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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have lived in Alaska my whole life. I grew up in S.E. AK in the Tongass National Forest, where outdoor recreation is a mainstay with everyone that lives there. The Sticking River is a major recreational use area for surrounding communities like Wrangell and Petersburg. The use of the waters have been threatened time and time again by opposition groups. There is always litigation and lawsuits about land use and float houses and permitting for both recreational use and commercial use during the summer months.

And now I currently live in Eagle River and use South Central AK and primarily the Church Forest as my recreational area. I usually work most of the summer, taking in as much OT as I can, waiting for winter to come along. I buy a new snow machine each winter and get out 25-30 times each season. I ride everywhere from Lost Lake on the Kenai Peninsula all the way as far north as Summit Lake and the Hoodoo Mountains in the Spring. It seems like as it is there are so many restrictions on what side of the highway or which side of the trail I can legally ride on. When I am out with my regular group or even a new group we always discuss which areas we can't and can't ride. Not so much to keep from getting in trouble, but more so to prevent the non-motorized users from becoming angry.

Our areas are so limited now that I am highly opposed to losing any more areas, so Alternate C and D absolutely don't make sense, taking away even more access.

It is of high importance that we (The State) keep all current areas open and not lose corridors such as 20 mile and South Fork to access all potential recreational riding areas.

We need these trails and access not only for fun and recreation, but also as access for Search and Rescue and Emergency Personnel in the event something goes wrong and a fellow rider is lost or worse, injured. Without these areas, there is so much potential for losing loved ones or fellow Alaskans being left with permanent disability due to limited access and limited resources being able to look for, find and/or get needed resources to said individuals.

Just like in SE AK, "Wilderness" designation hurts Alaskan's interest more and more. Soon there will be no place to recreate within our beautiful state, as it will all be off limits for anything other than permitted tours and sight-seeing. We need to at a minimum keep what areas are designated as "motorized use" in place and not keep decreasing our ability to get out and enjoy this great state we all call home.

Thank You very much for the opportunity to voice my concerns.

Sincerely

Ian Bunes