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First name: John

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Chugach National Forest:

My name is John Ascherman.

First off, thank you for your efforts and willingness to include all user groups in the Chugach Forest Service Revision Plan.

I currently live in Townsend, Montana, and have never lived in Alaska. I have enjoyed riding snowmobiles in the Montana for 10 years, and I typically go 20+ times a year. As a motorized user, I oppose losing any right to motorized access of any public lands. A large majority of the Chugach is already restricted to non-motorized use, as it is in many areas here in the West, and what's left to motorized recreationalists should remain intact, if not expanded, for future generations.

In Montana, our Forest Service travel plans start out with an Alternative A which is "No Change" and that is what I am advocating here. I see in your revision plan no alternative to leave things as the are. This is very disappointing to me.

All of the time and effort to comment on these needless revisions is another issue I have. Why can we not all get along? I make room for non_motorized users whenever I come across them, but in a large part, the courtesy is not returned. And why is non-motorized travel deemed more important than motorized travel? Every few years there is another revision to the forest plan and we lose more and more areas for motorized recreation. I comment on these revisions to no avail. There is enough locked up land already!

The rights of motorized user groups have diminished since 2002 when The National Forest Service initiated the Forest Land Management Plan and it must stop.

Snowmobiling for me is more than a sport or a hobby. It is my passion and it transports me to the deepest places in the backcountry where I can escape the stresses of life and leave it all behind. It makes me feel empowered and strong while providing an inner peace and happiness that comes from being out there. I have enjoyed snowmobiling and sled/skiing/snowboarding with my family and friends in National Forests for many years as well as summer motorized and non-motorized recreation. I hate to see this privilege diminished for anyone, especially in our public forests. This land belongs to motorized users too! I hope that we can continue to enjoy all forms of motorized recreation in the National Forests for many years to come. We need forest revisions that add motorized recreation areas instead of taking them away. Please do not take away our rights to recreate with motorized equipment.

I also take issue with Wilderness Study Areas. Here in Montana, we have WSAs which have been "studied" since the mid 1970's. These areas have been locked up for 40 years when the original study period was meant to be 5 years! We need no more Wilderness areas in the United States. There is enough Wilderness for all to enjoy. We also need to release WSAs that have been locked up for over 5 years, and WSAs which are not found to be worthy of Wilderness Designation.

I thank you for taking the time to review my ideas and I hope you will consider keeping our motorized terrain open and allowing recreational opportunities for snowmobiling and to motorized recreation to continue in our area.

Please consider leaving the current access in place and work toward opening more areas for future generations.

Thank you,
John