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Comments: Public Input for Chugach Forest Plan Revision #40816 (Plan B Support)

I have lived in Alaska for most of my life and have spent a lot of time recreating in the Chugach National Forest. I am writing this comment to discuss how I feel about the management plan revision options. I am not in favor of imposing any further limitation on the use of motorized vehicles for winter use. Plan B is the one that provides the most opportunity for motorized recreation and is the one I support based on my understanding of the options.

Snowmachining provides the public with a low impact way to access places that are simply too far off the road system to easily access. Over the years I have found that my snowmachining preference is to go places to see the beauty of this great State of Alaska. Many of these places are in within the boundaries of the Chugach National Forest. One thing that I have always liked about snowmachining places is knowing that the tracks I leave behind will go away soon and there will be no trace of me ever being there. Many of the places I choose to hike into during the summer months have been found by first exploring them in the winter. With a snowmobile I can get farther into areas in one day than would be possible in several days of walking. If we lose access we won't be able to get to some of the remote areas within the Chugach National Forest.

I often encounter non-motorized users in my travels. It is good to know that they are able to enjoy the trails which are put in by snowmachines. If the snowmachines are not allowed any more I wonder how many of the trails would not be opened up for their travels.

Last year I chose to purchase a two new snowmachines for my Family. It is impressive how the newer machines are getting quieter and more fuel efficient. The machines I chose to buy are 4 stroke models. They are so quiet that it seems that the next improvement needed is a track system that makes even less noise. Even the 2 stroke models are being improved with the better emission technology and are much quieter than many of the older machines I have owned. I'm glad to see the manufactures keeping up with the changing technologies and being environmentally responsible. I hope this type of commitment, from the manufactures and users, helps the snowmachining community retain its access to the National Forest.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my input as you process the Chugach Forest Plan Revision.