

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/28/2018 8:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: CNF Planning Team,

According to the Department of Agriculture, the USDA Forest Service was established in 1905 within the Department of Agriculture with a mission [ldquo]to sustain healthy, diverse, and productive forests and grasslands for present and future generations.[rdquo] The greatest difference between National Forests and National Parks is the multiple use mandate for National Forests. While National Parks are highly vested in preservation, barely altering the existing state, National Forests are managed for many purposes- timber, recreation, grazing and fish and wildlife.

One of the original purposes of our National Forests is to ensure that citizens have the legal right to enjoy access into our National Forests for recreation. Recreation is recognized as part of sustainability of the forest because citizens who experience the forest firsthand are more likely to become stewards of the land. The inclusion of motorized vehicles for recreation is essential in CNF because of limited access via foot, e.g. there are very few established trails.

I have enjoyed CNF on foot, on snowshoes and on snowmobiles since 1979. Specifically, I have recreated in Turnagain Pass, Johnson Pass, Paradise Valley, Nellie Juan, Twenty Mile and Portage Valley drainage, and accessed Spencer Glacier ice field via Whittier. To the east, I have recreated utilizing snowmobiles to the Nelchina, Tazlina and Mt Marcus Baker icefield and glaciers. Further east in CNF I have recreated on snowmobiles into the Tonsina and Tasnuna glacier icefields.

Of the four Land Management Plan alternatives, I select Alternative B.

I want to go on record as saying that even though I choose Alternative B, it is not perfect, and it needs to be improved. I suggest keeping the land east of Valdez and northeast of Cordova open to winter motorized use. Provide a motorized corridor from Whittier to the Spencer/Blackstone glacier icefields.

With adequate snow cover, the footprint of snowmobiles leaves no trace to harm any of our beloved CNF. I want to continue to recreate on snowmobiles deep into the CNF for myself, my family and all others that choose to do so. In this way, I not only experience the CNF firsthand, I also foster stewardship for future generations.

Sincerely,

Vince Pokryfki

Alaska Resident and CNF recreational user