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Comments:

To whom it concerns,

First and foremost, I would like to thank you for taking the time to hear all the comments on the matter.

I am a lifelong Alaskan. I have grew up in the outdoors here in Alaska. My favorite things to do are ride snowmachines, dirt bike and four wheelers. I also enjoy hunting and fishing. Growing up in Alaska, there is a lot of temptations of making bad decisions with dark winters or light summers. Riding and being in the outdoors of Alaska helped me overcome taking the wrong path in life. I would not be able to go enjoy all the things I do if I would have took the wrong path. The Chugach National Forest is a great place to grow up and learn about yourself. Without the access to all these spectacular areas, I wouldn't be who I am today.

I DO NOT support losing any more land of the Chugach National Forest to motorized access or other restrictions that limit access for either user groups.

I feel with how things are in the present, there is a high increase of people wanting to get out into the backcountry and explore. Limiting access would make things difficult to get out in the mountains and getting "lost" as some would put it. "Lost in the right direction" comes to mind with the vast land that can be accessed via CNF motorized corridors. Local businesses and towns depend on the backcountry recreation during the winter. Alaska doesn't have a year round tourist season like most states. These businesses and towns depend on those individuals going out to spend endless amounts of money on food, fuel, equipment and lodging. Have you ever pulled into Tesoro at the Girdwood turn off after a heavy snowfall on a Saturday morning? It is mind blowing how much money individuals will spend to go hang out in the CNF with friends and family for a weekend or even weeks!

As a avid backcountry enthusiast, I have rode almost everywhere in the CNF. I don't believe there is any other areas in the world like Lost Lake via any of the trail heads, Turnagain Pass, Johnson Pass and the many areas accessible via the Placer Valley. Some of these areas offer great riding for all skill levels. This is great for everyone involved in riding. We access areas which make it easier for other user groups to access. Our hardpack trails make it easier for cross country skiers, runners, fat tire bikers and hikers.

I would like to see some effort put into helping maintain the trailhead parking lots and some of the trails to make access more available. We are willing to give a hand to trim trees and put up trail signs to make it beneficial for multi user groups. Parking is a huge concern of mine. Millions of dollars annually is put into the local economy through vehicles, trailers and snowmachines. I feel we should have a safe place to park our belongings while we are out exploring the terrain. Snow removal and bigger parking areas would be ideal to help keep individuals safe and out of harms way.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment on why I would not be for limiting the access to the Chugach National Forest for any of the groups. As Alaskans who enjoy the land we live on, it has to be fair game for all involved.

Tyler Bogert  
Lifelong Alaskan  
10 year user of Chugach Nation Forest