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Comments:

I and many others appreciate the work done by the Forest Service to preserve the beauty of the Chugach Forest for the long haul. There are an incredible number of ways to enjoy the beauty of Alaska in all seasons. As a backcountry snowmachiner, I understand the necessity of guarding against terrain damage when there is too little snow cover to protect fragile vegetation, so it is in our best interest to abide by closures until there is sufficient snowfall. I also understand that not everyone enjoys snowmachining. Management practices such as the motorized and nonmotorized use areas in Turnagain Pass are one way to maximize enjoyment of the Chugach for different user groups. Another consideration is the fact that vast areas are not accessible to nonmotorized users due to their distance from starting areas, which provides an opportunity for snowmachiners to enjoy the Chugach without interfering with nonmotorized users. Many of us cherish the opportunity to share the beauty of the outdoors with our children and grandchildren, teaching them to enjoy treasures such as the Chugach Forest safely and responsibly. Snowmachining provides one way of doing so in a backcountry setting. I hope that the Forest Service will continue to allocate the Chugach Forest in a way that maximizes enjoyment and accessibility for all users.