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Comments: To whom it may concern:

The revisions proposed as Alternatives C and D just do not work for true Alaskans. There is a huge portion of Alaskans that use motorized vehicles during summer to hunt, gain access to their properties, and even explore our great state during summer months. During the deep longer winter months that Alaska endures, winter brings with it amazing snow falls and us Alaskans use snowmachines to explore the backcountry, find ourselves and do what we love, snowmachine in the backcountry. If a change is to come i believe Alternative B has potential but I urge you to revise B and open up more areas please! There is so much of this state that so many people love to explore and with exploring comes the risk of injury. If someone was to get hurt and bad weather came in, the only option you have is to use motorized vehicles to get to them. Countless times I've come across either people hiking with skies/snowboards using packed snowmachine trails to access further into the backcountry and then start making their own trails up the mountains to where they want to ride at. The packed trails allow them to travel further and easier before the skiers/snowboarders take off on their own trail. This allows them to spend more time having fun, doing what they love rather than being so exhausted and knowing they have a long and difficult trek back to the vehicle that the day gets cut short, eventually finding a new place to ski/snowboard due to how long it takes to get into the backcountry were no one has been yet.

The snowmachines of today are lighter, burn cleaner and quitter than ever before. With wider tracks and lighter machines the travel impact across the snowpack is almost nothing. Lighter snowmachines and wider tracks cause less trenching and less damage to the vegetation, especially compared to what the machines used to do back in the day when my grandparents and possibly your grandparents or parents used to ride when they grew up and/or moved to Alaska. I grew up riding atv's and snowmachines and this has turned into a huge passion with a lot of great memories. Some of the best memories are riding Turnagain Pass, Lost Lake, Nelly Juan and Johnson Pass. Something i have looked forward to for a long time is teaching my future family how to ride and hopefully let them see all of Alaska for it's beauty the way i grew up. This dream that so many of us have to eventually share those experiences with our own families are at stake.

Lastly but not least shutting down access points and taking away riding areas is going to hurt Alaska's small business's. There are so many family owned and independant dealerships and independant business's around this great state that sell and repair snowmachines and atv's/utv's. The gas stations, restaurants, hotels/motels are all going to see harder times during winter than they do now. Our economy grows during the summer months due to tourism but think about how much motorized tourism brings during the winter months. People fly up from the lower 48 states and purchase snowmachines for short time uses and rent them for short time use then sell them to locals at a cheaper prices just to prevent having to ship them back home. This again add's up to people purchasing parts, fuels, oils, food, renting hotel/motel rooms and cabins. A much needed splurge into Alaska's economy during the cold dark winter months that usually hurt more business's.

Please I strongly urge you to rethink and revise alternative B to open up more areas. Let us stand together, stand for all the small business's, restaurants, hotels/motels and gas stations. The rest of our country may be over the economic crisis but Alaska is still in the fight trying to keep it's head above water.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and hopefully with all the support pouring in from all across this great state you will see, Alaskan's want access to Alaska so that each person to view, experience and enjoy Alaska for the same reasons every state resident has!

Sincerely,  
Kyle Hester

