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Organization:

Title:

Comments: The intent of submitting this comment is to support Option B when it comes to the revision of the Chugach National Forest Plan. As a lifelong resident of Alaska I have always viewed motorized use as traditional use throughout the entire state. It wasn't until the spring of 2016 when I was exposed to backcountry riding and the potential having the ability to access remote areas brings with it. I was fortunate enough to fall in with a group of dedicated riders who emphasized safety, riding in specific areas, and backcountry etiquette as the main expectation of being able to recreate with them. In December of 2017 I bought my own sled and spent the entire winter/spring season riding all across the state. The 6 months I spent riding last year produced some of the most valuable lessons of my entire adult life, and some of the best memories I can recount among friends. After only 2 years of being involved in the sport I feel like it is such a large part of my life, I don't remember loving any activity like I love riding the incredible terrain Alaska has to offer with the ones that I love. Besides fishing commercially growing up in Cordova, my memories of the mountains are the ones that I hold closest.

In addition to supporting Option B, I also agree that there should be motorized corridors such as the one on the south Fork of Snow River, The Twenty Mile River. I am opposed to reducing motorized access being limited by any amount of acreage throughout the state. With the consistent change in climate and the amount of snow we get in a winter the contingent on riding in areas that are completely covered in snowpack with marked and safe trails is the only rational approach to

Last winter I introduced my 9 year old daughter to the sport and purchased her a sled as well. She now races with local ASSLC during the winter, and I have never seen anything bring her so much joy, and offer so many life lessons. Just as it did with me. Below you will find her own comment. While she may not understand the true impact of a revision like this, she understands that it could be something that negatively impacts her future as we continue to explore the state together. Ophelia Cordova Lynn Branshaw, age 9 writes:

Why I support my motorized vehicles:

Why I support being able to ride my sled in the areas in question:

Riding is important to me because my SLED right now is the funnest thing in the WORLD and if someone or something takes it away I might cry and I don't cry at all. I am worried that you would make it harder for me to ride my sled. I ride my sled safely and with all the right gear, and I am one hundred percent always respectful to the rules. My mom always says that safety and respect is the most important part of riding. And that means respect for myself too. Sledding is important to me, and to my mom and my Auntie Philly and Uncle Kevin and Dane, Katie, Ben, Tom and Lydia, Egan, Pat, Uncle Dustin, Mark, Jamie, and mostly Sergey. So please do not take it away. I feel serious about this. Thank you for listening.

My family has invested tens of thousands of dollars into being able to access remote areas in Alaska by motorized use, and every dollar of that money has gone to small local business whenever possible. Maintaining access to the specific areas we ride in, and have yet to ride in also supports the economy in our state. We support the riding clubs that promote safe and responsible use, and believe that this is a vital and meaningful addition to our children's lives. Thank you for your time and consideration in reading this comment.

Whitney Branshaw