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Organization:

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Comments: To whom it may concern,

I moved to Anchorage in 2009 for a job opportunity. The next 7 years (2009 to 2016) of my life in Anchorage involved a substantial amount of recreating in the Chugach National Forest. My utilization of this important resource involved a wide range of activities including, rafting, boating, hiking, fishing, hunting, camping, and most importantly, snowmachining in legal areas of the forest.

I quickly realized how much of an economic driver the forest is as it offers many opportunities to the public. Snowmachining is an industry/sport that is rapidly growing. It has been a positive contributor to the economy in the past and I believe snowmachining's positive impact on the economy of the State of Alaska and the United States will continue to rise. Any plan alternative that reduces the amount of area open to snowmachining is the wrong alternative and does not have my support.

In the past there has been conflict between the motorized and non-motorized users, but that conflict is subsiding. More and more I see both parties recreating together on the motorized zones throughout the forest, using snowmachines to access hard-to-access backcountry terrain and riding that terrain all day long. I consider this a win-win situation and every effort should be taken to open more areas to motorized use to facilitate this blossoming relationship.

As far as motorsports in general go, snowmachining (by far) has the least environmental impact on the land. When the snow disappears, there is little to no: mud tracks, torn up muskeg, tree clearing, or impact to streams. This sport should be promoted for all the reasons I outline above.

Thank you for accepting my viewpoint on this issue.

Garrett Paul