

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Erin Harrington <erinfish@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 15, 2020 3:14 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; JNSC Board; Chris Knight  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Non-Motorized Use in Winter

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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To the Parks and Rec Committee:

Thank you for your service and the time you take to provide guidance on our recreational resources.

We are members of Juneau Nordic Ski Club and write to express support for closing Montana Creek Trail to motorized users during the grooming season (Nov 1 to May 1).

Nordic skiing is an excellent and growing sport in Juneau. The volunteer groomers at JNSC do an amazing job maintaining dozens of miles of trails.

The importance of this resource really hit home for us this past spring, when we all went into the COVID twilight zone. Using the JNSC groomed trails literally kept our family sane and healthy during the incredibly difficult spring.

Montana Creek is an especially important jewel in the crown because it stays cold and holds snow when other places don't. It's an invaluable addition to the whole setup, and is incompatible with winter motorized use. We'd like to see it closed to motorized use in the winter.

Additionally, I'll note that I (Erin) hail from Kodiak, where motorized/non-motorized conflicts are far greater in number and severity than they are here in Juneau. I served on the board of the trails organization there for a number of years, and can vouch for the damage that one or two irresponsible motorized users can cause on sensitive vegetation, with damage that lasts for years or, worse, upsets water flows in a way that compound over time. For that reason, we support the permanent installation of the "kissing" gate near the rifle range.

Thanks again for your time and service.

With respect,  
Erin Harrington and Chris Knight

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Aldyn Brudie <aldynbrudie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 15, 2020 12:19 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Help keep Montana Creek non-motorized in winter

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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To the PRAC,

I am writing in support of keeping the kissing gate at Montana Creek closed in winter, as a way to restrict motorized users on a narrow trail that is used by hundreds of cross-country skiers and walkers. The JNSC has a membership of over 600 people, growing by the year, and Montana Creek is one of the most popular and consistent places to recreate on snow. The JNSC spends thousands of dollars and hundreds of volunteer hours to make safe, healthy outdoor recreation accessible to the community of Juneau - free of charge. It is a well-organized club that holds events, builds community and helps make winters in Juneau livable. This was especially evident this spring during the upswing of the coronavirus - the trails continued to be groomed, and skiing provided some rare moments of sanity for many struggling with the immense changes the pandemic has brought. This contribution to our town is invaluable, and the peaceful, corduroy track that winds up Montana Creek is truly the heart and soul of their efforts.

A very small number of motorized users (ATV, motorbikes, etc.) takes advantage of the grooming done by the JNSC to ride up Montana Creek Road in the winters. This is only possible because of the grooming done by the club; otherwise, it would be waist-deep slush and impassable by anything besides a snow machine (who have their own dedicated trails and generally do not use Montana Creek). Not only does this pose a danger if they are on the trails at the same time as other users (including many children), but they leave deep, hazardous ruts and ruin the surface of the trail that committed volunteers painstakingly spend hours grooming.

It is evident to me in tuning in to the recent PRAC meeting, and seeing the number of letters written to the committee, that the masses have spoken. While ATVs should certainly have their own places to recreate, Montana Creek is not it, and it is not the Nordic skiing community's responsibility to first find an alternative for them in order to ensure our own (and that of walkers and snowshoers) safety on this trail. While you may feel uncomfortable enforcing the non-motorized use of the trail in winter (which I still strongly urge you to do), you can at least make sure that the gate stays locked and send a strong message that our city values the efforts of the JNSC and respects the safety of Juneau's trail users.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope to see you all on the trails this winter!

Warmly,

Aldyn Brudie

Juneau, AK 99801

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** kristy@totten.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 15, 2020 11:18 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Road Gate

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Please keep the Montana Creek gate ('kissing gate') closed to motorized vehicles from November 1 to May 1. It's important to have this winter ski trail, which is groomed in the winter by the JNSC, closed to snow machines and other ATVs. Volunteers spend literally hundreds of hours and significant amounts of fund-raised money to keep the road beyond this gate groomed for skiers and other non-motorized users. Any motorized traffic would destroy what is now a fantastic area for XC skiing which I enjoyed many, many times this past winter along with many other people of all age groups and ability levels. Not only would ATVs and snow machines destroy the track surfaces with deep ruts, they would also create a hazard for navigation on the narrow roadway and blind curves. As an older skier, such hazardous conditions would stop me from being able to ski this trail. This is a wonderful asset for the community, one which promotes fitness, peace of mind and fun recreation for a variety of non-motorized enjoyment. Motorized users have thousands of acres of other terrain for their winter usage.

**Please keep this narrow 2 mile road section designated for non motorized use during the winter ski season of November 1- May 1.**

Thank you,

Kristy Kissinger-Totten

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Bruce Baker <bhbaker@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 15, 2020 9:57 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Road winter use

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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August 14, 2020

Juneau Parks & Rec Staff –

As I have recently commented to you, I urge the CBJ to disallow snow machines and four-wheelers from using the portion of Montana Creek Road that has traditionally been groomed and maintained for Nordic skiing. Members of the Juneau Nordic Ski Club have gone to great expense over the years to provide a public service by maintaining the most reliably snow covered Nordic skiing opportunity on the Juneau Road system. Montana Creek Road affords thousands of Juneau folks a chance to cross-country ski when other lower elevation areas are snow-free or offer poor skiing conditions.

**Snow machine or four-wheeler traffic destroys this opportunity.**

Bruce Baker  
Juneau, AK 99801

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Tee Miller <teemiller17@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2020 2:37 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Road

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Good afternoon.

This is an email to request Montana Creek Road is closed to motorized vehicles from November 1st to May 1st. Montana Creek Road is a stellar recreation area for cross-country skiers. It would be wonderful if the "Kissing Gate" could be permanently installed.

Thank you for allowing my two cents.  
Warm regards,  
Tracey Miller

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** scottbetsy@gci.net  
**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2020 11:01 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** info  
**Subject:** Montana Creek gate winter closure

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**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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I attended the most recent Zoom meeting of the P&R Advisory board and listened to all of the comments by board members and the public regarding closing the Montana Creek gate by the gun range during the winter. I also submitted a letter prior to that meeting stating my support for not only a winter closure, but a permanent year-round closure to motorized traffic at Montana Creek.

I was disappointed that the advisory board decided to "kick the can down the road" on making a decision or recommendation regarding this issue. One board member commented that he thought making a decision right then would be a "knee jerk reaction." I respectfully disagree with that statement. Let's look at the facts:

- 1) Before the gate was installed there were serious problems with garbage dumping, vehicles getting stuck and illegal burning. Installing the gate solved those issues.
- 2) When motorized vehicles are allowed and travel onto sensitive muskeg areas, they quickly cause damage that remains for years.
- 3) Public comments before the meeting were 100% in favor of installing a permanent gate. Public testimony during the meeting was 100% in favor of installing a gate.
- 4) Serious safety issues were discussed regarding having skiers and machines on a narrow trail during the winter, as well as pedestrians and machines during the summer.
- 5) Nordic skiers have made the Montana Creek road an attractive winter recreation area through their own volunteer efforts and it has been a huge success. Opening this area to machines jeopardizes one of the greatest winter recreational resources available to Juneau residents at no cost to the city, other than installing a gate to protect it.

Several board members expressed concern that motorized recreational users needed somewhere they could use their machines. May I suggest that wheeled motorized machines are made to be used on ROADS and not trails. ATV's and 4-wheelers are primarily and rightfully considered work vehicles when used off-road and are generally used in more open wilderness areas such as found in interior Alaska. Snow machines in Juneau already have access to hundreds of acres of land for their winter recreation enjoyment and I would like to point out that they repeatedly trespass and ignore boundaries set for them. Even the motorized vehicle advocates admit that they are noisy and cause problems.

Motorized users are not being pushed aside. It is the large majority of citizens who choose to recreate using their own non-motorized power on our trails who suffer if a machine is on the trail. I also want to point out that the recreational tracks left by a snowmachine are NOT considered a groomed trail by

skiers. A perfect example of this are the crazy, off-kilter tracks made by machines during the winter in Spaulding Meadows. It is much easier to ski across an unbroken expanse of snow than to try to follow the rutted whoop-dee-doos and senseless loops made by machines that whirl around the meadows at high speeds.

Let the motorized users organize themselves and create a space where they can rip and tear to their heart's content. But trying to take over a recreational area that other groups have made attractive is not acceptable.

I encourage the P&R Advisory Board to take the right action and permanently close the gate to all motorized use along Montana Creek.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to attending the next meeting and hearing your decision.  
Betsy Fischer

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Raymond Dwyer <dwyerinak@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 14, 2020 8:00 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Winter Access

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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I am writing to continue my support for CBJ to keep the Montatna Cr road access close to motorized vehicles during the winter months. During the winter, the road is a valuable recreational asset for skiers, hikers, etc. Allowing motorized vehicles will mean that the ski trails cannot be maintained. I think a fair compromise is to allow motorized vehicles in non-snow months and let the skiers have it in winter. Thanks for your time.

Ray Dwyer  
Blackerby Street  
Juneau



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Brian H <hoodbr@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2020 8:55 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; info@jnski.org; Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Winter Use

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to see the section of Montana Creek Road beyond the gate at the rifle range closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed. It is the only easy-to-access, reliable snow for cross-country ski years in Juneau. There are many areas available to snow machines, ect.

Thank you and sincerely,

Brian Hood.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** dsanvik@gci.net  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2020 3:00 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** info  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Road comments

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Board Members:

Thank you for hosting the Zoom meeting regarding the proposal to officially close the Montana Creek Road to all ATVs and unauthorized snowmachines during the winter. From the discussion, it appeared that some of you might not be familiar with the Montana Creek area, especially in winter.

As others expressed during the meeting, there is absolutely no way that skiers can safely co-exist with ATV's, other snowmachines or trailbikes within that narrow corridor. Most off road enthusiasts appear to understand that and have left the area to the skiers.

As was also pointed out during the meeting, the area around Montana Creek is critical habitat for a number of fish species and not compatible with summer ATV use.

Several speakers from all sides of the issue pointed out that off road enthusiasts need a place of their own where they can legally operate. It appears many would be willing to work towards that end, but there are reasons why finding such an area is difficult. The off road folks would need to organize and perhaps establish some rules for participation before land owners might consider permitting ATV use on their land. But that's an issue that is beyond the scope of what is currently before the board.

This discussion shouldn't be allowed to descend into an "Us vs Them" argument.

Officially closing Montana Creek road beyond the gate to ATVs and unauthorized snowmachines and trailbikes during the winter would best serve the residents of Juneau.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

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Doug Sanvik  
dsanvik@gci.net  
Juneau, AK

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Steve White <White173@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2020 9:33 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli; Parks Rec; info@jnski.org  
**Cc:** JEB  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Trails....

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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I encourage you to prohibit motorized vehicles on these trails. They should be reserved for hiking, cycling, and cross-country skiing.

In this time of pandemic, we need outdoor places that are quiet, free of pollution, and that will enable us to social distance and exercise vigorously for mental health and physical well-being.

Thank you....Steve White

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Delbert Carnes <ncharter@alaska.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2020 10:24 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Road Gate

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Montana Creek is a outstanding area to Nordic Ski. I have groomed and skied 100s of times there in the last 15 to 20 years. In low snow years when the USFS Camp grounds has no snow Montana Creek is the only place in the valley to ski on a groomed trail. There is snow there every winter. As our climate warms this area is of more importance. Motorizes machines are not compatible with slow moving skiers and hikers. They total destroy the groomed Nordic trail. After grooming for 3 hours and have a machine destroy it in 5 minutes, you get to spend at least 3 more hours cleaning up the mess. Hundreds of people ski this trail all winter, just look at the parking lot at gate. It is always full with overflow into the Shooting Range lot or along side the road. Where would trunks and trailers park? Close off the gate in winter so machines can not get through. If you want to see what motorized machines do to a area. Go to Echo Cove and walk around the head of the cove, trash, cut down trees, toilet paper and torn up earth.

Thank you for closing the gate in winter!

Delbert Carnes 59 year resident of Juneau, Groomer Skier

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Del Carnes

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Parks Rec  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2020 8:40 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** FW: Gate

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**From:** ROBERT HOGUE <robert.8251@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2020 7:20 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec <Parks.Rec@juneau.org>  
**Subject:** Gate

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Let these people drive on the hundreds of thousands of miles of paved roads. Let the forest remain peaceful and undisturbed. Can't these people enjoy the wilderness, without being a agent of there degragation?

Regards

Robert Hogue

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Fagerstrom, Terri E (DOL) <terri.fagerstrom@alaska.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 6:07 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Cc:** Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Please don't open Montana Creek to Motorized users during winter months

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### EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to show my support and ask for your support in keeping the Montana Creek trail closed to motorized use Nov 1 thru May 1. This area is heavily used during the winter months by Juneau folks from all walks of life. People enjoy having an area free of motorized use to get out during what can be dark and bleak months of the year. The Juneau Nordic Ski club volunteers graciously keep the trail groomed, creating a safe and wonderful winter recreation area, and have done so for several years now. Cross country skiing continues to grow in popularity for all ages. But the number of trails, especially groomed and maintained trails, available does not. The Montana Creek trail often opens first and holds snow longer than the handful of other trails in the area, is easily accessible, and is heavily used by young, old, and everyone in-between. The Nordic Ski Club provides an avenue for our youth to get outside and enjoy the winter, developing a love for a healthy lifestyle which lasts a lifetime. It is a great area for families and extended families to get out and enjoy time together. Many of the areas runners cross over to skiing in the winter to help keep in shape and use this area for that purpose. In addition to skiing, the trail is also used by those out walking and by dog walkers. The calm serenity of the trail and the bubbling of the nearby creek on a winter day is treasure. None of this activity is a good mix for motorized use. It only takes one snow machine passing over the trail one time to destroy the trail grooming and maintenance; depending on the weather, it may be several days or even weeks before the damage caused by a snow machine track can be repaired. And how discouraging to spend time grooming the trail only to have that work destroyed in a few moments time. Motorized use doesn't mix well with slower moving walkers, skiers, dogs, and other who traditionally use this trail during the winter months. Even without the traditional use, this trail is also not that long, not that wide, banked by a flowing creek on one side, and contains several blind corners, making it not well suited for motorized use of fast moving, heavy machinery.

I sincerely hope you will take this into consideration and keep Montana Creek closed to motorized use during the winter months.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Sally Donaldson <sallyanndonaldson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 9:10 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Copy of my Parks letter

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hello Parks and thank you for your diligent work.

I'm commenting about the Montana Creek Rd. I want the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users [from Nov 1 to May 1](#) and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed. That road is an incredible place for cross country and skate skiing. Snow machines would completely change its serene and beautiful nature, and needless to say would destroy the track laid by stalwart volunteers.

Thanks for reading,  
Sally Donaldson

Juneau, 99891

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Andy Romanoff <romak4456@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 7:10 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Motorized Use of Montana Creek in Winter Months

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Parks and Rec Advisory Committee Members,

I am writing you regarding possible motorized winter use of the Montana Creek road beyond the rifle range. **I strongly oppose** the concept and urge you to maintain the decades-old status quo of human-powered winter recreation only for this area, between the months of November through May.

I personally use the groomed nordic trail along Montana Creek roughly 50 days a winter. I am not alone and I share this terrific winter outdoor 'health and wellness' resource with dozens of others. I pay my annual dues to the Juneau Nordic Ski Club for their daily work to groom and maintain what is one of Juneau's premiere winter recreation areas. Priority status must be placed on the few existing Juneau winter outdoor human-powered recreation areas. The community-wide benefits that these places bring to our town, our community health, and our sense of well being cannot be underestimated. We are all well aware of how long Juneau winters can feel and places like Montana Creek and its nordic values play a crucial role in maintaining Juneau's health and well being.

Summertime is different and outdoor recreation opportunities seem unlimited. Winter is just not that way and this holds especially true at sea level. Eaglecrest can be too long a drive for a lunchtime valley worker seeking outdoor exercise in January. Yes, the campground is often groomed and available. But, Montana Creek is different – somehow colder, drier, and able to hold snowpack much longer and much better than its lower elevation partner at the campground. The winter of 2014-2015 is a great example. There was no snow at Eaglecrest, no snow at the campground, yet Montana Creek was available for cross country skiing for nearly 100 days. For those who seek snow, it was the **ONLY** place to go during that warm and wet winter.

One motorized vehicle will ruin the experience of countless human-powered recreationists. These are not compatible groups and their separation must be maintained. For example, one snow machine or ATV on west Mendenhall Lake can be heard and must be endured by well over a hundred skiers on numerous weekend winter days. Snow machines and ATV riders have other places to go...Spaulding, Dan Moeller, Jumbo, Echo Cove. Please, do not take away a resource used by so many for the exclusive use by just a few. Our health and well being depend on it.

Thank you for your consideration,

Andy Romanoff  
Montana Creek skier for 29 years



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Tristan Knutson-Lombardo <tkl1289@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 8:11 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; info@jnski.org; Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** No to motorized use up Montana Creek

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hello PRAC,

I'm reading the update from the most recent PRAC meeting and it's unclear to me why the committee decided to postpone a vote on motorized use up the old Montana Creek road another month. Please add my name to keeping the area **non-motorized year-round**. For so many reasons, but most importantly the delicate fish habitat and the fact that our all-volunteer ski club works hard to maintain safe, accessible skiing as a benefit to all in our community.... for free!

We've worked hard as a community to keep this area clean and cared for. A vote to keep it non-motorized does just that!

Thanks for your consideration,  
Tristan Knutson-Lombardo

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Ken Post <ken.annepost@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 7:49 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Road closure

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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I ski on the Montana Creek Road during the winter and firmly believe snow machines should be kept off the road. The ski club spends a lot of time grooming the road and snow machines can mess it up in short order. I'd like to see the road closed from November 1 to May 1. A good gate also needs to be installed so snowmachines can't get around it. I don't have a beef with snow machines, but it is simply an incompatible use on that road. Snow machines have other options, notably in the Spaulding Meadows area.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Ken Post

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Shelly Deering <deeringak@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 6:21 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Closing Montana Creek to motorized traffic in Winter

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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I have enjoyed skiing on Montana Creek for 15 years. It is a great spot close to town that extends the ski season for us. This is a short and narrow trail that is ideal for foot traffic but not combined foot and motorized traffic. I have had several occasions where I am glad my hearing is good so that I could "get out of the way" of the motorized traffic.

Please close the road beyond the gate at the Rifle Range to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

**Thank you**  
**Shelly Deering**  
**Juneau, AK**

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Jon Kurland <jonkurland1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 6:13 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Winter Use

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear PRAC Members,

I am an avid cross-country skier and I value the use of the Montana Creek trail, especially in conditions with low or no snow depths elsewhere. Please keep the road beyond the gate at the rifle range closed to motorized vehicles (except ski trail grooming) from November 1 through May 1 each winter. Motorized vehicles tear up the trail for skiers and are fundamentally incompatible with cross-country skiing. Thank you.

Jon Kurland

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** rkwell@gci.net  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 3:13 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; infor@jnski.org  
**Subject:** winter use of Montana Creek Road

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hello! I am STRONGLY (emphasized) in favor of the Montana Creek Road after the gate at the outdoor rifle range to be closed to motorized activity from November 1 - May 1st and a pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed. The micro climate at Montana Creek road makes it the only reliable nordic skiing site in the valley during the winter months. Surprisingly - skiers are able to ski this area even when the Mendenhall Campground conditions are poor. One pass of a four-wheeler destroys the hours of grooming put in - and accessibility for many skiers. This area is heavily used by nordic skiers. If you were to track the usage of skiers over a season compared to motorized vehicle usage - I believe the numbers would show that many more skiers use this area. It improves the health and happiness of many in our community. PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE! keep it closed to motorized vehicles in the winter. They can have it the rest of the year! Thank you for your consideration. Karlynn Welling

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Kathryn Miller <kathryn.flett.miller@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 2:14 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hello,

I'd like to comment on the upcoming decision regarding Montana Creek motorized access. I would like the road beyond the gate at the Rifle Range to be closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

Thank you for your time,  
Katie Miller

Juneau, AK

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Lauren Sanzone <sanzonie@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 2:13 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** PRAC - Comments re: Montana Creek Road

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Good afternoon,

I just want to add my voice to the others requesting that Montana Creek Road be closed to motorized use from November 1-May 1 each year, and have the pedestrian "kissing gate" permanently installed. During my time in Juneau, I've come to love Montana Creek as a reliable, peaceful source of winter exercise and recreation -- the photo below is from Christmas Eve last year, when it was 39 degrees and raining at my house on Douglas, yet delightfully wintry at Montana Creek!

