

May Questions – Recreation Subjects

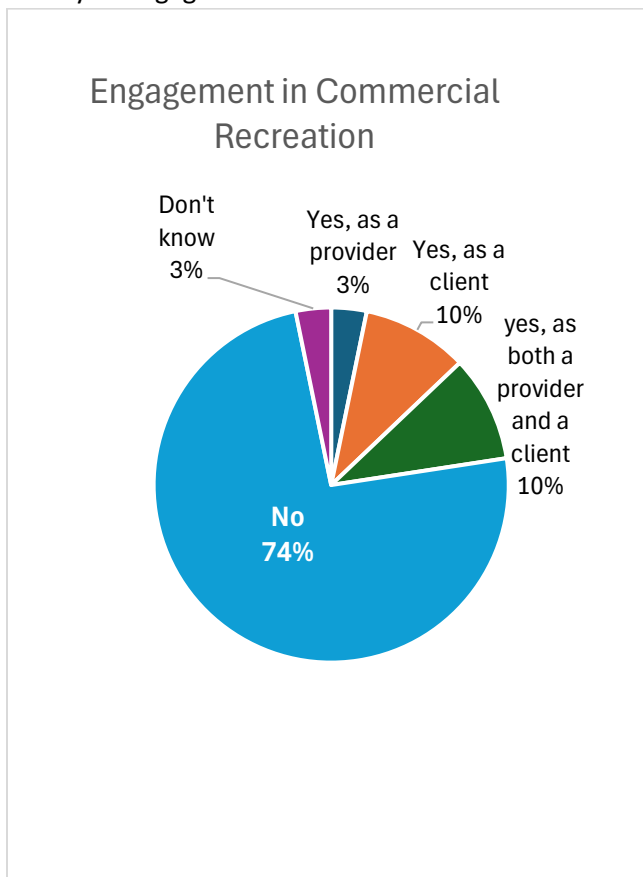
Commercial Recreation

Permitted commercial recreation activities in the State Forest occur in several locations both summer and winter;

- Davidson Lake/Glacier
- Little Salmon River Road/Devil's Elbow
- Mt. Ripinski Trail system
- Takshanuk Trail
- Flower Mtn. Trail
- Kelsall Road system
- Chilkoot River and Lake (managed in cooperation with DPOR)
- Several of the Mtn. ranges serve winter activities, portions of which are in the State Forest
- Guided hunting occurs across the State Forest

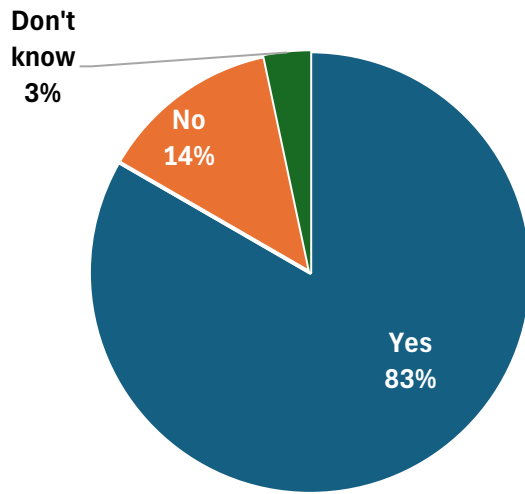
The DOF manages the commercial recreation activities across the State Forest under a Special Use Designation (SUD) which attempts to balance this use by permitting activities in specific areas for Low, Medium, and High Intensity use as defined in the SUD. In this manner the impact of this use can be proportionate to the other uses of a particular area of the State Forest.

1. Have you engaged in commercial recreation activities in the State Forest, either as a provider or as a client?



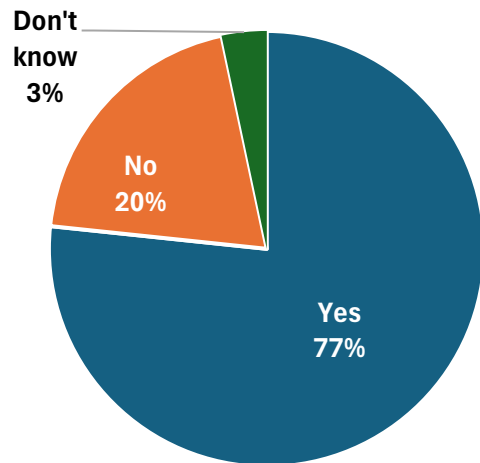
2. Do you think commercial recreation activities in the State Forest are valuable?
 - a. To the economy of the local community?

Is commercial recreation in HSF important to Haines' local economy?



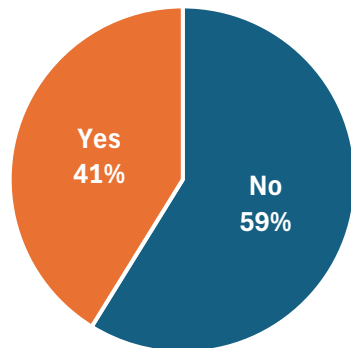
b. To the economy of the State?

Is commercial recreation in HSF valuable to the State economy?



3. Should DOF prioritize the growth of commercial recreation in the State Forest?

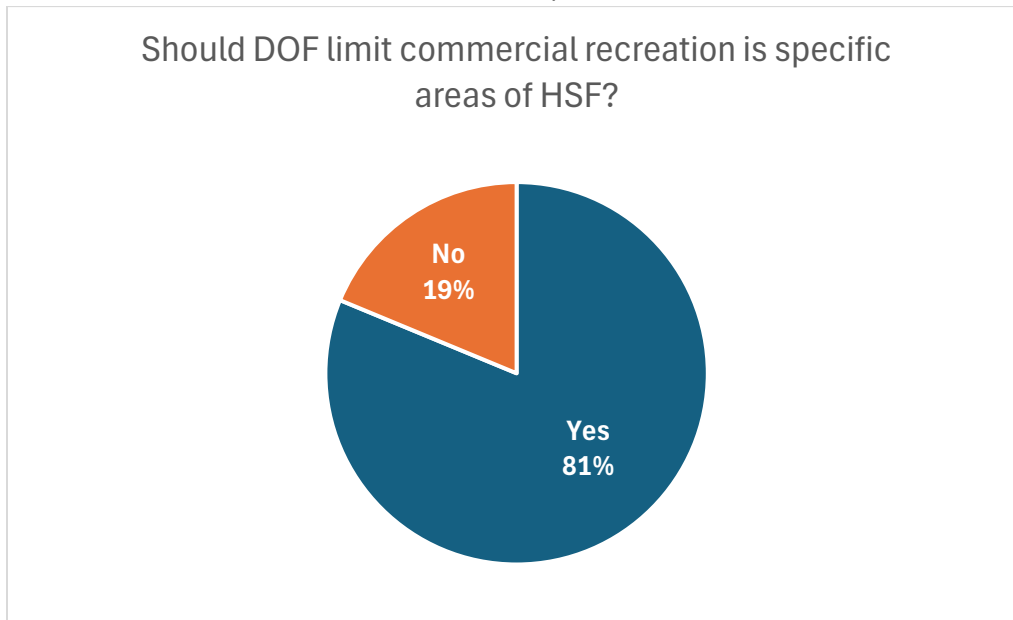
Should DOF prioritize the growth of commercial recreation in HSF?



