

SAR - FP - Interests - Motorized Access

<i>Comment #</i>	<i>Comment</i>
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0004208-002	2) Keep all motorized use to designated routes
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0022561-001

- Prohibit all motorized recreation in the Wilderness Study Area and recommended Wilderness. Further, we request that the Agency take specific measures to enforce these prohibitions, including education and enforcement. Monitoring of illegal use in these areas should be a priority of the Forest Plan's monitoring schedule and should happen annually.
- Close the following areas to snowmobiles (in addition to the closures in the Draft Plan): Johnson Pass, Lost Lake, Snow River, Fresno Mountain, slope behind Summit Lake Lodge, Carter Lake, and Jack Bay.
- Ban all jet-skis.
- Limit off road vehicle use to designated routes in areas that:
 1. Have been reviewed for site-specific effects to all resources affected,
 2. are monitored annually for resource damage,
 3. are not known sensitive habitats, and
 4. have no effects to seclusion-dependent wildlife.
- Regularly enforce and educate citizens who illegally use ORVs in non designated areas.
- Ban all cross-country use of ORVs.
- Reduce commercial helicopter and airplane landings.
- Reduce heli-skiing.

Comment # Comment

0022563-001

I am writing concerning the Forest Service lands surrounding Valdez designated, P2444, P318, and P335.

I think it is in the public's best interest to continue to allow motorized recreation in these areas. It is the only way to reach these wild places and without motorized access, no one will be able to use these mountains at all. I believe our lands only deserve protection but I feel banning mechanized access goes to far.

Please don't ban this access it will only hurt the people who live in this area, and take away valuable recreation space.

0020911-002

2. Recreational uses should consider balance, and large areas should disallow the use of motorized vehicles. Personal watercraft and other loud/smelly/fast watercraft use should be disallowed in all or significant portions of waterways. Hunting, hiking, camping and other uses that require quiet and solitude should be given significant priority in planning.

3. Current roadless areas should be maintained as roadless.

0020925-001

I am writing regarding the proposed plan to prohibit some or all of the access to forest lands for recreation. I believe in equal access to the forest for all users with no preference for special interests.

Closing off the Kenai Peninsula or any Alaskan federal or State lands to recreational users would not be judicious at this time. There is no proven evidence a threat to the environment is eminent. I absolutely support prudent use of our forest lands so they may be maintained and enjoyed by future generations. I personally use these lands for fishing, hiking and cross country skiing. I do not use motorized sport vehicles, however, I believe there should be equal access for those users.

0020931-001

Please do not close the forest to recreational snow machine use.

0020932-001

This is our written request for the Chugach Forest to remain open to recreational snow machines through out the season. The best times to snow machine are usually in the later part of winter (March/April).

Comment # Comment

0020947-001 I understand the Forest Service has a proposal that will limit all user groups using the Chugach Forest and its trails. I am writing this letter opposing any and all limiting of access to the Chugach Forest.

In the plan it states that, 'The primary theme of the Forest Service's Preferred Alternative is conserving fish and wildlife habitat while providing diverse recreational opportunities.' I don't understand how limiting access to the Forest would accomplish the second part of that statement, I completely agree that we should conserve the fish and wildlife habitat. However, within your plan revision there is several statements that show, Natural Integrity and Scenic Integrity as being Very high. In fact 97% of 04 Kenai Lake division shows very, very little impact what so ever. I wanted to comment on this area in particular being that I live in Seward and use this part of the Chugach Forest,

The public should have the right to use this land. It should not be limited to any particular group, the National Parks and Forests were set aside so that all groups can enjoy them. I moved to Alaska so that I could enjoy this right specifically. It seems that the Government only wants to take away more and more of our constitutional rights, and it is inexcusable.

I feel that the Forest Service has done an excellent job in preserving our lands under the current plan. The changes that are proposed only seek to limit and decrease 'diverse recreational opportunities'. In the proposal it also states that the strength of this plan is in the 'openness of the planning process and the unprecedented public involvement.' I am part of the public and want it to be known that I am completely opposed to limiting access to public lands. These are multiple use areas and they should remain that way.

0021088-001 1. No designated areas that allow snow machines but exclude cross-country skiers.
2. Turn again Pass-Safety issue & back country on top not accessible to cross country skiers. 3. Deidve asked for specific restrictions that they would like relaxed however, she wants some quiet areas.
4. Resurrection Pass-Flip Flop seasonal closure. Turn again - Keep skiers out. 5. Alan suggested - clear up what's open of what not stop arguing about law. 6. No net loss policy - some areas could be closed if access to other improved by providing more parking etc.

