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First name: Jamie

Last name: Rumph

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 9735 Niltina Lane

Address2:

City: Eagle River

State:

Province/Region: United States

Zip/Postal Code: 99577

Country: United States

Email: jamie_rumph@yahoo.com

Phone: 9075757669

Comments:

My wife and I moved to Girdwood in 2006. We exchanged a wonderful life on the deck of dive boats to move to the Chugach Mountains to begin a family. We spent the first 3 years in Girdwood, where my son was born and where I skied daily in the winter. I took the standard excursions around the Kenai Peninsula and Girdwood area. The snow machiners that I met in Girdwood appeared arrogant and reckless.

My wife, my 2 year old son, and I moved to Eagle River to continue to grow our family. I enjoyed a couple of years of skinning around Eagle River and the Talkeetnas. While in the Talkeetnas, I met a couple of very pleasant snow machiners. Another friend from Oregon came up to attend Tailgate Alaska and brought with him my first snow machine.

Since that purchase, my time has been spent on more on a snow machine than on skis. The reasons for my increase in time on snow machines are the increased accessibility to terrain, the enjoyment of riding the machine, and, most importantly, the enjoyment and camaraderie presented by my riding buddies. My riding buddies now include my 8 year old son and my 6 year old daughter.

I am grateful for the limited opportunities presented to the citizens of Alaska (and the many visitors from lower 48 and abroad) by Chugach National Forest to enjoy the CNF with motorized winter access. This access is a significant part of our enjoyment of Alaska and a big part of why we call Alaska our home.

Balancing user groups is a difficult endeavor. Part of the responsibility associated with your position is weighing access options. Conservation is vital to the continuity of CNF.

Is there a small percentage of motorized users who are inconsiderate? Yes. Is there a small percentage of non-motorized users who are inconsiderate? Yes.

As a member of both groups, non-motorized and motorized, I implore you to allow motorized users to enjoy the Chugach National Forest. We, the frequent users of the CNF, are not willing to share with all user groups. ...quite the opposite. Those of us who truly relish in the joys of CNF wish for all users to gain benefit from one of the best resources on our planet.

Also, please consider actual user hours per group. Outside influence will be pouring opinions in, artificially inflating the non-motorized user group's submissions.

As a member of both groups, please allow me, my family, my friends, and the other users to continue to enjoy the beauty of CNF.