

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/25/2018 5:44:43 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello-

Im an Alaska resident who lives on the Kenai Peninsula. I also love to recreate in the Chugach NF, regularly utilizing hiking trails, river systems, alpine trails, winter snowmachine access, the wonderful cabins, as well as fishing and hunting. There is no doubt in my mind that all NF's are a precious recourse and should not be squandered or abused.

The proposed options for the Forest Plan Revision #40816 has a couple very scary options, for many users of this NF system. Namely Options C & D. The current set up of the Chugach NF has very limited summertime motorized accessibility which is fine, however adding more restrictions to the Chugach will only hurt the folks who reside in AK, as well as any folks who may want to gain winter access to these areas.

Alaskans do not wish to destroy our beautiful forests, nor have the recreational users been destroying any parts. We afford more rights as citizens in the state of Alaska than any other American in any other state in the Union. Do not take our NF access rights from us.

In my opinion Options A & B are acceptable, however Options C & D are unacceptable solutions to a problem that only exists due to petitions from environmental activism groups. There is no founding evidence that I can see that would lead me to conclude that the NF is in danger and needs to become non-motorized to sustain itself. This is just propaganda afforded by large private and non profit groups trying to do this same type of thing all over the country. Our national forest were created for all Americans to utilize, even the ones who gain access in the summer/winter with motors.

I think the Chugach NF does a very good job at opening or closing trails as snow conditions change throughout the seasons. I think one thing that could be done is more trail maintenance at lower elevations. I would love to volunteer my time to help implement solutions for water crossings, erosion and sediment transportation mitigation, as well as trail safety and markers. I'm a Civil Engineer originating from Oregon, and have seen solutions to problems that the state of Oregon implemented into the structures of the trails to improve accessibility, maintenance, as well as preserve the forest health.

Thank you for your time.

Vern Pate

-Humble forest user