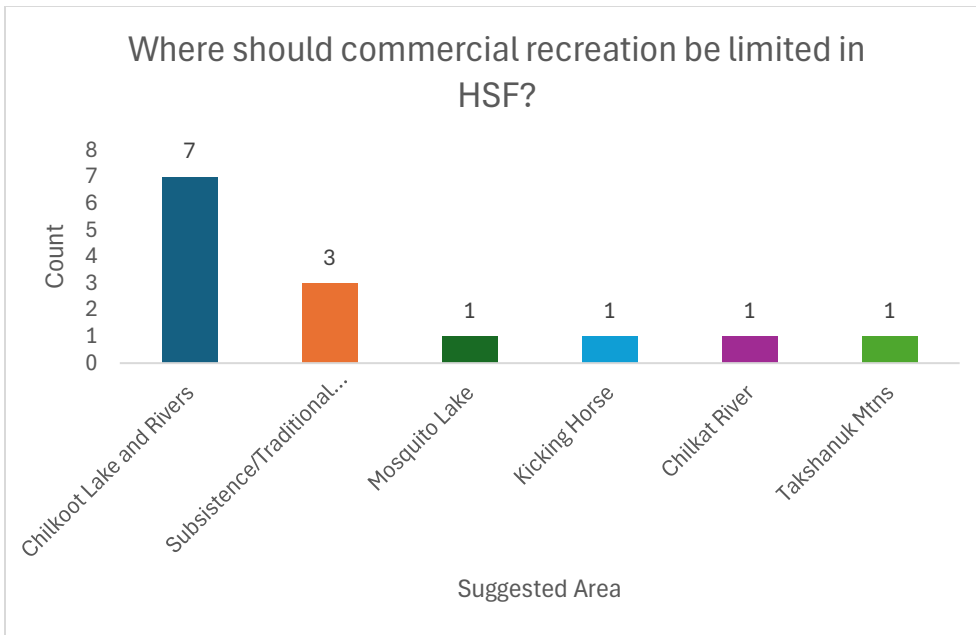
a. If yes, which area(s) specifically? (~75 characters)

Write-in Responses
No
Yes
Yes. Chilkoot. It needs management and improved access. Also Chilkat. The road needs maintained.
Yes, support more rafting put in/take out and develop new areas to spread user groups
Yes, more winter access
There needs to be a balance between commercial activity and local use for recreation
Mt. Ripinski
I am all for economic development and Pro-Commercial Forest use, but not at expense of local use
Existing uses are ok, further commercialization not a priority
encouraging nature-based, regenerative tourism opportunities and building trails to support it.
Yes, but only in ways that don't detract from natural areas
These activities should be limited to save the environment from overuse
No. Current levels of commercial use are already causing conflict with local users and resource
Yes. Chilkoot. It needs management and improved access. Also Chilkat. The road needs maintained.
Yes, support more rafting put in/take out and develop new areas to spread user groups
Yes, more winter access
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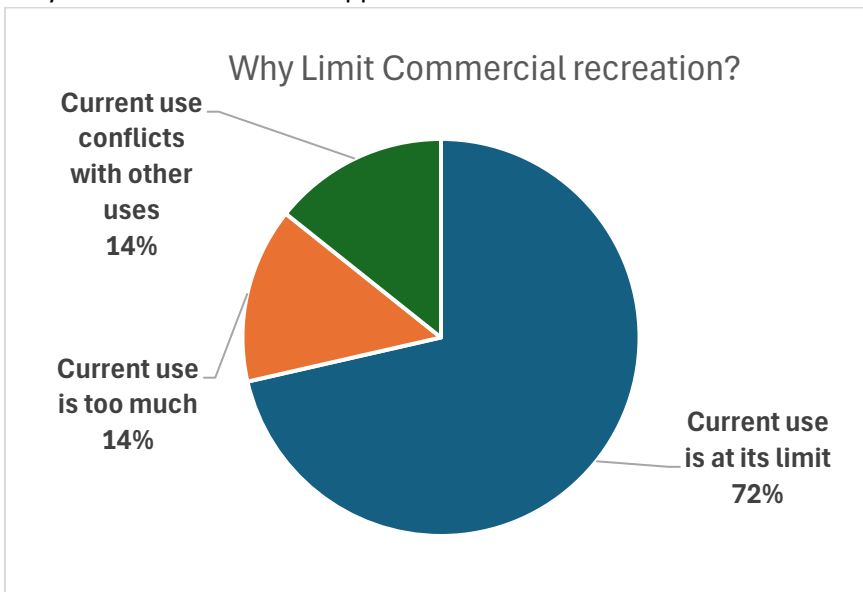
4. Should DOF limit commercial recreation in a specific area of the State Forest?



a. Which area(s)? (limit characters)

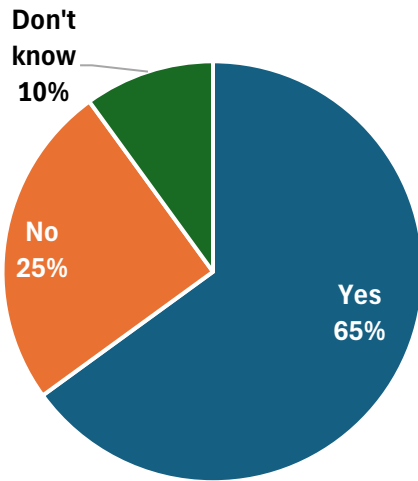


b. Why should restrictions be applied in the area?



5. Do you believe conflicts exist between commercial recreation use and public recreation use in the State Forest that degrade or impact the experience for the users?

Does Conflict exist between commercial and public recreation use in HSF?



- Which area(s)?
- How are your experiences impacted by the commercial recreation occurring?

