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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Alaska

This beautiful state is honestly one of the last great things about this country. There's a reason everyone becomes so mystified over even the idea of our state. I was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska and have loved it since day one. Every day i can look to the east and see those amazing mountains, and it gives me a sense of happiness. This state has been so amazing because of how many opportunities there are to go out and be as free as you'd like.

Since I was a kid I've been all about the outdoors and recreating as much as I can. Thanks to the wonderful ideas of people before me, I have been able to go out into the wilderness and explore it by almost any means. I remember being a young child and being taken out to Turnagain and getting my first hours on a snowmachine. Immediately I fell in love with the sport and I have been riding as much as I possibly can ever since. There's a certain feeling of euphoria that is quite indescribable that's associated with being on a sled.

The thought of riding as I'm writing this is putting a smile on my face. The thing about snowmachining is that there's nothing like it on the face of the earth. Riding a sled is a one of a kind element and has yet to be reproduced in any sense. Snowmachining allows us to access unexplored areas and gives the rider a completely different perspective of the areas being explored. This sport not only allows the individual to experience unique and unparalleled adventures, but it also creates a wonderful comradery within itself.

This sport has such a tight knit community that promotes helping each other out and pushing ourselves to be better and try harder. In my riding experiences I've seen total strangers provide help to people in need and I've also seen people come right up and make friends with surrounding riders. People outside of this community have obscured and incorrect assumptions about riders. Unfortunately people don't use an "outside of the box" analysis of this group and only see a motor that burns fuel or memes that inaccurately represent us.

The people that are always trying to close out riding areas don't see the bigger picture of what they're trying to argue. In regards to the motorized users, we only represent an extremely small fraction of contributing to pollution. People that try to shut down the riders don't look at everything outside of the riding community. If they shut down areas for riders, they must also shut down the road systems to access a non-motorized areas because the vehicle that they use to get there burns fuel. Also they must stop using electricity due to the fact that current generators put a tremendous amount of green house gases into the atmosphere. They must also stop using anything made of plastic, as these things are developed from petroleum products. They must also stop volcanoes from erupting as they also contribute a large amount of green house gases to the atmosphere. The list goes on and on for that side of the argument, but I think my point was made.

My hope from all of this is that my opinion is truly considered as a valid point for the upcoming decisions. I hope that the current areas for motorized use are not closed down or modified to the point that they are no longer useful. To close these areas down would be a HUGE blow to the riding community and move the state in the wrong direction. Again, one of the biggest benefits of living in this state is that we don't have an abundance of nonsense regulations and fees and taxes that ruin any sort of outdoor recreating. I understand there is a "need" to have some sort of structure to manage these lands, but I don't believe shutting down areas for motorized users is in the best interest. To do so would be favoring one side over the other. The current structure may need certain revisions, but I believe it can be done so without tipping the scale to one side.

I appreciate the time and consideration you have given to me and this community to let us speak our minds

and fill you in with how we feel. I do hope that you allow the riding areas to remain open and do not further shrink what we have.

Thank you.