0021090-001 I am against any change for motorize Vehicles on the Kenai Peninsula the trails should remain open and not be closed in Feb. or anytime for snow mobile before May 1st or it is now.. I have been riding these trails for 31 years and I want to continue going to Carter Lake, last lake, snow river and all the other places that you can only reach by snow mobile, the just riding in this area is from Feb. until the middle of May. Also I would like to see reservation pass trail opened book up and not be closed in Feb.

0021091-001 I am writing in protest of closing any trails to snow mobiles. I and my family have used these trails for over 30 years. I don't went to have any trails closed in Feb. or any other time. Feb until May is the best riding in this area. I would also ask that the reservation pass trail be reopened to snow mobiles in Feb. 2001. Last lake trail, Carter lake, Snow river and others have been more or use created by snow mobiles. Please take this under consideration.

Comment # Comment

0021094-001

This letter is in regard to my thoughts about the USFS Management plan for Chugach National Forest. I have but one concern, and this is the idea of a rotation basis of one year skiers and then the next year snow mobiles in 20 mile valley. I live in 20 mile valley and X-Cski alot, but everyone I know who skis likes to have most of the trail knocked down by snow mobile to enjoy the trip. I am also a dog musher, but again we use a snow machine to break trail up 20 mile valley. There is not a problem with to many snow machines up this valley. The small parking lots regulate the number in this area. You could not ask for a better regulator. I have never seen more than 25 machines all day long up 20 mile, and these are in the morning and evening by the parking lots. I do not want to see it turn out like Petersoille area by Denali either. If there was this problem I would be up in arms too. But alas, all of us that I know need these trails by snow machine for X-C skiing and dog mushing. I think that even bringing this idea up, has made the public snow machiners more angry and now they will try to bring more riders into this valley to oppose this issue. Again, luckily the year round open river and small parking lots are great regulators. So, Please drop the idea of on and off snow machine use. Leave it the way it is - Great! I believe the rest of the plan is sound and has good potential to work for the future users. Thanks, Dwaine Schuldt, To District Ranger Deidre S. St. Louis, I am writing to you in request for a permit to guide on my home river of 20 mile within Chugach National Forest per file 2720, letter from you dated Oct. 27, 1999. It is going into the winter, so I know you are quite busy from the summer season evaluations, and into the management plan please take your time to look at providing my request for permit of non-motorized motorized use. Thanks, Dwaine Schuldt

0021095-001

I am writing to you because I am concerned about losing my right to enjoy the forest. I am an avid snowmachiner and I am shocked and concerned that I will lose access to trails and areas that I enjoy. I do not want to see the forest closed to any groups at any times, I would like to see equal access to the forest for all users at all times. The USFS proposed plan would deny access to the forests on the Kenai Peninsula and other areas of Alaska, to snowmobiles, bicycles, atv's, watercraft, and horses. If this plan is passed that will effect winter tourism and business throughout Alaska. Alaska is extremely vast. and there is plenty of room for everyone to enjoy there recreational pastimes. We need to stop giving preference to special interest groups, we are losing our rights to these public lands.Equal access at all times for all users.

0021432-001

More land closure bs? Give me a break. Closing off land in Alaska? Is there a good reason? I highly doubt it. Keeping sleds out of the bush? WHY? What on earth do they hurt? Especially in such a vast area? For the wildlife? BS. I can't imagine what wildlife is hurt by this. The key reason isn't that it is cleared, but because it is packed down and makes walking MUCH easier. If by chance a sled killed a moose (somehow), I'm sure that 20 others benefited from the trail to assist them in finding food in the winter months.

0021433-001

I just have a hard time understanding why snowmobiling was singled out and eliminated from much of the plan. I also do not understand why anytime there is some sort of user conflict the motorized user loses, within the entire forest I can not think of anyplace that is open to snowmobiling and not open to something else. In a sense the entire forest is open to all nonmotorized users, but that apparently is not enough. I am not calling for areas to be closed to nonmotorized users but to please consider a system of sharing that is fair to motorized users. The areas that are open to snowmobiling are dwarfed compared to the areas open to nonmotorized recreation. I ask to please work with the Alaska State Snowmobile Association (which I am an active member) on a compromise that is fair to all.

Comment # Comment

0021480-002

0021526-001

For the record I'm against any of the proposed closures regarding snowmobiling in the Chugach National Forest. There is absolutely no basis to restrict or eliminate snowmobiling.