Unfortunately, this doesn't seem to be a place where motorized and non-motorized use could coexist while still maintaining the viability of this area for skiers. The nordic ski club volunteers do a wonderful job keeping the road groomed during the winter, and I understand they have also contributed significantly to year-round maintenance of the road. Please preserve access to this area for skiers and other non-motorized users!

Lauren Sanzone  
Douglas



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Geri McLeod <gerimcleod@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 1:57 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Dear Juneau board members,

Thank you for reading this email. I am writing to request that your decision for winter access to Montana Creek Road be to close it to motorized traffic starting at the rifle range from November 1 through May 1. This closure will allow for safe recreational use of the closed road for cross country skiers as well as walkers. This road section has been maintained by the Juneau Nordic Club for winter use by skiers and walkers. My family members are on the set ski track almost daily as long as the weather delivers enough snow.

I know there is a request by snowmobilers for access to the same area during the same time frame. I do believe both sport activities can be enjoyed each winter but not on the same terrain at the same time.

Please consider dedicating Montana Creek road by setting it aside for skiing and walking during the above requested time.

Thank you for your time.

Geri Mc Leo's

Juneau resident



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Tom Waldo <tswaldo@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 1:57 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** JNSC Board  
**Subject:** Please keep Montana Creek non-motorized

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Parks and Recreation Committee,

Please retain the current non-motorized character of the Montana Creek road after the rifle range during the ski season, November 1 to May 1, by closing the road to motorized traffic and keeping the "kissing gate" in place.

The Montana Creek ski trail is a priceless community resource, immensely popular with cross-country skiers of all ages throughout the winter. It is an unusual spot that retains adequate snow for skiing longer than any other groomed ski trail in town, even in low-snow winters. The Juneau Nordic Ski Club has put an immense amount of work into maintaining and improving this community treasure.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to maintain both motorized and non-motorized uses on this trail. It is too narrow. Snow machines would destroy the ski trails and be a hazard to skiers. I know this from other supposedly dual-use trails like Dan Moller, which I have learned to avoid in the winter because of the damage to the trail and constant danger of snow machines. The noise also ruins the experience.

Thank you for your efforts to protect Juneau's outdoor recreation opportunities.

Tom Waldo  
Juneau

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Katharine Heumann <mkheumann@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 1:51 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli; Parks Rec  
**Subject:** Montana creek road beyond the gate

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Please keep it open all winter for us x-country skiers! It is a unique micro-climate for snow and a health benefit during dark winter days! No motorized vehicles!

Thank you.

Katharine Heumann

Juneau resident and skier

Sent from my iPhone

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Sam Steensland <sam\_steensland@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 1:42 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Parks and Rec Advisory Committee,

I'm writing to encourage you to please keep the Montana Creek gate by the rifle range closed to motorized users from Nov. 1 - May 1 and the pedestrian bridge permanently installed. Doing so will preserve the best cross country skiing that Juneau has to offer. Montana Creek stays colder than most areas and is often times the only ski trail with snow. Unfortunately cross country skiing is not compatible with snowmobiles/ATVs because the machines tear up the snow and leave it too rutted to ski on. Motorized users already have access to vast areas on Spaulding Meadows and Douglas Island. Please leave this small but important trail non motorized. Thanks for all that you do for our community!

Sam Steensland

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Eric Olsen <eovbak@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 1:36 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana creek road

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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I wish to state my interest in keeping the Montana Creek road beyond the rifle range closed to motorized use thru the snow season. It serves as the best place to nordic ski for outdoor winter exercise when the weather and snowfall aren't good enough elsewhere in the borough, which definitely happens some year. Skiing or even walking there is so peaceful and beautiful. Even my wife ventures there in winter to ski, and nowhere else. I think I have never skied there without seeing at least one other skier or walker--that is, usage is regular. The grooming is costfree to the borough. I have personally put in some hours in the fall and winter too brushing the roadsides. Please keep the road closed in snow season to motorized use.

Also, I have given up riding my road bike on the road beyond the gate to the creek crossing because other users have made that last section too risky with broken glass and other bonfire debris.

Thank you

Eric Olsen MD resident and user since 1979.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** D D <dgduntley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 1:28 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** In Support of Montana Creek Non-Motorized Winter/Spring Use

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Please do not allow motorized use of Montanna Creek road beyond the rifle range from November 1 to May 1. This last winter/spring I skate skied the groomed trail sixteen times. The last day being April 27. I often saw walkers also taking advantage of the packed snow/even footing created by the Nordic Ski club grooming. It would be a shame if this area were lost to the many skiers and walkers who enjoy it, to the handful of ATVs/snowmobile users.

David Duntley

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Chelsea Finch <chelsea.lechner@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 1:00 PM  
**To:** parksrec@juneau.org; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of closing the gate beyond the rifle range at Montana Creek and closing the road/trail to motorized use from 11/1 to 5/1.

The area is a gem for cross country skiing, as the microclimate allows the trail to hold snow far better than any other easily accessible trail. The Juneau Nordic Ski Club already puts in countless hours to maintain a ski track there and motorized use destroys their hard work. While I understand the importance of accommodating multiple user groups, Montana Creek is not ideal for this- the narrow trail and many curves make sharing motorized and non-motorized use a danger. Spaulding Meadows and Dan Moller trails, areas that open up into wide open spaces that allow for safety, are already open for motorized use during the winter months.

Thank you for considering,

Chelsea Finch

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Bailey Jennifer Woolfstead <bailey.woolfstead@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 12:46 PM  
**To:** parsk.rec@juneau.org; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Winter Use

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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To Whom it May Concern,

I'm writing in support of closing Montana Creek road beyond the gate at the rifle range to motorized users during the winter season and would like to see the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

Juneau and the area around it has vast areas for snowmachiners and ATV-ers to utilize during the summer and winter months. Conversely, there are few areas in Juneau that are primarily used by cross country skiers, namely, Eagle Beach Campground, Montana Creek Road, the glacier campground, and more recently Pioneer Road. We used to have Mendenhall lake, but it didn't freeze hard enough to be safe this past year.

Skiers and the Juneau Nordic Ski club do a lot of work to keep the trails groomed and motorized use destroys that work. The trail is one used by humans and their pets alike all winter for safe outdoor activity. Please do not destroy one of the few places us skiers have. Motorized users have endless space round Juneau, they don't need Montana Creek too.

Thank you,

Bailey Jennifer Woolfstead  
Juneau Resident

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** John Connolly <john.jclbak@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 12:41 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Road

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Good afternoon. I want to comment on the suggestion of closing the road from the Rifle Range to motorized vehicles from November to May-YES. The Nordic ski club has provided hours of grooming and trail work which has been great. Thanks.

--

John T Connolly, Jr

Juneau, AK 99802



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Julie Scheurer <jascheurer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 12:21 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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I am writing to express my support for closing Montana Creek Road to motorized users from November 1 through May 1 each year and installation of a pedestrian gate. The Juneau Nordic Ski Club has dedicated countless hours of trail grooming for the non-motorized recreational enjoyment of Juneauites, and I am grateful to them for that. Montana Creek is unique in that it maintains snow coverage longer than other trails in the area and is often the only trail skiable when others are not. The Montana Creek ski trail also reduces user conflicts by providing more room for skiers, snowshoers, hikers, and dog walkers to spread out around town. Another benefit of installing a gate is that it will cut down on the amount of litter and vandalism that used to occur at the old trailhead next to the creek. Thanks for your consideration in making this a permanently non-motorized winter trail.

Julie Scheurer  
Juneau resident

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Andrzej Piotrowski <piopowpow@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 12:20 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Comment on Motorized Use

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Juneau Parks and Rec.,

I am an avid cross-country skier and appreciate all the access to groomed trails that I have near my residence off of back loop road, thanks to the Juneau Nordic Ski Club. I would like to continue to see the road beyond the gate at the rifle range closed to motorized users (except for ski-grooming equipment) from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

Thank you for your consideration of this request!

Sincerely,  
Andrzej Piotrowski

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Franz Mueter <fmueter@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 12:20 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek cross-country ski area

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Advisory Committee members,

I am writing to express my dismay at the idea of opening Montana Creek Rd to winter motorized use. I moved from Fairbanks to Juneau in 2008 and having Montana Creek available as the only reliable x-country ski trail for much of winter was a big draw for us to live in the valley, as it is for many other users. The area has consistently been used for x-country skiing every winter and is maintained by an all-volunteer force, who dedicate many hours to grooming the trails every winter.

Unfortunately, I have seen occasional use of the trails by 4-wheelers, who left deep ruts and created clear hazards for skiers. The use as a very popular cross-country ski area and walking / dog-walking area is simply incompatible with motorized winter uses.

Please leave the road closed to motorized uses from Nov 1 to May 1 and keep the pedestrian gate permanently installed. Hundreds of long-time users will thank you!

Sincerely,  
Franz Mueter

--

Juneau, Alaska, 99801

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Bradley Monton <bradleymonton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 12:20 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** xc ski user with Montana Creek request

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Parks and Rec folks,

I love cross-country skiing at Montana Creek -- that's the best cross-country skiing area in Juneau. Cross-country skiing there wouldn't be viable if the road were open to motorized traffic in the wintertime. Could you please ensure that the road beyond the gate at the rifle range is closed to motorized users from November 1 to May 1, and the pedestrian kissing gate is installed?

Thank you!  
Bradley Monton

Juneau AK 99801

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Carly Lehnhart <calehnhart@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2020 12:16 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli; Parks Rec; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Pedestrian gate at Montana Creek

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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To whom it may concern,

I am emailing to voice my concern about allowing motorized vehicles on the Montana Creek trail. This trail is a wonderful space for our community to get outside and exercise in the winter. The Nordic ski community includes people of all ages including young kids. We need to keep these spaces open to encourage our young kids to get into healthy exercise activities. I want the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users [from Nov 1 to May 1](#) and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed. Thank you for all you do for our community!

Sincerely,  
Carly Lehnhart

Sent from my iPhone

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Parks Rec  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 6, 2020 1:28 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** FW: Montana Creek Nortic Ski Trail

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**From:** brad campbell <outlook\_F378702EB6B21D02@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 6, 2020 12:44 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec <Parks.Rec@juneau.org>  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Nortic Ski Trail

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Parks and Rec.

I am an avid nortic skier who appreciates the colder weather pattern Montana Creek has to offer. Please keep the **road to closed to motorized users and the pedestrian "kissing gate" in place from Nov 1 to May 1.**

Thank You,  
Brad Campbell

Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Julius Adolfsson <julius.adolfsson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 10:54 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Help keep Montana Creek non-motorized in winter

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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To the PRAC,

I am writing in support of keeping the kissing gate at Montana Creek closed in winter, as a way to restrict motorized users on a narrow trail that is used by hundreds of cross-country skiers and walkers. The JNSC has a membership of over 600 people, growing by the hundred each year, and Montana Creek is one of the most popular and consistent places to recreate on snow. The JNSC spends thousands of dollars and hundreds of volunteer hours to make safe, healthy outdoor recreation accessible to the community of Juneau - free of charge. It is a well-organized club that holds events, builds community and helps make winters in Juneau livable. This was especially evident this spring during the upswing of the coronavirus - the trails continued to be groomed, and skiing provided some rare moments of sanity for many struggling with the immense changes the pandemic has brought. This contribution to our town is invaluable, and the peaceful, corduroy track that winds up Montana Creek is truly the heart and soul of their efforts.

A very small number of motorized users (ATV, motorbikes, etc.) takes advantage of the grooming done by the JNSC to ride up Montana Creek Road in the winters. This is only possible because of the grooming done by the club; otherwise, it would be waist-deep slush and impassable by anything besides a snow machine (who have their own dedicated trails and generally do not use Montana Creek). Not only does this pose a danger if they are on the trails at the same time as other users (including many children), but they leave deep, hazardous ruts and ruin the surface of the trail that committed volunteers painstakingly spend hours grooming.

It is evident to me in tuning in to the recent PRAC meeting, and seeing the number of letters written to the committee, that the masses have spoken. While ATVs should certainly have their own places to recreate, **Montana Creek is not it**, and it is not the Nordic skiing community's responsibility to first find an alternative for them in order to ensure our own (and that of walkers and snowshoers) safety on this trail. While you may feel uncomfortable enforcing the non-motorized use of the trail in winter (which I still strongly urge you to do), you can at least make sure that the gate stays locked and send a strong message that our city values the efforts of the JNSC and respects the safety of Juneau's trail users.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope to see you all on the trails this winter!

Sincerely,

Julius Adolfsson

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Selina Finley <selinarosemary@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 10:48 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Rifle Range Gate

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hello Lauren,

My name is Selina and I live on Douglas and use the Montana Creek trail system often in both the Winter and Summer months.

I would like the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

I appreciate your time and consideration!

Have a great week,

Selina Finley



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** mary lou <kingfarm@ptialaska.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 10:39 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Old Road

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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I just heard that ATV riders are organizing and want to claim Montana Creek Road.

I have enjoyed everything from cross country skiing to taking easy short walks to enjoy the natural beauty of this area. We do not have many trails that are that easy to use and many people do use it.

I feel that motorized use is incompatible for all the people who enjoy and take care of this old road during the summer and the winter.

Please do not approve ATV use for the Montana Creek old road.

Mary Lou King

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 9:26 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
deb Tempel
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:tempel99801@gci.net">tempel99801@gci.net</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Douglas
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
We ski this trail at least once a week to stay active and healthy, I hope that all users are considered when making any changes to the current use of this. thanks for all you do!

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Britt Watters <watters@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 9:22 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek ski trail

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### EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Hello,

I am writing regarding the issue about restricted access to the Montana Creek trail during the winter. The Juneau Nordic Ski Club (JNSC) currently spends time and money to maintain a skiable route for classic and skate skiers. This has been an incredible asset to individuals and outdoor groups promoting skiing. Montana Creek gets and retains more snow during the winter than the campground and Mendenhall Lake, so if those trails are un-skiable or unsafe, people and youth activity clubs can still utilize the Montana Creek Trail. There are some ATV riders who believe the road/trail should be ride-able year-round, creating a conflict in use. If the ATV riders go on the trail, they destroy the grooming set up and maintained by JNSC. Riders (seems to be a few) claim it is their right to be able to access the trails they want, using the Montana Creek trail. I can understand that, but I have also seen the frustration (and experienced it personally) by skiers who have a trail destroyed for skiing, have had to deal with the noise of ATVs in the backcountry, and have had to dodge an on-coming ATV on a ski trail. The two uses are not compatible as is. Yes, some ATV users are considerate and careful, but there is still nowhere for them to ride on that trail that they use to access areas further up except over the groomed trail, because that is the only space on that narrow trail along the creek. I have not seen a numerical accounting of the number of ATV users that MUST use the Montana Creek trail during the winter, so it's hard to evaluate a justification. When I ski the trail I usually see many skiers utilizing it: 4-H skier, youth ski club, average citizens of all ages and stripes. I ski it fairly frequently, so my unofficial tally leads me to believe the more popular use is skiers. Cross-country skiing is an amazing way for people to exercise and stay fit during our long winters. The fact that all ages are engaged is something the city should be promoting as part of community wellness, especially during our long, dark winters. The lake doesn't always freeze (2019 is a good example, and may foretell the future), the campground gets crowded and conditions are variable. Montana Creek is ski-able early and late in the season. Other ski areas are a long drive (Eagle Beach) or not easy for beginners and less able skiers (Eaglecrest). I've heard ATV riders claim Montana Creek is the only place they can ride, which is suspicious. Are they not able to trailer their ride to one of the established ATV/Snow machine trails? Are they riding their ATVs from their home to the trail (that would be illegal, since they would be riding on a road - ?). I'm confused what their argument is. I hope the city does not base a decision on closure to a particular user group on who is more vocal, but rather who is benefitting most from a city owned property.

Thank you.  
Britt Watters  
Douglas, AK

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Elizabeth Flory <lizflory@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 7:38 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli; Parks Rec; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Road use

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Hello,

I am writing to express my concern on the use of Montana Creek Road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range. This is an important cross-country ski area for many people including myself for winter exercise, but it becomes too dangerous for skiers if motorized vehicles traverse the road at the same time. There is no shared space with offroad vehicles due to their size and speed on the narrow road there and it is difficult for other users on foot or skis to hasten out of the way quick enough to avoid them. Skiing here in winter is an important recreational activity that helps keep us living in Juneau through the dark winter months. Please don't take that away by allowing offroad vehicles to chase us out.

Please keep the road beyond the gate closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and keep the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed. I am also concerned that ATVs are heading up into wetlands areas from this road and damaging them by tearing up vegetation and compressing soils. These areas need protecting from off-road vehicle traffic.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Flory

Juneau AK 99801

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Martha Moore <martha.anne.moore@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 7:31 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Ski Trail

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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I am writing in support of the city closing the Montana Creek Trail beyond the gate at the rifle range to off-road motor vehicles from November 1 to May 1. This trail is the most popular wilderness ski trail for skiers and is used for the longest period of time due to it's location near the glacier and protected from sun melt. Please leave this trail for non-motorized recreation. Thank you.

Martha Moore

Juneau, AK 99801

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Dan Fremgen <danfremgen@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 6:33 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** JNSC Board  
**Subject:** Montana Creek non-motorized winter use

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### EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Parks & Rec Advisory Committee,

I'm writing to implore you to retain the former Montana Creek road as a one-of-a-kind winter recreation trail for skiers, walkers, snowshoers and other non-motorized outdoor activists.

Juneau-ites have long sought recreational activities, especially in the winter, that can be affordably enjoyed by a large number of citizens. Numerous studies and surveys in the past few decades, including your own, have shown residents consistently desire and highly value the maintenance of existing trails and development of new ones that allow them access to outdoor recreation opportunities. Outdoor winter exercise improves physical and mental health and makes a community a more desirable place to live; indeed, it is often cited as a reason people move to and stay in Juneau.

Montana Creek is one such unique wintertime recreational place that has been established and maintained almost entirely through volunteer community efforts. Many hundreds of members of the Juneau Nordic Ski Club (JNSC) finance the grooming, brushing and bridge construction of MT Cr trail and many hundreds, likely even *thousands*, more use the trail during the winter. What has been set up and put in place by a grass-roots, community-based group is an extremely valuable commodity that is sustained by those members - a great skiing venue available to all Juneau citizens at no cost.

Here is one of those rare situations where a need for healthy winter recreational activity was identified as important by a large portion of the population, a dedicated group coalesced to raise the substantial funds and equipment needed to make it happen, and the effort has been fine-tuned and resulted in attracting more enthusiastic volunteers and users each year.

CBJ PRAC have asked people in the past what recreation activities they would like to see offered in Juneau, they have tried to develop and promote and finance new and existing sports and recreation opportunities, and they have recognized the importance of health and well-being to citizens; certainly the existence of a Parks & Rec department and its mission statement confirm that. The Montana Creek X-C ski trail is an established, well-functioning community entity that exactly fits what PRAC promotes. And because it already functions in a smooth and self-sustaining fashion as it has for the past decade, it requires, unlike other high-cost winter sport venues in Juneau, virtually no effort or funding from CBJ to keep it going. That is a true win-win for the city and its residents!

What we do need and are asking from CBJ is that you preserve this well-established trail system for non-motorized users who have very few places in Juneau to cross-country ski, snowshoe and walk during winter months.

Motorized and non-motorized use are not compatible in such a small area. ATVs destroy groomed ski trails and endanger skiers. Conflicts will occur. Collisions are a near certainty on a narrow trail and could easily result in serious injury. For reasons of safety, harmony and liability, mixed use is not an option that should be considered.

Motorized users have thousands of acres available for their use around Juneau including an existing trail that already provides access to Spaulding Meadows.

Montana Creek trail represents half of the just 6 km of groomed trail available to cross-country skiers in the Mendenhall valley area. Please promote and support healthy, inexpensive wintertime recreation in Juneau and retain this unique wintertime trail by continuing to designate Montana Creek trail as non-motorized during the winter season, Nov 1- May 1.

Thank-you,  
Dan Fremgen  
life-long nordic skier and 30 year resident of Juneau

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Andrea Hirsh <ar053hirsh@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 6:18 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** PRAC comment - Montana Creek

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hello! (Hi Lauren!)

