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Organization:

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Comments: Please see attached document.

Public Input for Chugach Forest Plan Revision #40816 (Plan B Support)

I came to the state of Alaska in 2000. I have lived and recreated in the outdoors all over the western U.S. my entire life and have seen a slow progression of limiting access to backcountry and other areas of public lands for motorized users everywhere I've lived, including Alaska, where I have seen non-motorized users coopt and take over trails built by motorized users leaving the motorized users without access.

I did not grow up riding snow machines but did ride other forms of motorized transport. Once here in Alaska I took to snow machines naturally and have ridden at both Turnagain Pass and Lost Lake out of Snug Harbor. The use of motorized vehicles allows me to see parts of the state I would never see otherwise and has afforded me the opportunity to get out and enjoy the state, during the winter in particular. A little over 10 years ago I suffered a back injury and am now unable to hike or ski as I used to do but I can still get out and enjoy the back county on a snow machine. That being the case I am adamantly opposed to locking up any further acreage to motorized access within the Chugach National Forest. Doing so would only discriminate against me and thousands of others who are unable to endure the physical stress of skiing or snowshoeing any significant distances.

It appears to me that the vast majority of the acreage within the CNF is already off limits or inaccessible to motorized vehicles as it is. Further limiting access to the fortunate few who are young and physically sound enough to access these areas without motorized transport would be an infringement on my rights as a taxpayer and outdoor enthusiast in favor of a much smaller group of people. It would also be counter to the stated goal of managing the forests of this nation for all types of uses and users.

Also consider that motorized users of the outdoors pour many times more dollars, and thus economic benefit, into the state and local economy than do non-motorized users. I, therefore, support Plan B as the preferred option for revision of the Forest Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest.

Sincerely,

Kent McCue