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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern-

I was born and raised in Alaska and have been an avid snowmobiler my entire life. My family owns and operates a remote fishing lodge that I lived and work at for most of my childhood and early adulthood. While living there, I learned a great deal about how to protect the land that we live on not only for us but for future generations. Whether I'm in the wilderness hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, or just riding sleds my friends and I have always had the utmost respect for the land and do our best to leave things exactly the way they were. With the amazing technology available with the new machines like the E-Tec engine, sleds are lighter, quieter, better on fuel, and cause far less pollution than sleds of the past. They also have longer tracks which provide more surface area, therefore less pounds per square inch and less impact on the terrain. This is along the same idea as some of the machines with giant tires that are used on the North Slope to protect the vegetation. I think everyone, including non-motorized users can appreciate that.

Growing up where I did I didn't get to experience the amazing terrain and beauty that the CNF had to offer until later in life. Once I did I was hooked! Since then I've experienced awesome riding areas such as Turnagain, Johnson Pass, Skookum, Placer, Lost Lake, Whittier near Blackstone Bay to name a few. Riding sleds and being in the wilderness for most of my life has made me the person that I am today. I can't imagine a world where I wouldn't be able to enjoy those same things with my children. My son is 2 now and we already go camping, fishing, snowmobiling, and get outdoors as much as possible. I look forward to the day he is old enough that I can start teaching him the same values that I was taught as a child and get him into the mountains of the CNF as well. The idea that these areas are in jeopardy of being closed is devastating.

I strongly oppose the loss of any areas that we currently ride. In fact I would like to see other areas opened to motorized access such as Mills Creek drainage near Summit Lake. The mining road there could be a motorized corridor to gain access to remote areas that are currently inaccessible to any user groups. This would help spread out the users and give everyone, including non-motorized users, more places to enjoy. In addition to this I think we need a plan in place to help with the issue of the low level alders that are preventing all user groups from gaining access to a lot of the areas we currently ride. This would also help with any attempts for retrieval of anyone that could be injured from these areas.

Loss of any more riding areas will have a huge economic impact on many local businesses as well. If people can't enjoy the areas they love to ride, they will stop buying snowmobile and gear from local shops. In addition to this, the residual effect of these people not eating out, getting hotel rooms, and spending money on fuel will slow down the entire economy. I support plan B with the addition of some possible options.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tyson Johnson