A comment for the PRAC committee about motorized vehicle use at Montana Creek. I strongly support Montana Creek, after the gate at the rifle range, to be closed to motorized users from November 1st to May 1st, and would love to have a pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

The use of one motorized vehicle can completely destroy the ability to cross country ski, and there are very few places in town where cross country skiing is available. I cross country ski approximately 4-5 days a week in the winter, when the snow allows, and it is the primary way I stay healthy (and sane) . Montana Creek is very heavily used by people of all ages every time I am there (it's a rare treat when I get the tracks all to myself!) I don't see a way for cross country skiing and motorized use/ORV use to coexist safely in the same space, and I think you should prioritize the activity that benefits the most people. I believe that is cross country skiing.

Thank you!  
Andi Hirsh  
Juneau, AK



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** lgregovich@alaska.net  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 6:14 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Cr. Road Motorized Vehicle Proposal

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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August 23, 2020

I am writing, for a second time, in regards to the CBJ Parks & Recreation proposal pertaining to the use of the CBJ owned section of Montana Cr. Road beyond the rifle range. My previous comments were sent on July 28, 2020, so I won't rehash them. CBJ P&R says it is considering two options:

1. Closing this portion of Montana Creek Road to motorized vehicles during the winter
2. Closing this portion of Montana Creek Road to motorized vehicles year-round.

I am in favor of Option 1 and continuing to allow the local nordic ski club (JNSC) controlled access for trail grooming during the winter ski season. The JNSC has shown themselves to be responsible stewards of the roadway and respectful users of Montana Creek Natural Area Park area.

Thank you for consideration of my additional comments

Lars Gregovich

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Abby Zito <abbyleezito@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 5:36 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Use

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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I would like to express my support of closing the road from the rifle range and beyond to motorized vehicles from November 1st through May 1st annually.

I urge you to consider that opening it to snow machines will only provide a couple minutes worth of driving up and then a couple more driving back for them, where as the same distance for a person on skis can be utilized for at least an hour. The benefit to person powered recreation rather than motorized just makes sense given how little distance this would actually create for motorized recreation.

Abby Zito

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Deborah Rudis <ddrudis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 5:18 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Fwd: Montana Creek - regarding motorized use

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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**Subject: Montana Creek - regarding motorized use**

Hello,

I am a frequent user of the ski trail along Montana Creek and a hiker and skier of the Spaulding Meadows. These are areas that are not compatible with ATV use at any time of year. Motorized vehicles damage the sensitive muskeg area, leaving deep ruts, damaging plants, and creating areas where muskeg plants cannot regenerate. One has only to look at other uncontrolled ATV use areas such as Davies Creek to see the permanent damage these vehicles cause.

These areas cannot tolerate use by ATVs as the lasting damage will be irreparable. Their presence will render these areas unsuitable for skiers and hikers as the ATV-created ruts will create erosion paths and deep muck holes.

Hundreds of Juneau residents use Montana Creek as a ski route, walking path, and dog walking area. ATVs along this narrow route will negate use by this larger user group.

Do not allow motorized access on the Montana Creek Rd and Spaulding Meadows.

Thank you,

Deborah Rudis  
Juneau, Alaska

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Deborah Craig <deborahlc11@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 4:03 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Support Montana Creek Trail Winter Closure to Motorized Traffic

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Parks and Rec Board,

Please close the Montana Creek trail beyond the gate at the Rifle Range during winter months to motorized vehicles. Juneau is renowned for its pristine wilderness and quality of life – the Montana Creek trail is treasured for cross country winter skiing. It is well known that motorized vehicles are damaging to the environment on many levels. Not only does it destroy fragile trails, but it creates noise and air pollution. Multiple use criteria are based on the concept that multiple users can occupy a space without detriment to any of the users. This is not the case with motorized vehicles, as it creates a safety hazard for foot or ski traffic and is destructive to the environment being utilized. Thank you for continuing to protect these precious places in Juneau.

Sincerely, Deborah Craig

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** April Rezendes <barefeet4@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 3:22 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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To Whom it May Concern,

As a regular user of Montana Creek for cross country skiing in the winter, I strongly encourage you to make this a non-motorized trail during the winter months and to install a pedestrian gate to ensure this happens. While there are other ski trails in town, Montana Creek is unique in the beauty and peacefulness of the area in the winter and in the length of time that there is skiable snow. So often when I am out there I see parents pulling young children, families, people with their dogs, talented skiers getting in a good workout, the junior ski team racing and people just learning to ski. Please act to preserve this valuable ski trail by making it non-motorized during the winter.

Thank you,  
April Rezendes

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Mary Claire Harris <mcharris@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 2:44 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Road

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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I am in favor of the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range be closed to motorized users from Nov. 1 to May 1 and permanently installing a pedestrian kissing gate.

Mary Claire Harris

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Liz White <lizwhite@ak.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 2:15 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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To whom it may concern, As a founding member of the Juneau Nordic Ski Team, wife of a volunteer groomer and an avid skier myself I know that Montana Creek is an important area to the Nordic skiers in Juneau. It is the one area that holds the snow beyond what the other winter ski trails do, allowing for a season that can start the youth practicing before winter break and keep them until May in some years. There is no way on this somewhat narrow and windy road that there could be multiple use with ORV's. Someone would surely get hurt and it would ruin the ski grooming that the volunteer groomers spend hours on. I want the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Liz White

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** David Tallmon <dtallmon42@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 2:09 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** No motorized use of Montana Cr Nov 1 - May 1

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Juneau Parks & Rec-

I write to express my enthusiastic support for non-motorized use of the Montana Creek trail beyond the rifle range from Nov 1 - May 1. I ski this trail often in the winter and would not use if motorized users get access from Nov 1- May 1. Instead, please install the pedestrian kissing gate. There are years when Montana Creek is the only practical place for me to cross-country and skate ski. Motorized use of this area during the winter would destroy the trail and end my use of the area during winter. Please prohibit motorized use during Nov 1- May 1!

Thank you,  
David Tallmon



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Amy Lortie <amy@amylortie.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 1:55 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek access

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hello,

I am in support of the JNSC request to close access to the Montana Creek area beyond the gate at the rifle range to recreational use of motorized vehicles during the ski season (Nov. 1-May. 1), and that the pedestrian gate be permanently installed.

Thanks for your consideration,  
Amy Lortie

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Barbara Thurston <barbara@thurstons.us>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 1:59 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Concern about snowmachines on Montana Creek Road

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposal before the Parks and Rec committee to allow motorized vehicles on the Montana Creek road past the rifle range in the winter.

The approximately 2-mile stretch of road/trail after the rifle range is heavily used by cross country skiers in the winter. It is groomed regularly by the Nordic Ski club members, who donate many hours a year to the maintenance of this trail. The trail is also fairly narrow once you cross the first bridge - wide enough for two skiers to pass one another, but not to ski side-by-side.

Allowing snowmobiles or other motorized vehicles on this section of the trail would make it impossible for it to be used by the skiers. Even when they are used with care and consideration (and they aren't always), snowmachines tear up the carefully groomed trail and make it difficult for skiers. Snowmachines also travel much faster than skiers; sharing the trail creates a real risk of a skier being injured or worse.

There are other trails in the area that are available to snowmachines, most significantly the Lake Creek trail, which opens up a large amount of terrain for snowmachine use.

On nice day, there may be 100 or more skiers who use that trail, and even on a dreary day, I commonly run into at least a couple of other skiers. Please don't ruin one of the few trails that are suitable for skiing just to provide expanded access to the area for the much smaller number of people who would enjoy using it for snowmobiling.

Thanks.  
Barbara Thurston

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 1:21 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Megan Behnke
Email
<a href="mailto:megan.i.behnke@gmail.com">megan.i.behnke@gmail.com</a>
Residence Location
Downtown
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Please keep the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1, and please install the pedestrian kissing gate permanently. Thank you, Megan

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Stephani Joy Griffin <sjoygriffin@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 1:20 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek access

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Please keep the road beyond the rifle range closed to motorized users from Nov.1 to May 1. Please keep the pedestrian gate permanently installed. Thanks,

Stephani Griffin , JNSC

Sent from my iPad

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Laurie Craig <lauriecraig@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 1:03 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli; Parks Rec  
**Subject:** Montana creek ski zone

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Good morning, diligent CBJ staff,

Please keep Montana Creek in winter as a quiet zone without machinery. Except the trail grooming, track setting snow machine.

Laurie Craig

Sent from my iPhone

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Abigail Query <query.abigail@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 12:42 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Motorized Use

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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To whom it may concern,

I am a member of the Juneau nordic ski community and am writing about motorized vehicle use at Montana Creek. I would like the the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed. Montana Creek is a beautiful and peaceful place to ski and it would be dangerous and disruptive to allow motorized vehicles along the ski trail.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Abby Query

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Hannah Schlosstein <hannahschlosstein@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 12:16 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Ski Trails

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hello,

I am a Juneauite who is an avid user of Montana Creek in both the summer and winter months. I am writing to ask you to please close the road behind the gate at the rifle range to motorized users from November to May 1.

Allowing motorized users would severely diminish safe access to the trail by other user groups: skiers, hikers, dog walkers, or backcountry ski enthusiasts. The accessibility of the trail currently allows for greater physical activity opportunities to those who can't hike straight up a mountain (like many other areas of Juneau). Families with small kids find this a safe area to teach their kids to XC ski, and older generations use the trail to socialize with friends who aren't as spry as they used to be.

ATV and snow machines tend to require trailers or larger vehicles for transport. The parking at the Montana Creek trailhead is already limited with folks only bringing their cars. Unloading and loading machines in that parking area would be a logistical nightmare given the space constrictions.

Please consider limiting motorized use to this area from November to May 1. Thank you.

Hannah  
Douglas, AK

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Anna Percival <akiwibeck79@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 12:15 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Road beyond gate at Rifle Range - no motorized users!

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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To whom it may concern,

I would like the road beyond the gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from November 1st through May 1st and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

Thank you,

Anna Beck

Sent from my iPhone



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 11:58 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
jetta whittaker
Email
<a href="mailto:whedle@alaska.net">whedle@alaska.net</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Downtown
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Please ensure that the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range is closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and that the pedestrian kissing gate is permanently installed. This ski trail is a refuge (once you get past noise coming from the rifle range), as it is so peaceful and beautiful back in the valley, and the skiing is good well past after other locations are done for the year. Allowing ORVs to share use of the road will destroy this sanctuary. Thank you for your consideration.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Jeanine Smith <thanesmithak@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 11:57 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Keep Montana Creek Road for XC skiing during winter months

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### EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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To the CBJ Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee:

I strongly urge you to consider keeping Montana Creek Road past the gun range closed to motorized traffic during the winter months.

It has been an amazing resource for hundreds of Juneau cross country skiers, who have been lucky enough to recreate there with the support of the Juneau Nordic Ski Club. Everyone from preschoolers to senior citizens have the ability to easily use this for cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking during the winter months. It's important, I believe, to emphasize the broad cross-section of Juneauites who make use of this resource.

I understand that Juneau ORV users are also interested in the area, but I believe it makes more sense for them to access the area in the summer months. There are other winter ORV backcountry access points in the CBJ, and if Montana Creek is open to ORV use during the winter, it effectively negates cross-country ski use.

Yes, one could argue that Mendenhall Campground and the lake are available for skiers, as is Eaglecrest, but on any given decent winter day, the parking areas there are overflowing with active users. A good problem to have, but one that shows more XC ski trail access is needed and would be supported.

Please consider the hundreds of Juneau residents using this area during the winter for non-motorized use.

Thanks very much.  
Jeanine Smith

Juneau

**From:** Terry Tavel <seaksailor@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 11:35 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Trail Winter Use

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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To CBJ Parks and Recreation,

I would like to see a permanent gate installed at the entrance to Montana Creek road adjacent to the V Rifle Range. The road that continues from there should be for human-powered use only, and permanently closed to motorized use year-round.

This section of Montana Creek road should be designated a trail and used only as such. Currently, it supports skiing and snowshoeing from November to May, fishing and bicycling in the summer, as well as hiking, dog-walking, and running year round.

The use of this trail by motorized vehicles endangers non-motorized users. The speed differential between people and machines, on a narrow one-lane road with blind curves, is a threat to the safety of human-powered users.

Motorized use also degrades lands along this corridor. The muskeg meadow just inside the gate was destroyed this spring by off-road vehicle users. What was once a walkable meadow full of wildflowers is now a giant muck hole of standing water and mud.

The ski trail, groomed by volunteers and used daily for 156 consecutive days this winter, was ruined by motorized users on three separate occasions this winter when the existing gate was opened without authority.

The Juneau Nordic Ski Club, a member-supported non-profit, grooms the trail for skiing from first snowfall to final snow melt. The club also provides grooming on Mendenhall Lake and Campground as well as several other sites in cooperation with the City and Borough of Juneau and the US Forest Service. This free service, provided by volunteers, is valued at over \$200,000 in recreational benefit to the people of Juneau.

User groups include the middle school and high school Ski Team, the 4-H Ski program, and a wide cross-section of the community in age, ability, and other demographic groupings. Daily use is often over 100 people, from early morning until after dark.

This area stays cold all winter, with unusually heavy snowfall. It is the most reliably ski-able area in Juneau even in low snowfall years.

I am asking for this recreation corridor to be designated a human-powered non-motorized use area year-round, to protect users and the usability of the area. The installation of a permanent gate, locked year -round, would immediately and cheaply solve this problem.

Respectfully yours,  
Theresa Tavel

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**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Tom Bornstein <tbbornstein22@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 11:32 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Cross country ski trail

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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I am writing in opposition to opening the Montana Creek trail to motorized users. Opening this trail to snowmobiles in the winter will effectively end the use of this area by other user groups (cross country skiers, skate skiers, snowshoers, hikers, dog walkers...). Please leave the gate closed.

I frequently ski in Spaulding Meadows in the winter. My observation is that many snowmachiners do not respect the non-motorized boundary in Spaulding Meadows. Even with the non-motorized boundary very well marked, every single time snow machines can access Spaulding Meadows I see snow machines or find their tracks in the area that is closed to snow machines. Often their tracks circle a tree with a boundary marker and keep going into the non motorized area. This behavior does not make me optimistic for the shared motorized/non-motorized use of the Montana Creek trail.

Thank you for considering the healthier recreation options (both physically and environmentally) for use of this area.

Tom Bornstein (Juneau resident)

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Carol Coyle <treadwellhouse@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 11:18 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Cc:** Barb Conant; Clare Brooks  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Use

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**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hello there - I meant to address this in my trail survey, but failed to do so. I use the Montana Creek Trail 2-3 times per week to cross country ski during the winters. I see many folks and families out there skiing, walking dogs and snowshoeing as well. I am writing in to ask that the gate at the rifle range be closed to motorized users from Nov 1 through May 1 and that a pedestrian gate be permanently installed that can be opened during the summer months to allow 4 wheelers, etc to use the road. The motorized traffic that is appearing on our trails is becoming dangerous. I've seen dirt bikes (as in motorcycles) on the Treadwell Trails adjacent to Sandy Beach, ebikes on the Treadwell Ditch and Gastineau Meadows Trails, and 4 wheelers opened the gate at Montana Creek 2years ago and chewed up the snow after it was groomed, it froze and made for extremely dangerous skiing. At that time I contacted Parks and Rec. This summer I was almost run over by an ebike on the Treadwell Ditch. Thank you for your consideration and service to our community.

Carol Coyle, Douglas

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What if the mightiest word is love? - Elizabeth Alexander

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** John Staub <jdsvelo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 11:12 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Non-motorized Ski Track

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Dear Sirs:

The Montana Creek Road and trail are an important and vital part of Cross Country skiing and winter activities in Juneau. The narrow 2 mile road and trail section has been closed to winter motorized use, but should be specifically designated as "non-motorized" from November 1 to May 1, and the pedestrian gate permanently installed.

As a volunteer groomer at the USFS campground, I know how much work goes into grooming a track, and I also know how much people appreciate our efforts by their smiles and consistent Thank You waves. A groomed track is not compatible with motorized vehicles.

Quite often, Montana Creek track will offer some of the last X-C skiing of the season due to its close-in, and forested location.

It should be off limits to motorized vehicles at all times.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

John Staub

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Nick Yankee <nyankee@epsinc.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 11:03 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek access JNSC

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hello,

I am writing in support of JNSC and its ability to keep grooming the Montana Creek Trail for nordic skiing. The road should remain closed to motorized users from November 1 to May 1, with the gate installed at the access point, in order to allow for this service used by all Juneau residents. JNSC puts a lot of time, money and effort into this service available for use by all Juneau residents. We are lucky to have this, and should protect it.

Thank you,

Nick Yankee

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 10:46 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Kaitlyn Bausler
Email
<a href="mailto:kaitlyn.bausler@gmail.com">kaitlyn.bausler@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>I'm writing in favor of closing the Montana creek road to motorized use from November-April. According to the P&amp;R memo the current gate has helped decrease illegal activity and vandalism to the area. I support the Juneau Nordic Club's request to maintain groomed trails on Montana Creek during the winter months and the pedestrian kissing gate to be permanently installed.</p> <p>I think it would be helpful if parks and rec engage with motorized recreation user groups to discuss and strategize other areas they can use around Juneau.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Scott Fischer <scottbetsy@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 10:46 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** Parks Rec; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Trail Access

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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This is a second letter I have written in support of the closure of Montana Creek road and trail to all motorized vehicles at the rifle range gate from Nov.1 to May 1 except to allow for the grooming and subsequent use of the trails for Nordic skiing and other human powered activities.

After attending the Zoom meeting of the Parks and Rec Trails Committee concerning the use of the Montana Creek Trails, it is obvious that there is little to no organized opposition to motorized vehicle restrictions.

During that meeting it was mentioned that the snowmobile and atv users might require more access to the backcountry. I would like to (probably not for the first time) mention that the Lake Creek Trail already provides access to more of the backcountry terrain that can be used by motorized vehicles than the Montana Creek Trail does.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Yours,  
Scott Fischer

Sent from my iPad

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Eve S <bering.sea.kayaker@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 10:05 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Skiing and ORV Proposal

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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To Parks and Rec.,

I found out, today, that there may be a proposal to open the Montana Creek area to off-road vehicles during the winter months. I urge the PRAC to maintain the current, non-motorized policy during the winter and continue to CLOSE the road beyond the rifle range between November 1 through May 1 and permanently install a pedestrian gate for access.

There are numerous opportunities for the ORV and snowmachine crowd to get out and access the wilderness, yet far fewer areas groomed for skate skiing. Allowing snowmachines and similar vehicles on the Montana Creek Road would absolutely and effectively close off access to those of us who use the trail for skiing (and those who use it for walking, snowshoeing, winter bird/wildlife watching, dog walking, etc.) While I realize that the PRAC would still allow skiing, even if the road is open for vehicle use, it would also create an incredibly dangerous situation where it is highly likely, even probable, that within the first year, there will be a snowmachine-skier (or other) collision.

I am an avid user of Juneau's area ski trails, with the exception of Eagle Crest. The reason being is that I often skijor with my dog. I have noticed that this particular sport is increasing in popularity in the Juneau area. Montana creek provides us with a safe place to train our dogs and ourselves in this sport. We have tried other spots for this, namely above the Treadwell Ditch trail, but the area is not groomed, so classic/backcountry skis were our only option and the snowmachine activity made it more dangerous, so we no longer use that area.

I understand that the ORV group has put it out there that their use does not exclude others from using the trails, but that is not the case. Due to their speed and their noise, it will effectively close off access for non-motorized use. I urge the PRAC to maintain Montana Creek's winter policy for non-motorized use only. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

T. Yvette (Eve) Soutiere

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Live as if you were living a second time, and as though you had acted wrongly the first time.

Viktor Frankl

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** luke percival <lukepercival68@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 10:02 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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I support the JNSC in its bid to make Montana Creek unavailable to motorized vehicles from November 1 to May 1. I would like to reserve it to only sports and a place for people to walk, as it has been.

I also support a permanent gate for access to be installed.

Luke Percival

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Margo Waring <margowaring@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 9:59 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Road

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Off road vehicles, snowmobiles, do not share space with low impact users like cross country users. To give these noisy machines the right to use a space means that all other users are excluded. We have seen this before in our community. On the other hand, a cross country ski area can be used by other foot powered users (pedestrians, snow showers, dog walkers, parents with sleds, etc.). Furthermore, Montana Creek is usually the last area in town where in spring there is enough snow for cross country uses. I urge you to keep Montana Creek Road closed to motorized traffic from Nov. 1 to May 1.