0021550-002

we snowmachine. The area we use most is Twenty Mile River, and Turnagain Pass, they are close to home, offer open & scenic areas to explore, ride and, picnic with friends. On most times when we travel back to Spencer Glacier, and up over the top to view Whittier, and the Prince William Sound, WE SEE lots of Snowmachines, and very few skiers. To close an area for motorized use, when less then 1 in 10 is nonmotorized use, seems to be the wrong way to manage your National Forest. If you close the Lost Lakes Areas or restrict to Nonmotorized use November through March, would be a great loss to one of the best open areas in the Anchorage area, I know it's a 2.5 hour drive, but it's worth the drive for the beauty of this area. Please do not close these areas to our use! Don't close these area's, it's your charge to manage the use of both motorized and nonmotorized use in these great Recreation & Tourism areas. Closing them to motorized use at any time is not management.

0021553-001

Subject: snowmobile closures

Please refrain from closing areas to snowmobiles in Chugach NF.

0021587-001

I am opposed to any restrictions to any user group in the Chugach National Forest. There should be equal access to all users of public, state and federal lands. Discrimination is not right and there should be improved access points to accommodate more vehicles.

0021609-001

I believe that as an alternative to completely closing areas off to winter motorized recreation that simply making the access trails large enough that all people can coexist in the same areas. Even building trails for skiers specifically from the (very small) parking areas would be an easy alternative, with very low impact to the forest.

(Specific Comments) I don't believe that this proposal is reasonable for such drastic measures. I have been ride snowmobiles for 5 years in the area. I have seen two skiers and they had no problem with us.

They were actually glad to have us break trail for them.

0021610-001

This note pertains to closing off the Chugach National Forest (in a nutshell) I am COMPLETELY against such proposed idea! We have lived in this area for 27 years and have had NO run-ins with any X-Country skiers. This idea is absolutely ridiculous and unreasonable. Intact, if I am correct... most ski trails are groomed by SNOWMACHINES! Where would they be without us? If this is such a hassle for skiers and/or anyone else other than snowmachine riders, we need to compromise in some fashion. Why not have state maintained trails specially designed for skiers? Why not make these parking facilities larger for higher traffic flow? There has got to be SOME sort of resolution without taking away from anyone.

0021613-001

I've been snowmachining in alaska all my life, there has never been a conflict between us and the ski folks, if your really bored go do something for the everglades, but please don't disturb us. We don't need your fresh ideas nor do we welcome them.

Comment # Comment

0021752-001 Do not; close, Ban, limit, reduce or prohibit any type of motorized vehicle by land sea or air.

0021759-001

Please Don't let the forest & back country trails be closed to snow machines.

0021810-001

As a passionate snowmobile enthusiast. I strongly oppose the recent snowmobile bans in our National Forests and Parks.

We should be expanding and maintaining snowmobile trails.

0021826-007

I support completely banning jet skis from this forest, and severely limiting the use of ATVs, helicopters and snow machines.

0021894-001

I am writing to voice my opposition to the closure of any National or State Forest to any user group of any kind or form. Especially off highway vehicles and mountain bikes, and feel that restrictions are not in keeping with the mandate of the Forest Service to preserve these areas for the public's enjoyment. I would like you, Rick Cables, to make sure that when setting policy for these road less acres, off-highway vehicle and mountain hiking access is preserved. I would like the concept of multiple use and multiple access to be a part of any such policy.

0021899-004

6. I feel jet skis, ATVs, helicopters, and snowmachine use areas should be designated and limited.

0021922-001

I am writing to voice my opposition to the closure of any National or State Forest to any user group of any kind or form. Especially off highway vehicles' and mountain bikes, and feel that restrictions are not in keeping with the mandate of the Forest Service to preserve these areas for the public's enjoyment. I would like you, Dave Gibbons, to make sure that when setting policy for these road less acres, off-highway vehicle and mountain hiking access is preserved. I would like the concept of multiple use and multiple access to be a part of any such policy.

I support officials who support Equal access to the Forest for all users at all times with no closures, and no preference for special interest.

Comment # Comment

0021924-001

0021948-001

As a passionate snowmobile enthusiast, I strongly oppose the recent National Park Service ban of snowmobiles in America's national parks. I need your help in overturning this unreasonable ban to preserve the sport and allow access to some of this country's wonderful parks and public lands.

The National Park Service and the Department of Interior, swayed by a political agenda and misinformation provided by environmental extremists, have completely ignored the 4 million snowmobilers most affected by this ban.

I believe an issue that affects so many families and people of all ages deserves careful consideration and open dialogue with all parties affected. This ban infringes on the freedom of millions of people in this country who have enjoyed wintertime getaways in national parks for more than 30 years.

