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Comments:

Hello,

I have been riding snowmobiles in the Chugach mountains for almost 15 years now. I have rarely or never seen snowmobiles permanently or negatively affect the ecosystem in any manner. People riding sleds in the backcountry appreciate the beauty and serenity of the nature just as much any other user group, they respect their surroundings, as well as respect and help each other. It is important to keep as many areas open for motorized access, as well as adding new areas for motorized access. Snowmobiling as an activity helps support local business, it keeps youth interested in activities that are healthy and rewarding, it has many boons to the community. Snowmobiles in the Chugach also help the mixed motorized/skiing/snowboarding community that has started to form. In the past 3 years I have personally seen the number of people using sleds to access their favorite skiing and boarding lines easily triple, I think it speaks to the evolution of how people access the backcountry, and how the mindset is changing about how quiet, clean burning and efficient snowmobiles that are produced today can be in the mountains without disturbing anyone or anything. I think instead of the user groups going back and forth with each other, that everyone can enjoy their own little piece of heaven in the mountains, co existing, minimalizing impact and enjoying what the Chugach has to offer. More motorized access is needed.

Thank you for reading and considering all of these comments.