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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom it May Concern:

I am a born and raised Alaskan who has been recreating in the Chugach National Forest since I could walk. Over the last 30 years I have utilized the forest and the abundance of recreational opportunities it provides in many ways; from hiking, biking, fishing, skiing, camping and snowmachining. Today I primarily use the forest for snowmachining as it provides some of the best terrain in the world only a short distance from Anchorage. Today's snowmachines have allowed myself and my family to explore deeper into the forest then ever before and leave us longing to explore more terrain then is currently available to us. I frequently access the forest via Whitter, Placer, Turnagain, Johnsons, and Lost Lake. In total my yearly contribution to the economy directly relating to my utilization of the Chugach National Forest for motorized use totals in excess of \$20,000 per year. This includes purchase of a snowmachine at local businesses, along with parts, gear and avalanche safety equipment. This also includes thousands in fuel, food, lodging, etc. to businesses that cater too or are related to recreation in the Chugach.

Given my most frequent use of the forest is via motorized access I am strongly opposed to options C&D and view option B as the best presented option with the addition of new motorized access corridors to expand access to the backcountry areas available to motorized users. Most non-motorized users recreate in the first 2-3 miles of the highway. Access corridors allow motorized users to easily access deep portions of the forest where snow is better, and crowds are thinner. These access corridors have been tested and deployed successfully in many other states, they allow access when snow conditions are less than par at the parking lot, they provide emergency access to the forest for firefighting, rescue operations, and other uses. This would GREATLY expand access to the Chugach for ALL user groups. It is also important for all user groups that any additional acres not be added to the current wilderness designation.

Alaskans depend on recreation in the forest as a way of life, no matter the "means" of access. We depend on this; for quality of life, physical and mental healing, and many other reasons whom the thousands of comments by Alaskans will show. For myself I can say this, there is no place in the world that I feel freer, more alive, and more healthy then on my snowmachine in the Chugach National Forest.

I would like to thank the Forest Service for the opportunity to provide comments from the public relating to the use of our lands. I appreciate the time and effort all involved have and will put into this revision.

Thank You,
Josh Payne