Write-in Responses
When areas are overrun with commercial ops, public recreation is reduced due to overcrowding
The roads are being ruined by 4-wheelers out sunshine and porcupine. I have had employees of the company tell me they do not care about the impact and it is about the almighty dollar. He said they do not maintain the vehicles. Always breaking down and poorly managed.
The point system for mountain goat hunting creates a scenario where non-resident, guided hunters are competing for points in units with local hunters. Often guided hunters are after trophies whereas locals are more likely to hunt goats for food.
The ATV tours are very obnoxious and impact my experience when berry picking, hiking, and sometimes backcountry skiing. Similarly, anything involving helicopters should be limited or prohibited.
Some areas are over run with commercial activity such as the Chilkat River and the Sunshine Mtn area
Some areas are currently over utilized (i.e. Chilkoot Lake) while others could use more development to spread use and alleviate congestion. Commercial ATV tours out near 26 mile are valuable but at times conflict with non-commercial groups and hunting seasons.
Porcupine Area- there are four wheel rentals and large groups of tourists driving fast in an area that they do not know.
Places become overcrowded on big tourist days. Can't enjoy Chilkat Lake or Lutak with number of people.
Motorized vs non motorized Populations too low to sustain trophy hunting.
Heliskiing really impacts our local backcountry skiing in the Kicking Horse and around Chilkat Lake area - as these are places we can access on backcountry skis, but not until early spring, which is when heliskiing gets going for the spring as well.
Davidson Glacier area
Chilkoot. The weir should probably go.
All of them. Limiting people access to any state land is not freedom.

- What is the most important consideration for the State when managing commercial recreation activities that occur now or in the future in the State Forest? (~250 characters)

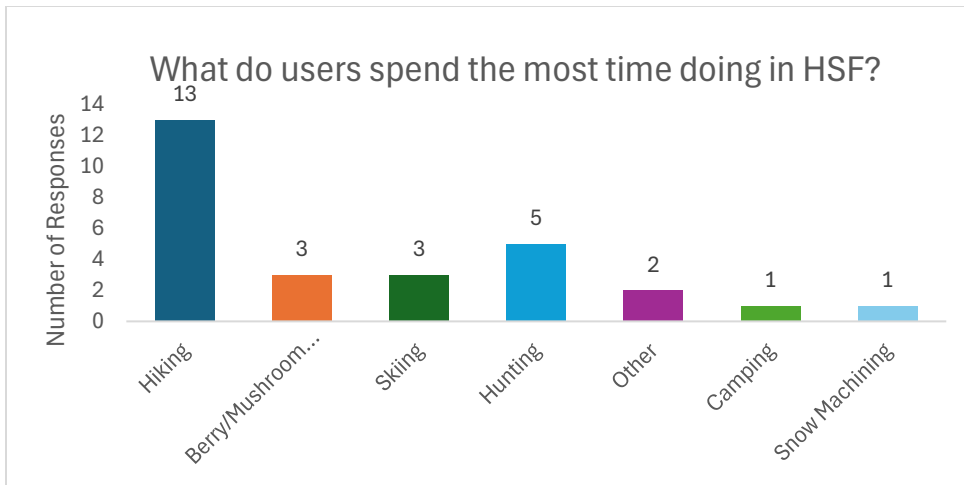
Write-in Responses
User experience
To allow sustainable growth with proper management
Think about the people that live nearby and independent travelers - the cruise ships have taken enough

The remote and wild nature of Haines is what gives it recreational appeal so there need to be limits on commercial use to prevent crowding, both for the benefit of the guide companies and for local users.
Sustainable development
Sustainable and thoughtful development of our area. A comprehensive plan that should feel connected throughout various smaller initiatives.
Protecting wildlife and health of the forest
Protect our goats, moose, and the subsistence way. We have always hiked, camped, and packed out everything we're packing in. If you open up the forest to more permanent human existence the animals will leave. The people that put the cabin on Tukgahgo already have disobeyed and cut the sub-alpine timber.
Multiple USE should be the priority. Non-motorized users seem to think that non-motorized use is the best use of the forest and they are intolerant of motorized vehicles FORGETTING that a human being (non-motorized mobility) has access to virtually EVERY LOCATION in the HSF not-so motorized use
Manage for the future of local recreation users - as gear gets better, people can access more areas (and will likely push into new areas for things like backcountry skiing)
Limit it, otherwise everyone's experience is degraded
let families enjoy the outdoors
keeping our ecosystem intact
How it impacts locals and wildlife
Fund a local position to manage our current assets for optimal use and outreach for locals and visitors. Expand campgrounds and trails
NO NOT BECOME LIKE JUNEAU and other small communities now over burdened by over tourism. That Genie never goes back in the bottle. Be VERY careful what you wish for. The Golden Egg has a very dark side. Never put tourist before locals and NEVER commercialize local trails.
Balance the use so that areas do not become degraded and the environment and soundscape are not impacted by motorized noise and commercial activity
Balance economic gain with impact, should not be a free for all, needs careful regulation

Recreation Development

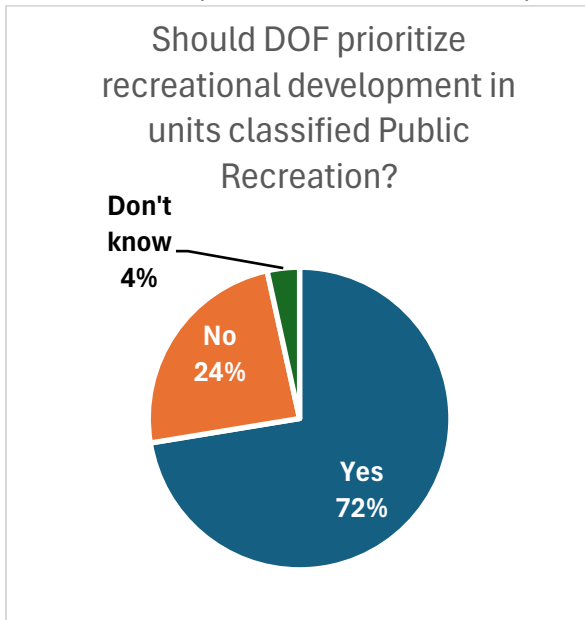
The State Forest is generally managed for the purpose of dispersed or undeveloped recreation to occur in all Units allowing an unmanipulated experience for the user. The Forest Road system is considered a significant investment in the recreation activities many of the public pursue providing access to large tracks of the State Forest for both commercial and public use year-round. The management plan classifies 5 Units of the State Forest *Public Recreation* to prioritize activities in those areas for that use including recreational facility development, i.e. trails, campgrounds, cabins, etc. Public recreation facilities are developed in two management units of the State Forest; Mosquito Lake and Chilkoot Lake. Some non-profit recreational facility development is allowed in specific areas of the Forest not classified *Public Recreation* after following the public permitting process for that development. The entire State Forest is open to the public for "Generally Allowed Uses", including some trail and camping activities, that are allowed on all State managed land without a specific land use permit according to State law. Build trails

