

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/1/2018 5:46:42 AM

First name: Luke

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I was raised in Fairbanks, and now live in Girdwood, where I enjoy the Chugach National Forest on a daily basis. I routinely ski, hike, mountain bike, and snowmachine in the National Forest and am lucky to consider it my "backyard". My favorite activity in the forest is riding my snowmachine, as it allows me to access so many amazing places in a few hours, that I would otherwise never be able to visit. I ride the 20 Mile River Valley, the Placer River Valley and Skookum Glacier, Turnagain Pass, Johnson Pass, Carter and Crescent Lakes, Lost Lake from all three access points, Whittier, including the Blackstone Bay area and Spencer Glacier, and the Snow River corridor to Nelly Juan Lake. In the past 8 years, while I've lived in Girdwood, I've thoroughly enjoyed exploring these areas with my friends, and I hope to share this incredible terrain with my recently born son someday. The Chugach National Forest is an amazing, beautiful place, that we should support more access to it, not less.

I have reviewed the four proposed revisions to the forest management plan, and I support plan B. I strongly oppose plans C and D as they prohibit motorized access to some of my favorite winter riding areas including the Nelly Juan lake region and a large portion of the terrain around Whittier. In addition to my support of plan B, I would like to see more areas opens for motorized use; such as the Center Creek drainage on the north end of Johnson Pass, and Mills creek, in the Summit Lake area. Use of a motorized access corridor, similar to those in use at the 20 Mile River and Snow River, would be a perfect use of the Mills Creek drainage, where a mining road already exists.

Access to terrain such as the Chugach National Forest, directly from the highway system, is a large part of why I have continued to live in Alaska. The public land Alaska has to offer is unrivaled. Please continue to support the Alaskan tradition of exploring the vast backcounty with snowmachines.

Thank you,

Luke Smith