Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/28/2018 6:09:45 PM First name: Kevin Last name: Cross Organization:

## Title:

Comments: I have lived in Alaska all 47 years of my life. There are a lot of places that I could move to and sometimes I think about it. There is one thing that keeps my family here despite the high crime rate, rampant auto theft, and record high property taxes: The freedom to explore our park system wether we choose to walk, bike, four wheel, snow machine or ATV. There is enjoyment every time and in every way. I will say with certainty, that if those who have the authority choose to continue to limit ATV access, I know that my family would just leave AK. I know several other families that we associate with who speak the same. We are drawn and stay here for our love of the outdoors and if the thing we love to do most is diminished, then why wouldn't we just go somewhere else with far less crime? ATV and Snowmobiles are a critical part of the experience. Think of it this way: The only people who can afford to spend \$15,000 on an ATV are successful business owners with expendable income. If you want to drive them away, then move to limit access and further restrict ATV use. Then our parks and cities will be alike. Untouched, unexplored, uninviting and unsuccessful. There is obviously some concern about the damage that ATVs do to the dirt and it's my experience that this is minimal. Do not think that hikers and bikers don't also disturb nature. Four wheelers are much less likely to need a bridge built. Snowmobile tracks disappear once the snow melts and nature grows back rapidly. I remember when I was young and a forest fire devastated the Kenai Peninsula. For years, the skeletons of dead trees lined the roads and Russian River. But mother nature is not easily deterred. Look at it now and you'd never know the area was once completely swept away in a fire. ATV trails in most cases are less intrusive than an urban bike trail and the small impact they make is inconsequential for the value they bring.