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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please see attached letter opposing restrictions on motorized access to the Chugach National Forest.

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the Draft Land Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest (CNF). I am a 20 year Alaska resident with the last 18 years living in southcentral Alaska. I have been recreating in the CNF since I moved to Anchorage in 2000. It is a beautiful area in our great state and thousands of my fellow Alaskan residents as well as thousands of tourists visit and recreate within the CNF each year.

I'm an avid outdoors person. In summer I boat, hike, and often use motorized vehicles to access the backcountry all over the state. In the winter, I both ski and use snow machines to access the back country. I, along with thousands of fellow Alaskans, do not want to lose access to the backcountry we've called home for decades. We also do not want to lose our ability to access that via motorized vehicles.

In specific, Plans C and D would remove motorized access to much of the backcountry in CNF. This would adversely impact the lives of thousands of Alaskans that access this area using snow machines in the winter. It would also adversely impact small business owners who provide sales and services to snow machine owners.

Motorized vehicles, and snow machines in particular, have technologically advanced greatly in the past decade. New machines are much more efficient, have greatly reduced air emissions, are quieter, and don't leave behind any footprint when snow levels are appropriate. Thus, they have little impact on the environment and a large socio-economic impact on those who use them to recreate in the back country.

Non-motorized users already have access to areas where motorized access is not permitted, and tend to stay relatively close to the road system. Eliminating motorized access to vast areas of the CNF would not provide much additional opportunity for non-motorized users, but would severely limit access for the motorized users. It also would have little environmental impact to the CNF.

As such, I am strongly against any action that would eliminate motorized access to the areas already designated for motorized use in the CNF. Further, I'd like to see more motorized access in the CNF such as Center Creek and Mills Creek.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

David Persinger

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