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First name: Dane

Last name: Ferguson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern.

First. Thank you for taking the time to read all of our comments.

I'd like to start by saying that I support Alternative B Recreation Opportunity. I also consider motorized use a traditional use of the Chugach National Forrest.

I grew up hunting, fishing, boating and 3 wheeling with my family all over the kenai peninsula. At age 22 I got my first snowmachine(snowmobile) and began to access and explore parts of the chugach that were unobtainable with summertime motorized use. The first year I was only focused on snowboarding and had buddies give me rides up the hill because I didn't know how to ride my snowmachine and frankly I didn't like them. The next season my friends convinced me to give the motorized sled a try. After several days of frustration, digging and ski pulling I finally completed a "pow turn" and the next week I made my way to the top of the hill. Long story short. I hucked that sled off cliffs, tried to make it flip and spin like I did with my snowboard and after only two years of riding I was invited to perform in the Red Square of Moscow Russia where I got to enjoy the rare opportunity to be apart of the first westerners to perform in the Red Square since prior to WWII. This was back in the early days of freestyle motorsports. The unique terrain offered by the chugach forrest and its close proximity to my home made an ideal playground and training location for such activities. Having the option to spend my extra(or all of my) time and money on this outdoor recreation kept me from partaking in the negative activities that many other young adults indulge in and led to many awesome adventures and memories made in the Alaskan outdoors and around the world. (traveling/performing around North America, Europe, receiving an X games gold medal and visiting troops in war zones)

Now a-days I spend most of my winter time organizing snow cross races for young riders around the state. I still enjoy getting into the mountains as often as possible to do cliff drops, pow turns, hill climbs and big jumps that just can't be done in the closed course environment. Every spring I like to take my kids and their friends to Turnagain Pass to teach them the basics of avalanche prevention/safety and the techniques required to navigate the mountain terrain.

I was recently asked for an article, what my favorite riding memory was. Of all my travels and experiences it isn't just one moment. I replied by telling them it was a period of time. The time spent in the mountains building jumps, making friends, achieving goals and just living the lifestyle that comes with enjoying the outdoors was my best times. I currently enjoy making as well as look forward to having and providing similar memories for my kids and the next generation to come.

Accessing the Chugach National Forrest and its amazing terrain with motorized vehicles had a life changing impact that snowboarding would not have provided me. I can thank the Chugach mountains for leading me to a life path that some kids could only dream of.

Thank you again for you time

Dane Ferguson

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