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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Chase, and I am a life-long Alaska resident who grew up surrounded by these mountains. When I was little, my Dad used to take me and my brother up into the mountains and explore them on and off trails, accessing areas that are almost untouchable by any other means. Those are my fondest memories of learning to ride in the mountains with my family, and growing closer to my family, growing closer to my home-state as well as growing closer with the amazing community that loves taking their families out to do the same thing every available chance in the winter.

I loved learning to ride and fully plan on starting a family that I can give the same opportunity to learn to love playing in the mountains of their home. Multiple generations of families have had the chance to enjoy the Chugach National Forest and it would be a tragedy to not allow following generations to have the same opportunity.

The nature of snowmachining means you'll often be far deeper into the mountains than most people can hear, having the most mobility of any group of winter enthusiasts. Often times a group on snowmachines near by is the most capable group to respond to an emergency of anyone else in the backcountry, as many riders are educated in CPR, first aid, have avalanche training, and are far more likely to have satellite phones and GPS on-hand for first responders. Snowmachiners make the mountains safer for everybody.

The technology in snowmachines have advanced far more in the last fifteen years than they have in the previous thirty years before that. Modern machines often have on-board GPS systems, engine technology advanced to the point that it makes emissions a non-factor, track-size and reduced weight to be able to go anywhere, much easier and safer to ride for beginners than ever before making the learning curve a fraction of what it was on machines in the past. Manufacturers are working every day to improve upon them even more, making quieter, safer and more mobile machines that can be an asset even for emergencies.

Snowmachiners are the most educated group to address these issues, as most of us were born and grew up in Alaska and know the ins & outs of the subject more than any other group. We don't deserve to have our lifestyle infringed upon because of people from out of state who have never been here commenting on something they have no concept of.

I loved spending time with my family doing what we loved, and hope for many families including my own to be able to enjoy it in the future as well.