

Carole Jaffa
P.O. Box 107
Moose Pass, AK 99631
Phone 907-288-3175
Fax 907-288-3123

Date: October 20, 2002

To: USDA Forest Service
Attn: NFS – EMC Staff (Barbara Timberlake)
Stop Code 1104
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D. C. 20250-1140

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

RE: Notice of Appeal

Dear Reviewing Officer:

This letter is a Notice of Appeal filed pursuant to 36 CFR part 217, page 46 in the Record of Decision. The decision 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 this 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 this decision was May 31, 2002 and the Deciding Officer is Regional Forester Dennis E. Bschor.

The specific portion of this document to which I object is:

“Winter: The Turnagain Pass east and lower Turnagain Pass west areas, Pyramid Mountain, Manitoba Mountain, Mills Creek, Fresno Creek, Devil’s Pass, Quartz Creek, Carter and Crescent Lakes area, Russian River Trail, Black Mountain, Grayling and Meridian Lakes area, Snow River and Tie Hack Mountain areas are closed to motorized use.” (Appendix A – Description of the Revised Forest Plan, page A-3 of the appendix).

I seek relief from this arbitrary and capricious decision as a Moose Pass resident since November 1980 and a Cooper Landing resident from 1975 through October 1979. Our family settled in this area amid the Chugach National Forest because it was a good place to raise children where our family could enjoy year round recreational access to the forest, both motorized and non motorized. The areas designated for closure are traditionally used by both user groups and have been for many years. There is an area at

the west side of Turnagain Pass that has been reserved for non-motorized winter use for several years. I do not object to this area if it is part of the Turnagain Pass closure described in the Revised Forest Plan.

1. The areas designated for closure to winter motorized use are the very areas that our family uses. Particularly Carter-Crescent, land between Moose Pass and Cooper Landing, and north from Moose Pass to the Summit Lake area. They are easily accessible for all, including small children, older people and people who are not physically strong. If only non-motorized users are allowed in these areas, only the few strong skiers and people who are very physically fit will actually use them. Not the average mother and father with children wanting to have a winter picnic away from the houses and the highway. They would not be able to get there. When I was in the middle of chemotherapy treatments a few years ago, my husband rode me up to Carter Lake on his snowmachine. We sat and watched the sun go down, enjoyed the beautiful day, and it has always been a precious memory to me. No way could I have had that experience without snowmachine access. I'm sure there are many other people in the same boat, regardless of the reason.
2. There was no meeting in Moose Pass in March 2001. In EIS chapter 3 page 510 it says "impacts of planning decisions on people in rural areas are likely to be much more profound." Our community is certainly profoundly impacted by this decision yet the very process that is supposed to be used, namely, a followup meeting as described in the final EIS chapter 6 page 2, top paragraph, was not followed and thus we were discriminated against in terms of equal right to input and affect the decision. Though there was an earlier meeting here approximately 10-17-00 the lack of a followup denied our residents the opportunity to provide input on the working draft as it developed. Moose Pass is 30 miles from Seward and most people would not be able to attend meetings there because of family obligations after their workday. The meetings should have been easily attended, accessible and well advertised in the community.
3. Moose Pass has evolved as a community of people who not only enjoy recreation in the Forest but also in many instances, make their living from outdoor recreation and the tourists who come here to enjoy the outdoors. Year round employment has always been a major concern here, in fact, please keep in mind that high unemployment has led to the Kenai Peninsula's designation as a Small Business Administration "Hub Zone" where businesses providing jobs are to be given assistance in maintaining their viability. Moose Pass has restaurants, lodges, bed and breakfasts, and tourist related shops that need those winter tourism dollars to survive. We do not have factories, farms, banks, supermarkets etc. where people can work. To impact our mom and pop businesses will adversely affect our economy. People will move away, there will be fewer students in our school and that could close. No survey of local businesses was made when doing an economic analysis.

I would like to offer the following suggestions in replacement of these planned closures.

1. Keep all the areas open as they were prior to this "Preferred Alternative" / Revised Forest Plan . It's not broken. Don't try to fix it.
2. Develop more parking areas along the highway to spread out access, thus giving all users more choices of where to go.
3. Thoroughly survey motorized and non motorized users using **local entities such as the Cooper Landing Community Club, the Moose Pass Sportsmans Club, as information gatherers** to develop an accurate picture of where each group currently goes and how often, and use that as a basis for future planning.
4. Make sure that the local residents of Moose Pass and Cooper Landing have **continued input right up to and including the final draft.**

Please consider this appeal carefully as the voice of an American, to whom the National Forest belongs, and as a resident of one of the communities most affected by the Forest Plan.

Sincerely,



Carole Jaffa

Cc: SBA HubZone Office, Washington, D.C.

Cc: Congressman Don Young