America's national parks were created for the enjoyment of all people, including the millions of snowmobilers in this country who enjoy the freedom of the outdoors -- and I want to keep it that way. Your immediate action on my behalf will help preserve this riding experience that is part of my lifestyle.

0021950-001

. I do not use motorized sport vehicles, however, I believe there should be equal access for those users.

0021961-001

Referring to the proposed closure of the admittedly misnomer, public lands, specifically around the Seward area but also in general to snow machining or any other non destructive use we would like to state for the record that we are emphatically opposed to any closures.

0021962-001

I understand the Forest Service has a proposal that will limit all user groups using the Chugach Forest and its trails. I am writing this letter opposing any and all limiting of access to me Chugach Forest.

I feel that the Forest Service has done an excellent job in preserving our lands under the current plan.

0022074-001

I am writing to voice my opposition to the closure of any National or State Forests to any user group of any kind or form, especially snowmachines, off highway vehicles and mountain bikes. I feel that restrictions are not following the mandate of the Forest Service to preserve these areas for the public's use and enjoyment.

Comment # Comment

0022080-001

I wish to express my sincere opposition to the proposed closure of areas of the Chugach National Forest to snowmobiling. As I understand, the proposal is to close Twenty-mile, Placer and Skookum Glacier, Turnagain Pass, Johnson Pass Trail and Lost Lake. That pretty much covers all of the areas we like to go to. This seems grossly unfair. I understand that non-snowmobilers like to have piece and quiet and we always try to respect that. We avoid the skiers as much as possible and try to give them their space. Surely with areas as large as these, there is room for both. Many of the areas we ride would not be accessible to skiers were it not for the snowmobiles that break the trails. I know too that there are some people that do not respect the environment and are not considerate to others. We are trying hard to stop this kind of behavior through organizations like the Alaska Snowmobile Association.

I'm sure some compromises can be made like dividing some of the areas up like at Turnagain Pass Most of the skiers don't get back nearly as far as we do on the snowmobiles so the area divisions may only need to exist for part of the ride in.

Perhaps we could also initiate some form of self regulation in terms of reporting reckless and inconsiderate drivers. We all know that these selfish individuals ruin it for all of us.

I'm sure that we can work out some plan that will work for all without this radical proposal. All it will do is force the snowmobilers to drive a lot further to enjoy a day of riding. This will put more pressure on other accessible areas.

0022093-001

I am writing in regards to the Chugach national forest plan. I am very concerned about the loss of snowmobile areas. I believe snowmobiles are the majority of park users in the winter, but we are the minority when it comes to representation. . I want to be able to show my 3 kids the beautiful views around cost (AKE) 20 mile river, Snow River, ext. Also March and April are the best times of year to ride. Please do not lock us out of some of the best areas in the state. All winter recreationists should share the park not try to kick others out. I am willing to pay for special permits or user fee's if the money is used for signs, user education, and enforcement. Please do not restrict are access to the park.

0022100-001

I am against any further restrictions or closures to the Chugach.

If there are conflicts in usage, additional access should be made available rather than restricting current access. This is public land and no one user group should be granted access at the expense of another.

Opening other areas would relieve trail head congestion and allow everyone the opportunity to enjoy the land that their tax dollars pay to maintain.

P.S. Widen the trails so everybody can share and enjoy winter sports

0022100-002

I am against any further restrictions or closures to the Chugach.

If there are conflicts in usage, additional access should be made available rather than restricting current access. This is public land and no one user group should be granted access at the expense of another.

Opening other areas would relieve trail head congestion and allow everyone the opportunity to enjoy the land that their tax dollars pay to maintain.

P.S. Widen the trails so everybody can share and enjoy winter sports

Comment # Comment

0022101-001

I am against any further restrictions or closures to the Chugach.

If there are conflicts in usage, additional access should be made available rather than restricting current access. This is public land and no one user group should be granted access at the expense of another.

Opening other areas would relieve trail head congestion and allow everyone the opportunity to enjoy the land that their tax dollars pay to maintain.

P.S. I am 56 and love snowmachining, we do not want to lose the privilege of the winter sports. Help! We need parking lots to accommodate the vehicles.

0022101-002

I am against any further restrictions or closures to the Chugach.

0022106-002

have lived on the Kenai peninsula for nearly 25 years and I have never seen such as effort by the extreme environmentalist to close access to our national forests and other federal lands. Particularly by snowmobiler.

This is not a true environmental move. It is by people and organization who just don't want any one to enjoy the outdoors in a fashion they don't approve of.

Please don't lock-up our beautiful state.

0022119-001

I am writing to voice my opposition to the closure of any National or State Forests to any user group of any kind or form, especially snowmachines, off highway vehicles and mountain bikes. I feel that restrictions are not following the mandate of the Forest Service to preserve these areas for the public's use and enjoyment.

