

To whom it may concern-

Thanks for the opportunity to allow comments on the massive decision regarding recreation in the Chugach NF, aka my backyard. In summary I have made comment on the website, however there is rumor the comments are being changed and deleted. I cannot confirm this, however I'm submitting my comments on PDF in hopes the environmental extremists can't delete them? I'm just not that great at computers to even be able to confirm this rumor.


I moved to AK in 2010 and had my first snowmachine experience at Tournagin Pass. It was an eye opening experience filled with joy, fear, excitement, and absolute awe of the magnitude of the beauty. Since then I have continued to access the back country via snowmachine and last year timbersled. Access to public land is paramount to Alaskans, and absolutely fundamental to every Alaskan. Most people get food from a grocery store having no idea as to how it got there or where it even came from. Those of us who have the Chugach NF as our backyard utilize this precious resource for food gathering and hunting on a regular basis. There is also a group of us who utilize the Chugach NF in the winter for snowmachine access to the back country for recreation. The Chugach is filled with cabins, trails, lakes, vistas, and the most amazing views in the world. There is no safer time to access an area like this than in the winter when the ground is covered in wonderful fluffy snow. Modern technology has allowed cleaner emissions from every type of motorized vehicle utilized in the area. Trust me the old snowmachines will not make it far in the Chugach. You have to have a newer machine, because your safety and life depend upon it!

Most areas of the Chugach NF (CNF) are Roadless which is fine (its to gnarly for roads anyhow). Beyond that, most of the Chugach NF is not even accessible to any motorized vehicle other than a helicopter. It just too gnarly! Making the CNF roadless is a terrible decision in my opinion. Look at the comments and you will see the folks that want it roadless are the same "green peace", "sierra club" environmental extremists that would protest any use of a NF other than foot traffic.

I grew up in Sothern Oregon and we had the same thing happen to us in the early 2000's. We had a beautiful stretch of the Cascade range we called home (Pelican Butte). We gathered berries, hunted deer and elk, fished, hiked, cut fire wood, cleaned up trash (barley any), and just drove around for the sake of being in the forest. Then out of nowhere the president decided to make it "roadless". The entire area had been used for almost 80 years for logging and all of the above mentioned activities. The mountain was extremely healthy with many herds of elk roaming, bands of deer, coyotes, and wolverine. We were locked out of our home because some environmental extremist groups wanted it that way (I'm sure it had nothing to do with campaign donations). Subsequently you cannot access the area today via motor. However there are over 30 miles of roads of on that mountain, and a road still used which goes to the summit for a fire watch.

I fear that environmental extremism is going to ruin the NF's around the nation for recreational use. All for what? To uphold the beliefs of one group? This is not fair. People that do not use, haven't ever set foot in the actual forest, and have never drank the water that flows from the forest are trying to keep a large user group out, to fulfill their narcissistic environmental groups extreme ideals? We need to pump the breaks and stop these groups!

In closing I'm in favor of either option A or B for the Chugach NF. Options C & D are unacceptable!  
Thanks for your time. Vern Pate\_907-441-0399\_Kenai Alaska Resident.

Handwritten signature of Vern Pate and the date 10/26/18.