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First name: Dan

Last name: Hammond

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for your time, my name is Dan Hammond and I have lived in Alaska a total of 50 years. My family and I enjoy snowmachining in the Chugach National Forest as snow conditions allow. I have perused through the various documents available on your USDA Forest Service Chugach National Forest website.

Please see the attached Word file for my full letter.

Sincerely,

Dan Hammond

Thank you for your time, my name is Dan Hammond and I have lived in Alaska a total of 50 years. My family and I enjoy snowmachining in the Chugach National Forest as snow conditions allow. I have perused through the various documents available on your USDA Forest Service Chugach National Forest website. I have selectively picked out specific areas to provide feedback on. The areas of interest to me are italicized below with my comments added.

The statement was made that, [ldquo]The Forest Service doesn[rsquo]t monitor general recreational use by snowmachines, but public demands for more parking and more winter recreation areas during public meetings indicate use has increased substantially and areas are more crowded since 2002.[rdquo] I can personally attest to this as I have experienced these overcrowded areas while trying to ride in popular areas like Lost Lake near Seward. I believe this to be very supportive to the fact that the Forest is being used by Alaskans wanting to recreate in this great state of ours.

Provide diverse recreation opportunities in cooperation with partners, while protecting the natural, cultural, and scenic environment for present and future generations. With new machines being more fuel efficient and better suspensions allowing longer rides, folks are now able to access areas never before attainable. There is so much country out there to explore. If these areas have curtailed access by designating the Wilderness areas, then people will never be able to see them except for flying over on their way Outside.

It should also be noted that the new machines have less emissions than many of the previous studies of environmental impact may have been based on.

In areas outside the wilderness study area, some people want to increase opportunities for solitude and remote recreation experiences by increasing the amount of recommended wilderness area. Others are concerned that any increase in recommended wilderness area could affect the amount of area available for non-wilderness uses. I feel it is significant to note that these remote areas can only be accessed by snowmachines, or aircraft. This means that user groups who cherish the peaceful aspects of the backcountry would never be able to get to these outlying areas. It has always been curious to me that folks who cross country ski will use a trail set by a snowmachine but do want them around while they are enjoying their solitude. With designated corridors to back country areas, I believe both user groups can be satisfied. Skiers would know where the corridors are and could avoid them if solitude is their goal.

I would like to endorse Alternative B is the same as the existing 2002 Plan: 1,387,510 acres