

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/28/2018 8:40:30 PM

First name: Hannah

Last name: Shaw

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I am writing as a concerned friend of many lifelong Alaskans. We have been informed that their rights to use snowmachines in the Chugach Mountains are being threatened, and I would like to vehemently oppose this potential revision.

Alternative C and D of the Forest Plan Revision are entirely unethical and strip away the right to use land that many Alaskans have used for multiple generations in their families. Not only do they use their snowmachines to recreate, but also to access their cabins, to trap and hunt, and to access fishing grounds.

I have been to Alaska and seen the Chugach. It is a wondrous and insurmountably beautiful mountain range. Upon my travels I was introduced to the sledding world of this area. These people are passionate about not only their activity, but the areas they ride in and the people involved. While riding we actually came upon a fat biker who had broken down in 20 Mile Creek and was walking back to his vehicle in -10 degree weather. We offered him a ride upon realizing he may be hypothermic, and potentially saved his life. This being an eye opening experience to me, seemed to be the norm to my Alaskan friends who ride sleds.

Their trails are not only providing access to fat bikers, but also skiers, first responders, hikers, and hunters. The snowmachine trails are useful to so many people, yet so many people are painting this community as destructive.

I have been informed that the CNAIF designates when areas can and cannot be accessed based on adequate amount of snow coverage. I am also aware that sleds are lighter, quieter, and more efficient than they have ever been. These elements truly show how little environmental impact these riders have on the Chugach.

To ban motorized use in this area truly robs the people who treasure these mountains most. I would be heartbroken to find that I can no longer visit the places I was taken on my visits with friends, and to no longer hear of their adventures and lessons learned in the backcountry.

Please reconsider the forest revision plan and DO NOT include additional acreage to designate as "wilderness". Alienating sledders from the Chugach is a detrimental mistake that will affect your community, businesses, and the Alaskan people and lifestyle.