

Date submitted (Alaskan Standard Time): 11/1/2018 12:00:00 AM

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Comments:

Comment letter

Comment letter attached.

Thank you,

Melissa Blair

Anchorage, Alaska

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft management plan for Chugach National Forest. As a year-round user of this area over the past 17 years, I appreciate the Forest Service's work managing the lands, accommodating the wide diversity of traditional and recreational activities, providing separate areas for winter motorized and non-motorized user groups, ensuring winter access corridors to remote destinations, and partnering with stakeholders to achieve shared goals.

During the winters my primary mode of transportation in the Chugach backcountry is by snowmachine. Twentymile, Spencer Glacier, Turnagain Pass, Johnson Pass, Lost Lake, and Snow River to Nelli Juan are some of my favorite places in Alaska to ride with family and friends. Please do not place restrictions or limits on any areas where winter motorized use and access is currently allowed. I support the plan's proposals to increase winter motorized use areas and access corridors. The agency's support for avalanche education, forecasting, and safety provided by the Chugach National Forest Avalanche Information Center (CNFAIC) is a deeply valued resource among the backcountry recreation community. Please continue to prioritize investing in positive partnerships like the avalanche center and Friends of CNFAIC, and adopt the plan's proposals to strengthen language for collaboration and partnership with stakeholders.

During the summers I boat, paddle, sport fish, hike, and explore Prince William Sound all throughout the Glacier Ranger District. Thank you for continuing to preserve the remarkable values of the Nelli Juan-College Fjords Wilderness Study Area and eligible Wild & Scenic Rivers. Thank you for the agency's stewardship of campsites, cabins, and trails for public use. Please prioritize education about Leave No Trace backcountry ethics, especially regarding chainsaw use and fires, so that future generations will be as fortunate as we are today to enjoy the natural, wild beauty of our awesome backyard.

Sincerely,

Melissa Blair