

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 10/31/2018 11:05:07 PM

First name: Heather

Last name: Thamm

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: PO Box 1401

Address2:

City: Girdwood

State: AK

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 99587

Country: United States

Email: heather@chugachavalanche.org

Phone: 907-230-2370

Comments:

I would like to see the Forest plan include more specific methods for monitoring recreation use on high use days in the winter. I believe this is needed to maintain the integrity of the Forest as well as improve awareness programs for Forest visitor safety. Winter use has increased significantly in Turnagain Pass, Placer Valley, Lost Lake, Snug Harbor, Carter, Trail Lake, Portage Lake and Byron Glacier Trail, but there is no data to verify this. The more congested these areas become the higher the risk for an accident (avalanche, ice fall, calving glacier, collapsing ice cave) involving a large group of people. Without any data about who uses these areas and how often it is impossible to reach these uninformed visitors. The avalanche center does a good job of targeting snowmachiners and skiers, but many other users are traveling without any idea of the risk. A monitoring program in the winter would inform the avalanche center and each district to plan and implement more safety awareness strategies similar to bear safety in the summer.