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Comments:

My name is Jeff Leete. I am 42 years old, and am a 32 year resident of the Kenai Peninsula. I have been enjoying hiking and camping in the Chugach since I was a teen. I took my first CNF snowmachine ride at Lost Lake, Christmas Eve, 1994, when I was 18. The snow was amazing, and I was at a distinct disadvantage with my old iron compared to my best friend's new ride. I told him we'd never do that again. I was right. My next trip was in 1998 on a brand new sled, and Lost Lake has been my favorite riding area ever since. I have also frequented Nellie Juan, Resurrection, Turnagain, as well as Carter and Crescent (including the cabins). I have done several combo excursions with my snowboard, and snowmachining is the best way to access snowboarding few could dream of.

Currently, I am involved in the Caribou Hills Cabin Hopper Snowmachine club. I hold a seat on the board of directors as a trustee. I could not get consensus to represent our membership, so this comment is on behalf of myself, and other responsible motorized users. This is my second involvement with a CNF management plan. I find it difficult to weigh in when the public meetings are held during hunting season. Many of us are unavailable. Nevertheless, I am opposed to any management plan that restricts or decreases the current amount of access. I believe that management style encourages trespass to non-motorized areas, and increases the possibility of environmental damage due to more users confined in fewer access/area.

I am hopeful those of you responsible for these decisions recognize the benefit of motorized access for the many Alaska residents who use the Chugach. There is a great amount of business and money spent at dealerships, gas stations, restaurants, etc. as riders travel to and from, as well as the purchase of equipment.

As a resident, I appreciate what you do to insure the CNF is here for motorized recreation for future generations. I look forward to taking my son (Ryder, 15) on his first trip to Lost Lake this season. I hope to get him as excited about spending time there as I get. Lucky for him, he won't have as tough a go on his maiden voyage as I did. His sled is newer than mine. Thanks--- Jeff Leete