

Mahear Abou Eid, P.E.

(907) 350-6777

mahear.aboueid@alaska.gov

October 26, 2018

Chugach National Forest Service

161 East 1st Ave., Door 8,

Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Chugach National Forest Service,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Chugach National Forest (CNF) plan revision process.

I would like to start by stating that I strongly oppose Alternatives C and D and share my story why:

I am a lifelong Alaskan of 32 years that has been enjoying the outdoors ever since I was a child. I grew up in a fishing village of less than 80 people and for me getting out and riding four wheelers, boats, snow machines, hiking, fishing and snowboarding were what kept me going. I moved to Anchorage to pursue and achieve both a Civil Engineering and Masters in Engineering Degree at UAA.

My love for being out in nature and riding is stronger than ever! Over the last several years I have spent upwards of \$40,000 in snow machines, dirt bikes and outdoor gear. I believe that this is a similar trait by the thousands that go out every year and enjoy the CNF areas. Limiting these motorized areas would have a drastic impact to the economy and local businesses throughout the state. Every year I go out and ride in Lost Lake, Placer Valley, Johnson Pass, Turnagain Pass and Whitter just to name a few. I know many others that share the same travels. This passion to get out and explore Alaska is a huge stimulus to the economy, from the transportation to get to these areas, lodging to explore remote locations, food and supplies purchased throughout the state, and businesses that provide equipment,

outerwear, services and repairs. The riding community is a huge part of the Alaskan way and economy.

Not only will this impact the economy this would impact the wellbeing of Alaskans all together. As an avid rider spending my weekends out in the back country is something that I cherish and look forward to on those long dark winter days at work. When I am shoveling snow out of my driveway there is a smile on my face because I know that I can get out and see new areas and explore Alaska.

Riding is a passion for me, but I also enjoy getting out to new areas to snowboard and take in the scenery. I have helped many of my friends, that do not have the resources get out into the back country and snowboard or ski. They were able to see areas that they didn't know existed and became more excited about Alaska. This would not be possible if we restrict motorized use in the CNF.

My question is, what is the actual benefit to limiting the motorized use areas? With the advancements in technology resulting in decreased motorized noise pollution and increased fuel efficiency coupled with the low impact on the vegetation due to CNF's great due diligence of monitoring and opening/closing areas as deemed necessary there is less impact than ever before from motorized use!

As our economy prospers and more people get out into the CNF areas I believe we need to keep as much open as possible to maintain the "last frontier" feel that you can only get in this great state. I have traveled to many countries and visited many national parks and Alaska is special that it feels like you are truly away from it all. Limiting these motorized areas would reduce this special feel that can only be had here.

In closing, I would like to thank you again for allowing me to share my thoughts towards the Chugach Forest Plan Revision and would urge you to maintain and increase the existing motorized use areas so that our future generations can share in our stories around a camp fire about the places we have been and the incredible sites we have seen.

Sincerely,



Mahear Abou Eid, P.E.