1. What is your favorite recreational activity in the State Forest? (What do you practice the most?)

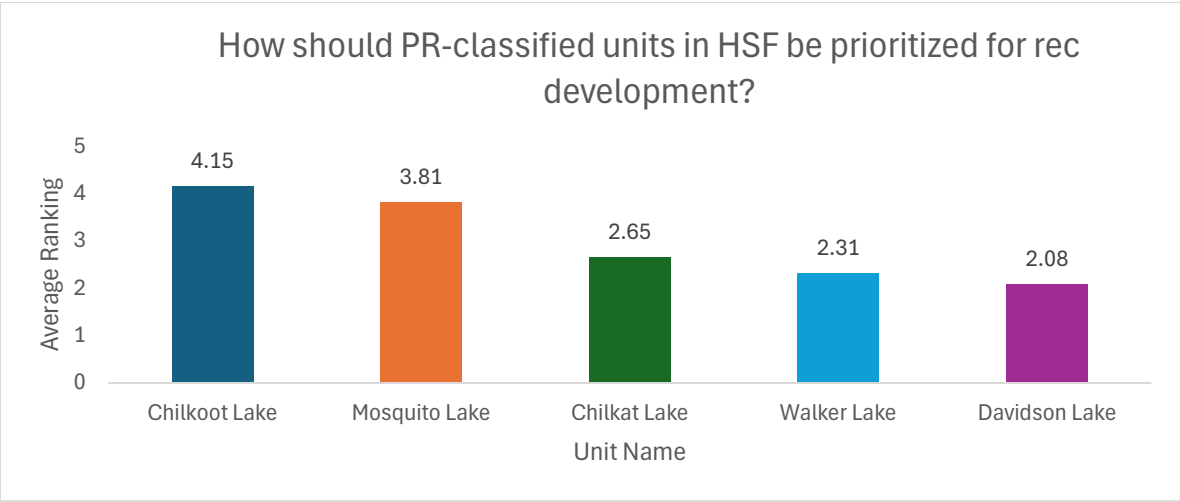


Write-in Responses
Skiing
Leave it alone
Camping, hiking, berry picking, skiing
Also hiking and Camping
I do most of these in similar amounts
All except atv - don't have one
Bird watching

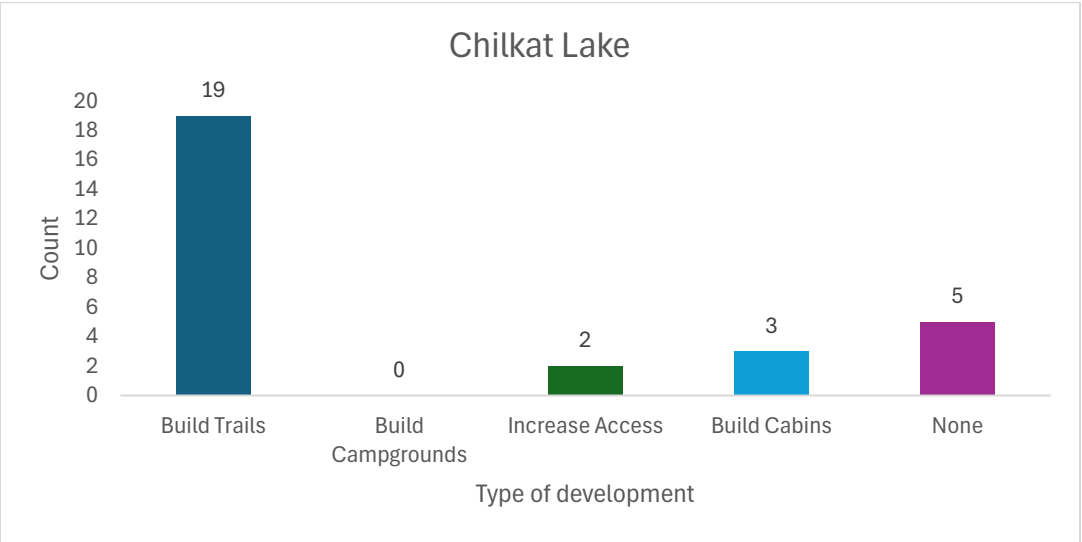
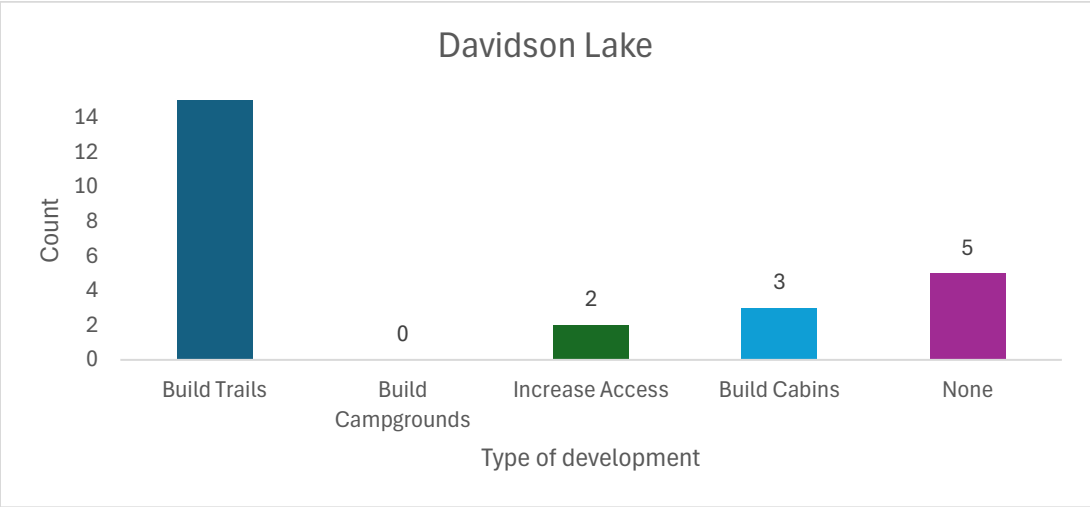
2. Should the DOF prioritize recreation development in the Units classified *Public Recreation*?

