

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/1/2018 10:59:37 PM

First name: Buffy

Last name: Lloyd

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Supervisors,

I am writing to voice my concerns over the proposed land management changes in the Chugach Forest. I am opposed to new closures of snowmobile riding areas. I am an avid snowmobiler, splitboarder, hiker, mountain biker, runner, and lover of the mountains and public lands. I recently had the opportunity to visit the Chugach to go heli-boarding and it is a very special, very beautiful place that I would like to visit again someday in the future, hopefully via snowmobile.

Although I am not very knowledgeable about the specific snowmobile riding areas and proposed closures that could occur through changes made to the forest plan, I would like to opine that my hope is that there are ample snowmobile riding areas left open for the future. I hope that snowmobilers will have a place to ride and that Forest Service management plan changes do not make snowmobiling unviable. Over the last few years open riding areas near me and across the nation seem to be continually shrinking.

Snowmobiling for me and many others is about getting out into the mountains to enjoy the breathtaking beauty and to escape from the stresses of day to day life. My boyfriend and I snowmobile together. He has previous sports injuries that prevent him from being able to splitboard and hike with me very often and our snowmobiling time together is how we connect and enjoy the mountains together. People who are not super fit and free from injury have no other way to access these places, than by motorized means.

I feel that all people should have the opportunity to enjoy our public lands. I was super stoked when I visited the forest service office in Cordova, AK and they gave us a sticker with a stick figure snowboarder on it that said "it's all yours". We are incredibly fortunate to have the US Forest Service lands available for our recreation, solace and contentment. Public lands should be just that "public lands", there for the enjoyment of the public, not just the uber fit with lots of free time on their hands.

I have been in awe of the vast undeveloped and wild mountainous expanses of Alaska since my first visit there many years ago. My impression of the mountains there is that they are quiet, untouched, and inaccessible for the most part. I feel that the few areas that are accessible by snowmobile should be left that way to allow people who have been enjoying those areas by snowmobile to continue to do so.

I am passionate about snowmobiling. I truly love going deep into the mountains in the middle of winter to be amongst friends, surrounded by epic beauty. It is a feeling I struggle to convey. Words just can't express how I feel about it. I hope that access to our public lands will not be taken away and that we will have opportunity to continue to snowmobile in the future.

I thank you for taking our comments into consideration!

Sincerely,
Buffy Lloyd