

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/20/2016 4:57:11 AM

First name: Holly

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello!

My name is Holly Brooks and I am writing in support of expanding opportunities for Cross Country skiing in the Chugach National Park, in particular Turnagain Pass! A few weekends ago Girdwood Nordic volunteered to groom at small loop near the Center Ridge parking lot and it was magical! As we all know, our winters are getting warmer and warmer which means if we want to ski, we need to be looking at venues at higher elevations. We have many beautiful trails systems in Alaska but unfortunately, many of them are at sea level making them inoperable and unusable for Alaskans!

I know that I'm biased but Cross Country skiing is a sport that spans ages, gender, and economic class. The ability to XC in the winter makes people happy! On a personal note, it's the reason I moved here! When the loop was groomed at Turnagain Pass it was awesome to see all kinds of people with smiles ear to ear, enjoying the grooming and the opportunity to recreate in a low-impact way in a new place.

There is plenty of "wild land" and back country skiing in Alaska. I think we (Alaskans!) would really benefit from having an at-elevation option to Cross Country ski South of Anchorage. Thank you for taking my comment and I'd love to answer any questions folks have about the issue.

Sincerely,

Holly Brooks

2-time Alaskan Olympic Cross Country skier