

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/1/2018 1:50:18 AM

First name: Ken

Last name: Lares

Organization: Valdez Snowmachine Club

Title: President

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this process.

I am the President of the Valdez Snowmachine Club and I would like to convey our support for plan B with amendments.

\*Please include the Copper River Delta area shown in Option C as open to winter motorized access in option B. This area is accessible from anywhere in the state on a weekend trip. I believe it is already seeing both motorized and helicopter use under the travel management plan. (Which is why Plan A doesn't appear to actually be "no change" as advertised)? Depending on the snow year this area is outstanding riding and provides an economic boost to the surrounding communities with the need for accommodations and gas purchases.

\*Emphasize the development of corridors to allow access through non-motorized areas.

\*We oppose designating any additional land as wilderness.

\*We oppose changing the recreation opportunity spectrum to primitive on any additional land.

\*Please include the areas open to winter motorized access in plans C&D such as Goat Mountain and the area open to summer time motorized access across the road from Summit Lake.

\*Jack bay and upper Solomon Gulch should be open to winter motorized access, this has been ridden by locals for years. It is an excellent place to ride when the pass is socked in and is close to Valdez. After attending the public meeting in Valdez I asked around and many riders weren't aware there was any closed land in our area. This being off limits for motorized on paper simply doesn't make sense. It's a losing proposition, it doesn't represent actual use and it has never been effectively communicated. Get this off the books. Every rule you have such as this one that has no supported purpose (if it was supported we would have had complaints and discourse at the public level) detracts from every other rule you have and your organizations credibility. The funds that would be necessary to provide the required outreach, education and law enforcement necessary to try to enforce this would be an ineffective waste.

The Valdez Snowmachine Club has supported non-motorized groups at their Nordic events with rides to checkpoints, provided emergency and communication equipment and worked to raise awareness for areas that are off limits for snowmachines. We have supported search and rescue efforts, avalanche training, beacon training and fostered relationships with other local clubs and organizations. We have an excellent working relationship with the high school ski team and other local stakeholders. Clubs like ours are who will support you to in improving the Chugach. The out of state law firms aren't in the business of helping with anything. They will never pick up trash on a trail, install a sign or add to our economy. I encourage the CNFS to collaborate with clubs and local social organizations. Nothing projects dedication like a volunteer.

Respectfully,

Ken Lares

President

Valdez Snowmachine Club