Margo Waring

Juneau, AK

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Paul Beck <landp@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 9:43 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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I support the Juneau Nordic Ski Club in its bid to have Montana Creek closed to motorized vehicles from November 1 to May 1. I do not want to have smelly, noisy, intrusive vehicles in a place that I enjoy for its quietness and nature. I also support the installation of a pedestrian kissing gate.

Sent from my iPad

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** gemmdust@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 9:40 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Close the Road to Motorized Users

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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To Whom it May Concern:

Please consider keeping the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Ranged closed at the end of Montana Creek Road to motorized users from November 1 – May 1. This area is an important hiking and cross-country ski trail to me, my family and friends. It is also an important area to see wildlife, hike and ride bikes from May to October.

Please keep the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed and free of motorized vehicles.

Thank you for your consideration,

Melissa Morgan

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Obren Davis <obrenak@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 9:38 AM  
**To:** park.rec@juneau.org; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** info@jnsc.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Road - please do not allow motorized vehicle access in winter

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hello,

I would like to express my support for keeping Montana Creek road as a non-motorized road during the winter months. The road past the gate just north of the rifle range should be closed to motorized vehicles (except for nordic ski grooming equipment) from November 1 to May 1 each year. A pedestrian kissing gate should be permanently installed.

Additionally, CBJ should consider ways to implement or coordinate additional parking opportunities for those participating in human-powered recreational opportunities (such as nordic skiing and hiking) on the Montana Creek road and trail system.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Obren Davis

**Lauren Verrelli**

---

**From:** redalderlaw@ak.net  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 9:35 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Fwd: Recreational Motorized winter use of Montana Creek Road

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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**From:** "James L. Baldwin" <redalderlaw@ak.net>  
**To:** "Lauren Verrelli" <Lauren.Verrelli@juneau.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 9:31:29 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Recreational Motorized winter use of Montana Creek Road

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**From:** "James L. Baldwin" <redalderlaw@ak.net>  
**To:** "parks rec" <parks.rec@juneau.org>, "Lauren Verrelli" <Lauren.Verrelli@juneau.org>, "info" <info@jnski.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 8:47:15 AM  
**Subject:** Recreational Motorized winter use of Montana Creek Road

I want the road beyond the gate at the Montana Creek Rifle Range closed to motorized users from November 1 to May1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed. The sole exception to this closure should permit the Continued maintenance of Nordic and skate ski trails . The road has become the best local trail to experience the natural beauty of our winter season. In my opinion, motorized use Beyond trail maintenance would seriously degrade this experience for a large number of non motorized users



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Mary <maryanne.slemmons@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 9:20 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli; Parks Rec; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana creek road for long term skiing users

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

---

I urge you to close the gate at Montana Creek Road near the rifle range to motorized users from November 1 to May 1 and permanently install the pedestrian kissing gate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Anne Slemmons

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Steven Garger <stevengarger@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 8:20 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Road Use

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Good Morning,

I am writing to urge the committee to close Montana Creek Rd. beyond the gate at the rifle range to motorized users from Nov. 1 to May 1, and to have a pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed. Motorized users are incompatible with non motorized users in terms of trail use. The JNSC has spent countless hours maintaining this trail for non motorized users, and motorized users can threaten all of that by creating deep ruts, and making it dangerous for those on foot or skis. This section has already been closed to winter motorized users, all we are looking for is for it to be specifically designated non-motorized during the winter ski/ grooming season - November 1 - May 1.

Thank you for your time,

Steven Garger

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Joy Lyon <joy.lyon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 7:58 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana creek road

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Greetings,

I am writing to request that the Montana creek Road be closed to motorized vehicles from November 1 to May 1, with a pedestrian gate. An exception for the trail grooming / rescue equipment should be maintained. I am so often surprised to see that when other ski trails are rainy, icy, or melted, the conditions on Montana Creek are ideal. This beautiful trail alongside the creek is heavily used every day of the week by skiers throughout the winter. The youth ski clubs depend on this area for training and races. The introduction of off road vehicles would eliminate access to this well established existing use for healthy outdoor exercise for hundreds of people. Due to the speed, noise, and trail impact of off road vehicles, it is not compatible to combine these two user groups.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joy Lyon

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Julie DeLong <delongquery@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 7:48 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Please Keep Montana Creek Rd for Non-Motorized use

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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When we have little cross country skiing available due to unpredictable winter snow conditions, Montana Creek Rd is the place I can usually count on skiing.

We want the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

Thank you,

Jay Query

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Julie DeLong <delong.julied@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 7:40 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Please Keep Montana Creek Rd Non-Motorized

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

---

We want the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

When we have little cross country skiing available due to unpredictable winter snow conditions, Montana Creek Rd is the place my family can usually count on skiing.

Regards,

Julie D DeLong

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Edward Neal <egneal@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 4:46 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Cc:** Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

---

Ed Neal here. I would like the road behind the gate at the rifle range closed to motorized users from Nov. 1 to May.  
Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Kristin McTague <kristin\_mctague@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 4:00 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; JNSC  
**Subject:** Don't Allow Snow Machines...

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear PRAC members:

My family and I moved back to Juneau six years ago when my husband retired from the Coast Guard. We lived in six cities across the lower 48, but we came back to Juneau (where I grew up) because I wanted access to great schools, good drinking water (yes, that was on my list), a shorter commute to work, and fun trails to explore. In the summer we are on the trails almost every day and in the winter we Nordic ski (in the dark, usually.)

Don't allow motorized users from November 1- May 1, and keep the pedestrian gate permanently installed on the Montana Creek trail that starts behind the rifle range.

Losing this trail would negatively impact our family's ability to enjoy one of Juneau's best Nordic ski trails. There are plenty of other spaces well suited for snow machines. I would appreciate your support in keeping the trail designation for Nordic skiing.

Sincerely,  
Kristin McTague

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Maureen Longworth <ahfm@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 1:18 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Road usage

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

---

Please keep Montana Creek Road/trail beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from November 1-May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

Thank you for this consideration,  
Maureen Longworth  
Juneau, AK 99801

Award Winner at San Francisco Bay Area Playwright Festival Sent from my iPhone



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 9:56 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Christy Wallace
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:wellnesschristy@gmail.com">wellnesschristy@gmail.com</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Please keep the park closed to motorized vehicles from November to April.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Jill Ramiel <jill.ramiel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 10:36 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org; Ken Alper  
**Subject:** Montana Creek road closure for Nordic use

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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To whom this may concern,

I do not support opening Montana Creek to motorized recreation. My 10 year old daughter and I are new to Nordic skiing and have enjoyed the 4H club lessons and private Eaglecrest lessons to improve our skills. Our family is continually looking for ways to get outside and stay active all winter and we enjoy doing this together.

We need more groomed Nordic skiing trails, not less. Investment in Nordic trails gives us the ability to "hike" all winter. They help keep our kids and their aging parents healthy and active and outside and make us want to continue to "choose Juneau."

We need more focus on wintertime active recreation not less. It's good for locals and for visitors which are both good for our economy.

Thank you for your time,

Jill Ramiel, Adina Alper - new Nordic skiers

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Emily Kane <dremilykane@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 8:54 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek groomed XC ski trail

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hi All!

Please keep the road beyond the gates at the gun range for non-motorized traffic from November 1 to May 1. This is a beloved trail for a gentler, kinder type of winter exercise!

Thanks very much for taking public input.

Emily Kane

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Andy Romanoff <romak4456@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 8:17 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** ORV use at Montana Creek

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Dear PRAC,

I strongly oppose the proposal to allow ATV access to Montana Creek during the winter months. Montana Creek hold snow like few other places in Juneau. It provides healthy outdoor recreation opportunities for hundreds of people throughout the darkest days of the year. I recognize there are other trails accessible to Nordic skiing in the area, but now that we are faced with a changing climate and warming winters, the ski trails at the campground and lower loop at Eagle Crest are often unusable by skiers. ATV and non-motorized users (skiers, walkers, snowshoers) are simply not compatible and the Montana Creek corridor does not have the space to allow for all of these.

There must be alternative sites that do not negatively impact the health and wellness of our community by eliminating all human-powered recreation in the Montana Creek watershed.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kristen Romanoff  
Juneau resident for 30 years

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Dianne Bigge <dlbigge@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 8:15 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek support for Non-motorized vehicles

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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August 22, 2020

To: Parks and Rec Advisory Committee  
From: Dianne Bigge  
Subject: Closure of Montana Creek and vicinity to motorized vehicles Nov 1 through May 1

To whom it may concern:

I am aware that it may seem exclusive to not allow motorized vehicles to use the Montana Creek trail access via the bridge in the winter, but it is not just about skiing. This area is used extensively by dog walkers, people snow shoeing and people just out enjoying one of the most pristine, accessible locations in our winter environment. They do not go there for noise, but for silence and beauty.

One of the development arguments is that it provides motorized access to Spaulding Meadows which is already used extensively and where snow machine users have not respected an agreement to stay on the area designated for motorized use. It has demonstrated that a partial or shared opening is not really workable for those looking for quiet, relatively undisturbed or simple ski or snow shoe tracked experiences.

Please consider the request for maintaining Montana Creek free of winter motorized use and install a gate by the Rifle Range and a permanent pedestrian only gate accessing the trail.

Thank you for listening. Thank you for your time.

Dianne Bigge  
Juneau Alaska

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Sudie Hargis <sudie1ak@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 8:11 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Road/Trail Usage

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Dear Parks & Rec Advisory Committee:

I'd like to provide input and request that the Montana Creek Road/trail beyond the gate at the rifle range be closed to motorized users from Nov 1st until May 1st, and to have a permanent installation of a pedestrian "kissing gate" to prevent unauthorized vehicles to use that area.

I am a hiker, cross-country skier, and snowshoer. I value all the users of our rich Juneau area natural lands, and want to have a place for everyone to recreate. That said, the uses of these areas need to have separation of incompatible uses.

Currently, the Off-Road Vehicles have places to use on Douglas Island and also part of the Spaulding Meadow area. Unfortunately they already cross their boundary and either damage the environment or intimidate cross-country skiers with their loud and unpredictable activity. It scares me to go up there and also seems very incompatible usage since their machines are so loud, fast, and come around corners when not expected.

I strongly oppose expanding the range of the off-road vehicles into the Montana creek road and trail area. It will then become only "their" area, as any other more quiet activities such as skiing, snow showing, and hiking will be driven from the area. In addition, we've seen the environmental damage the machines cause to the muskeg and fragile forest layer, and it lasts for years; once the environmental damage and user migration happens, it would be extremely difficult to reverse.

Thank you for considering this opinion and perspectives, and please keep this area closed to motorized use.

Regards,  
Susan Hargis

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Suzanne Cohen <ssog@alaska.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 7:47 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Trail

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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<Dear Juneau Parks and Rec Advisory Committee,

I am one of the many folks here in Juneau who enjoy using the Nordic Trails in the winter. I use them for skiing, walking my dog and running. I would say they have an immensely positive effect on my mental health. I have heard that you are considering opening the Montana Creek trail to motorized snow machines. I beg you not to do this. I could no longer ski or walk my dog if there are snow machines on the trail. I understand there are other trails to ski on, but this one is most likely to have snow now that we are having warmer winters. Please protect the beauty and deep quiet that exists on this trail for the hundreds of Juneauites who enjoy it. I ask that the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range be closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

Thanks for your excellent work. It is wonderful to see all the work on the trails this summer!

Kind regards,

Suzanne Cohen

Juneau, AK 99801

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Sally Schlichting <sally.schlichting@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 7:18 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Ski Trail

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

---

Snowmobile access to this trail is not compatible with skiers. Please, please, do not open the Montana Creek trail to snow mobiles in the winter months. This is likely THE most high value Nordic ski trails in all of Juneau. It is cherished as a quiet, beautiful, snow-covered paradise. Let's keep it that way.

thank you,  
Sally Schlichting  
JNSKI member



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Kim Smith <kimandethel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 7:14 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek xc skiing

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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While I no longer reside in Juneau, I was a resident for over 40 years. The xc skiing at Montana Creek is phenomenal. It offers skiing when no other area is available. It is so impressive how well the Juneau Nordic Ski Club has managed this. Therefore, I am asking that the road beyond the gate at the rifle range be closed to motorized vehicles from November 1 - May 1 and that the pedestrian kissing gate be permanently installed. Thank you.

Ethel Smith

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Skip Elliott <skipe@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 6:56 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Road winter use

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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To everyone concerned,

I absolutely support the closure of the Montana Creek Road beyond the gate at the Rifle Range to all motorized vehicles from Nov 1 to May 1 every year. And that the pedestrian kissing gate be permanently installed there.

There are very few places in Juneau for groomed xc ski trails, and Montana Creek has proven to be the absolute best. Period. Snow machine users have easy access to Spalding Meadows and Mendenhall Lake and several other suitable areas. They cannot compatibly share the Montana Creek Road with xc skiers and have managed just fine without access to it over the past decade. Don't change that now.

Sincerely,  
Skip Elliott

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Bev Agler <skuas@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 6:27 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek winter access

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

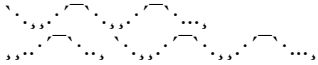
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Dear Juneau

Please keep the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and install the the pedestrian kissing gate permanently during that time period. Please protect this important ski area. ORVs have other places to go.  
Thanks,

Bev Agler

Juneau, AK 99801



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Daniel Kim <dannyskim@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 6:18 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Access

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear PRAC:

Our family and friends greatly appreciate having winter access to the groomed ski trail on Montana Creek road for cross-country skiing!

As a result, we would like to support the request that the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range be closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate be permanently installed.

Sincerely,

Daniel & Vania Kim

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Susan Cable <akshipmate@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 6:13 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Trail

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Please, please:

I would like the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed. This has been the most reliable winter cross-country skiing in the valley area, owing in part to its elevation. We are a large group of community-minded people and would like to continue enjoying our peaceful, healthful outdoor recreation.

Thank you kindly,

Susan Cable

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Kelly Erickson <kelholz@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 5:40 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** MC ski trail!!

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Please save that trail!! There are so few ski trails available. Please do not allow motorized access to Montana Cteek in the winter.

Kelly Erickson

Sent from my iPhone

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** tomjan@gci.net  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 5:24 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek - No ORV winter use please

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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As a cross country skier I urge you to keep Montana Creek Road beyond the gate of the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from November 1 to May 1. I would also like to see the pedestrian "kissing gate" permanently installed. Often in the winter Montana Creek is the only area with skiable snow. It is heavily used by skiers throughout the winter. ORVs and particularly snow machine use is incompatible with skiers. Nordic skiers have set track on the road and used it for many years. Opening it to ORV use will effectively end its use for skiers as snow machines and tracked and 4 wheelers, etc. will destroy the set track, disturb the winter tranquility, and pose risks to non-motorized users.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Tom Paul

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Lisa Kramer <glgk@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 5:22 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Lauren,

Please close the road beyond the gate at the rifle range to motorized vehicles from November 1 to May 1. It would be ideal if this road could even be permanently closed to motorized vehicles. This groomed ski trail is a gift to those of us who are not the best skiers! Having easy access to a groomed ski trail is really important to the skiers who don't have the skills to handle the steeper trails.

Thank you,  
Lisa Kramer



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Micaela Fowler <micaelarfc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 5:15 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Please maintain Montana Creek restricted use

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Dear Parks and Rec Advisory Council,

I am writing in support of maintaining the current restrictions on winter use of Montana Creek.

Winter recreation in Juneau provides an opportunity for everyone, but that doesn't mean that every trail is well suited for all uses.

I support there being opportunities for snow machining, but combining ski and snow machine traffic on a trail such as Montana creek is unfortunately hard to fathom. Between the decimation of groomed tracks and the jarring impact of a snow machine zooming past on a narrow trail, it strikes me as naive to think both activities could successfully and safely coexist in this location. While I support having recreation areas available to snow machines, I also choose to avoid those recreation areas when I head out for a XC ski.

The Montana Creek trail is an incredible cross country skiing area. Often, the conditions at Montana creek are excellent when there is no other suitable snow pack in Juneau. After late winter nights at work, being able to put on a headlamp and get a ski in feels life saving. I have also had the privilege of seeing this be true for countless Juneau kids as a parent of a Juneau Nordic Ski Team member.

Juneau has an incredible, thriving youth cross country ski program. It's a program that makes winter sport accessible to all kids - no matter family income or experience. Skis are available to participants, so gear isn't an obstacle. Montana Creek is often the first trail the kids are able to get onto the snow on, and they frequently ski the trail after school throughout our long winters. There aren't many outdoor after-school opportunities for youth in this town due to weather and lack of evening light, and I have seen the impact that the ski team has on both the physical and mental health of the kids who participate. If you've never witnessed the elation, playfulness, and sportsmanship of these kids - so happy to be recreating in the outdoors together - I encourage you to come out this winter and experience it for yourself. The loss of the groomed trail at Montana creek would have a real impact on how many days these kids were able to be on skis, and could considerably shorten their season.

Montana creek is not an underutilized part of our recreation system. It's heavily used, loved, and cared for. The ski community grooms, maintains, and cares for the trail. A decision to change the access is a decision to dismiss the decades of public use of this trail, because it simply cannot safely accommodate both user groups.

I ask that you preserve the Montana creek groomed trail, and that we continue to work as a community to identify suitable areas for all recreation activities - but not by taking from one to appease the other.

Thank you,  
Micaela Fowler

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Susan Crandall <susancrandalldogs@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 5:12 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; JNSC Board; Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Cross Country Skiing Request for 9-1-20 meeting

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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I want the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed. The reason why is that Montana Creek Trail is used extensively by cross country skiers, skaters, hikers, dog owners, snow shoers', bears, and those people who need to solace. If you add ORV's to the mix, there goes the solace.

Thanks for reading my view, Susan

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** George Reifenstein <reifenak@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 5:12 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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just sent to JNSC and Parks & Rec

I'm writing to ask that the cross country ski track, set seasonally on the Montana Creek old roadbed trail, be protected from motorized access [from November 1st to May 1st](#). During these months the pedestrian kissing gates should be installed across the road, just beyond entry to the Rifle Range.

Snow machines and cross country skiers are not compatible on narrow roadbeds or trails; besides the danger to the skiers the carefully set trail maintenance becomes problematic. The popularity of the Montana Creek ski trail is undisputed and to raise the risk to users doesn't seem to be in the best interest of the CBJ.

History does repeat itself and I recall writing similar letters to the Forest Service in 1973 & 1974 when they put in a wide log bridge across Waydelich Creek, about 3/4 of a mile up the Spaulding Meadows trail. Juneau was very different in those days; after the first and second bridges at that location were dynamited the Lake Creek Trail snowmobile idea gained traction and has been used since.

Thank you for considering these thoughts.

George Reifenstein

[Juneau 99801](#)

*"Mother Nature bats one thousand and she bats last."* - Tom Frieden

*"Mother Nature bats one thousand and she bats last."* - Tom Frieden

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Mimi <mimi.medenica@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 4:59 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am in support of the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users [from Nov 1 to May 1](#) and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed. I am a x country skier who values the groomed trail provided by volunteers of the Juneau Nordic Ski Club. The trail is enjoyed by skiers young and old alike. It is well used and I have appreciated the efforts of the volunteers who groom it. There are very few places for x country groomed skiing. If this trail is opened to ORV, the grooming will be ruined. ORV and x country skiing are not compatible. Please don't open this area up to OTV.

Thank you,

Mimi Medenica

Sent from my iPad

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Chas Dense & Cristi Herren <herren\_dense@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 4:52 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Support for winter skiing at Montana Creek

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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I just want to re-iterate my support of the Juneau Nordic Ski Club's efforts to retain exclusive use of Montana Creek road/trail during the winter. I explained my reasons in my previous email a few weeks ago.

Thank you for seeking balance among competing and incompatible uses.

Chas Dense

Juneau, AK 99801

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Paula McMeen <paulamcmeen@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2020 5:30 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; JNSC Board  
**Subject:** Montana Creek and Motorized vehicles

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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August 20,2020

To whom it may concern:

Please do not allow motorized off road vehicles use the Montana Creek area. This is not compatible with Nordic Skiing, snow shoeing, and walking. This area is such a beautiful and peaceful part of our community. It is used by so many of us every day, and I especially enjoy it in the winter when the trails are groomed.

I avoid areas used by off-road vehicles as it is just not conducive to enjoying the outdoors on my skis or snow shoes or hiking. Just a few weeks ago, I went mushroom hunting out at Echo Cove area and was so horrified by the destruction to that area. This group has ransacked the area with 4-wheelers and ATV's. There is trash and feces, fire pits full of cans and trash, remnants of fireworks, and they are cutting down trees and burning them. I have gone out there for years and have seen destruction, but it is worse now than before. I can not believe the owners of the land would allow such destruction.