I would like you, when setting policy for these roadless acres, to keep the access of snowmobiles, off highway vehicles, and mountain bikes preserved.

I support officials who support equal access to the Forest for all users at all times with no closures, and no preference for special interest.

0022323-001

I have lived on the Kenai peninsula for nearly 25 years and I have never seen such an effort by the extreme environmentalist to close of access to our national forest and other federal lands, particularly by snowmobiler.

Please don't lock up our beautiful state

Comment # Comment

0022381-001 I am writing to voice my opposition to the closure of any National or State Forest to any user group of any kind or form. Especially off highway vehicles and mountain bikes, and feel that restrictions are not in keeping with the mandate of the Forest Service to preserve these areas for the public's enjoyment. I would like you, Dave Gibbons, to make sure that when setting policy for these road less acres, off-highway vehicle and mountain hiking access is preserved. I would like the concept of multiple use and multiple access to be a part of any such policy.

I support officials who support Equal access to the Forest for all users at all times with no closures, and no preference for special interest.

0022544-001 I am writing in regards to the Chugach National Forest plan. I am very concerned about the loss of snowmobiling areas. I believe snowmobiles are the majority of park users in the winter, but we are the minority when it comes to representation.. I am willing to pay for special permits or user fee's if the money is used for signs, user education, and enforcement. Please do not restrict are access to the park.

0022789-001 I am against any further restrictions or closures to the Chugach. If there are conflicts in usage, additional access should be made available rather than restricting current access. This is public land and no one user group should be granted access at the expense of another.

Opening other areas would relieve trail head congestion and allow everyone the opportunity to enjoy the land that their tax dollars pay to maintain.

I strenuously object to the proposed closures of snowmobile areas, parking lots and access to same. We need more open areas and access to spred outdoor recreationists of all kind out. With involvement of all users trails and access can be designed so that all can recreate in reasonable harmony.

Please stop this nonsense of limiting access and closing down areas and work with out parent snowmobile organizations to craft reasonable access

0022843-004 limit ohv's (snowmobiles) and helicopters.

0022953-001

I find the closures in the plan unacceptable. The economic impact as well as the lose of winter recreation is undesirable. I work double shifts in the summer and the only recreation for me is in the winter on my snowmobile. I suggest creating more access.

Comment # Comment

0022963-001 Chugach National Forest Snowmobile Restrictions

The forest plan revision calls for closure of Seattle Creek, on the back side of the ridge at Turnagain Pass, forcing snowmobilers to ride on the front side--the side that avalanched and killed people. It closes 20 Mile River. It closes all of Skookum Glacier including the ice cave, one of the safest glaciers in south central. It closes the Resurrection River trail. It closes the Russian River trail and various other trails and areas on the Kenai Peninsula, including LOST LAKE, of all places! It continues the unfair closure of the Resurrection Pass trail after each Feb 15th and does nothing to restrict non-motor types from the snowmobile side of Turnagain Pass, where a safety problem exists. It closes more areas to snowmobilers even though the Forest Rangers' own counts show that there is MUCH MORE snowmobile use of ALL areas! What kind of equity and balance is that? The wrong kind! It's blatant pandering to the few who don't want us ANYWHERE in the forest and it does NOT represent what the majority of snowmobilers want.

0023143-001 Re: Motorized Access Restrictions in Chugach National Forest

Some non-motorized users have expressed concern over the safety of using the trails that are also used by snowmachine. Two solutions are readily available: 1) Widen existing trails to provide more room for people to pass each other whether on snowmachine, skis or otherwise. 2) Cut in new primitive trails for non-motorized users to access the same areas used by snowmachines.

I
I urge you not to pass further restrictions on access in our Chugach National Forest.

Snowmachiners, skiers and other users can enjoy the same public land without excluding each other by discriminating against their mode of access. On the Kenai Peninsula vast areas in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and large areas of the National Forest are already reserved exclusively for non-motorized users. I am asking that you do not further limit my recreational access to our public lands.

0023165-003 Finally, the forest, shoreline and mountain wilderness is a refuge for neither people or wildlife if it is full of motorized recreationalists. Please ban jet skis and set sensible limits and designated areas for ATV's , helicopters and snowmachines.

