

SAR - DEIS - Appendix F

Comment # Comment

0021603-001

Subject: Draft E.I. Statement

I would suggest that you come up with a list of alternative places for skiers to go where they would be less likely to come in contact with snowmachines. Placating a hand full of skiers will be a lot easier for you than bashing heads with the large number of snowmachiners who use the Lost Lake area.

0021782-002

Don't [Illegible] areas of the forest to motorized use for, New Quiet Rights Groups, develop new areas [Illegible] Groups. Don't close present areas that have been developed for other park users.

0021803-001

What specific improvements would you recommend for the Preferred Alternative?

Create specific usage trail heads. Do not [Illegible] areas from user groups. Expand access so that people can enjoy in a safe structures [Illegible].

What are your specific comments of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement?

Closure. This is not the answer, there is significantly large amount of untouched wilderness areas that is not accessible. By any user [Illegible]. Taking away is not the answer.

0026821-001

I wish to have all lands under discussion to remain open for Snowmachines. IT is essential for winter tourism and recreation.

0028573-003

There is no analysis of the impacts 'Wilderness' designations would have on access to private inholdings, adjacent private lands, or potentially developable land within the forest.

Recommendations for 'Wilderness' and Wild & Scenic Rivers severely limit access to private in-holdings and adjacent private lands.

0034929-015

The closure applies to all areas south of the Copper River Highway extending from Mountain Slough eastward across the Copper River to the base of the Ragged Mountains, and includes Martin Lake and Little Martin Lake. DEIS at 3-316.

Comment # Comment

0036321-008

-- Carrying Capacity Studies. The DEIS does not contain carrying capacity information to support the proposed revisions to the forest management plan. Specifically, I do not believe that carrying capacity has been adequately considered in the land use prescription changes pertaining to winter motorized versus non-motorized uses. No data have been presented to substantiate/justify the significant restrictions, limitations and elimination of winter motorized areas.

-- Land Use Studies. I do not believe that the Proposed Revised Plan adequately considers actual land uses. Specifically, I am concerned that winter motorized users are being crammed into smaller, congested areas while winter non-motorized areas seem to be being set up for what seems to be individual use. I have lived in Alaska for 25 years. In that time, I have seen many changes in land use in the Chugach National Forest. I've seen the changes in Turnagain Pass - where separate areas have been set up for winter motorized and non-motorized users. On any given weekend, the winter motorized area will be packed with users. On the other side of the road, the facilities are typically less than half utilized. This observation seems to be typical of facilities throughout the forest.

I've made similar observations with the Resurrection Pass Trail. When the trail is open to winter motorized users, the parking lot seems to be quite full on any given weekend. Yet, when the trail is only open to winter non-motorized users, the parking lot is only fractionally utilized.

It is my belief that winter non-motorized users tend to stay closer to home when skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, etc. They use the facilities in the more urban areas because it affords them the opportunity to recreate in a shorter period of time. On the other hand, winter motorized users, for the most part, do not have these opportunities. People who use snow machines tend to migrate to the forests for their recreation - it simply goes with the territory.

0036573-003

I have studied the maps in your draft EIS and found that the overlays of management prescriptions are quite complicated. Yet it is not easy of the public to grasp which areas will be closed to recreational snowmachines, for example, even though it is only a small proportion of the entire forest.