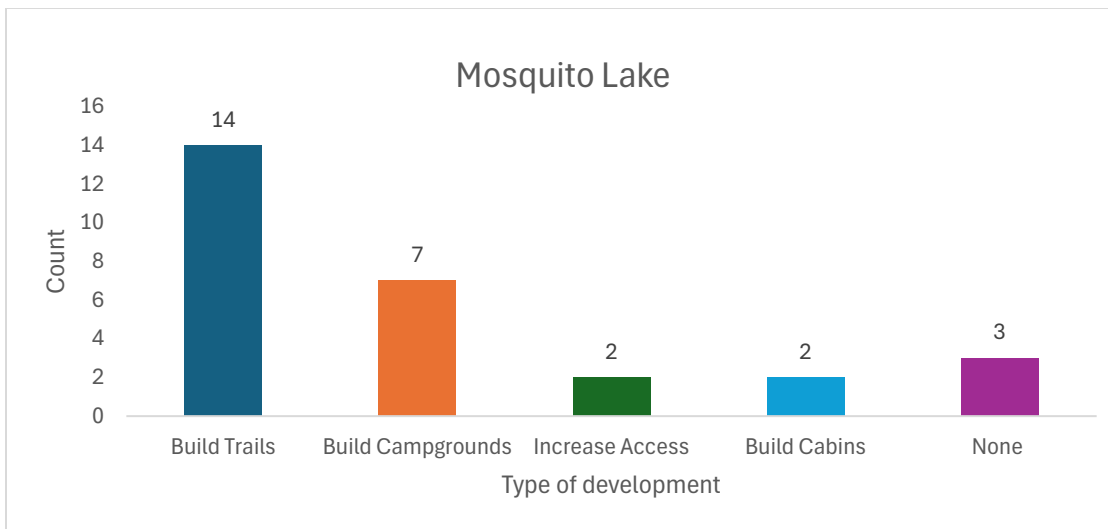
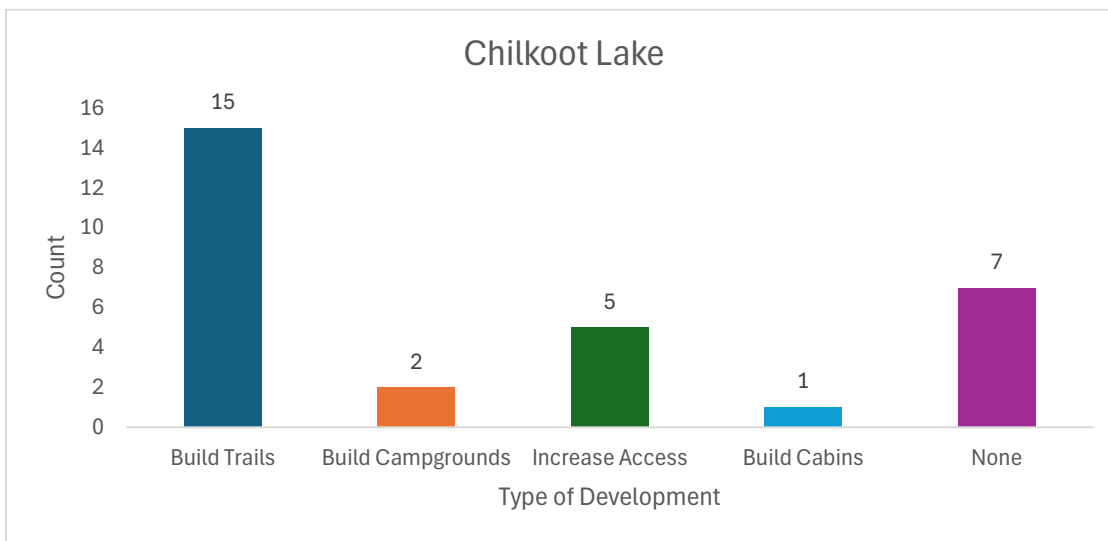
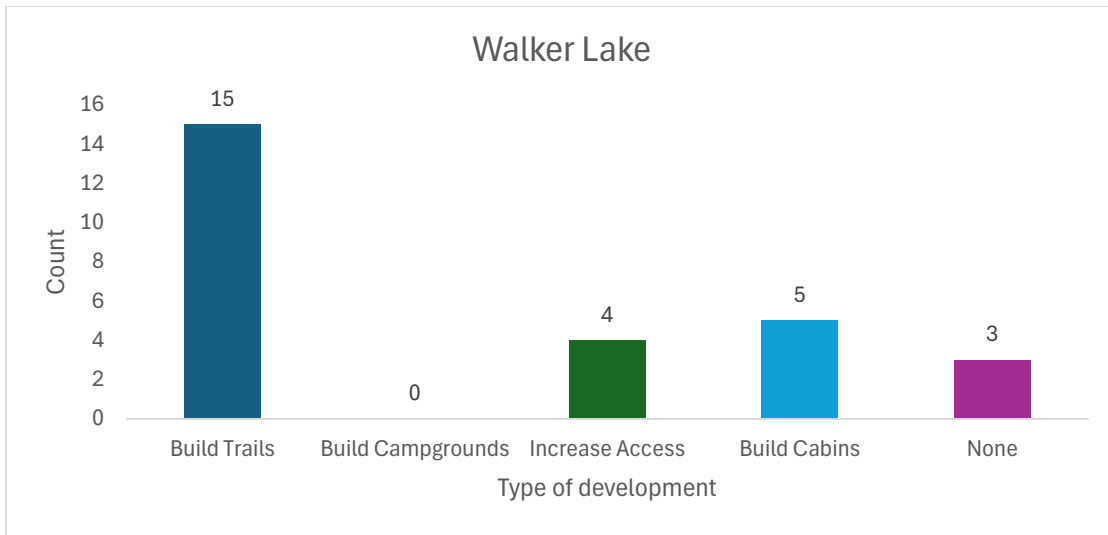


3. Which Unit of the State Forest should be considered for recreation development? (note prioritize response to these)



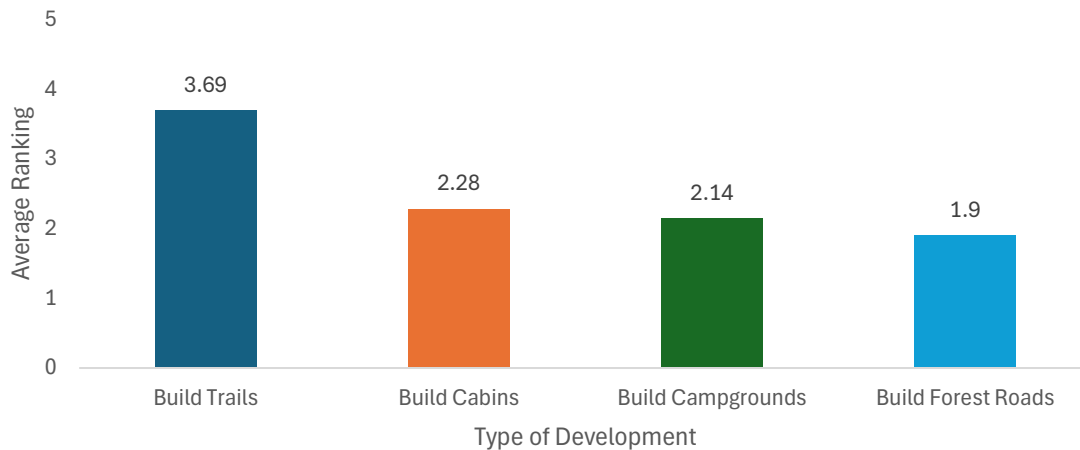
4. What type of development should be considered in each of the 5 classified *Public Recreation* Units? (5 separate questions)





