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First name: Mike

Last name: Bartell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I've been recreating in the Chugach National Forest since moving to Alaska in 2006. The opportunity for public land use is unmatched. I love the forest and the diverse opportunities it offers for enjoying public land. It's always a debate between me, my wife, and my friends, "where we going this weekend? North or South?" The consensus is usually to the South, weather permitting. The fishing and camping in the summer, and the snowboarding and snowmachining in the winter is world class. When my friends visit from out of state, this is where I want to take them.

I'm a motorized and non-motorized user. I've been to every area the forest opens to snowmachines. Johnson's pass and lost lake are my favorite. A lot of my motorized use is snowmachine access to snowboard. The trailhead of motorized areas can be crowded when there is minimal snowpack, which doesn't allow for all areas to be open. Further limiting motorized access would be detrimental to what's fair for the general public's use of the forest. When all the motorized areas are open the forest is all time. The crowds can spread. It's an amazing place. I think there is a good balance in the use of the forest.

Input on motorized access, I'd recommend expanding the snow river motorized corridor the surrounding area and Nellie Juan lake. The snow river corridor can be difficult access with risks of injury and equipment damage navigating the drainage, this does limit the numbers that access the area. It's also a limited area of use due to the difficult terrain. Recreational access to Nellie Juan lake by snowmachine would add significant opportunity to the snow river corridor. Also recommend access to center and divide creeks in the north Johnson pass area.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Mike Bartell