

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/2/2018 7:29:43 AM

First name: Erik

Last name: Van Patten

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I love to spend time in the Chugach National Forest.

I like to ride snowmachines at Turnagain Pass, Skookum, Lost Lake and East of Valdez. I hope to bring my son out to ride in the amazing mountains of the Chugach when he's old enough. I want to keep these areas open to winter motorized use because snowmachining is a great way to experience the beauty of the Chugach.

Most of my time spent in the Chugach has been spent in Prince William Sound, where I have made many wonderful memories on my ocean boat with my family camping, fishing, sightseeing, and sadly limping my boat at times back to Whittier. I think Alternatives C and D would create excessive restrictions on the land in Prince William Sound.

Responsible motorized access to the Chugach enhances my experience in Alaska and also enhances the experience for those people who come to Alaska for recreation. While they are here, they stimulate our local economy by spending money at our local businesses. I personally have pumped tens of thousands of dollars into the local economy through snowmachine purchases, trailer parts, and hemorrhaging buckets of money at the local boat shop.

I support Alternative B, modified as follows:

- 1) Keep the big piece of land east of Valdez/northeast of Cordova open to winter motorized use (brown) as shown in Alternative C. This is an amazing, scenic, and huge area for world class snowmachining and heli-skiing. It is remote, but it can be accessed via snowmachine on a good weather day in April with some determination.
- 2) Provide a motorized corridor (brown) from Whittier to the Spencer/Blackstone Glacier Icefield area as shown in Alternative C. This will protect traditional snowmachine access to this amazing area that is within reach of the majority of snowmachiners in Alaska.
- 3) Show the existing motorized corridor (brown) up the Twentymile river on the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum map.

Alaska is an amazing state and I support everyone getting out into the great outdoors via whatever means they find the most enjoyable ... as long as those means do not impose unnecessary limitations on others. I believe Option B with some slight modifications to be the best option to allow everyone to responsibly recreate in the Chugach National Forest. Thank you for making the effort to hear from those of us who truly love and enjoy all the amazing experiences the Chugach has to offer.

Thank You,

Erik Van Patten