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Moose Pass, Alaska 99631
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October 23, 2002

Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region
P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1628

Dear Mr. Bschor:

This letter is a Notice of Appeal filed pursuant to 36 CFR part 217, page 46 in the Record of Decision. The decision that I am appealing is the Preferred Alternative as described in the FEIS and the resulting Revised Forest Plan, specifically areas available for motorized and non-motorized winter activities, with modifications as further described in the ROD, as stated on page 3 of the ROD. The document in which the decision is contained is the Revised Land and Resource Management Plan of the Chugach National Forest Record of Decision, R10 MB-480b. The date of the decision was May 31, 2002 and the Deciding Officer is Regional Forester Dennis E. Bschor.

The specific portions of the document to which I object are the closing of the Crescent and Carter Lakes area, Trail River Campground, and the areas along the Seward Highway from Moose Pass to Summit Lake to all winter motorized use. I object to these portions of the document for the following reasons:

I have lived in Moose Pass for 10 years and have taught school and coached skiing at the Moose Pass School for 6 years. Our cross-country ski program includes all of the students and often entails traveling into the above mentioned National Forest areas. You may not be aware that prohibiting motorized winter access, ironically, severely inhibits NON-motorized winter access, such as XXskiing, as it is necessary to have an established trail in order to ski, especially when instructing children. Therefore, this decision is impeding the educational experience of the local students.

On a similar note, as an avid cross-country skier, I have made a habit of skiing often throughout Trail River Campground during the winter. However, as the mother of a baby boy, with the extra weight of pulling my baby in a ski pulk behind me, it is absolutely essential that I follow a snowmachine track. The Trail River Campground location is, without a doubt, the most popular spot for local XXskiers like myself—all of whom require or at least prefer a snowmachine trail to follow. Therefore, this decision is impeding the recreation of the many non-motorized users of the National Forest.

My husband and I were looking forward to bringing our one year old son to the above mentioned areas this winter via snowmachine, as he will be unable to snowshoe or ski for many, many years. Since snowmachining is the ONLY viable mode of transportation to Carter and Crescent Lakes for parents of babies and toddlers, we will be completely unable to use the Forest Service cabins there. Therefore, this decision discriminates against young families.

This decision affects Moose Pass more than any other populated area, yet **there were NO public meetings in Moose Pass to discuss the "preferred alternative" that was ultimately chosen.** No one in the community was made aware of what this plan encompassed until it was made official. This is in direct violation of the Forest Service's own EIS 3-508 and of 36 CFR 219.12.

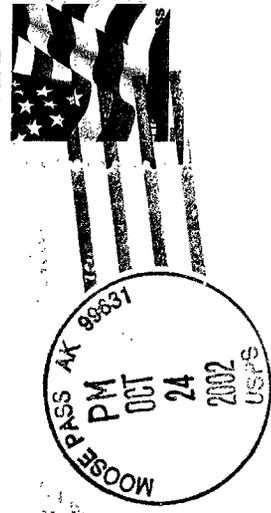
I sincerely hope that the new Forest Plan can be amended to once again include the motorized access that has traditionally been allowed in the area. This "Preferred Alternative" has been incredibly upsetting and disheartening for our community, especially in the sudden and arbitrary manner in which it has been thrust upon us. Thank you so much for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,



Heather A. Lindquist

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