Please do not allow this group to take over the Montana Creek area. Keep the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

Thank you for protecting our outdoor wilderness.

Paula McMeen

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Debi Ballam <aukebay2@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 5:05 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Kaxidigoowu Heen Trail Use

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Debi Ballam

Juneau, AK 99801

TO WHOM IT CONCERNS;

I strongly request that the gate to the road beyond the Rifle Range be closed to motorized traffic, at least November 1-May 1, and request the pedestrian kissing gate be permanent.

Many people Nordic ski, walk or snowshoe that trail and volunteers groom that trail whenever there is sufficient snow. This means many, many, hours of healthy outdoor exercise, improving our residents' mental and physical health. These outdoor activities are accessible to most people, including families with lower financial resources. Nordic skiing does not impact much of the city budget, as the grooming is all done by volunteers, and the equipment and fuel is paid for by membership. Additionally, these activities have little environmental impact.

This past winter Juneau Nordic Ski Club had over 650 paid membership dues. As family memberships are included and many people do not join the club, it is likely that well over twice that number of skiers etc. used that trail. I know I love and used that trail many days. One pass by one snow-mobile ruins the trail for everyone else. One hundred passes by one hundred skiers does not ruin the trail for the next skier or snow-shoer or walker.

As a long time Juneau resident and health care provider, I see the benefit to a very large number of people to closing the gates beyond the Rifle Range to motorized traffic, making healthy outdoor aerobic exercise, with all its well documented mental and physical benefits, possible for more days. Kaxidigoowu Heen (Montana Creek Trail) gets more snow for more days than any other low elevation trail, thus providing the most days of easily accessed outdoor winter exercise. I know how much I rely on it during those dark winter months.

In general, I do not think motorized traffic beyond the bridge/creek is compatible with non-motorized use, and represents a real hazard. I ran on the trail this summer and was appalled when two ATV's came around the corner at speed, and I had to jump off the trail. Families with small children were on that trail; young children move unpredictably and could have been hit. Further, the air quality on the trail following the ATV was awful. The air stunk, I was coughing and had to stop running, and it was noisy and dangerous. Motorized traffic on that trail is a health hazard to the many, and enjoyable only to the few.

Thank you for considering this. I hope you will keep the gate closed to motorized traffic, at the very least Nov 1-May 1, but ideally all year, and permanently install a pedestrian kissing gate.

Sincerely,

Debi Ballam



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Peggy and Alex <alaskawerts@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 6:52 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli; Parks Rec  
**Cc:** info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek road winter use

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Montana Creek road beyond the rifle range is the most important and heavily used xc-ski trail in the Juneau area. It holds snow when other areas are melted out, and provides groomed-trail skiing opportunities from November to May. Volunteers from the Juneau Nordic Ski Club put in hundreds of hours throughout the winter to keep the trail groomed for both classic and skate skiing. Because of the narrow configuration of the road, the site is incompatible to multiple use by skiers and ATVs/Snowmachines. Motorized use destroys the groomed tracks, and poses a real risk to the skiers themselves. A snowmobile takes about 5 minutes to go from the rifle range to the end of the road, and in so doing deprives many skiers of hours if not days of skiing. Please close the road beyond the rifle range to motorized users from November 1 to May 1.

Thank you,

Alex and Peggy Wertheimer

Juneau, AK 99801

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** jackfish@ak.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 18, 2020 9:29 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Road - Closure Beyond the Rifle Range Gate  
**Attachments:** Montana Creek Ski Road Testimony\_Stickel.pdf

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Juneau Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

I am responding to the Montana Creek Ski Road as a senior citizen and a member of the Juneau Nordic Ski Club. I ask that the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range be closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed for the following reasons:

- 1) 1) The COVID-19 world has impacted us all. For many of us, especially us senior citizens who cannot actively run, cross country skiing is one of the few active, winter out-door activities that we can participate. The Montana Creek trail provides the critically important social distancing for all Juneau citizens, especially for us senior citizens.
- 1) 2) The Montana Creek Valley provides a cold air sink to keep the snow skiable throughout the ski season, especially the early and late season. We were able to ski into April this year when the Forest Service campground closed in March.
- 1) 3) Not having the road closed to motorized users during the winter season and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed essentially takes this trail away from a significant Juneau community of users that includes the Juneau Nordic Ski Club, school programs, recreational users, and active walkers. Closing the Montana Creek Trail to cross country skiing will significantly increase the skier and walker traffic in the Forest Service Campground, leading to potentially significant congestion and snow degradation. Yes, there is congestion there – please check it out even with access to the Montana Creek Ski Trail. Not closing the gate and permanently installing the kissing gate directly impacts the quality of the experience but more importantly, the introduces significant challenges to the COVID-19 social distancing.

Thank you for considering my comments; my letter is attached.

Jack Stickel

Juneau AK 99801  
18 August, 2020

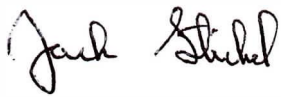
Juneau Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Ref: Montana Creek Ski Road – beyond the gate at the Rifle Range

I am responding to the Montana Creek Ski Road as a senior citizen and a member of the Juneau Nordic Ski Club. I ask that the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range be closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed for the following reasons:

- 1) The COVID-19 world has impacted us all. For many of us, especially us senior citizens who cannot actively run, cross country skiing is one of the few active, out-door activities that we can participate. The Montana Creek trail provides the critically important social distancing for all Juneau citizens, especially for us senior citizens.
- 2) The Montana Creek Valley provides a cold air sink to keep the snow skiable throughout the ski season, especially the early and late season. We were able to ski into April this year when the Forest Service campground closed in March.
- 3) Not having the road closed to motorized users during the winter season and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed essentially takes this trail away from cross country skiers. There is a large community of users including the Juneau Nordic Ski Club, school programs, and active walkers. Closing the Montana Creek Trail to cross country skiing will significantly increase the skier and walker traffic in the Forest Service Campground, leading to potentially significant congestion and snow degradation. Yes, there is congestion there – please check it out even with access to the Montana Creek Ski Trail. Not closing the gate and permanently installing the kissing gate directly impacts the quality of the experience but more importantly, the introduces significant challenges to the COVID-19 social distancing.

Thank you for considering my comments



Jack Stickel

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Jodie Totten <jet25@u.washington.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 16, 2020 4:29 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Please Support Montana Creek Cross Country Skiing

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee,

I am writing to ask that you please keep the road beyond the gate at the rifle range closed permanently to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

I ask that you support this activity both as someone who enjoys skiing but also as a local physician who realizes the importance of exercise, particularly outdoor exercise, during the dark Alaska winters.

Thank you,  
Jodie Totten MD MPH

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 11:42 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Jacob Miller

### Email

[jake\\_miller40@hotmail.com](mailto:jake_miller40@hotmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

Without diving into too much detail here; I believe along with many others in this community this proposal closes out (ORV) certain user groups to access of public property is wrong in every way. The CBJ is already limiting access to an RS2477 road/ right of way with their gate at Montana Creek. It's beyond time for the CBJ to eliminate the exclusive user group tags to certain areas/ trails/ public property and takes "No Action" on this silly proposal. This proposal pins one user group against another and adds further strife to the problem.

It also would be worth checking on the legality of this proposal since it's an RS2477 right of way/ road.

JNSC has a letter out to drum up support that pins ORV users in a bad light and that ORV use would kill skiing. That is wrong! Skiers use Dan Moller trail because it's groomed frequently.

Don't further restrict access to public land that both groups currently have equal access too!

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 11:22 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Sarah Harkins

### Email

[coastieoswife@gmail.com](mailto:coastieoswife@gmail.com)

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

I feel this road closure is completely unnecessary given that there are ample places for those who would like to ski and only two places for off road vehicles. It is incredibly unfair. It will force vehicles to be driving the long way out the road in winter conditions that won't be safe. We can share the space. Or better yet, simply make it only for off road vehicles, officially. Having 2 places to ride in all of Juneau is not much to ask. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 11:14 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Jared markovich
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:Jared.markovich@gmail.com">Jared.markovich@gmail.com</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Please keep the Montana Creek Road open to ORV access from November 1 - April 1.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 11:07 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Melissa Rhodes-Reese

### Email

[mrrhodesreese@gmail.com](mailto:mrrhodesreese@gmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

I think that both groups have equal right to access the area and both groups need to come to a compromise. I think that both groups (snowmobile riders and yes even nordic skiers) need to be more respectful of the public areas that they share. I don't ride snowmobiles, it's not my thing, but I read the Parks and Rec memo and I think it is painted as if the nordic ski community are a group of saints skiing around with halos above their heads. I live near the campground and walk through the area on a daily basis. In the years I have lived here, I have NEVER (underline never) seen a skier stop to pick up their dog waste or carry a bag of it for disposal. I had to stop walking my dog in the area because her feet would be covered in dog crap, and Montana Creek was worse. It is also very difficult as a non-skier to share the trails that turn into groomed tracks as the groomed trail occupies the entire road and there is no real space for individuals who walk or snowshoe. We either have to destroy the track or constantly dodge skiers. Of course snowmobiles have ecological impacts that were outlined in the Parks and Rec memo that need to be considered as well. Neither group is perfect, and neither should be granted sole access to the area. It is public land and both have equal rights to access it. CBJ needs to work with both groups to come to a compromise, and remember, a good compromise is when both groups are equally dissatisfied.



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 11:00 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Chris McDowell
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:Chris.m@yakobifisheries.com">Chris.m@yakobifisheries.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I support keeping Montana Creek road open to motorized vehicles year round.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:55 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Dylan Davis

### Email

[Akshearwater@gmail.com](mailto:Akshearwater@gmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

My name is Dylan Davis and for what it's worth I have been living in Juneau all my life and always will. I enjoy all types of winter activities including both skiing and snow machining and I find it alarming to hear there is a motion to close off yet another area to motorized use. I have heard tell from many others who have lived here longer than I about how many areas were steadily closed to all motorized groups and have seen this happen in a few places myself. Excluding an entire user group (motorized or otherwise) seems greedy to me and tends to bring about a sense of ownership about the outdoors rather than sharing and co-existing. I have made many trips on this trail and others both on an ORV and without and have encountered members of the opposite countless times. These encounters depend on both parties being civil and respectful of each other and not simply saying "The others should not be here. There ought to be a law." The vast majority of trails accessible in the Juneau area are already closed to motor vehicles, and skiers, snowshoers and hunters choosing to recreate without disturbance from ORV's have a veritable plethora of options. This situation is not replicated in reverse, far contrarily, winter motorized use in this city is quite limited. In a state where there is vast potential for adventures of all types and where human powered activities as well as motorized are allowed throughout, Juneau in particular has seen motorized recreational vehicles and those who enjoy them steadily being forced off the map. The Montana creek trail in question is significant because it is a very wide trail with multiple pullouts for safe passing and turnarounds as well as not including any serious changes in elevation. This in turn makes it a perfect trail for beginning riders who have space to be able to handle a machine well in safely passing by a group of hikers on a turn as well as young children enjoying motorsports under supervision, away from hazards like sharp technical turns, steep dangerous climbs and thin lake ice which exist anywhere else in Juneau where winter motorsports are allowed. Closing this trail would force these users into more difficult areas. There also exist benefits to the trail remaining open for ORV use, such as search and rescue. In many cases of injury and emergency on these trails the first responders are not dedicated rescue personnel but rather fellow recreationalists and a powered vehicle can have obvious benefits for carrying a person suffering from an injury or hypothermia to safety much quicker. In conclusion, please do not forbid motorized use on this trail. It is an easy, low risk and delightful place to have fun and as a nordic skier myself, every snow machine and four wheeler rider I have encountered has been most courteous!

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:52 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Abigail Suellentrop
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:asuellentrop@icloud.com">asuellentrop@icloud.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Douglas
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Nothing good will come of further limiting healthy, outdoor activity. Removing some more of the already limited space for recreational vehicles would be another example of "if its not for the tourists, Juneau doesn't care to maintain it."

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:48 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Hiram Wilson
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:ezrarenewilson@gmail.com">ezrarenewilson@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Douglas
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
there are already so few areas for recreational vehicle use. Why limit people and their outdoor activity? There's nothing else to do but drink here.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:38 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Bjorn Wolter
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:bjorn.wolter@gmail.com">bjorn.wolter@gmail.com</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I am in favor of closing the road to ORV use.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Tom McKenna <mr.t.mck@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:36 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek: Winter Skiing Priority

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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To Whom it May Concern,

Please count me among the many who would prefer that we keep the Montana Creek area viable as a volunteer-maintained x-c ski area from Nov. 1 to May 1. I've seen the destruction of trails by certain ORV operators. This winter and spring on several occasions I skied up the road across four-wheeler tracks zig-zagging up and down with a clear intent to tear up ski tracks established by Juneau Nordic Ski Club volunteers.

I urge the CBJ tp work proactively to find more ORV recreation sites, but I have little faith that the Montana Creek area could be productively shared by both uder groups in winter.

Thanks,  
Tom McKenna  
Salmon Creek Area  
Juneau

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:36 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Gabe Jones
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:devenerim1@gmail.com">devenerim1@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Downtown
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Please don't do this, there are so few places to ride motorized vehicles, but so many places to go norton skiing it, does not make sense

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Cathy Tide <cathytide@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:30 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** Juneau Nordic Ski Club  
**Subject:** winterized motor use on the Montana Creek Trail

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Parks and Rec Advisory Committee Members,

I wanted to contact you about your upcoming decision regarding motorized use on Montana Creek Trail. During the winter, I skate ski on Montana Creek Trail. It frequently has snow when the campground doesn't or when Mendenhall Lake isn't frozen and isn't skiable. It also holds its snow longer and allows me to ski well into the spring on a trail close to home. I don't want to tell other people that they can't have the things they like to do for recreation, because I feel it's such an important aspect to living a healthy, happy, well rounded life, but I also know that if motorized vehicles are allowed on Montana Creek trail in the winter, it will no longer be a place where I can ski. I don't believe the two are always compatible. I won't feel safe skiing on a fairly narrow trail where a snow machine can come around the next bend going much faster than me.

I know this won't be an easy decision for you, but I appreciate you considering keeping this an area free of motorized vehicles in the winter months.

Thank you,  
Cathy Tide



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:28 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Sandra Winslow 9079570288
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:sandy_boddy@yahoo.com">sandy_boddy@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Ski have every where they can go. Atv only have this trail. Why take it away give these people a place to play as well. Stupid to close for motor vechile

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Angela Lessard <lessardmeersman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:09 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Access

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hello,

We are writing to express support for keeping the Montana Creek road closed to motorized vehicles during the winter. This is one of the most stable and consistent groomed ski areas in town...this year our family was able to keep skiing even up to the beginning of May. Opening it up to snowmobiles or ATVs would essentially close it to groomed skiing. There couldn't really be both.

Thank you for noting our position on this!

Angela Lessard and Mike Meersman

[Juneau, AK 99801](#)

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## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:05 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Kevin Siwicke

### Email

[ksiwicke@gmail.com](mailto:ksiwicke@gmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Lemon Creek

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

This seems straightforward. Reading the history provided, there has been a gate placed to keep motorized users out during evenings in the summer and starting November 1 for the winter, and this had the desired effect of limiting the negative consequences occurring prior to it being in place.

After skiing in Juneau for the last 9 years, I've not had an issue until this past winter when the gate was often missing. On multiple occasions I found the groomed ski path ruined by motorized vehicles. On one occasion, I was passed by three people on mini bikes. It appeared their only intention was to ruin the trail, which a volunteer had finished grooming moments before. I say this because they were only there for less than ten minutes, enough time to go all the way down once, making three separate zig zag trails, laughing as they passed skiers that were forced off the trail for safety. Their vehicles were definitely not winter vehicles, and were only able to operate there because the trail was groomed by a ski club volunteer.

I do not believe this trail to be very popular with snow machiners because I never see them use it. They go to Spaulding meadows and Dan Moller where they're allowed and can ride the alpine terrain. I cannot speak to summertime use, but the 10/1-4/1 closure only impacts winter users. Seeing this issue misrepresented on social media will no doubt cause a conflict that never existed when CBJ closed the road with a gate at the rifle range. The real question is why was the gate missing this last winter...

Respectfully,  
Kevin Siwicke

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:02 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Pamela Wittanen-Moss
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:mpamelamoss@msn.com">mpamelamoss@msn.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Douglas
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Yes close it to any motorized vehicles ATV snowmobile . They can go out to the end of the road don't need to destroy the woods or trails Too many homes close by to hear the noise

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:01 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Ed Quinto
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:eaq1978@acsaladka.net">eaq1978@acsaladka.net</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Do not limit to only the skiers. It should be open to everyone. The ski club already have more areas closed for them and their is limited areas for others to use. I don't think 1 organization should have sole rights to that area.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Brian Blitz <blitziam@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:00 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org; Parks Rec  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hello,

I like having the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed. I regularly cross country ski in the winter and would not feel safe if snow machines were allowed to use the trail. One of the arguments to let snow machines on that trail says they want it open for everyone, however, I think if that trail is open to snow machines then very few people other than snow machiners would use the trail. This includes hikers, dog walkers and skiers.

I understand that this is a difficult decision to make and I thank you for your time,

Brian Blitz

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:57 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Ashley Roberts
Email
<a href="mailto:amroberts6@alaska.edu">amroberts6@alaska.edu</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>I'm writing in objection to closing Montana creek to motorized vehicles.</p> <p>The reason for my objection is that the snow machiners are already limited in the Mendenhall valley and closing this access will eliminate the only access in the Mendenhall valley to all riders causing flooding at echo which would be an absolute disaster for EMS or SAR</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:52 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
John Wright
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:wrongwaywright@live.com">wrongwaywright@live.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Allow them access, there is not enough places to ride orv's. While you're at it open up other areas as well during the summer. Making them gather in small areas only put a greater amount in one area causing more damage. Open more areas and reduce the amount of damage by capping the amount of vehicles at any one time.



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Joseph Roth <uhongelikibeni@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:51 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Members of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee.

I am writing to you with my strong support of keeping Montana Creek non motorized from November 1 - May 1 every year.

Montana Creek has been non motorized for decades, and should remain so. Groomed nordic ski trails and motorized vehicles are not compatible as motorized vehicles destroy the groomed trail.

Allowing motorized vehicles on Montana Creek excludes nordic skiing from the area.

I urge you to keep the gate at the rifle range closed to motorized users from November 1 to May 1 and keep the pedestrian gate permanently installed.

Thank you for your time and service to the community.

Sincerely,

Joseph Roth

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:49 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Rebecca Smith
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:rebeccaspd1@gmail.com">rebeccaspd1@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Douglas
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Should continue to be open to all. Keep open to all users, please. So important to have access for everyone

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:47 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Sheri Somerville
Email
<a href="mailto:sheriville@gmail.com">sheriville@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Lemon Creek
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I have lived in Juneau most of my life. I have watched areas for ATV and snow machine use shrink over the years due to selfish behavior of some residents. I do not use ATVs or even particularly like them, but if I am going to have areas for my preferred recreational activities such as hiking and skiing, ATVers need theirs. Please keep Montana Creek Road multi-use. Let's find ways for people to recreate together respectfully.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:42 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Franz Schneider
Email
<a href="mailto:z_narf54@yahoo.com">z_narf54@yahoo.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Downtown
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I'm in favor of the closure. Most people who ski don't just do it for the exercise, they do it to be out in a beautiful place in nature that is quiet. ORVs are noisy. Very noisy. They are also fast, and would cause problems for pedestrians (skiers). And my experience with ORV riders is that they are not very respectful of pedestrians or skiers.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:40 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Shonda Belknap
Email
<a href="mailto:shonda.belknap@gmail.com">shonda.belknap@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I am against closing Montana Creek road to limit access to the only on road system accessibility to land available for ORV. There is many willing to share the area for multiple use. It's not acceptable to limit access in this specific area and in this case. I appreciate the fair and collaborative solution to this community concern. Thank you.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:31 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Kia Johns
Email
<a href="mailto:kiajohns@gmail.com">kiajohns@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Out the Road
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>Hello, I am a Juneau resident and I support closing the Montana Creek Road to off road vehicles. I am not much of a downhill skier but I very much love cross country skiing. As someone who lives out the road, Montana Creek is a much closer and more accessible area than going to ski on Douglas. The off road vehicles have plenty of places they are able ride, please keep Montana Creek for skiers. Thank you.</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:24 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Dave Conway
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:takuconways@ak.net">takuconways@ak.net</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Leave it open and available to motorized vehicles. The skiers can't lock up everything !

