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Organization:
Title:
Comments: To whom it may concern,

For those of us living close to the forest, it's great to have such a diverse resource nearby and accessible. As someone living here for the past 12 years, I've been able to experience great things and make some lasting memories. Hiking, biking, glacier viewing, berry picking, backcountry snowmobiling, fishing, kayaking, bird watching, skiing, you can almost do it all in the Chugach.

As an avid snowmobilier in the winter I hope to see, at the very least, the current areas remain open when snow cover allows. Snowmobiling is a great way to get out in the cold months, and provides significant income to folks operating resorts and lodges, supporting their Alaska dream all year round. Plus you can really explore areas of the forest that aren't otherwise accessible without becoming a very arduous expedition. Also, with an adequate base, the terrain barely shows any disturbance in the warmer months after the snow has melted. The only exception of this I've encountered here is access to the Lost Lake area. When coming up the Firehouse side, trimming the canopy along the trail to get above treeline would allow the trail to become snow covered. Providing more graceful ascents into the high country, and allowing that access to be utilized when the area is open. Aside from that instance, given the low-impact snowmobile travel provides, I think it would be safe to even allow access to more of the forest.

In the new management plan, I hope to see all these existing activities continue, and potentially open up even more areas so the forest can be enjoyed even more. I believe all user groups need to share the land, be courteous to each other, and co-exist. I don't believe specific user groups should have 'exclusive' areas that other user groups are denied access to. Without the Chugach National Forest, Anchorage and the other local communities would not be such good places to spend our time.

Thanks
Alex