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Organization:

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Comments:

I spend countless days in the mountains every year, and I believe that the use of motorized vehicles should always be allowed in the areas currently open and possibly even expand the areas where motorized vehicles are permitted. Most of the time when I'm headed into the hills its to hike, ski, or spend time camping and fishing. I don't see any reason why motorized vehicles that are being used responsibly would cause any issues. I grew up In Girdwood and spent lots of time in Turnagain pass, Lost Lake, Johnson Pass, Whittier, Hope, and everywhere in between playing in the mountains. As I got older I saved up and bought a snowmobile to make skiing with my friends safer and more efficient. Now as time goes on more areas are being shut down or have very small windows of being open to snowmobile access in a given season, even when the snowpack is sufficient to protect the vegetation. I often end up hiking some of the same trails in the summer that I ride in the winter on my snowmobile and the only impact I see is more use of the cabins and recreational areas. This means more money spent on tags for the snowmobiles and cars. It also means more money spent for parking permits and cabin rentals, all good things for the community.

When It comes down to it I'm a skier, and avid hiker that bought a snowmobile. The snowmobile comes second. Its a useful tool to help access more areas to ski and explore. Others on snowmobiles have little to no impact on my skiing and hiking other than the fact that I know if I get to a trail I can always find help when I get into a bad situation. The community as a whole makes these areas safer for all users. I know that If there are snowmobilers around I have help to get off the hill safely and quickly.

Snowmobiles are getting lighter, more efficient, quieter, and easier to maneuver. This means on a given route though the trees there is less noise, riders are staying on a thinner trail and are able to establish routes though areas with the deepest snowpack to preserve the area.

I think the majority of the people that use these areas would be disappointed to see them shut down to motorized use. Our winters are getting variable and I think to shut down zones is just limiting the ability to allow people to ride where the snow is rather than forcing the community to just go where is open. With more areas open to motorized use it allows riders to chose where to go based on whats safest given the current conditions. If the snowpack is low one place you go to another, if avalanche danger is bad here you ride somewhere else. Having a choice on where to ride benefits everyone.

As a outdoor enthusiast, skier, snowmobiler, and life long Alaska resident, Im asking that we don't limit the use of our shared land to non-motorized use only. If anything I ask that opening up more areas is considered to give people the option to always ride in the safest place for both the rider and the environment.