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Comments:

I am both a motorized and nonmotorized user of the Chugach National Forest, and I do not want to see this argument become an 'us vs them'. With the increasing number of people choosing to recreate in the backcountry, there will continue to be an increase in conflicts of interest if the available areas is not expanded. Some non-motorized users even use motorized vehicles to access terrain that is in remote locations. To reduce that chance of conflict and spread the congestion of users out across the available land, There should be work involved to improve access for both non motorized and motorized people to be able to spread out and access more of the available land to recreate. This way people will be better dispersed, and be able to enjoy the wilderness as it is meant to be. This will also reduce the chance of incidents created by different groups interacting in close proximity to each other. By providing better access and access to more terrain, all user groups can recreate and enjoy the land equally. This would reduce congestion at the current popular locations. It would be a win-win situation for all parties.

Part of the beauty of the Chugach, specifically in Turnagain Pass is that there is a very simple identifier separating different land use areas: East of the highway is non motorized and West is motorized. This ease of use is priceless in terms of enforcing land use agreements and also easy to communicate to all parties involved. An effort to maintain this simplicity should be put in to prevent any land use confusion.

Over the decades of use, it has been proven that motorized users can recreate in an environmentally conscious way that leads to all parties enjoying the wilderness as they enjoy. By expanding the are motorized users can recreate, the footprint can be dispersed and minimized, reducing the chances of any environmental impacts from too much use. If access is made easy, more people will go there and there will be less conflict and congestion in teh current commonly used ares.

At a minimum, during the land use revision, an 'existing use' policy should be enforced that all land currently available to specific user groups stay available to them.