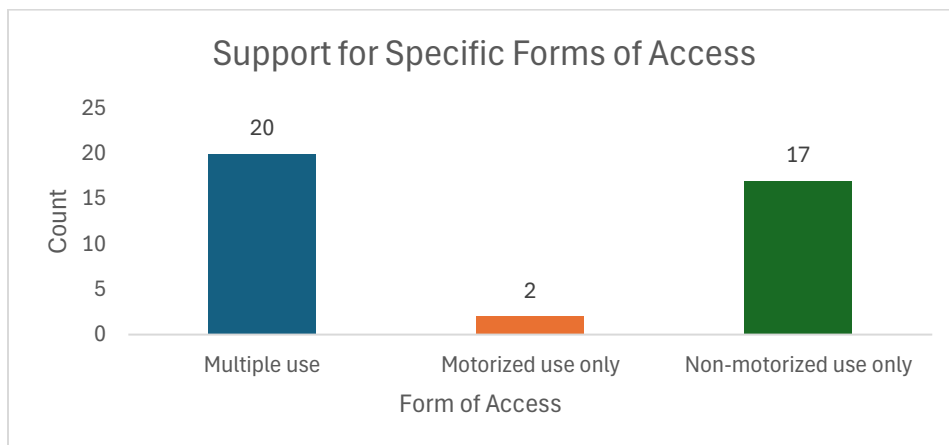
5. How can DOF improve recreation development in the State Forest?

Over all, how can DOF best improve recreation development in HSF?

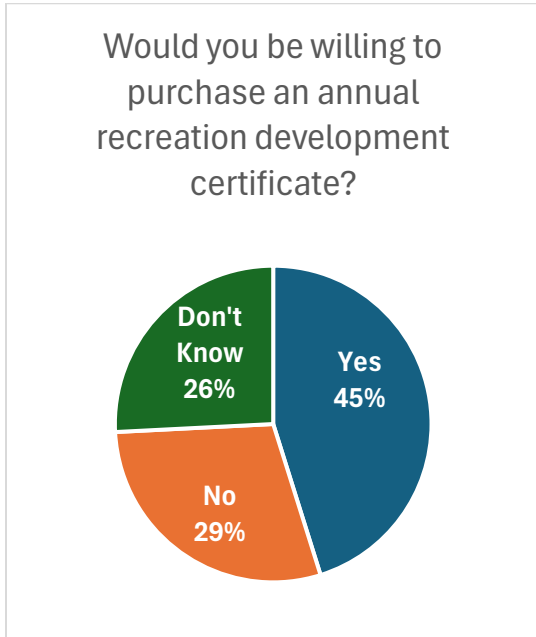


Other
Goat herd
XC Ski trails and warming hut in upper Chilkat Valley
Small scale forest harvest strategically in areas to promote alpine access pair timber related activities with recreation development - roads to trails
Let families be outside with no restrictions
Improved boat launches with parking for vehicles with trailers - riverboats
Help maintain current road access at Chilkat State park and Chilkoot Lake
Fund positions to manage the current assets and develop next steps
Fix the road to Chilkat
Facilitate the work of Haines Huts and trails by streamlining permitting
Coordination with local hut organization to create interconnected hut system
Brush existing roads

6. Public Recreation development can be for specific forms of access. Do you support access development for
- Multiple use
 - Motorized use only
 - Non-motorized use only



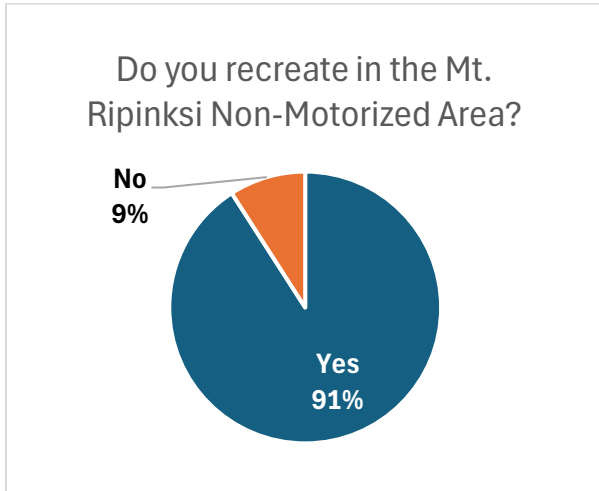
7. Would you be willing to purchase an annual State Forest Recreation Development Certificate to support recreation development or forest road use and forest access specifically in the Haines State Forest?



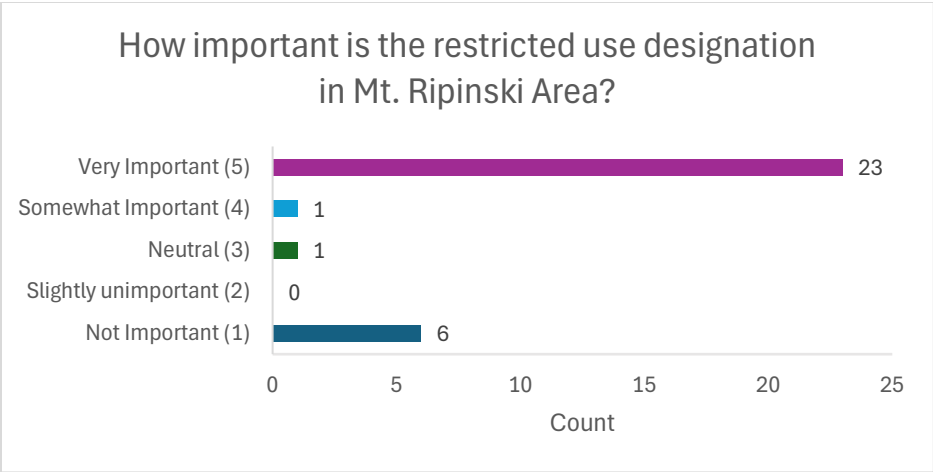
Mt. Ripinski Non-Motorized Area

The DNR designated a portion of the State Forest surrounding Mt. Ripinski and its trail system as restricted to “non-motorized use” in the authorization of the 2002 management plan revision. This decision was based on public input organized during discussion on recreation use across the State Forest. In the process of analyzing comments, the opinion that increased access to the area provided by a private landowner on their property would lead to negative impacts to recreation use on the Mt. Ripinski trail system from motorized recreation users. The DOF created policy to manage the recreation use in the Unit containing the Area to minimize conflict between the differing user groups. A commercial recreation Special Use Designation applies to the “trail” (100’ wide corridor) for the entire Mt. Ripinski Trail system to manage impact from commercial uses.

