

To whom it may concern,

My name is Justin Lemoine and I am a lifelong Alaskan and Co-Owner of Heli Alaska, Inc. a commercial helicopter operator located in Wasilla, Alaska.

Thank you for taking time to read and consider my comments and concerns.

Please let it be known that I strongly oppose any changes to our current motorized access. In fact I think we need look at opening even more access. I have been riding snowmobiles in Alaska for over 34 years and my first time in the mountains of the Chugach was back in 1996. I chose to ride in all areas of the Chugach National Forest with some of my favorite spots being Turnagain Pass, Lost Lake, and Placer River Valley.

Please consider these 2 simple but important points:

1. As technology advances, snowmobiles today are built to have much less of an environmental impact than ever before. They are built to run cleaner, quieter and most of us that access these areas are running longer tracks that provide less pressure per square inch and don't dig or trench deep into the snowpack.
2. There are approximately 750,000 people that choose to call Alaska their home. Of those 750,000 approximately 500 – 1,000 visit these areas via motorized use. That's less than 1% of the population that actually access these areas. That is hardly impactful.

Most of us that access these areas are very responsible people that bring out what we take in and keep the areas clean. If we see one of our fellow riders acting irresponsibly, we are very quick to call them out on their temporary lack of judgement and poor decision making skills.

Being a born and raised Alaskan, I have deep seeded love and respect for my state. I find it very offensive and deeply disturbing that non-resident people are allowed to commit or contribute any opinion to this issue. Those people have never set foot inside the Chugach National Forest and contribute nothing to our great state. They aren't here supporting the local economy by spending money at local business or paying parking and use fees to the State and National Parks. I believe that their opinions and comments are biased, politically motivated, and have no business interfering with our right to utilize these areas.

The last thing I'd like to point out is that my business partner and I do everything we can to help keep the areas of Chugach clean. Every year we end up doing between 4 to 10 snowmobile recoveries for our fellow riders. We offer this service at a discounted rate in order to encourage people to remove their machines in a timely manner. Last year we actually removed 3 different machines in Turnagain Pass in on day. One of the machines had been there for over 7 years. We took in trash bags and collected all the seat foam and garbage that had been strung out by the animals. The best part is we did this without being paid by anyone. It's a great example of one of the many ways that the motorized group gives back.

Justin Lemoine

Vice President

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