

October 15, 2002

Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region
P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, AK 99801-1627

To Whom It May Concern:,

I am writing this letter in regard to the proposed closure of motorized vehicles in the Carter Lake area. I have been an Alaskan for more than twenty years and over that period have used this system for winter recreation. Our family enjoys fishing and snow machining and I'm upset to hear the proposed exclusion of motor vehicles in this area.

I, for one, am tired of hearing how skiers and dog mushers receive preferential consideration over people who participate in motorized sports. As a taxpayer who uses government lands, I feel the Carter Lake area could be split for different uses. Most snow machiners do use the Carter Lake trail; they do not use the Quartz Creek side. Most snow machiners do not ride on Crescent Lake because of the dangerous conditions that may exist. The Quartz Creek trail is far safer and is designed more for skiers and dog mushers whereas the Carter Lake side is not. Another suggestion is shared usage, whether it would be alternate days/weeks/weekends/months for each group, motorized and non-motorized.

I do not have much information on other areas where proposed closures are being discussed. However, in regard to Carter Lake, I urge you to look at the users of this area as a whole and attempt to treat them all fairly. No change to the present policy would be my first choice but if a change is going to happen, work with both groups.

Respectfully submitted,

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cc: USDA Forest Service
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