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First name: Thomas

Last name: Davis

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

My name is Thomas Davis, I am a 25 year old life long Alaskan and have been recreating all over the state of Alaska via motorized access my entire life. I have been to just about every corner of this state and its absolutely gorgeous but my most favorite area is the Chugach National Forest. I have been riding snowmobiles / snowmachines (which ever you prefer) and accessing areas like:

Lost Lake

Lake Nelly Juan

Grandview

Resurrection Pass

Johnsons Pass

Turnagain Pass

Placer River drainage

Whittier

The beauty you get to witness while using motorized vehicles in the mountains is amazing. These new snowmachines are so much quieter and fuel efficient that they can take you to many more places than they used to be able to. This benefits non motorized users and motorized users both.

I strongly agree with preserving the environment and natural vegetation in the Chugach National Forest, so I agree with the decision to wait for adequate snow overage for the forest service to open the motorized access to our riding zones. This keeps all the vegetation safe while we ride on the snow above and once it melts in the spring, the vegetation remains undisturbed. This leads to my next point, snowmachining is a very low environmental impact sport.

I support Plan B to keep our motorized access. I would love to see some more areas opened up to motorized use and but this needs to be done in an efficient and low impact way. One way that I've seen that works well down in British Columbia and some of the other states, is opening a single track access corridor like a mine road or frozen river to get to valleys that generally are not accessible via non motorized users because of how far back from the road system they are. One area of interest that this would work well to try it on would be the Mills Creek drainage that has a mining road leading miles back into the mountains where snowmachines could recreate without disturbing non motorized users.

Please take my comments into serious consideration as this is my favorite winter pastime and I love my state and all the areas I get to see. Please consider local comments only when making decisions on this matter as people who have never been to this state don't understand this is our way of life up here. Thank you for taking the time to read this and please chose Plan B so the future generations can play in our beautiful backyard!

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