0023179-002 CLOSE to snowmachines, by timeshare or land allocation, in ADDITION to closures in the Draft Plan: Johnson Pass (north end), Lost Lake (balanced timeshare), Snow River (South Fork), Fresno Ridge, slope behind Summit Lake Lodge, Carter/Crescent Lakes, Russian River Trail, Marshall Pass, Jack and Sawmill Bays.
BAN jet skis and airboats and eliminate both their noise and pollution.
LIMIT ATV use to a few designated trails. Summer ATV use destroys soils, vegetation, and scenic landscapes.
BAN or greatly reduce commercial helicopter landings to protect residents, other forest users, wildlife, and the opportunity for future Wilderness designation. Helicopter noise is annoying to most people, landings already occur on state lands, and they can adversely affect large numbers of Alaskans as well as wildlife.
PROHIBIT motorized recreation In the forest's Wilderness Study Area and recommended Wilderness.

Comment # Comment

0023187-001 I Oppose the proposed management plan for the Chugach National forest.

I feel that it is a shameless attempt by the U. S. Forest Service to block as much Motorized Recreation as possible, closures of prime ridding area's like the Twenty Mile drainage and Seattle Creek area's are obviously designed to apprise the local vocal minority, who feel that unless you enjoy the wilderness on their terms you have no right to enjoy it at all.

0026257-003 hope you will make sure that motorized activities, helisking and, and proposed resorts do not jeopardize the wild Chugach of the 5.5 million areas of the Chugach National Forest.

0026282-001

I am concerned over the proposed closures to the popular snowmachine riding areas in Chugach National Forest.

I am firmly against any restrictions to snowmachining in our National Forests.

0026390-001 We want to make sure that motorized activities, heli-skiing, and proposed resorts do not jeopardize the wild character of these lands.

0026436-001 I am just so sick of the 'green peace' type constantly complaining about where snowmachines and a.t.v's go. There are millions of places they can hike or cross country ski where there are no tracks or sounds of anything motorized, if that's what they want.

But why are the popular areas that snowmachiners favor always becoming the target of the complainers that don't like that sport? These areas in your article are prime snow machining areas. What could possibly be the reason for closing them? So a very few can hike or cross country ski? They can do that right out their back doors in Anchorage. Anyone wanting to ride anything motorized has to travel long distances out of Anchorage. Summer and winter!

I love to ski and hike also, but I can't see any reason why people that don't like motorized sports always having to go to where the others ride, then complain about them like they're destroying the world. Especially in the winter, not a single blade of grass is hurt, as long as the parks let everyone know when the snow cover is sufficient.

I just get so tired of the unequal access and prejudiced rights of the different user groups when it comes to using our National and State lands.

Comment # Comment

0026510-001

Please do not restrict areas of the Chugach National Forest from snowmachine use during the winter time.

To deny Alaskans access during the winter time, especially to snowmachining, a sport which is in my opinion, the least harmful of the motorized sports, is to deny access to a large, mostly unheard segment of the population. Areas such as Eklutna have worked out reasonable shared-use plans. Wednesday through Saturday, is non-motorized. Sunday through Tuesday is motorized. The proposed year on/year off is crazy. Snow conditions vary to widely from year to year.

In addition, the statistical percentages in your plan, sound as if only a small percentage of the area will be off limits. When in fact, the areas you are proposing for snowmachine access are inaccessible due to terrain considerations. Should you restrict access to those areas only, liability issues arise, i.e. 'johnny, you can only play on the dangerous side of the playground, not the other side'.

Please consider all the user groups, and not just the ones with the loudest voice.

0026523-001

I am a little confused and disturbed at the usage of timesharing as used in the Draft Chugach National Forest Plan. The term itself seems to imply that one user group at a time has use of the area, while the other does not. As far as I can determine in the plan, it is not used this way.

Timesharing in the plan, as it applies to non-motorized users (primarily skiers & snowshoers) and snowmachiners is not time sharing, but simple exclusion. As an example let's use the Twenty-Mile valley. During the year that snowmachining is allowed, will skiing and snowshoeing be banned (except for emergency/rescue usage of course)? If not, how can you call it time sharing, when one group can use it all the time, and the restriction is only placed on one group? This is exclusion, not time sharing.

If you are not going to restrict the non-motorized group in a time-shared area during the motorized groups time to use it, then I strongly suggest you use the term exclusion or restriction rather than time-sharing. To mis-use the word is at best inadvertently misleading to the public, and at worst it shows that the Forest Service has a huge bias against the motorized groups.

0026545-001

Please do not restrict areas of the Chugach National Forest from snowmachine use during the winter time.
Please consider all the user groups, and not just the ones with the loudest voice.

0026585-002

I do not criticize the use of machines, nor the riders of them. I think they have a definite place in winter recreation and transportation.

Comment # Comment

0026679-001 I support components of your plan that restrict snowmobiles in Seattle creek, lost lake and other areas.

