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First name: Matthew

Last name: Dietrick

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing specifically to oppose Alternatives C and D. Losing more motorized access to the Kenai Peninsula is unacceptable. I believe that access for all user groups, including snow machines, to places like the South Fork of Snow River, Nellie Juan, and 20 mile River valley is vital for our physical health, mental well-being, sense of community, and economy. Wilderness designations are short-sighted management tools that do not take into account our rapidly changing climate and physical landscape. I oppose any further wilderness designations in the Chugach National Forest. Forcing one user group into a smaller area is counter-intuitive to preservation as it places increased pressure onto smaller areas.

I spend a huge portion of my free time recreating within the Chugach National Forest. Hiking, biking, fishing, camping, snowboarding, skiing, snow machining. It is without doubt one of my favorite places to recreate. The importance of this place to my sense of person and relationships with friends and family is immeasurable. Some of my favorite places are Lost Lake, Crescent Lake, Carter Lake, Snug Harbor, Turnagain Pass, Twenty Mile, Skookum, Placer, Whittier, Johnson Pass, Snow River, etc... The list goes on and on and it's so important to have access to all these places for everyone.

It's also important to note that snow machines enable other forms of recreation and transportation to places they would otherwise not be able to go. They create a track for skiers, bikers, hikers to follow and are essentially the only reason fat bikers can ride out to Spencer Glacier every year. They also produce little to no impact on the landscape due to the snow cover required for their operation. Emergency responders are able to use commonly used snow machine routes for emergency access for any motorized or non-motorized incident.

In summary, of all the alternatives presented I prefer option B. I do not support any increase in wilderness designation and strongly encourage you to reconsider any existing closures to motorized access.