

Date submitted (UTC): 2/9/2016 11:14:33 PM

First name: Jack

Last name: Darsey

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 1204 Channel Way

Address2:

City: Kenai

State: AK

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 99611

Country: United States

Email: jdarsey@hilcorp.com

Phone: 907-398-8421

Comments:

Hello,

I am a born and raised Alaskan. I am 32 years old and have two little boys ages 4 and 2. I can't put into words the way I appreciate the Chugach National Forest. The dense foliage, the green of the mountain hemlock, and the clear rocky streams. I enjoy the Chugach in all seasons, however, I love the Chugach in the winter. The weight of the snow shaping the trees for years to come and the cleanliness it shines.

I am also a backcountry snowmobiler. I love being able to go places where there is no way you would be able to get there in any other season. Exploring the wilderness and the vast openness on a snowmobile makes me feel alive and appreciative of the Chugach. I have respect and adoration for the Chugach.

I have read comments in various forums and articles from motorized users and non-motorized users during this Forest Plan Revision. From what I have read, the non-motorized groups want to push out the motorized users, while the motorized groups are fighting to keep what they have. It's painful to read and see a battle between Alaskans over their own. Different people require different activities to be fulfilled. Maintaining a balance is key to the Chugach.

I personally know dozens of other Alaskans who have direct and intense personal interest in the conservation of our public lands while operating a motorized vehicle in the Chugach. We see backcountry snowmobiling as an appropriate use of our public lands, along with all other forms of winter sports.

I ask for the Chugach National Forest motorized areas to stay open for years to come, so my boys have the chance to enjoy, respect, and love the Alaskan backcountry the way I do.