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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

In response to Chugach Forest Plan Revision # 40816, option A is preferred. Option B is my second choice. I am opposed to options C and D. I fully support motorized access and would like to see additional areas open every year.

I am an Alaskan resident of 29 years and enjoy the Chugach National Forest every year with my family camping, hiking, Christmas tree hunting, snowboarding, snowmachining, snowshoeing and cross country skiing. Allowing motorized access allows many people including myself to recreate and access remote areas that are otherwise out of the question with a family and kids. I have harvested a Christmas tree in the Johnson Pass area every year for 15-20 years. Snowpack allowing, we always take snowmachines to find a tree and haul it back. On years with low snow we hike to find a tree. Last year for Christmas 2017, my wife and I hiked up the Johnson Pass trail 2+ miles with our 8mo son and hauled a tree back. We grew up here and use the National Forest in multiple ways.

I believe that the Forest Service should not restrict, close, or keep people out of national parks. Restricting access for specific types of users does exactly this. My understanding is that some of the proposed plans violate the ANILCA agreement as it states the increase of Wilderness Only areas is strictly prohibited.

Motorized use promotes "traditional activities" as defined on the State of Alaska's Website "including hunting, trapping, camping and wildlife viewing". This can be found at the following site:
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/opmp/anilca/> Snowmachines create trails in the winter that are used by many other types of recreation like cross country skiers, snowshoers and people out looking for a nice Christmas tree with their families. Snowmachine tracks disappear when the snow melts and no traces are left. Snowmachines do not have a negative impact on the environment and local South Central Alaska snowmachine groups have come together to spread avalanche awareness and coordinate work parties to pick up trash.

Not only does motorized access allow more residents and nonresidents to enjoy the National Forest, but it also strongly impacts the local economy of multiple cities, towns and boroughs. Alaska has a local multi-million dollar industry specific to motorized access. The majority of the State's population within 2 hours of Chugach National Forest. It is critical that we Alaskan's are able to manage use the land we live in and open additional areas to access for the greater public.

Thank you

Rob