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:23 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Kelsey Edwards

### Email

[kelseyedwards41@gmail.com](mailto:kelseyedwards41@gmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

Hello! My name is Kelsey Edwards and I am 24 years old. I am a third generation, born and raised Juneau-ite who enjoys the outdoors. One of my hobbies is four wheeling. My significant other and I absolutely love getting fresh air and exercising while doing something we enjoy, riding our off-road vehicles! I take all of my very young siblings out and they have had so much fun exploring Montana Creek with us as well.

As much fun as Echo Cove is, it is quite the long haul out there and dangerous to drive in the winter, which is why we enjoy having access to Montana Creek. Individuals who are a part of the off-road community here in Juneau, are very respectful as we absolutely do not want to give anyone any reason to take away our one riding location (Montana Creek). I feel like we often have to "walk on egg shells" because getting Montana Creek taken away from us would completely diminish our hobby in the winter. As the Alaska State Capital, I believe Juneau residents should be allowed to enjoy a very popular, well-liked Alaskan hobby like four wheeling. We have hoped and worked very hard on making Montana Creek fun for ORV's and we really hope to be able to continue doing that through the winter.

If we are restricted access to Montana Creek in the winter, we will be forced to haul trailers out to Echo, which is usually very icy and unsafe to drive on. I believe if we are forced to drive out the road there will be fatal accidents. These accidents can be easily avoided if we are able to stay closer to town to ride. Juneau skiers have many many places they can ski and ORV does not, which is why I believe we should continue to share Montana Creek and not restrict specific hobbies from usage.



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:15 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

**Name**

Spencer Davis

**Email**

[recnepsdavis@gmail.com](mailto:recnepsdavis@gmail.com)

**Phone**

**Residence Location**

Mendenhall Valley

**Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure**

Please do not block access to a state right of way. Hundreds of trails and places in Juneau that are closed to motorized use already. Thank you for your consideration.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** jeff white <akwhite08@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:06 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli; Parks Rec; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Close the Montana Creek Road Nov 1 to May 1.

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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To whom it may concern,

Please close the Montana Creek Road to motorized traffic from Nov 1 to May 1. I've been a volunteer ski groomer for the past 5 years and a cross country skier for 30 years and was instrumental in the formation of the Juneau Nordic Ski Team. The Juneau Nordic Ski Club has been very active over the last decade expanding and building nordic skiing in Juneau, including kids, youth and adult programs. The interest in the sport has grown and we have been able to have representatives compete and participate in events in the Yukon, throughout Alaska, the Birkebeiner and many others. Montana Creek has been largely responsible for this success given its ideal location and ability to hold snow the longest in the spring and during warm winters. Snowmachiners want to use this as an access to other areas to recreate, but for skiers this is not an access but one of the only areas of groomed ski trails. When making this decision, the PRAC should consider the historical use, and the significant number of residents who ski this area. Please consider alternatives to allow the snow machine club the access they desire, but not through the Montana Creek trail.

Thank you,  
Jeff White

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:05 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Chris Harkins
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:cdhuscg@gmail.com">cdhuscg@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Removing the freedoms of the many only to please the few! Why do people feel so entitled? I do not own an ATV nor do I own a snowmaking, but removing folks access because a few entitled people get their fetters ruffled is completely anti-American!

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:01 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Loren Jensen

### Email

[pnwflycaster@gmail.com](mailto:pnwflycaster@gmail.com)

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

Just wanted to say that this is a totally unfair idea. We are a community, all live work, play, and pay taxes here. I'm not understanding the entitlement one specific club, who has literally no boundaries where they can go, should be able to shut down one of the only places we can ride. As it is, Juneau severely lacks a proper ORV park. So much land owned by the State and CBJ that goes unused and inaccessible that could really be opened up and used by all outdoor recreation enthusiasts. Also, could provide our YOUTH some great activities outdoors. I will admit I did not grow up in Juneau. I did however grow up in Washington State, 10 minutes away from a massive ORV park. Jeeps, four wheelers, dirt bikes, everyone was/is welcome. Very often you'd find people hiking and skiing on these trails but we all got along. There is literally nothing wrong with an ORV park. Provided the trails are built properly and all of that, the trails do no harm to the forest. Sorry to ramble on, but with a city who's population is on a steady decline, I think it's nothing but unfair to limit even more areas to just one specific group. Thank you.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Brenda Taylor <abcjabroad@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 8:54 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** montana creek trail

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Parks and Rec Board,

I'm adding my voice to the many others who are asking you please to close the road beyond the gate at the Rifle Range to motorized users (other than the groomers) and also please install a permanent pedestrian kissing gate. My family has been skiing that trail for years and years with great delight and peace and would like to continue to do so, and welcome other skiers, walkers, and snowshoers.

Thank you,

Brenda

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 8:52 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Jake Ritter
Email
<a href="mailto:ritter907@gmail.com">ritter907@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Out the Road
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
The borough needs to have a well managed area for off road vehicles with echo being the only tolerated area for this, this area has been abused due to lack of management. This community prides itself in providing "multiuse access" to borough land yet off road vehicles have been left out of this privilege that many residents experience. This is the first glimmer of hope for a large swath of Juneauites that have been treated like criminals for trying to enjoy our beautiful community from an off road vehicle.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Suzanne Peschier <suzpeschier@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 8:51 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli; Parks Rec; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Access

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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To the Juneau Parks and Rec Advisory Committee,

I am writing in regards to the recent proposal to open the Montana Creek Road to motorized vehicles. I strongly urge you to keep the Montana Creek Road closed to motorized users beyond the gate at the rifle range from November 1 to May 1 and to keep the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

As the climate warms and Juneau sees more rain and less snow in the winter, there are fewer locations with enough snow for consistent cross country skiing. Due to the unique micro-climate of Montana Creek, it gets more snow than the trails at Eagle Crest or the Mendenhall campground and has excellent conditions for skiing when the other trails are bare, slushy or icy. As Juneau's weather becomes progressively warmer and rainier in the winter, Montana Creek will provide the community with groomed trails that can be used by the ski teams and people of all ages. It is currently a rare day to ski at Montana Creek and not see many other skiers on the trails, and it will only become more popular as our other groomed trails become less skiable.

Due to safety concerns, cross country skiing and snowmachining are not compatible. Allowing motorized access to Montana Creek would automatically put an end to cross country skiing there for the children, families and older skiers who currently use the area all winter long. In the future, this might mean extremely limited opportunities for skiing as Juneau is predicted to get less and less snow. This would make Juneau a much less desirable place to live for the large group of avid skiers that choose to make Juneau their home.

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Peschier

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Ken Post <ken.annepost@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 8:44 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; info@jnski.org; Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** snowmobile and ORV use at Montana Creek road

### EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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I am opposed to allowing off road vehicles and snow machines on the Montana Creek road past the rifle range for the following reasons.

1. ORV and snow machines are not compatible with other user groups. Skiers, hikers and dog walkers utilize this area and would be unable to continue recreating due to safety issues.

I know about this first hand since my little daughter, husband, and I were nearly run over by three snowmobilers at Dredge Lakes almost 30 years ago. Back then ORV and snowmobiles were allowed on the trails at Dredge. I was walking slowly down the peaceful, snowy, trail with my little three-year old holding my hand when 3 people on snowmobiles blasted by. We were lucky to be able to leap out of the way in time to avoid being run over. We screamed at them to slow down as they roared past, but they never did, nor did they stop and apologize. My heart still pounds when I think of how close my little girl came to being run over. We never went back there until years later when ORV and snowmobile use were prohibited at Dredge Lakes.

I'm not against snowmobilers or ORV use, but they need to have an area devoted just for them, not a multiple use area where skiers and hikers are present. Montana creek is a well-established hiking and ski area enjoyed by many families. ORV and snowmobiles already have use of the Dan Moller Trail and access to Spaulding Meadows from a trail just off of the UAS housing road.

2. ORV's and snow machines are destructive to the environment. Look at Dan Moller Trail – snow machine use has caused major erosion and habitat destruction which is visible when the snow melts.

Finally, I'd like to mention that I am disturbed by a disrespectful and childish public comment posted by a man who signed the Juneau Off Road Association petition. He wrote: "I'm sick of these Subaru pukers trying to shut down access to everyone but them and their buddies". Do users with that kind of attitude towards others deserve exclusive use of our public land?

(And by the way, I don't drive a fancy Subaru. I drive a 16 year-old Honda and a 6 year old Toyota.)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

Anne Post



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Jason Fellman <jbfellman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 8:55 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Road

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Parks and Recreation,

I'm writing to support the broad public use of Montana Creek Trail through the prohibition of motorized vehicles north of the shooting range from November 1 to May 1, and a suitable gate to enforce this. The broadest public good is served by keeping the Juneau winter recreation trail that serves the community open to everyone except motorized vehicles. Thanks

Jason Fellman

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 8:43 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Denise Carl
Email
<a href="mailto:denise.m.carl@gmail.com">denise.m.carl@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Downtown
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I am supportive of this proposal - honestly, I didn't know that vehicles were allowed the past gate. I hope that essentially we can maintain the status quo - that that gate is closed in winter months. I am curious if JNSC will get special permission to groom the closed road as presumably, their grooming would be in violation of the proposal.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Danlel Garner  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 8:42 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana creek

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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I'd like to provide comment on the use of The Montana Creek trail. I do not believe off road motorized use is compatible with current user groups, especially in winter.

I use this road and trail system most every day and have going on 30 years. . As a hiker, fly fisherman, dog walker and xc skier.

The winter use from skiers, snow shoe'rs and dog walkers has grown exponentially over the past 5 years. I believe it is one of the only, if not the only, CBJ parcels that have been dedicated to those user groups other than Eaglecrest. Eaglecrest is subject to budget considerations and grooming conflicts. Montana creek has been under the careful stewardship and maintenance in the winter from the Juneau Nordic Club. Through community private contributions and other public sources they have done very well providing the citizens of Juneau good use of Cbj lands.

Opening this area up to winter motorized traffic would deprive Juneau of the best road access areas in the winter.

Motorized access would ruin it for all of the other user groups. I don't think those user groups would ruin the already abundant access to winter activities already provided by the USFS and DNR on other locations in the road system.

In fact, summer Motorized use is already in conflict with fly fisherman, dog walkers, hikers and bike riders. As an example I have personally witnessed or been directly involved with motorized users going way too fast, and out of control judging by their lengthy skid marks around blind corners. When you have families taking their infants and toddlers on a summer walk and motorized users at closing speeds of over 30 mph around blind corners, I fear it's only a matter of time before a serious accident will happen.

The motorized use also contributes to stream habitat degradation from users digging ruts and tracks next to the road systems only blue ribbon trout stream. That is obvious just by walking to the end. I would think our children would thank us 100 years from now for ensuring that fishery.

Thank you for the opportunity  
To comment.

Sincerely,

Dan Garner

Auke Bay

I request that my email address not be made public if possible.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 8:38 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Paul Paramore
Email
<a href="mailto:ppparamore@gmail.com">ppparamore@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Downtown
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>This is an absolutely ridiculous proposal. Cross country skiers already have access to much more land and infinitely more resources than any motorized group. In my experience, Juneau has had a discriminatory attitude toward off-road motorized user groups. They push motorized vehicle usage out of areas to the point where users have to literally go as far out the road as possible. This makes any injuries all that more dangerous. I'm so sick of this. It really just isn't fair at all.</p>

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Nikki Hinds <nikki\_hinds@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 8:35 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org; Parks Rec  
**Subject:** Montana Creek motor-free in winter

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Juneau Parks and Rec Advisory Committee,

I support having the road beyond the gate at the rifle range closed to motorized use from Nov 1 to May 1.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nikki Olsen

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 8:35 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
randy host
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:host_randy@yahoo.com">host_randy@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Lemon Creek
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Keep the road closed to motorized vehicles. Please

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 8:33 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Joseph Henderson

### Email

[joe.henderson00@gmail.com](mailto:joe.henderson00@gmail.com)

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

This is a forest service road that provides access to a trail that is protected by State Revised Statute 2477. Denying motorized access to the Montana Creek trail at any time may create a legal issue on a state level. The gate technically shouldn't even be there. There are many RS2477 trails/roads in Juneau that have been illegally closed by the city already do not add this to the list after all of the hard work that has been put in by so many people. Despite what many in our town think areas like this can be enjoyed by multiple user groups.

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 8:23 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Monica Hinson-Wilson
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:mhinsonwilson@gmail.com">mhinsonwilson@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I am against the closure



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 8:19 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Todd Bailey
Email
<a href="mailto:tbailey4@hotmail.com">tbailey4@hotmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Downtown
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I support the status quo. I skate ski approximately 30 times a winter at Montana creek. Many times it is the only place in Juneau that keeps the snow. Snow stays here even longer than eaglecrest. I would like the gate to continue to be shut. I am not opposed to snowmobiles but much of the time this is the only place in Juneau to skate ski.

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 8:14 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
John Mallinger
Email
<a href="mailto:johnmallinger429@gmail.com">johnmallinger429@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
There is already practically nowhere to ride four wheelers and snow machines in Juneau. I've always thought maybe if the people around here had more fun activities to do that got them outside maybe our alcoholism rate and use of drugs in this town would diminish. If you're going to shut Montana creek down then open up some other area to ride where skiers can't go. If not it's pretty hypocritical.

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 7:54 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Carol Race
Email
<a href="mailto:racecarol@yahoo.com">racecarol@yahoo.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Downtown
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
This is a wonderful road for skiing and used by many. Yes, please pass this proposal to close this area to motorized use. The snowmobile entrance at UAS trail provides access for motorized use in the winter and allows access to one half of the Spaulding area for snowmobiles. It makes sense to have this assess point for skiing. Thank you, Carol Race

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 7:54 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Ryan Van Sickle

### Email

[kanayr@hotmail.com](mailto:kanayr@hotmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

I regularly use the Montana Creek trail for fishing, hiking, and bike riding. I am against closing the trail to motorized vehicles. Areas approved for all terrain vehicles are extremely limited and should be expanded not reduced. Juneau already has many suitable areas for Nordic skiing. It would be in poor taste to yet again limit available resources for ATV users to appease a group that already has plenty of options some already subsidized by the city. I am not an ATV owner. Thank you for considering my opinion and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Ryan Van Sickle

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 7:49 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Shawn Lovell

### Email

[shawnlovell@hotmail.com](mailto:shawnlovell@hotmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

I have been an avid rider of the Montana Creek area every year since 1992. With the closing of the Dredge Lakes area, then the small area in the City pit behind Costco, we are left with very few options for places to go. Montana Creek being one of them. Over the years we had been promised new areas that never happened. First it was behind the Jail, then it was out the road near sunshine cove, then it was the rock pit on Eaglecrest road, none of which the CBJ in reality really had plans to open at all. With an average of at least 300 active ATV owners in the Borough, I feel it is very unfair to take away one of the only places left to ride year around.

The area is an excellent place for all user groups. Next to a gun range, so noise certainly isn't an issue, there are very few residents if any that would even be able to hear an atv.

With all the accessible areas for the Nordic club to use in the Borough, they want to take away one of the only places we have left. We willingly have shared any areas with all user groups, and should be able to continue to do so for years to come. In my opinion it is very selfish of them to even consider it. The proposed area is simply a corridor access to terrain in which we should be entitled to continue to use regularly. I don't know of any City in the entire state that has so many restrictions on Recreational Vehicle use as we currently have right now. Closing access would be along the same lines as closing down Eaglecrest road, but allowing the mountain to remain open.

What other options do we have for places to go? Possibly the new pioneer road out North Douglas? I'm open to suggestions, but as it stands right now I feel our future is doomed. With multiple local business' that currently sell Atv's, and an already weak economy, this would only further cripple them, as they are struggling to survive as it is.

Let's keep Montana Creek open!

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 7:44 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Christopher O'Brien
Email
<a href="mailto:jacquesobrien@gmail.com">jacquesobrien@gmail.com</a>
Residence Location
Out the Road
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>The Montana Creek road closure cannot happen. This road provides ample access to motorized and non-motorized traffic and is one of the very few areas left in the CBJ that off-road and all terrain type vehicles can legally travel. The idea that the ski club can put some monopoly on this trail is ridiculous and should never have been considered. I say keep one of the last recreational areas available to all vehicles and snow showers alike open, this idea of closing it seasonally for the benefit of a few does not need to persist. They have access to every other trail in town while the off road group does not have the same freedom.</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 7:42 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Pam Chapin
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:heavymetal@gci.net">heavymetal@gci.net</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I do not agree with closing the road to one group. Other users want/need places to ride too.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 7:40 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Eric Cole
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:ericw.cole@hotmail.com">ericw.cole@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Douglas
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I am opposed to the Montana Creek Road closure. This is a motorized access right-of-way to DNR land that needs to stay open. The cross country ski clubs have many other options for recreation.



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 7:39 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Robert Day
Email
<a href="mailto:thundermtbrew@hotmail.com">thundermtbrew@hotmail.com</a>
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
They should not be able to restrict the motorized vehicles. Atv use does not have many spots to ride in Juneau. The cross country skiers have multiple spots including dredge lake which is near by. We are not asking to have only atv use. We are able to share the area and it would not be right for them to close that off for their use only.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 7:34 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Kyla Hernandez
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:kylahernandez907@yahoo.com">kylahernandez907@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Keep it open for motorized vehicles

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 7:32 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Corbin Cameron
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:corbcamerob@gmail.com">corbcamerob@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Keep it open to motorized vehicles skiers don't need more land

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 7:24 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Brett Coblentz

### Email

[brettcoblentz@gmail.com](mailto:brettcoblentz@gmail.com)

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

Why does the Nordic ski club get to decide who and how people can and cannot use Montana creek rd? It seems that if there are traffic conflicts with skiers and road users, the skiers should be the ones moving. No need to make it difficult for all other people to access the public land around here. There are other places to ski around town. It seems very childish to let this group determine the fate of the access for Montana Creek area. Maybe make access for both rather than pick a winner and loser. That makes better sense for the public.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 7:18 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
David Kirby
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:david@semattress.com">david@semattress.com</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Douglas
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
If this is going to be open for one group, it should be open to all. These trails were made by motorized vehicles, and motorized vehicles should have the same opportunity for lawns use as skis.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Aaron Blust <aaronblustak@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 6:56 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; info@jnski.org; Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Close Montana Creek to motorized vehicles during the winter

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear PRAC committee members,

My name is Aaron Blust and I was the captain of the Juneau Nordic Ski Team (JNST) last year. On behalf of all of the team members, past, current, and future, I ask that you limit motorized vehicle traffic past the rifle range gate in order to preserve our ability to have a consistent place for JNST to train, race, and grow.

I was a member of JNST for 7 years and enjoyed learning to ski, race, and build a community of amazing friends and mentors while I skied endlessly back and forth throughout the winter. Opening Montana Creek in the winter to motorized vehicles would mark the end of Montana Creek as a gathering place for nordic skiers. I am deeply saddened at the prospect of the next generation of Juneau youth being deprived of a place where they can build communities and develop a life long love of Nordic skiing as I have. Our team has used every inch of the 3 kilometers of the trail we have accessible to us. I know every turn of the trail and I have fond memories all along the way of playing games, racing alongside friends, and having long conversations as the trail passes us by. We have used Montana creek to practice increasingly as the hard-packed groomed snow on the trail outlasts the snow anywhere else we could ski in the warmer winters that have become more common.

