

Dear Betty,

My name is Jerry Smith and I'm a landowner in the Twenty-mile River Valley. I attended the Dec. 4th meeting in Girdwood last night and would like to make a few statements about the new INHT Project. My major concern, as a landowner, is snowmachining and river boating access to in the 20-mile River Valley and anything that would put a damper on those usages. I, as well as many of my friends, have been snowmachining this valley as well as the Placier River Valley for over 10 years and have been river running both systems for nearly 20 years.

I have reviewed the project areas and your 4 alterative programs. One of my biggest concerns is with the 20-mile portion of the Winter Creek trail system. This trail, as proposed, would extend along the western hillside of 20-mile valley, in a very steep and remote area. This area is subject to avalanche problems, especially during the spring, and because of its location would require an inordinate amount of money to construct and maintain. Based on a Cost-to-Benefit Approach, I believe that this trail money could be better spent elsewhere. I believe costs vs. limited access times, is a major concern as is healthy and safety issues.

I would like to state, that I snowmachine the Turnagain Arm area extensively, from the Johnson Pass trail system, to the Placer River drainage and Spencer Glacier area as well as the 20-mile River Valley area. I'm both a real estate appraiser as well as an ex-Army Ranger and have extensive knowledge of the outdoors. I believe the most of your proposed trail system has some good and bad points but should accommodate the general public adequately. My only concerns about the project would be any changes that would limit snowmachine access to the aforementioned recreational areas that I have described.

Another concern is that motorized access to my 20-mile property, which abuts the Alaska Railroad ROW, be not impede. I access this property during the summer months by 4-wheeler and any project in the area which would have an impact on my access and use of the area would be of great concern. I have been told that the INHT would, in this area follow the State Seward Highway ROW and would not be located in the Alaska Railroad ROW, which I must use to access my property. Please advise if otherwise.

In the end, it appears the biggest concerns of the public most likely lay elsewhere, probably around the communities of Seward and Girdwood and the Turnagain Pass area. A balanced usage of these areas is reasonable, however, being a snowmachiner I would hope that our current access and usage rights would not be altered detrimentally. As an enthusiastic outdoors' person, I would not like my access and usage rights to be taken away by the Vocal Minority. Please give considerable thoughts to these issues and thank you.

Sincerely

Jerry L. Smith