

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/25/2018 8:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a resident of Eagle River, Alaska and I consistently utilize the Chugach National Forest land. Hiking, Camping, Biking are all activities I enjoy the forest but my passion lies with motorized (snowmachine) i.e. OSV. I have enjoyed motorized recreation in the Chugach for 15 years. As a motorized user, I oppose losing any right to motorized access of these public lands. The rights of motorized user groups have diminished since 2002 when The National Forest Service initiated the Forest Land Management Plan and it must stop. Section 1110(a) of ANILCA, titled [ldquo]Special Access [and Access to Inholdings],[rdquo] CLEARLY provides for the use of snowmachines on OUR public lands.

(16 USC 3170) SEC. 1110. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or other law, the Secretary shall permit, on conservation system units, national recreation areas, and national conservation areas, and those public lands designated as wilderness study, the use of snowmachines (during periods of adequate snow cover, or frozen river conditions in the case of wild and scenic rivers).

Purely recreational riding verses traditional activity should be left out of the argument. Congress DID NOT intended this law to delineate between [ldquo]fun[rdquo] and [ldquo]work[rdquo]. Congress added this provision to insure that Alaskans could continue our on-going activities even if these activities would take place in a newly-created national park or wilderness area. The wisdom of INCLUDING recreational vs traditional use snowmachining has become more important every year, as snowmachine technology improves dramatically and recreational riding increases exponentially and plans should accommodate accordingly. Motorized users are the group your management plan should accommodate and that our state law allows for. We as a group recreate responsibly and respectfully to preserve our opportunities for future adventures.

Since I must choose one of your [ldquo]limiting[rdquo] Recreational Opportunity Plans I would choose [ldquo]A[rdquo]. However it is a false choice and I believe MORE areas should be allowed for motorized access. The areas I access the forest are: snug harbor, primrose and firehouse trail access to the Lost Lake zone, access to Nellie Juan, Johnson Pass, Turnagain Pass, 20 Mile, Placer and Whittier. I have wanted to access the Resurrection trail but your current management approach hasn[rsquo]t allowed for it. I ask that you STOP the confusing every other year management policies for the resurrection trail area. Additionally I ask that you clearly combine [ldquo]Subsistence access[rdquo] and the manner in which access is gained together. Current plan closes Skookum Glacier for motorized access on 1 April but allows for subsistence operations on motorized vehicles. Plans such as these are confusing and hinder your efforts of meeting management objectives.

Finally; Climate change is real, regardless of its origin. I make this point to ask you to STOP managing motorized zones based on a date on the calendar. If it snows 5 feet on Memorial Day weekend and your management plan calls for 2ft to prevent undergrowth damage then please open it up for use. Winter weather/spring storms seem to come later in the season each year. Several years ago Lost Lake and other areas in the Chugach closed because of a predetermined date on the calendar and not because of an honest attempt to manage the zone for use based on snow cover.