

ATTN: Chugach Forest Plan Revision #40816

As a life-long skier, snowboarder, paraglider, speedflyer, I strongly oppose Alternatives C and D as they will likely increase the likelihood for accidents and near-misses to take place. Over the last 15 years I've been enjoying these public lands in the Chugach Forest I've seen the increase use of the amazing area from motorized to non-motorize recreational users. I don't believe alternatives C and D are conducive to a growing recreational group this area continues to see year after year.

It is important to look at the different user groups and I feel that one way to really gain a good understanding of who this may be is to look at the parking lots running through the area. Over the past 15 years of recreating in areas such as 20 mile, Turnagain Pass, Lost Lake, Carter Lake, Johnson Pass, and others areas, I've noticed a significant increase in motorized use, especially 'sled-skiers.' Snowmachine engineering and technology has made it easier for two people to carry skis almost anywhere. With places like Alyeska Resort opening later and later each year, receiving less snowfall, this is pushing people to go elsewhere for recreational purposes.

As with many, I've heard, witnessed, and even helped injured recreational users out of the backcountry with the use of motorized pieces of equipment, specifically snowmachines. Closing off these areas to motorized use will inevitably create situations to which Chugach Forest recreational users face delayed medical responses. We are a big state with limited emergency response resources and a rapidly growing recreational population. Please do not take away this potentially life-saving piece of equipment from areas where it is needed the most.

As someone who has spent their entire life utilizing snowmachines for both recreation and as a tool for travel, I can say with confidence that these snowmachines are more efficient and quieter than ever. With each year snowmachine companies continue to push for quieter and more efficient motors.

I don't think it's appropriate to recommend additional acreage as Wilderness designation as the number of recreational user groups will decrease significantly. One thing to consider is the economic impact the motorized user group adds. I can speak from personal experience with such events as Valdez Hillclimbs, Arctic Man, and now Tailgate Alaska when growing up in a small 'hub' town in Alaska. During those events an influx of money would be injected into the small businesses selling everything from fuel to hotel rooms to spare tires.

Please take the time to read all the submitted comments and disregard 'copy and paste' comments submitted from individuals and special interest groups that don't enjoy the Chugach.

There are many factors to consider from family memories, economic and environmental impact, I firmly believe we can all work together and reach an agreement where all recreational user groups can be satisfied.

Please consider this comment to recommend Alternative B.

Thank you,

Blake Delaney