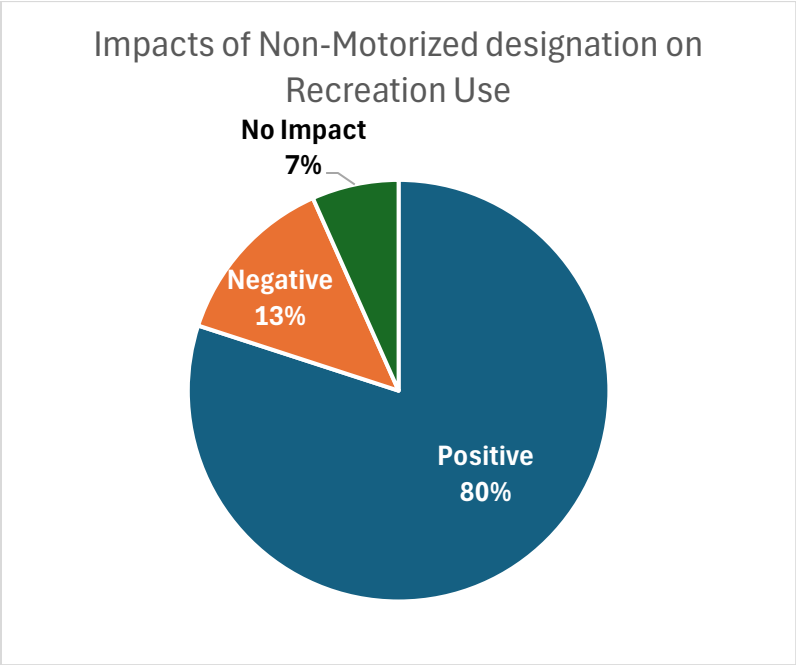
1. Do you recreate in the Area?



