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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Sam Tarolli. I live in Girdwood Alaska and I enjoy both backcountry skiing and snow machining in the Chugach National Forest. I moved here from Colorado about 6 years ago and one of the main things that drew me to Alaska was the seemingly endless mountains. Snowmachine access has allowed me to explore and ski areas that I would never be able to reach otherwise. I am strongly opposed to options C and D because they would reduce the amount of riding areas on the Kenai Peninsula. Whittier and Lake Nellie Juan are two of my favorite areas because after you get away from the parking lot, you may not see another person all day. They offer a lot of terrain and people can spread out, unlike areas like Turnagain Pass where it seems crowded at times. Taking away our riding areas will only make this worse and riding in Alaska will not have the same appeal. I have friends that come up every year in the spring to ride because we truly have something special here. We need to keep all the motorized areas that we have open to maintain the quality of the experience and to accommodate the increase in backcountry recreation.

With the warmer winters we have been having, we have been limited in the areas we can ride and the new forest plan does not address this. In some of the past winters there has been very little snow down low to where it is barely rideable but up high its great. Its frustrating that we are being denied access to the upper elevations where there is plenty of snow to ride. I understand that it can cause damage to vegetation but if there were designated trails into the upper elevations where there is consistently snow we could both protect vegetation and provide access to the snow up high.