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First name: richard

Last name: recknagle

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi, I would like to take a minute to tell the importance that the recreational areas in the chugach national forest mean to me and many other true Alaskans, and others (a lot of tourist that spend big bucks that boost economy)that enjoy the beauty and freedom that the Alaska "backcountry" has to offer us.

I would like to consider myself one of the true Alaskans I've lived in Alaska my whole life (29yrs) and my life literally revolves around my recreational sports, such as fishing, hiking, snowboarding, snowmobiling. The areas I do these activities revolve mainly in the chugach national forest.

To my understanding there is a revision plan with options that would eliminate a lot of our riding space. These options, to me would be detrimental to our riding community, not only would sales in our local community and small businesses diminish, but the unity amongst locals and riding groups and friends would be effected.

The community of recreational users could actually beniefit from more riding areas being accessible the areas with heavy snowmobile traffic could especially beniefit from this seeing the growth in snowmobile riders. The environment is not damaged by snowmobiles until too much traffic is sent through the same areas resulting in vegetation being torn up. And it is ridiculous to say the two stroke emissions are damaging the environment when there are companies on the north slope running deisel equipment 24/7.

I would like to put my vote toward option B on the issue. I enjoy riding the areas available which include Skookum drainage, Squirrel Flats, Turnigain Pass, Johnsons Pass, Snug Harbor, Nelli Juan, Whittier, Lost lake. These areas have worked great in the past and should not be changed, if anything they should be expanded.

Thanks for the chance to be heard,  
Richard Recknagle (lifetime Alaskan)