2. How important to your use of the Area is the restricted use designation?

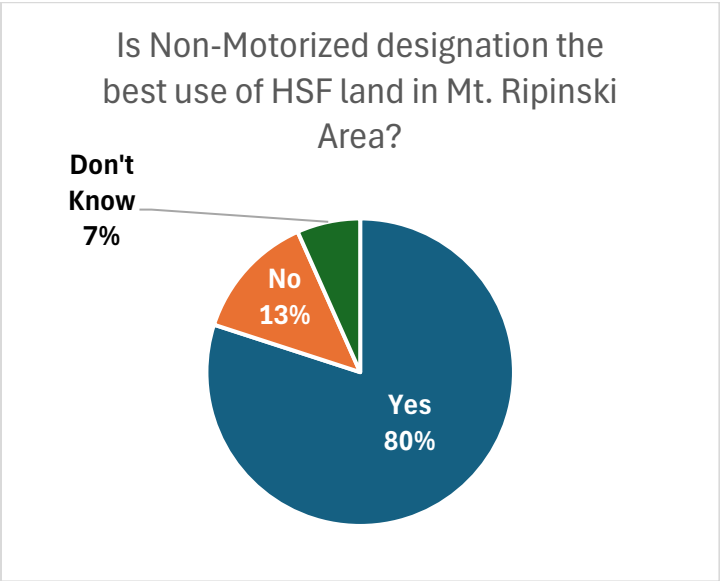


3. Has the designation of the Area had a positive impact on recreation use in the State Forest?

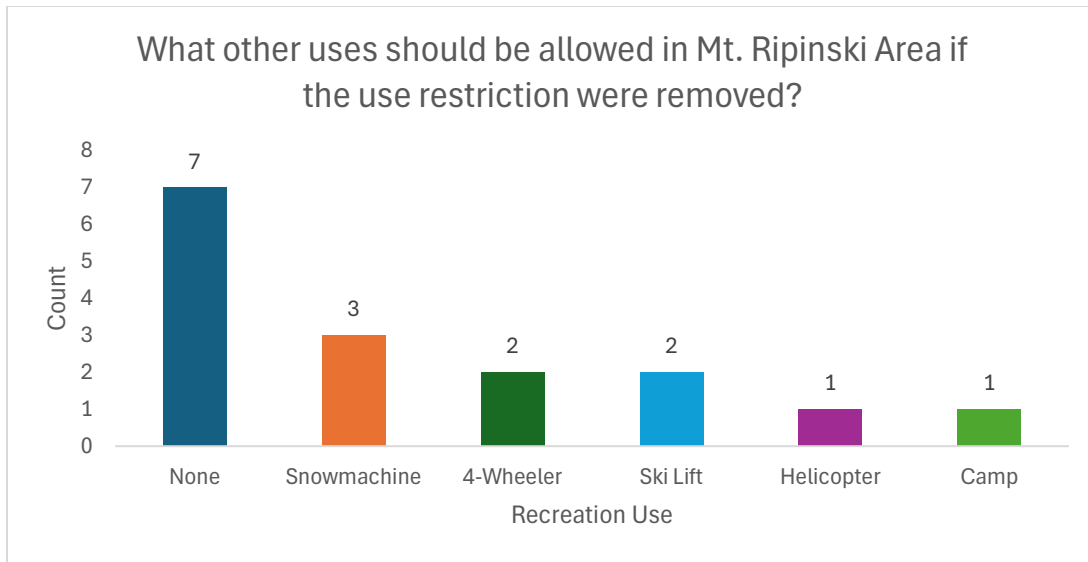


4. Has the designation of the Area had a negative impact on recreation use in the State Forest?

5. Is the non-motorized area the best use of the State Forest in this area?

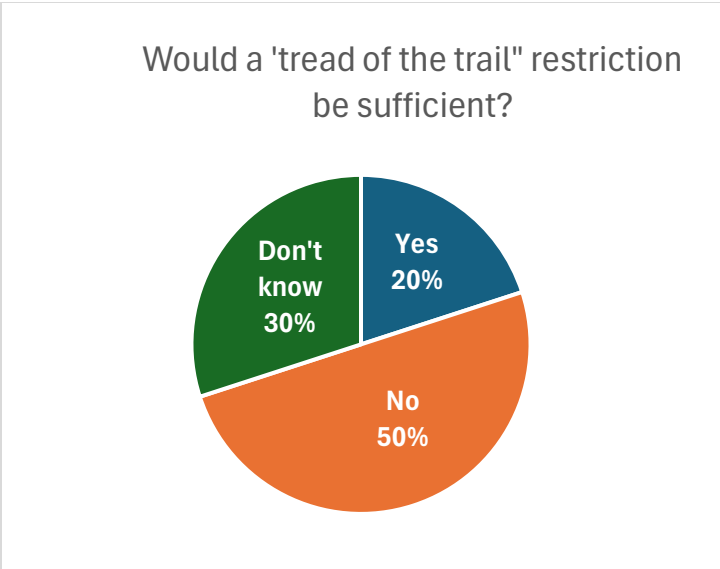


6. What other use of the Area should be allowed if the restricted use is removed?

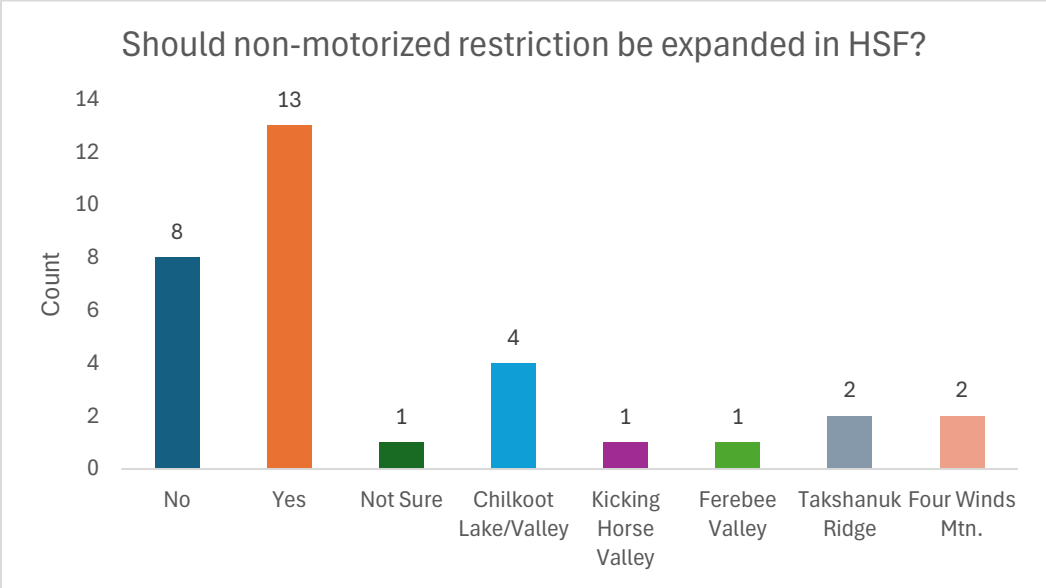


Write-in Responses
NONE
The Non-Motorized crowd is intolerant and selfish - AK 52% Fed Wilderness
The current restriction seems adequate. Efforts for mtn bikes if anything
Snowmachine, 4 wheeler, snowboarding, downhill skiing, ski resort, camp
snow mobiling, helicopter hiking in summer
skiing, love to see a ski lift and downhill ski access
Probably don't remove the restriction
None, especially not helicopter tourism or atv snomo use
keep areas non-motorized and think of future non-motorized areas.
it should not be removed
4 Wheeler and snow machine access up to 2,000 ft elevation
None. Re: slider above - it is very important to keep it non-motorized
None. It's critical to keep the Mt. Ripinsky SUD
no answer as I oppose motorized use in the Mt. Ripinski area
Motorized use, hunting
keep areas non-motorized and think of future non-motorized areas
it should not be removed
don't remove the restriction, not everything needs to be motorized
Don't remove the restriction! Backcountry "huts" should also NOT be allowed
Do not remove the non-motorized restriction.
Do not remove restriction. This is crown jewel of our hiking attractions

7. Can the resource use in the Area be protected through management plan policy such as applying the restrictions to the "tread of the trail" if the Area restricted use is removed?

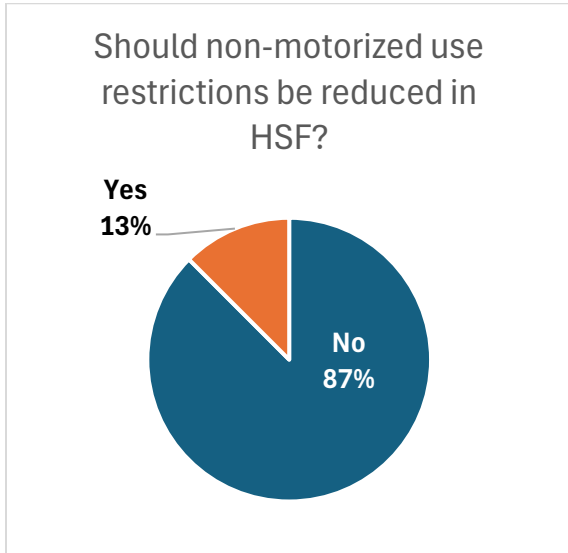


8. Should the non-motorized area be expanded in the State Forest in this or any of the Units?



Write-in Responses
Yes. Any units with sensitive mountain goat habitat
Yes. Chilkoot Valley, Kicking Horse Valley, Ferebee Valley
Yes. Chilkoot Lake Area
Yes it should be non motorized to the border You should keep it the way it is in the valley
Yes Chilkoot Lake
yes. In each of the Units there should be proactively planning for non-motorized/motorized use
Not sure
No. 52% of all Federal Wilderness is located in Alaska. 16 % of all land in Alaska is wilderness
No. I believe the current area around Ripinski is appropriate and other areas should remain open.
Areas not currently used by moto users should be considered for future non moto thru public process
yes for the entire takshunuk ridge area
4-winds mountain
yes - as many as possible. 25 mile for one
Takshanuk Range west of non-motorized area. Four Winds mountain to Canada Border. Ferebee valley
Ripinski SUD protects the alpine ecosystem while providing access thereto directly from Haines
No, non-motorized use should be removed entirely

9. Should the non-motorized area be removed from the State Forest from this or any of the Units?



Write-in Responses
No
Yes. Let's share our public lands with ALL AMERICANS not just with the fit and youthful - What of ADA?
Yes
No. Current restrictions are helpful
No these people are the very people who are trying to shut down helicopter use and use themselves
Do not remove it. The majority of Haines residents fully support this designation.
No. Ripinsky SUD protects the ONLY Haines trail to the alpine for trad'l users: Hikers.
Absolutely not.