

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

First name: Jake

Last name: Tweit

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Jake Tweit, I was born and raised here in Anchorage, Alaska. I have been recreating in the Chugach National Forest for the last 12 of my 26 years. The thought of losing land to use for recreating for myself, my friends, and other fellow Alaskans is an awful thought. I am completely against the loss of any snowmobiling areas in the CNF and I respectfully ask that you consider adding more land to the revision plan that would open up more areas to motorized use (Revision plan B).

Over the years it is increasing noticeable that more people are using snowmobiles to access areas within the Chugach National Forest, for strictly snowmobiling, as well as skiing and snowboarding, and although that is great it also poses a safety risk to everyone with areas being sometimes over crowded. Additionally, it is a shame that we have all of this beautiful country that is ours, but we are not able to use it and access it. The first counter argument to that is that snowmobiles create a lot of pollution and that they damage the land, tear up the ground, and that they are bad for the environment in every way shape and form stated by those who don't ride snowmobiles. I completely disagree with all of that due to the fact that in the summer time when you look at a trail used by snowmobiles it isn't anymore apparent that its a snowmobile trail than it is a hiking trail, especially considering that all of these areas that are being discussed need sufficient snow for them to even be open to snowmobiling to begin with. With that said, snowmobiles have also come a long way in technological advancements resulting in them running much cleaner resulting in less pollution, and cleaner air, as well as quieter.

The next point I would like to make is that if areas were lost to motorized use it would also hurt the local economy which is in a bit of a slump right now as it is. If motorized use in these areas was lost or even significantly reduced there would be an absolute trickle down effect on local Alaskan businesses. These businesses rely on folks walking through their doors to spend money, so that the customer can then in turn go and recreate. If these areas were lost or reduced it would cost Alaskans jobs, lost wages, and lower qualities of life. It would literally hurt Alaskas economy if you consider all of the places of business that rely on us Snowmobilers to spend money. It could cost hundreds of jobs, which would not be a good thing considering our current economy.

Thank you for taking the time to review this short letter and again, please consider opening up more areas so that Alaskans that love Alaska can continue to enjoy this unreal place for what it really is, and what it has to offer.

Respectfully, Jake Tweit