

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/1/2018 7:56:43 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am a lifetime Alaskan that grew up in the small town of King Salmon. One of the greatest things about growing up there was the ability to jump on an ATV or snowmachine and take off from the front door at any time. Whether it was out riding trails all day, hunting with my dad, or a short run over to a friend's house, I loved any opportunity to get out and ride.

Growing up, we would watch snowmachine videos and dream of being up in the mountains, in waist deep snow, with great views and no cares. Unfortunately, there weren't many mountains around. Nearly three years ago, I rode up Seattle Ridge in Turnagain Pass and it was one of the greatest experiences of my life. Not only were these the same mountains that I had always dreamed of being in, they were also remarkably more overwhelming than I could have every imagined. The amount of area we were able to cover, unbelievable terrain we had access to, and breathtaking views at every stop made me fall in love with both snowmachining and the Chugach. Instead of dreaming about someday being in the mountains, I now anxiously await and daydream about the next chance.

Some of my greatest lessons in life were learned somewhere far from where I could have walked and would have ever made it to without motorized access. The same is true for the Chugach National Forest and Kenai Peninsula. In the past few years, I have learned great lessons about myself, strengthened friendships, and enjoyed the best tasting pepperoni sticks of my life. The best part is it gets better and better every time. I cannot wait to continue going out and exploring more areas this winter and for many to come.

It is very clear that many others share similar feelings and experiences all over the Chugach National Forest. Many of which are both motorized and non-motorized users. If access to these areas and wonderful experiences were shut down, it would be a tragedy for myself and plenty more people. Because of this, Alternatives C and D are unacceptable, I strongly oppose losing any more acres of snowmachine terrain on the Kenai Peninsula, and do not support recommending additional acres for wilderness designation.

From riding, to fishing, to skiing, I love everything about the Chugach and believe that motorized and non-motorized use can all work together with wilderness area.

Thank you.