

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/31/2018 4:43:14 PM

First name: Ben

Last name: Birk

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

My name is Ben Birk and I travel all the way from Truckee, California to Valdez, Alaska every spring. I drive the long distance so I can use my snowmobile to assist me in gaining access to snowboard lines. I would like to see no reduction in the area of snowmobile usage. I stay in Valdez at hotels or I will rent an RV and camp. I buy my food from grocery stores or from restaurants. I hire local guides to assist me in save travel routes. If snowmobile access was restricted I would have to consider taking myself and my money to a new area for my recreation. An increase in backcountry usage, quieter, more Fule efficient snowmobiles, and inconsistent snow at lower elevations are all reasons we need to maintain the the riding area we have now for future generations.

Below are my specific comments regarding the proposals. I would like to see the Mills Creek and Center Creek opened to motorized usage. I don't not support any more restriction on the Kenai Peninsula. I think it's of the most importance to keep the motorized access of the 20 Mile or South Fork of Snow because they serve as emergency access routes for anyone who is hurt in the backcountry. I do not support the proposal of more "Wilderness " land as it will limit recreation and displace motorized users.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment. I really hold Alaska/Chugach in a special place in my heart. I would like the chance to continue to come to this great land and explore for years to come. In a time of growing population we need to learn how to coexistence with all user groups.

Ben Birk.