No matter the rain, slush, ice, or cold as long as there is snow on the ground we show up to ski for the love of the sport, the people, and the nature we can immerse ourselves in. I understand the difficulty of competing interest but urge that during the winter, motorized vehicles are not allowed past the gate so during the winter this 2-mile strip of road can be a place for us to grow as skiers and community members.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Aaron Blust  
JNST Captain 2019-2020

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 6:45 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Connor Corcoran
Email
<a href="mailto:connorobertcorcoran@gmail.com">connorobertcorcoran@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>I am an avid year round archer, my brother is as well. We both thoroughly enjoy the range, as well as having road access. I understand the Nordic team is seeking a good location to practice their sport, but so are us archers. The road should not be shut down. Additionally, archery hunting is very popular in Juneau, so I know I cannot be the only one against this proposal. Perhaps the Nordic team could use just the trail across the bridge and that could be shut down for only their usage. This way both archers and skiers get the best possible outcome. Thank you for reading this public input.</p> <p>-Connor Corcoran</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 6:17 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Zane Clark
Email
<a href="mailto:zdkckk@gmail.com">zdkckk@gmail.com</a>
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>It's my understanding that the Ski Club uses motorized equipment to groom that trail for the winter cross-country skiers. This should be the only motorized equipment which should be allowed beyond the gate at the rifle range. The amount of recreation enjoyed by the large number of skiers (of which I am one) justifies not allowing other uses of this trail during that time period. Thanks for allowing me to comment on this.</p>



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 6:12 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Tom Pegues
Email
<a href="mailto:Tom.pegues@aelp.com">Tom.pegues@aelp.com</a>
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>Leave it open! This is State and Federal land, that should be responsibly accessible to everyone. Juneau NEEDS more locations to ride ATV's and snow machines. You can cross country ski just about anywhere. Out of state friends of mine simply can't believe it when I tell them that we can't really ride here. This is Alaska, the largest state by far and Juneau, the largest city by area in the country, yet we can't find a place to ride. Pretty sad.</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 6:02 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Annette G E Smith

### Email

[sges@gci.net](mailto:sges@gci.net)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Douglas

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

I oppose closing this area to use by only a single group of people. These are public lands, not private lands. Public lands should provide for public use and should not exclude any legitimate public use. Those who operate off road vehicles have the same rights as those that ski or skate or hike. I do not operate an off road vehicle.....I do hike. I would be delighted to share the trails with others.

It is my understanding that the ski clubs would like to exclude access to those that are not skiers. I snowshoe and have personally suffered verbal attacks from skiers for even being in the area. I have as much right to be there as anybody else.

Ski clubs have many places to ski. They have Eaglecrest, the Mendenhall Glacier in the winter with access from skaters cabin, Eagle Beach recreation area, Montana Creek, Mendenhall Campgrounds, Dredge Lake, Spaulding Meadows, and the list goes on.

I am only aware of some off-road activities out by Echo Cove and some snow machining near the Dan Moller trail in the winter. This shows the inequities in allowable use of public lands.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 5:34 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Randy Peterson
Email
<a href="mailto:randyjp@gmail.com">randyjp@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>I'm writing in support of closing the Montana Creek Road to motorized vehicles from Nov. 1 through April 1. Also, I'd like to see the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed per the JNSC request. I think this change is necessary to make the trail safe for the primary users of the trail, which is the nordic club. Motorized vehicle users have access to plenty of other areas throughout Juneau; however, the conditions required for a viable cross-country trail are more demanding, with Montana Creek Road providing one of the few areas for cross country skiers. Having motorized vehicles would reduce the amount of time available to skiers, lower the quality of the trail that is already maintained by the nordic club, and decrease safety. For all of these reasons, please close the Montana Creek Road to motorized use during the winter months.</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 5:30 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Tim Travis
Email
<a href="mailto:timntravis@gmail.com">timntravis@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>As some one who has used this trail for multiple things, from dog walking, mountain biking, atv riding and cross county skiing over the years I think it should be open to all to enjoy year around. The Nordic ski club has the mendenhall camp ground, mendenhall lake and dredge lake areas that they use for skiing in this area. There is no reason to shut down winter motorized access to Montana creek. Motorized use is already become so limited in this town over the years so why limit it more. With the great work of groups like the Juneau Off-road association and the Juneau Snow mobile club they will take care of the trail and work on accessing more of the multi use land that the trail leads to which will open up more trails for everyone to enjoy.</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 5:30 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Louis Coullard
Email
<a href="mailto:kelden_pride@hotmail.com">kelden_pride@hotmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Leave it open! There's already hardly anywhere in Juneau to ride. Juneau is the ONLY place in Alaska that I've been that has such harsh regulations on where someone can ride. Everywhere else in Alaska, atv / snomachines are a way of life. Not here though!

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 5:28 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
David Summers
Email
<a href="mailto:emailsummers@gmail.com">emailsummers@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Lemon Creek
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>Please keep the Montana Road open to motorized use during the winter. This is one of the very few places available for limited motorized use as well as mixed use by other user. There is no precedent to close it off in favor of a well funded Nordic Club vs any other common user. In fact, the fact that the Nordic Club would ask for it's closure to motorized use is testament to the fact that there is a sizable active group of motorized users.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and keeping the Montana Creek Road open to motorized use.</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 5:26 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Peter Nestler
Email
<a href="mailto:ropemasters@hotmail.com">ropemasters@hotmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Public roads and land should be kept open to the ENTIRE public. Specialized groups or interests shouldn't be favored. There are a lot of areas that can be used for cross-country skiing. There are few locations that allow motorized use during the winter. Please leave access available for all public uses. Thank you.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Zuzana Culakova <z.culakova@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 5:20 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Please keep the Montana Creek Trail closed to motor vehicle traffic in winter

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Parks and Recreation,

I'm writing to support the broad public use of Montana Creek Trail through continued prohibition of motorized vehicles north of the shooting range from November 1 to May 1.

By providing a compacted, safe, easy to traverse trail in a beautiful area, grooming and other trail maintenance (bridge repair, brush clearing, etc) done by **JNSC facilitates the accessibility of the Montana Creek trail for the whole Juneau community**. In my one winter in Juneau, I have been a frequent user of the trail (skiing), because it is safe for my small car to access in snowy driving conditions, it has snow longer than other Juneau trails, it is ideal for taking along novice skier friends, it is easy to ski at night, and it does not require a trail pass. In addition to skiers, I have seen snowshoers, dog walkers, hikers, couples out for an evening stroll, and children in sleds enjoying the space. Because of the grooming and gentle grade, the trail is also more accessible to individuals with limited mobility than other winter walking options.

The use of motorized vehicles on a trail of this type cannot coexist safely with current walkers, snowshoers and skiers. There are narrow bridges and areas with very limited sight lines. There is a fundamental incompatibility between heavy, swiftly moving ATVs and snowmobiles, and all other users, especially dogs and children. Beyond safety issues, vehicles destroy the groomed surface leaving deep tracks, making it impossible to ski and more difficult for other users to navigate. Far from allowing more people to use the trail, use by motorized vehicles would de facto limit trail use to those who have access to motorized vehicles.

This is not at all about granting use of the space to JNSC vs ORV, but rather a fundamental question about how the community wants the trail to be used. In the interest of preserving this safe recreational space for the whole community, I hope that the trail will continue to be closed to motorized vehicles during winter.

Thank you,  
Zuzana Culakova



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** jennifer strumfeld <jrsjno@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 5:17 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; info@jnski.org; Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Keep Montana Creek Free of Motors

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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To Whom it May Concern:

For the safety of recreational skiers and snowshoers, it is a must that the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range be closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate be permanently installed. I don't see anyway around this request. The roadway at stake is crucial access ground for our Nordic skiers and would essentially mean very little terrain for motorized vehicles.

This strip of heaven connects skiers to beautifully quiet access along Montana Creek. This trail, overrun with motorized vessels could cause great harm to the trail and devastating erosion to the creek. This area must be protected.

Please act in the interest of humanity and the land,

Jenny Strumfeld  
North Douglas

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 5:15 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Gary Leder
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:gleder@acsalaska.net">gleder@acsalaska.net</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I'M not a snow machine owner or rider. I ski the Montana Creek trail multiple times every winter. There is no conflict. Please do not ban motorized vehicles on this trail, there is plenty of room for us both.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Christie H <christiehendrich@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 5:14 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Trail usage

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**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of the Montana Creek Trail by off road vehicles (ORVs) during the winter season. As a Nordic skier myself, and a parent of two children who ski there and participate in Juneau Nordic Ski club (JNSC) programs (recreationally and competitively), I believe the current arrangement limiting winter access to the trail to non-vehicular use should be maintained.

Maintenance of ski trails by JNSC enables participation in their youth nordic ski programs, as well as usage by independent community members ranging from the very young to the very old. Currently there are over 650 JNSC members, but maintained trails are accessible to and used by members and non-members for various non-motorized activities. These activities are enabled through the enthusiastic support of many community members, who contribute financially, and the many members who volunteer their time to maintain trails. On any given winter day, if there is snow, there are skiers on every groomed Juneau trail throughout the day, not to mention dog walkers, hikers, snow-shoers, etc.

It is not possible for motorized and non-motorized users to “share” these trails simultaneously because their activities are incompatible. The ORV’s destroy the efforts of groomers who maintain the trails; it is not safe for skiers and other pedestrians to be on the trail while ORV’s are on them; and while many skiers can simultaneously enjoy the trails with little or no disruption to others, and very little impact to the terrain, one ATV can ruin the experience of many.

I understand that there is also a larger discussion of whether to prohibit motorized access to the Montana Creek Trail year-round, and while I believe there may be reasonable argument for that as well, my comments today are limited to support for the request that the road beyond the gate at the rifle range be closed to motorized users from November 1 to May 1, and that a pedestrian gate be installed, so that winter use of the trail by skiers and other non-motorized users is protected.

Thank you for your consideration of my input.

Sincerely,

-Christie Hendrich

Juneau, AK

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** DOUGLAS MERTZ <dkmertz@ak.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 5:14 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek road uses

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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I strongly support closing the Montana Creek Road to motorized uses from November 1 to May 1.

The problem with mixed uses during the winter is that a single snow machine or four wheeler on that narrow road will ruin the tracks and groomed areas essential for cross-country skiing. So if the motorized devices use it, the means no ski use is even possible. It may be possible to find a motorized playground somewhere in the Borough, but to allow them on MCR means that others will be excluded from one of the great cross-country routes in Alaska.

Thanks for considering this.

Douglas Mertz

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Paul Korchin <pdkorchin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 5:05 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Skiing and ORV Proposal

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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To Juneau Parks & Recreation, et al.:

As a proud Juneau citizen, taxpayer, and voter, I urge you to keep the Montana Creek road beyond the gate at the rifle range closed to motorized users from November 1st through May 1st annually, and also to keep the pedestrian gate permanently installed.

Arguments for "equal access" to CBJ's recreational areas rely (whether wittingly or not) upon a false equivalency. To claim that an area such as Montana Creek ought to be equally accessible to motorized and non-motorized users ignores the intrinsic character and disproportionate impact of the former upon the natural space. Snowmachines and ATVs--by virtue of their comparatively great size, weight, speed, and sheer kinetic force--risk transforming any ostensibly "shared use" trails into a "survival of the fittest" (potential) kill-zone.

How--legally and ethically speaking--are the many skiers, hikers, and even dogs(!) who currently enjoy Montana Creek supposed to navigate what would effectively become an unmonitored speedway for motorized recreational vehicles? Not all public space needs to be--or, even *ought* to be--genuinely equal access. CBJ does not permit cars and trucks to travel along its sidewalks at will. Likewise, pedestrians do not have unrestricted access to our roadways. Even though vehicles *cross* sidewalks and pedestrians *cross* streets, sidewalks remain legally dedicated to pedestrians and streets remain legally dedicated to vehicles. Please preserve Montana Creek as a precious community "sidewalk", and resist any misguided temptation to contort it into yet another "street".

Respectfully,

Paul D. Korchin

Juneau, AK

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Dean Heard <dheard@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 4:54 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Hello,

I would like to voice my opposition to the use of motorized vehicles in the Montana Creek drainage beyond the rifle range from November 1st to May 1st. This is an important recreational area that should be available for all people to use. Available for all, without the accompanying disturbance of motorized vehicles. It is impossible to enjoy the peace and quiet of being outdoors with high volume machinery zooming around in a narrow canyon.

In addition to the recreating public being disturbed by noisy machines, there is also the disturbance to wildlife that inhabit the area. The environmental impacts of ORVs in this area are too great to be ignored and allowed. Please consider banning all ORV use in the Montana Creek drainage.

Sincerely,  
Dean Heard  
Juneau

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Fran Roche <fran.e.roche@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 4:50 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli; Parks Rec  
**Cc:** info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Keep Montana Creek Road/Trail Closed to Motorized users in Winter!

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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I am writing you to strongly urge the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee to keep the Montana Creek road/trail closed to all motorized users in the winter.

This trail is one of the only places cross country skiers have available to them that provides good consistent skiing without driving to Eaglecrest. For almost two decades this trail has been groomed by volunteers and has provided cross country skiers an idea location to ski.

Please keep this trail closed to motorized users in the winter and install a permanent gate. This trail is unsuitable for motorized users and there is totally inadequate parking at the trailhead for full sized trucks towing trailers carrying snow machines.

**PLEASE KEEP THE MONTANA CREEK ROAD/TRAIL CLOSED TO MOTORIZED USERS IN THE WINTER!**

Thank you  
Fran Roche

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 4:48 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Christopher Wingo
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:chrisdwingo@gmail.com">chrisdwingo@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Douglas
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I feel that the trail should stay public and fair use for all. Everyone has been very respectful out there. There are TONS of places for Nordic skiing but very few for ATV. Please keep this trail open for all to enjoy.



**Lauren Verrelli**

---

**From:** Fran & Mike <mwilson.froche@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 4:43 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli; Parks Rec  
**Cc:** info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Keep Montana Creek Road/Trail Closed to Motorized users in Winter!

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

---

I am writing you to strongly urge the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee to keep the Montana Creek road/trail closed to all motorized users in the winter.

This trail is one of the only places cross country skiers have available to them that provides good consistent skiing without driving to Eaglecrest. For almost two decades this trail has been groomed by volunteers and has provided cross country skiers an idea location to ski.

Please keep this trail closed to motorized users in the winter and install a permanent gate. This trail is unsuitable for motorized users and there is totally inadequate parking at the trailhead for full sized trucks towing trailers carrying snow machines.

**PLEASE KEEP THE MONTANA CREEK ROAD/TRAIL CLOSED TO MOTORIZED USERS IN THE WINTER!**

Thank you  
Michael Wilson

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 4:42 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Jonathan Gray

### Email

[skipg@ak.net](mailto:skipg@ak.net)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Lemon Creek

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

From: Jonathan "Skip" Gray  
To: CBJ Parks and Recreation Board Members  
Date: August 24, 2020  
R.E.: Proposal to make a part of the Montana Creek Road non-motorized in winter

Dear Board members,

I support the proposal to make Montana Creek Road, beyond the Hank Harmon Rifle Range to the timber bridge across Montana Creek, non-motorized in winter.

I used to be an avid downhill skier. I helped build both the Ptarmigan and Hooter chairlifts. Those lifts, and the honor of helping to build them, were a dream come true for someone who grew up skiing the rope tows along the Dan Moller trail.

Unfortunately I have all but quit downhill skiing because the cost is beyond my means. I totally quit Nordic skiing at Eaglecrest during the area's operating season for the same reason. Now I Nordic ski in fee-free areas like Montana Creek. Such areas, and the reality that Nordic equipment is much more affordable than downhill gear, provides lower-income people with opportunities that are important for both physical and mental health.

Besides maintaining the Nordic trails at Eaglecrest, the Nordic Ski Club, also maintains the only fee-free Nordic tracks. One of those is twenty-six miles from town at Eagle Beach State park. Another is the Pioneer Road at the end of North Douglas Highway. There are only two that are quickly accessible to the majority of Juneauites; Mendenhall Lake and Campground and Montana Creek. Unfortunately all of the fee-free tracks are at sea level. Consequently, they are often without good quality snow much of the winter. Montana Creek, with it's unique micro climate, is the most dependable for quality snow. It's also incredibly scenic in a totally different way than the glacier area. And in spite of it's accessible location, it has a more remote feeling to it; something I value greatly.

A single motorized vehicle can destroy a groomed track used by dozens, if not hundreds, of people during a day; a track that an unpaid volunteer spent hours preparing at no expense to users or the corresponding land agency. That same vehicle can also destroy the quiet peacefulness of an area for miles around. And if driven irresponsibly or carelessly around corners on a narrow roadway, motorized vehicles invite tragedy for which the CBJ could be held responsible in part.

During the winter, motorized vehicle users cruise the Dan Moller Trail, the ridge tops of Douglas Island including the top of Mt Jumbo and the area below south of Douglas. They speed up Spaulding Trail and around the meadows, the west side of Mendenhall Lake and probably other areas I don't know about. So they have an equal if not more number of places to go as do fee-free Nordic skiers. At the same time, they use a vast amount of land area by comparison.

From my observation, many more people use the short section of Montana Creek Road outlined in the proposal for Nordic skiing and hiking, in the wintertime, than those who use it for motorized recreation. Please reserve it for non-motorized use in winter, with exception of course for Nordic Alpine Club grooming equipment and emergency vehicles. Thank you.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 4:42 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Mike Michaud
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:mike.k.michaud@hotmail.com">mike.k.michaud@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Deciding to close this access to motorized vehicles would be way out of line. There are numerous place's for non motorized recreation in the Juneau area already and the same cant be said for motorized vehicles. Please don't do it.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 4:34 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Lori Downer

### Email

[lmwelborn73@me.com](mailto:lmwelborn73@me.com)

### Residence Location

Douglas

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

From my understanding the Juneau Nordic Ski Club (JNSC) is requesting exclusive rights to the Montana Creek Road during the winter months. Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) needs to take in consideration that JNSC already has "exclusive" rights to;

- ~Mendenhall Camp Ground
- ~Mendenhall Lake
- ~Eaglecrest
- ~Montana Creek Road
- ~Eagle Beach
- ~Spaulding Meadows (backcountry)
- ~and the new \$3,000,000.00 - 3/12 mile pioneer road on the backside of Douglas.

I believe closing Montana Creek Road to motorized vehicles during the winter is extremely dangerous and very selfish. The Juneau Snowmobile Club (JSC) has trained first responders for assisting in search and rescue. Just in the past few years JSC has assisted in the search and rescue of cross-country skiers, snowshoers' (December 2016), and a camper at the John Muir Cabin (February 2018). Montana Creek Road provides easier access to the backcountry of Spaulding Meadows. Snowmobile access on Montana Creek Road must stay open in order to maintain a open or broken trail for easier and faster access to the backcountry.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 4:15 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

**Name**

Deborah Wilson

**Email**

[Debewilson65@gmail.com](mailto:Debewilson65@gmail.com)

**Phone**

**Residence Location**

Mendenhall Valley

**Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure**

I do NOT want Montana Creek trail closed to motorized traffic November 1-April 1. The Juneau Nordic Ski Club already has the Mendenhall Campground and the Nordic area at Eaglecrest to use for laying track. That is enough. They do not need to also take over the Montana Creek area trail.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Katherine Smith <ksslosttravels@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 4:14 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org; Parks Rec  
**Subject:** Please: No Personal Motorized Vehicle on Montana Cr. Trail

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Good Afternoon,

I was just notified there is a petition/ask to allow personal motorized vehicles on Montana Creek Trail. As “one of those people” who moved to Juneau for “a summer” but have lived in Juneau full time for over 13 years, I strongly oppose this change.

As an active user of this trail (snowy and non-snowy seasons), I will be greatly saddened if this change is approved. I’ve 100% stopped going to Dan M Cabin area, because motorized vehicles are so fast. They don’t slow down for non-motorized users, thus it is unsafe for me to be up there. If they are allowed on Montana Creek, I fear I will lose that trail too. And it is the primary place I feel safe XC skiing!

Also. This trail follows Montana Creek. I’m not an engineer but also worried these vehicles will erode the soft shoulder of the existing trail which would make maintenance of this trail more expensive in the future as well as negatively impact all users during the non-winter periods.

Lastly, I only know of one approved motorized vehicle permitted on the trail. It is used for grooming the trail for XC and skate skiers. It goes slow and straight. The goal of the vehicle is to make the trail safe and smooth for current users. It also provides all current users a “guide” on where to ski. This means this vehicle keeps current users safe. Preventing them (and me) from going too far off one side and potentially hurt themselves (and myself).

To reiterate, I strongly oppose allowing personal monetized vehicles on Montana Creek Trail.

Best,  
Katherine Smith  
[ksslosttravels@gmail.com](mailto:ksslosttravels@gmail.com)  
Juneau,AK

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Judith Hayden <judithak@me.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 8:29 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek winter trail

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Please ensure that the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range is closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

There are only 2 trails open to free skiing in the valley. Older folks like me cannot drive the Eaglecrest road to access fee-based skiing- too expensive and too long a drive on icy roads. Neither can I negotiate the icy bike paths with xc skis.

I need an easily-accessed and quiet place to exercise daily. Montana Creek without motorized users during the winter and spring months is that place.

