

12/05/03

To Whom It May Concern,

I oppose motorized access to portions of the Proposed Seward-Girdwood Iditarod National Historic Trail that run through Portage Valley, Girdwood, Winner Creek and Crow Pass. These areas are some of the very few in the whole state of Alaska, that are easily accessible, that currently do not have tradition motorized use. Allowing snowmachines or other motorized vehicles into these areas word reduce their recreational value to benefit a small minority of users. One snowmachine effectively reduces the carrying capacity of a given area for all other users. Hundreds of non-motorized users may go almost undetected, except for their tracks, in an area such as the Girdwood Valley or the Portage Valley. On the other hand one snowmachine can produce enough noise to be heard for miles and enough stink (air pollution) to be smelled from hundreds of yards away. Increase the number at all and a very few snowmachines can ruin the recreational value of an area for multiple of non-motorized users.

Besides the physical aspects of noise and air pollution, conflicts between non-motorized users and motorized users are great. Cross-country skiers and snowmachiners don't get along. Creating more motorized use in the proposed areas only increases conflict. Snow machines, 4 wheelers, dirt bikes, helicopters, airplanes, motorboats, jet skis, SUVs etc. overwhelm our state. Allowing snowmachines into Girdwood, Portage Valley, Crow Pass and Winner Creek makes no sense.

As a thirteen year Girdwood resident I want my voice heard as a No for snowmachine access into those areas.

Respectfully,

Mark Jonas