

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/31/2018 10:42:59 PM

First name: Nicholas

Last name: Hogan

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

Myself, much like each and every other person who has commented or grown up in Alaska has spent almost their entire life riding Snowmachines. I was born in Anchorage and lived there for the first 6 years of my life. In that time, I have very limited memories, but there are a few that have stuck around over the years. I can tell you now that every good memory and lingering memory I have from my time living in anchorage revolves around riding sleds.

When I had my first Kitty Kat, I can remember sneaking out to the back yard with my uncle to ride it in circles when I was supposed to be napping. I cannot explain how it made me feel, but I can tell you that I felt free and unstoppable. Once I had moved on from riding in the backyard of our Anchorage home, we moved my machine up to Talkeetna where we had a cabin. Here is where I really and truly began to love riding. I used to be so excited to go to the cabin just so I would be able to ride my machine and terrorize the neighborhood.

From there, the obsession grew. I started buying newer and newer machines, finding new and crazy places to ride, and continued to further my skills and love for riding. By the time I was in high school, I was riding in the Talkeetna Mountains, Petersville, Cantwell, and yes, the Chugach Range. After my first time riding in Turnagain Pass, I knew that I was hooked and would love riding there forever. I have centered my college experience in Fairbanks around finding the time during the winter to drive all the way to Turnagain to ride.

I strongly believe that it is wrong to close down this area to motorized vehicle access. There are so many people and so many memories that are held there, and I do not believe that our ability to utilize this land should be taken away. For years people have been riding there, and for years people WILL be riding in this area. I have had so much fun and enjoyed so many blue bird days in the Chugach Range that it sickens me to think that I may never get to ride there again.

I know for a fact I am not the only person that feels this way, and I sincerely hope that all of the riding I did growing up does not go to waste by having the Chugach Forest Plan Revision pass.

Sincerely,

A lifelong Alaskan