

Comments: IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL PROJECT - PUBLIC MEETING AND ANILCA
1110 HEARINGS

Re: Several segments of the proposed trail cross into portions of the forest closed to motorized use under the Chugach Forest Plan. If the trail is built, the Forest Service proposes to restrict or prohibit access to these trail segments (specifically trails in Portage Valley and trail segments around Girdwood such as the Crow Pass and Winner Creek Trails) for motorized use, including snowmachines. In order to prohibit the use of snowmachines for traditional activities or travel to and from villages and homesites, such use must be found to be detrimental to the resource values of the unit or area. The Forest Service is seeking comment and testimony to determine whether such use is detrimental to resource values and whether other actions may be taken to protect the natural and other values of the unit or area.

I support the Forest Service proposals to restrict or prohibit access to these trails referenced above for motorized use including snowmachines. Snowmachine use in these areas would be detrimental to resource values of the areas because those areas are most heavily used by skiers, walkers, and other non-motorized users. It is essential to reserve some quiet areas for non-motorized use consistent with the current Forest Plan. If an area is non-motorized now it needs to stay that way. Those areas open to motorized should be open on a "shared basis", such as 1 day per week, etc., since when snowmachines use an area it becomes unsafe for others due to their high speed. In addition the loud noise is concern.

Sincerely,

Art Copoulos