lake Area
- Nellie-Juan River Valley and surrounding areas.

Instead of shutting off access by declaring additional areas as wilderness, we should open more to the public for our use, like hiking, biking, fishing, hunting, etc.

If you close an area off, you deprive the people who it belongs to of its use. That is patently unfair.

I am in strong opposition to losing any more acreage of snowmobile terrain on the Kenai Peninsula as a whole. We are already so limited in available areas to ride.

I truly believe, that most outdoor enthusiasts, including motorized users, are for the most part conservationists. No one we ride with abuses the opportunity to access these areas by littering or damaging ground cover, vegetation, etc.

As an additional point, the trails that serve motorized users, and the winter trails put in by snowmobiles, are often used as access routes for emergency responders FOR ALL OTHER USERS.

Designating additional wilderness areas is simply bad policy and will not do anything to help the ecosystem. It will be a net negative, by restricting citizen access to the area.

Thank you,

Sheri Harten