Note I also support heliski permitting for Chugach Powder Guides, and would like to see their terrain expanded, and keep places [Illegible] for heliskiing.

0026746-001 Please! don't close 20 mile, placier skookum, to snowmachiners.

I see no problem snow machining at 20-mile River, Skookum Glacier, Placier Valley, Turnigan, and Johnson Pass Trail. The limited use of these areas by cross-country skiers does not warrant its closure to snow machiners. The areas that are planed to restrict snow machining have been my back yard play ground for the last 10 years. I have come across cross-country skiers and hikers only once or twice in the ten years that I have been riding in these areas. With the short daylight hours, cross-country skiers cannot travel back to the areas that are most used by snow machiners in one days time. Their usage of the area is only on the front most rim. Why close a vast area to many, so a few can utilize a small fragment of an area.

Please leave the south area open to snow machining.

The cross-country skiers need snow machiners to make tracks for them. Nevertheless, once we make tracks for them they want us to leave. I do not think that is right. All we do is ride to glaciers and see their beauty.

0026838-002 In regards to the Chugach National Forest Draft Environmental Impact Statement:

recommend prohibiting motorized recreation in the Wilderness Study Area; banning jet skis and airboats; and limiting ATV use to a few designated roads and trails.

Comment # Comment

0026884-001

Alaska ATV Adventures is a small custom tour operator that takes 3hr, 4hr, and day trips on ATVs.

As you can imagine we would not be in business very long if we encouraged thrill riding and indiscriminate destruction of the areas we ride. At present we use the Eklutna shared use area and the Bird Creek trails in the Chugach State Park for the most part.

We work closely with Superintendent Al Miners and the local State Park Rangers to keep the areas we ride safe and in top condition so our clients can experience a quality Adventure offered nowhere else in the world.

Our clients are mostly in their 40's and older. Many do not have the physical ability to get back into the high country without the aid of an ATV. Many husbands could not get their wives out in the heavily populated bear country we operation without the security of an ATV. Almost without exception, everyone says (We don't have to worry about bears if were on an ATV RIGHT??)

The existing mining/jeep/ATV trails in the Seward District would add some very nice options for high elevation viewing and offer our visitors a great opportunity to enhance their Alaskan Experience.

0027684-001

I am not in favor of the proposal closed area in the Chugach National Forest. It is unfair to take some of the best snowmachine area away from future generations.

0027703-001

I am writing this letter to voice my opinion on the proposed snowmachine ban down south. As a long time resident of Alaska (30 yrs) I am truly concerned about our environment, wildlife and other peoples right to recreate as they choose.

I have been riding my snowmachines in the proposed closure areas for many years and I don't believe that closing these areas to snowmachines is going to benefit anyone and will certainly harm many. These areas make up almost 50% of the snowmachine recreation areas in the vicinity. Without them we will be forced to crowd the limited areas up North. Just look at the current situation in Petersville right now. We have massive overcrowding in the parking lots. on the trails and on others private property in the area. This is a perfect example of what it would be like should this proposal pass.

I am strongly against this proposal & wish you would reconsider those closures.

0027704-002

I am also a snow machine and a cross country skier. I enjoy both these forms of recreation. I think the present alternative takes some good first steps towards meeting the convergent needs of motorized and non motorized recreationists. However, I think that the plan should manage the forest for 50% / 50% use in motorized recreation and quiet recreation.

Comment # Comment

0027707-001

In addition to the Snow Machine Club letter, I would like to make the following comments.

I have been a resident of Alaska for nearly 30 years. I am in my fifties and suffer from a form of arthritis. As much as I would like to, I can no longer like and pack heavy loads. I still enjoy the back country and can only access it by motorized means. Closing public land to motorized vehicles leaves me and many others of my generation without access. I feel this policy is discriminatory.

0028107-002

Not complete, it has conflicting comments very hard to understand. We need to have more comment input by the snowmachiners where we can state our concerns and a chance to address these.

0028380-001

My family would like to personally request that the National Forest Service revise its proposed plans to include NO CLOSURES to snow machines.

0028398-004

The Preferred Alternative is legally inadequate as it is in direct conflict with several areas of ANILCA. For example, ANILCA (Section 501(b)) allows for multiple use activities 'in a manner consistent with the conservation of fish and wildlife habitat'. Until STUDIES authorized by an Act of Congress, not Forest Service trailhead polls, are conducted, restricting activity (including motorized) is in direct conflict with state law (see ANILCA 501(b)-2 Summer and Winter Motorized)).

