

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/29/2018 4:48:20 PM

First name: Joe

Last name: Ralph

Organization:

Title:

Comments: CNF Planning Team:

I have been an Alaskan resident for 30+ years. I have enjoyed hiking, biking, camping, and snowmobiling in Chugach National Forest. By far, snowmobiling has provided more access to this impressive expanse of nature than any of the other means. Most of these areas would only be "seen" by aviators and never "experienced" by those traveling aground if not for winter access by snow machine. Of the area in consideration for change, I have sledged in Paradise Valley, Spencer and Blackstone Glaciers via Whittier, Twenty Mile and Portage Valleys south of Anchorage. To the east, I have accessed the Nelchina, Tazlina, Tonsina, and Tasnuna icefields and drainages.

Preservation of the amenities of the CNF offers is of importance to all who use and appreciate this expanse. Damage to the CNF topography should not be accepted from motorized or non-motorized use unless necessary for emergency response and/or through proper permitting. With adequate snow cover, snow machines do not do harm to any of the trails or countryside, whereas some other forms of motorized ground travel have the potential to disturb and increase erosional potential of trails / land. As such, I support the continued access to the lands of CNF through responsible motorized use. Option A is preferred to maintain current access as is, but if necessary due to updating then Option B is second.

Respectfully,

Joe Ralph