

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/1/2018 7:05:36 PM

First name: Billy

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi,

I am an avid motorized user of the incredible backcountry our great country offers. While I live many miles away from this forest area, I must comment in favor of leaving the area open to motorized access. Alaska is a bucket list item for me along with the fact that this decision will influence other decision in the lower 48 states. I have been snowmobiling since I was 5 years old (now 30) and it is a major part of my life. It has been a great family activity and I have made countless friendships over the years thanks to snowmobiles.

It is a shame that we are in a constant battle simply to keep our PUBLIC lands open to all user groups. The motorized user group has been shown over multiple studies in the past few years to have a major positive financial impact to areas. Motorized tourism is a major factor in many forest areas as we support many local businesses as we eat at restaurants, stay in hotels, and go shopping.

Along with the proven financial benefits of motorized users, the motivations and tactics of those looking to close areas must be considered as well. Whether it is through deceitful fundraising tactics or hacking YOUR website to remove/replace comments, the true colors of those in favor of closing areas come to light. In reality, most users get along fine with each and it is only a very small portion of the users who wish to remove the vast majority of users. With the millions of acres of Wilderness in existence, there are more than enough areas for those who do not like to be in the same areas as motorized users to go and not have to worry about it. The problem is they want ALL of the areas for themselves. Please keep this area (along with all others) open to motorized users. We DO NOT need any more areas closed down. Thank you!

Attached is a picture of my dad and I at age 5 one of first time I was ever on a sled. This is an experience I (and many others) would love to pass on to our children but it will only be possible if there are still areas to go!

-Billy DeLaCroix