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Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I would like to comment regarding the multi-use area at Turnagain Pass. I think that the current system works very well, with snowmachines on the west side, and backcountry skiers on the east. I would prefer to see no changes to this current status.

I am a backcountry skier, and have spent time on snowmachines as well. I enjoy both modes of travel and understand the desires of each. I am well trained in Avalanche awareness, and keep myself informed of conditions.

I am in favor of the current segregation because I believe it is safer and more satisfying for both user types. Human and machine triggered avalanches are a big concern for me in the backcountry, and therefore I prefer skiing in areas where snowmachines are not present. Skiers can only travel 5-10 miles in a day, while snowmachines are capable of 30 miles or more. This means that more terrain is accessible to snowmachiners, and it is difficult to avoid contact unless there are segregated areas.

Anyone admits that there is a noise and exhaust issue. While not a safety issue, quiet and clean air are a part of a wilderness experience for many people. There should be accessible places in the Alaskan wilderness where users don't hear or smell motors.

The boundaries in Turnagain pass are currently very simple and easy to follow. I am concerned that changes or 'alternating years' would cause confusion and abuse. My comment is that they should remain the same.

Please consider what 'wilderness' means to all users.

Thank you,

Dan Olsen
Seward, Alaska