0028504-011

Jet skis:

The Forest Service has remained quiet regarding jet skis in the Forest Planning process and in the DEIS. The agency has claimed that it has no jurisdiction over watercraft on marine waters. We believe the agency is mistaken, and that the DEIS needs to deal with watercraft on marine waters due to its jurisdiction over tidelands and submerged lands (please see comments below). Again, we believe the DEIS is inadequate and in violation of NFMA and NEPA because it has not considered jet skis and other watercraft on marine waters. We understand from first hand accounts that jet ski use increased this summer in western Prince William Sound, likely due to the opening of the Whittier Road, and we urge the Forest Service to grapple with this management issue now, before use patterns become well established. We believe this is the duty of the Forest Service.

Comment # Comment

0028504-016

ATV's:

We applaud the Forest Service for its position regarding ATV's. Specifically we applaud the Forest Service for restricting ATV's only to designated routes and trails. This is a 'closed until open' policy, which we feel is not only necessary to protect forest

resources, but is the only responsible way to manage ORV use on national forests. Regarding ATV's, the policy on the Chugach is a model policy for other forests nationwide. TWS would not support entire areas open to ATV use, and we urge the Forest Service to make it as clear as possible in their Forest Plan that ATV's will only be allowed on designated routes and trails. We also urge the Forest Service to do all it can to monitor and enforce ATV use on the forest.

Snowmachines:

We urge the Forest Service to adopt a similar approach to snowmachine use on the forest as it has to ATV use. Up until now, the Forest Service has turned a blind eye to snowmachine activities and management on the forest. Contrary to what is being done with ATV's, the Forest Service has had an 'open until closed' policy regarding snowmachines. Further, snowmachines have not been restricted to designated routes and trails, rather entire areas are open to backcountry travel by snowmachines. The DEIS does not even contemplate restricting snowmachines to only designated routes and trails, such as it does with ATV's, which we find inconsistent and inadequate. We believe that because the DEIS does not evaluate a full range of alternatives regarding snowmachine use, including restricting recreational snowmachine use entirely and/or only to designated routes and trails, the Forest Service has violated NEPA in designing the DEIS.

Further, we believe the DEIS is inadequate in addressing ecological and social impacts of motorized uses on the forest. The preferred alternative opens large percentages of the forest to both snowmachines and helicopters, yet there is no analysis done on what the impacts of these openings will have. This combined with insufficient recreation information (see above), leaves TWS feeling that the DEIS has not adequately addressed the mandates of NFMA and NEPA.

0029043-004

I urge you to designate these areas and greatly reduce helicopter sightseeing trips.

0029154-001

I also consider snow machine activity to be incompatible with any other recreational use of land. It is impossible to 'share' with a snow machine.

Comment # Comment

0029461-001

Helicopter Skiing and Usage

In general, the plan has left open sufficient terrain to allow for one helicopter ski operation on the Kenai Peninsula as well as others on the eastern part of the forest. There is only one important change that we would like to see in the plan in order to accommodate our long term strategies. The current plan designates the Divide Creek drainage near Bench Peak, Unit K111, as non-motorized and Unit 332 immediately to the west as motorized. We believe these should be the opposite. The Bench Peak area has been extensively used by fixed wing and helicopter supported skiers for the past 12 years. It's position as the hub for ski runs deeper into the mountain range is critical to our usage of terrain in the Grandview, southern Bench Peak, and Moose Creek areas. Without this important hub, none of the other terrain is reachable from a financially viability viewpoint. Equally important is that Divide Creek has approximately ten different helicopter ski runs in it, most of which are relatively safe from an avalanche viewpoint. We have also spent considerable money on helicopter and fixed wing flights in this valley to verify that there is no winter goat populations. The final factor is that, in twelve years of visits to the Divide Creek area, we have never seen a non-motorized user in this particular drainage. It is very far into the range, and the valley entrance is very steep and avalanche-prone. You will find attached a copy of our Master Run Review which shows the runs highlighted in yellow that would be eliminated if Unit K111 is left as a non-motorized zone. Our activity on these runs is so high primarily because they are the safest runs in this zone.

0031900-002

Ban motorized vehicles, heliskiing and proposed resorts.

0034764-002

Please PROHIBIT motorized recreation in Wilderness. Provide at least as much protection from motorized recreational activities in Alaska Wilderness as in the lower 48.

0034794-002

, I support the proposal to delineate exclusion areas for motorized access to provide opportunities for other recreational endeavors such as hiking, fishing, canoeing, hunting, and wildlife viewing, which are not compatible with and degraded by motorized recreational vehicle use and other development activities.

0034868-002

I suggest that you work with local Snowmachine Clubs and the State snowmobile Association regarding these matters.