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Comments:

As a fellow skier and snowmachiner, I hope that the Forest Service continues to allow motorized access in current access areas throughout the National Forest. I understand the need to protect the environment. I think the Forest Service does an excellent job doing so by opening and closing riding areas as snow coverage dictates, as well as bird migration near Skookum glacier. Their will always be people amongst any group that make the rest look bad. But for the most part, snowmachiners are very respectful by nature. They will lend a hand when a hand is needed, no matter the person. I personally have had a friend unfortunately have their snowmachine burn down to rubble on the uptrack to Seattle Ridge at Turnagain Pass. Instead of leaving the burnt rubble, we spent the rest of what would've been a perfect powder day, removing the pieces to the parking lot to load in my truck. Motorized areas allow for many winter enthusiasts to enjoy winter during the short, cold, dark months into the longer, sunny, spring days. Sleds take you to places you'd never imagine. They give you views people spend lots of money to see. They allow physically disabled people continued access to the mountains. Many skiers and snowboarders use sleds to access much of the same riding terrain. Many of each other's friends ride in some form or another. It's a small town. We are all connected in one way or another. There are many of us who use sleds. We all respect each other. It's a way of life. Sleds allow access for search and rescue even when the weather is too bad to fly in. The Chugach NF avalanche information center uses sleds to access snow test pit sites and weather stations in a timely manner. Relatively speaking, much of the area currently available for motorized use in the National Forest is small in comparison to the total acreage. Plus you add in the fact that most motorized users are chasing the best snow conditions, the areas actually being ridden at any given time tend to be small when compared to the total acreage. Therefore, I feel the impact of motorized use is minimal. It is necessary to continue to allow access to current motorized access areas. Please consider my points of view in the decision making process. Thank you for your continued support.