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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I a backcountry enthusiast that currently utilizes the public lands in Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado on a consistent basis. I have ventured into the backcountry on foot, atv, utv, and snowmobiles throughout different seasons. I am currently a dad as well and strive to take my family into the backcountry as many times as I can to give them the experience of being in nature and seeing all that it has to offer. Because of these experiences, I have established the desire to one day take them up into the backcountry in Alaska, as it is identified as one of the greatest experiences an outdoorsman can receive. However, with some of the new forest service planning, those experiences might not come to fruition because the access into those areas, Center Creek and Mills Creek for example, might not be an option.

I also know from experience that keeping access open to all users brings in more revenue and financially supports local businesses, especially during the winter months. A friend of mine owns a private hotel in a small town outside of some public forest lands. He has said multiple times that snowmobilers keep his business alive during the winter. He also stated that the town's revenue source during the winter as a whole is all due to snowmobilers coming in to recreate in the public lands.

Knowing that the planning option is looking to close some of the access areas for wilderness, I would like to request that the Alternatives C and D not be accepted due to the loss of more acres to snowmachining on the Kenai Peninsula. Moving the recreators down to lower elevations limits their access to quality snow.

I personally don't think it is appropriate to recommend more acres for Wilderness designation in this forest plan as it will limit winter recreation opportunities, displace motorized users, and will ultimately lower the economic activities of the businesses in the area.

I appreciate you considering my opinions on this matter and look forward to the results that come forth from this plan.