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First name: Jamie

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Good day!

Thank you for considering this submission as part of the process regarding the land management plan revision.

I am a husband of 18 years, a father to two wonderful children (9 & 11), and a Navy veteran. I have been enjoying public lands my entire adult life. From the Dry Tortugas as a dive instructor to Katmai as a fishing guide, I have gained much enjoyment and quality of life from our National Park Service.

You may ask what this has to do with national forests and the USFS. I hope to establish a trend of enjoyment of our nation's treasures.

The national forests fill a much needed void. The national forests are a national resource created to allow recreation, fishing and hunting, sightseeing, and many other forms of public enjoyment. Where the National Parks are created to preserve and conserve national treasures, the national forests are created to allow access to similar treasures.

Access to the national forests, specifically the Chugach National Forest, is what inspired this message.

Our family greatly enjoys year round recreation in the Chugach National Forest. The activity that provides the best access and most joyous experiences is snow machining. Seeing the excitement on my children's faces while venturing into an ice cave in Spencer Glacier is one of the highlights of my life. Trekking up to Johnson Pass inspires them to push themselves a bit farther than they were originally comfortable. They do not have the skillsets to enjoy some of the recreational riding areas offered in Chugach National Forest yet. Limiting access to these areas would decrease their development.

I have recreated in many national forests around this country. From boating in the Ocala National Forest to cliff dwelling and Gila cutthroat trout fishing in the Gila to hiking and kayaking in the Nantahala to trout fishing in the Uncompagre to surfing in Los Padres to spending weeks at a time in the Tongass chasing steelhead and sea run cutthroat and many other wonder experiences in national forests, I have enjoyed many of the treasures that make the USFS a national treasure. Of all the experiences that I have shared with friends, family, and new acquaintances in national forests across this country, snow machining in the Chugach National Forest is by far most grand experience that I have enjoyed.

I sincerely hope that this public resource will be managed in a way that allows continued access for my generation, the next generation, and many generations to come.

Thank you for taking the time to read this lengthy and heartfelt comment.