Thank you  
Judith Hayden

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 4:09 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Claire Imamura
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:cimamura@uw.edu">cimamura@uw.edu</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Downtown
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
<p>Hello Parks &amp; Recreation department, I support closing Montana Creek Road to motorized vehicles from November 1 to May 1. I enjoy cross-country skiing on the trail and allowing snow machines in the area would make it unsafe, noisy, and polluted for other users. Thank you.</p>



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 4:05 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Logan George
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:fxdclgeorge@gmail.com">fxdclgeorge@gmail.com</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I believe it is pointless to close yet another area to motor vehicles while so many other areas exist for recreational skiing or walking. Juneau does not have many areas open to legal 4 wheeling.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 4:00 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Austin Hales
Email
<a href="mailto:amhales77@gmail.com">amhales77@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>This closure proposal is more proof of governmental overreach, tax dollars being wasted, and nonsensical attempts at wasting the public's time on unimportant, unnecessary, and imagined issues. Cross country skiers have nigh the entirety of Juneau to ski and pursue their hobby while those that utilize ATVs have had their options dwindle almost every year. Shoot this proposal down and don't pick it back up. You have much more important matters to attend to than something as juvenile as this. Such a waste of everyone's time...You all make Andy Dwyer from Parks and Rec look like a productive and model government employee.</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 3:57 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Henry Hopkins

### Email

[henry\\_hopkins@yahoo.com](mailto:henry_hopkins@yahoo.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Douglas

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

To whom it may concern,  
I do not own ATVs! I am not a redneck. My family x-country skis.

I find the plan arrogant and exclusive on the part of the ski club. There are many places to ski, several of them are groomed and maintained. The plan discriminated against one marginalized user group who are being turned into criminals if they dare ride their ATVs. The city has already done enough to express their distain for ATV enthusiasts. Let's please leave the last remaining legal riding place (such as it is) alone.

The ski clubs needs to learn some humility and how to get along with a more diverse set of users.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 3:49 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Candace Murdoch
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:cmurdoch@gci.net">cmurdoch@gci.net</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Please keep the road open, we hike there a lot.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 3:37 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Charity Platt
Email
<a href="mailto:charityp1@gmail.com">charityp1@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>My whole family uses Montana Creek all winter long to cross country ski. If the snowmobiles had a route that didn't chew up the groomed tracks that would be a great. I don't think one group is more important than the other. I'm guessing that cross country skiing has less of a negative impact on the terrain in the area though. I also think there are more people recreating in this area doing cross country skiing than ATV riding. I've seen many youth groups skiing there. Hopefully a comprise benefitting both groups can be reached.</p> <p>Sincerely, Charity Platt</p>

Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Megan Behnke <megan.i.behnke@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 3:21 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** keep Montana Creek for pedestrians in winter

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Parks and Recreation,

I am writing to support the broad public use of Montana Creek Trail through the prohibition of motorized vehicles north of the shooting range from November 1 to May 1, and a suitable gate to enforce this.

Snow machines do not allow multiple users, since they create exclusive use zones around themselves (particularly on a constrained trail like Montana Creek). Not only do they cause noise, pollution, and damage to the track and grooming, they lead to injury--they are heavy fast equipment moving along a narrow pedestrian path--a recipe for injury and death. Opening up the trail to all uses, as ORV wants, would actually close the path down to *everyone* except snow machines.

The broadest public good is served by keeping the Juneau winter recreation trail that serves residents for more of the year than any other open to everyone except motorized vehicles, since otherwise it will by default become open to *only* motorized vehicles.

Thank you,

Megan

--

Megan Behnke  
email: [megan.i.behnke@gmail.com](mailto:megan.i.behnke@gmail.com)

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Oksana Midgett <omidgett@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 3:08 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli; Parks Rec; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Trail

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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To Whom It May Concern,

Montana Creek trail is my absolute favorite ski trail in Juneau and it's the only Nordic ski trail close to sea level that reliably gets enough snow to ski on in the winter. The Juneau Nordic Ski Club does the most outstanding job in maintaining this trail. Montana Creek trail is the perfect length for Nordic skiing, has great typography, beautiful scenery, convenient location, and is super fun to ski! Last winter, I was skiing on this trail about four times a week.

Montana Creek trail gets tons of foot traffic all winter long and not just from skiers. People walk this trail a lot!

Please keep this trail closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and allow for the pedestrian "kissing gate" to be permanently installed.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment.

Oksana Midgett

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 2:57 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Gary Miller
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:gmler.juneauak@gmail.com">gmler.juneauak@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Out the Road
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
<p>I would like to see Montana Creek Road closed during the winter.I like to cross country ski it. Because of its elevation, it has some of the last snow for skiing.</p> <p>Thanks.</p>



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Carl Brodersen <carlhcb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 2:57 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Save Montana Creek Road

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

---

Dear Parks and Recreation,

I'm writing to support the broad public use of Montana Creek through the prohibition of motorized vehicles north of the shooting range from November 1 to May 1 (the ski season), and a suitable gate to enforce this. Snow machines create exclusive use zones around themselves, especially on a constrained trail like Montana Creek. Beyond the noise and pollution, and beyond the constant damage to the track and grooming, hundreds of pounds of machinery hurtling along a narrow pedestrian path is a recipe for injury and death. Opening up the trail to all uses, as ORV wants, would actually close the path down to *everyone except* snow machines. The broadest public good is served by keeping the Juneau winter recreation trail that serves residents for more of the year than any other open to everyone except motorized vehicles, because otherwise, it will by default become open to *only* motorized vehicles.

Thank you,

-Carl Brodersen

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 2:52 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Stephen Stoddard
Email
<a href="mailto:stoddardstephenj@yahoo.com">stoddardstephenj@yahoo.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Majority of use is by skiers, so I favor the closure in the winter. Perfect setting for setting track. Road is not maintained for vehicles in the winter. It also makes skiing/walking/dog walking more enjoyable at the Mendenhall Lake Campground because crowds are dispersed (another indication of how high the use has become over the past couple years).

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 2:44 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Keanen Jensen
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:ak.keanen@gmail.com">ak.keanen@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I full believe it should stay open for multi use all year round. The JNSC has several areas to ski. Where ORV have minimal to none. This is the only access point for ORV to reach federal lands to ride

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Jackie Campbell <jackie.campbell65@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 2:37 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** skil trail

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Lauren,

I want the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

Thank you,

Jackie Campbell

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Megan Buzby <buzbymh@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 2:37 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; JNSC Board; Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek trail and access

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hello,

I am writing to support the proposal by the Juneau Nordic Ski Club and restricting motorized vehicle access to the Montana Creek trail during the winter months. The proposal as I understand it is to close the gate beyond the rifle range to motorized users Nov 1 to May 1 and install a permanent kissing gate.

I have lived in Juneau since 2009 and regularly ski on the Montana Creek trail - every winter, all winter long, 1 - 3 times each week. I value the quality of the snow, the maintenance, the beauty, and the peace and quiet. It has been the most reliable section of skiable snow in Juneau, because of the cooler micro-climate there and because of the consistent work the JNSC does keeping it groomed. The volunteer groomers put in numerous hours to ensure what snow there is, is skiable into April long after it has melted elsewhere in Juneau.

I understand the desire for ATV users to access the area from this trail, but think it's important to recognize that allowing motorized vehicles here necessarily excludes non-motorized use by skiers. While I certainly value the quiet of that trail (which would be gone with motorized traffic), a minimum requirement for skiing is a groomed surface - snow machines and ATVs destroy this in one pass. The JNSC trail maintenance still allows for multi-use of this trail by walkers, dogs, snow-shoers, hikers, hunters, etc.

Summer and fall access is not hampered by the ski season and allows for multi-use access, motorized and non-motorized.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Take care,  
Megan Buzby

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Parks Rec  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 2:31 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** FW: Road beyond Rifle Range

-----Original Message-----

From: Nina D'Andrade <ndandrade59@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 1:46 PM  
To: Parks Rec <Parks.Rec@juneau.org>  
Subject: Road beyond Rifle Range

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Please keep the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

I signed a petition for the opposite opinion without understanding the full picture, so I'm clarifying my position.

Thank you,  
Nina

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Anne Sutton <annelou@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 2:29 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org; George Schaaf  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear readers,

I regularly use Montana Creek road for walking and for groomed winter/spring skiing and am very concerned about a proposal to open this road to off-road vehicles (ORVs). ORVs would not only destroy the quiet tranquility of the trail but ruin conditions for the hundreds of people who currently run, hike and ski this lovely area.

Please close the road beyond the gate at the Rifle Range to motorized users [from Nov 1 to May 1](#) and install the pedestrian kissing gate permanently.

Thank you,  
Anne Sutton

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 2:16 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Jeshua McMaster
Email
<a href="mailto:jeshua.d.mcmaster@gmail.com">jeshua.d.mcmaster@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>I do not think that this road should be closed to motorized vehicles at any time. There is an extremely limited number of areas where winter motorized vehicles can recreate, and reducing that number would serve no purpose. I have never used this trail for any reason, but I have lived in Juneau for 30 years and know that this is a much needed outlet for our winter recreators.</p> <p>-Jeshua</p>



## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 2:08 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Darrin Quimby
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:quimbymining@gmail.com">quimbymining@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Downtown
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
it's already difficult to find motorized off road places to go. Don't take this location away from us too.

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 2:05 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Gail Quimby
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:surveyorgail@hotmail.com">surveyorgail@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Douglas
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I think it's ridiculous that ATV's will only have one place left to use. It's already so crowded at Berners Bay I'm surprised there hasn't been a fatality there. Stop taking away recreational land from motorized vehicles.

**Lauren Verrelli**

---

**From:** Margaret Cowan <peggycowan@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 2:05 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Cc:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Winter use of Montana Creek Trail

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee:

I am writing you concerning winter use of the Montana Creek Trail/Road. I support closing the trail to motorized vehicles from November 1 to May 1.

This spring I felt so fortunate to be facing COVID in Juneau. Skiing multiple times a week on the Montana Creek Ski Trail was important for my physical and mental health. This ski opportunity is a wonderful community asset that I hope to continue to use myself and safely with my grandchildren.

I encourage you, the PRAC and staff of CBJ, to continue to partner with local skiers and look for ways to enhance the experience of cross-country skiers in this area. For much of our shortened winters, this area at Montana Creek is the only area, that I can ski, that still has snow.

The location of the trail also makes biathlon competitions a possibility for our community. Anchorage uses Kincaid Park for this purpose. The PRAC could learn from the Anchorage Park's experience and provide this opportunity for Juneau.

My family has a snow machine and enjoys getting into the mountains on the snow machine. The only time I've experience a motorized vehicle using the Montana Creek area was this spring when it destroyed the ski track and made using the trail difficult. From this experience motorized and ski use on that trail do not seem compatible. I would also be scared to be on some of the curves while on skis with a snow machine also on the trail.

Thank you for your service to the people of Juneau and for supporting skiers use of Montana Creek for all these years. I urge you to continue to support this use with your current decision and planning into the future.

Sincerely,

Peggy Cowan

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** cathy connor <conccathy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 1:49 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Cc:** Rod Flynn  
**Subject:** Nordic Ski Club Member Support for No Snow Machines on Montana Creek Trail

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

---

Dear PRAC Members, Lauren Verrelli, and Info@jnski,

My husband and I are both 37 year Juneau residents and have always been cross country skiers during our time here, as are our 3 kids, born and raised in the Capital City.

Now 68 years olds, we spent over 60 days of this past winter skiing on the nordic trails around Juneau--- to get our daily winter exercise and to keep our sanity during pandemic times.

The Juneau Nordic Ski Club puts a ton of volunteer effort into grooming the trails for its members and the public at large. All of this work can be wiped out with one traverse by a single snow machine---destroying the skiing pleasure for many more nordic skiers.

Please do not let snow machines use the Montana Creek Trail during the winter. They have the Treadwell Ditch and Mt. Jumbo bowl areas and Spaulding Meadows vis UAS Dorms access to enjoy back- country access. Thank you for your attention.

Cathy Connor  
Former PRAC member

--

Professor of Geology, Emerita  
Environmental Science Program  
Department of Natural Sciences  
University Alaska Southeast

[cathy.connor@uas.alaska.edu](mailto:cathy.connor@uas.alaska.edu)  
<http://www.uas.alaska.edu/pub/CLCONNOR>  
[http://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=sejlri8AAAAJ&pagesize=100&view\\_op=list\\_works](http://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=sejlri8AAAAJ&pagesize=100&view_op=list_works)

"For in the dew of little things the heart finds its morning and is refreshed." - Kahlil Gibran

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 1:49 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Pam Watys
Email
<a href="mailto:akpamwatts@gmail.com">akpamwatts@gmail.com</a>
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I believe the area should remain closed to motorized vehicles. Due to the sensitive land in the area and nature of recreational activities it is most commonly used for, it does not lend itself to motorized vehicle use. The safety of hikers, snowshoers, bicyclists, and cross country skiers who use the area for these purposes would be put at risk with snowmachines or motorcycles competing for trail usage, not to mention the noise factor that many people seek to escape from town and traffic. I urge you to designate this area closed to motorized vehicles.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 1:48 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Jay Hendricks
Email
<a href="mailto:jayhendricks55@gmail.com">jayhendricks55@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Please don't close down Montana Creek rd In the winter. I've grown up in Juneau and have watched time after time places getting shut down to recreational vehicles etc. I grew up fishing, hunting, fourwheeling and snowmobileing. It's part of what shaped me into the man I am today. I'm a productive member of society and I don't drink or do drugs. I enjoy motorized vehicles especially in the winter. I've started my family now in Juneau and am excited to raise my children like I was, going out Montana Creek is part of that. We have very little access to the trails in Juneau hardly any. I believe there is no reason to shut this down for one group of people Thanks for listening have a good day.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 1:44 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

**Name**

Mitchell Laudert

**Email**

[laudertmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:laudertmitchell@gmail.com)

**Phone**

**Residence Location**

Mendenhall Valley

**Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure**

There are only two places to go in the winter here in Juneau and this is a third that no one knows about due to the skiers. The skiers are slowly cutting off the two other places as well. Every year the Spaulding meadows no motorized line gets closer and closer to the final ridge before Montana Creek. The original boundary is a creek that easily divides and is very noticeable in the winter and is only known to the long time riders that have rode since the 1990's. Also if this trail gets close for motorized use for the winter months the trappers will not be able to have easy access to this spot to trap and no one will actually ever get to use the trail that was meant for motorized use in the first place. Again there are only two places in Juneau to use motorized vehicles in the winter and yet the skiers are still trying to get them closed down to the responsible riders that use them.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 1:43 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Derek Oliver
Email
<a href="mailto:derek.keller.oliver@gmail.com">derek.keller.oliver@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Having improved access for summer and winter riding spots especially the proposed snowmachine access to spaulding meadows would be a huge improvement for a town that is so lacking. The hypocrisy of the ski club being allowed sole access for their motorized grooming equipment when they have many other available areas is just astounding. Please look at marginalized groups such as the orv/snowmachine community and see that there are limited access points and this could be a huge improvement.



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 1:38 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Aaron Morrison
Email
<a href="mailto:ajmorcal@yahoo.com">ajmorcal@yahoo.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I support closure of the road to motorized vehicles during the winter months. I cross country ski this road and one motorized vehicle passing through on a warm day can ruin the snow pack and any ability to skate ski until the next snowfall. Please consider blocking motorized use of this area during the November 1 through April 1 period.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 1:32 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Karl Bausler
Email
<a href="mailto:bausler@ak.net">bausler@ak.net</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>I support closure of Montana Creek Road to motorized vehicles November 1 through April 1, extending from the gate by the Hank Harmon Rifle Range to the end of the road.</p> <p>It is my understanding that the areas this road would provide access to for motorized use is already accessible by a current alternative motorized use trail.</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 1:31 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Josh Martin
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:Martinjosh395@yahoo.com">Martinjosh395@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Please don't shut it down for motorized vehicles, cross country skiers have plenty of areas to go. Juneau has next to nothing for off-road/ snow machines. All areas should be multi use!

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Parks Rec  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 1:29 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** FW: Montana Creek access

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**From:** Antonio Yorba <avyorba1954@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:54 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec <Parks.Rec@juneau.org>  
**Subject:** Montana Creek access

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hello, I would like to add my name to those who want the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

I dont object to ATV and snow machine use but it must be located in areas where other users are not recreating. they are just not compatible with snow showing/hiking/nordic skiing.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 1:26 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Rachel Berngartt
Email
<a href="mailto:dr.rachel.berngartt@gmail.com">dr.rachel.berngartt@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Please close the Montana Creek Road from the gate near the rifle range to the bridge over montana creek Nov 1 to April 1. It's the only place where skiers can reliably ski at in the valley - snowmachiners/motorized users have a lot of other places they can use in the valley, in douglas, and out the road.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 1:23 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Cyndi Isaak
Email
<a href="mailto:cynditravel@gmail.com">cynditravel@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I oppose restricting this to motorized vehicles only. Riders are limited as it is to where we can ride. This is should be open to all, including motorized vehicles year round. Thank you.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 1:09 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
CHRIS PRUSSING
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:beadiste@gmail.com">beadiste@gmail.com</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Downtown
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Great idea. There is no need for winter vehicle noise, gasoline fume pollution, and destruction of nordic ski groomed tracks.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 1:03 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Nelea Fenumiai
Email
<a href="mailto:nelea.foster@yahoo.com">nelea.foster@yahoo.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I do not agree with closing montana creek road for atvs. There are lots of trails for skiers, including the campground, eagle Beach, Dredge Lakes and eaglecrest. I would hope that we can all share this section of road and learn to be responsible and kind to each other.



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 1:01 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Mist Hogberg
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:misti.hogberg@gmail.com">misti.hogberg@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
No, do not close the road to motorized vehicles any time of the year. All user groups should be able to share this area.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Jordan Watson <jordan.t.watson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:59 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek ORV access

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hi.

I'm writing to please request that the Montana Creek recreation strip be preserved for no motorized use during the winter. Specifically, the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

Opening this access would functionally prevent safe recreation for non-motorized users. It would be like allowing ORV access to Perseverance trail, establishing a dangerous multi-use situation. There are few dedicated spaces for groom cross country access in Juneau. Please help to preserve the little we have.

Thank you,  
Jordan Watson

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:53 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Annie Albrecht
Email
<a href="mailto:anniemaefox@gmail.com">anniemaefox@gmail.com</a>
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>I definitely support this proposal to close a portion of Montana Creek Road for motorized vehicles. I am a casual nordic skier, but am usually out at least once a week during the winter on the Montana Creek Road Trail and it is always very well used by ski and foot traffic. The part of the road in question is essential for accessing the trail and if it is open to motorized traffic, the safety of the skiers and hikers would be compromised.</p> <p>Please please keep this trail closed to motorized traffic.</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:53 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Elisabeth Jensen
Email
<a href="mailto:Alaskajensens@gmail.com">Alaskajensens@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>Please keep this trail open to all users. Our family uses it in the winter to hike with dogs, ski and sometimes with snowshoes. We have not used any motorized transport on this or any other trail in Juneau, but this is one of our preferred trails, and we do not support closing it off to motorized uses at this time for local non tourist uses. Instead the only change we'd support would be to have JPD patrol the trailhead more often to chase away the partiers who have large fires, and dump trash in the large clearing. Please do not move forward with the current proposal. Thanks!!</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:48 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Tiffany Ridle
Email
<a href="mailto:tiffany.mahle@hotmail.com">tiffany.mahle@hotmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I oppose the closure of Montana Creek Rd to motorized vehicles. Skiers can access this area just like anyone else if desired. There are also hundreds of miles of already restricted trails they can utilize for ski recreation. Please don't further restrict riders access to accessible areas.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:48 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

DAVID RITTER

### Email

[dritter@gci.net](mailto:dritter@gci.net)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Out the Road

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

Do not close montana creek ROAD to motor vehicles. It is one of the few access points that remain to legal use by off highway vehicles. The CBJ practice of closing roads and trails (that used to be roads) to particular user groups in favor of others is discriminatory.

Why close a road to motor vehicles for skiers? They use a snow machine to groom their "ski trails" .

Eagan drive is the only place in Juneau CLOSED to skiers.

The majority of Juneau trails were roads built by miners for transportation and moving supplies.

Will the dredge lake area be reopen to motor vehicles?

Will Eaglecrest be open to motor vehicles?

How about mendenhal camp grounds in the winter?

What about all the other areas that used to be open to ORVs?

The CBJ historic, systemic, discriminatory practices against certain user groups, in favor of others must end.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:40 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Lisa Petersen
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:lisapete1000@gmail.com">lisapete1000@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Keep the road accessible. I live near there and do not ride. There is no reason to close this activity because a special interest group wants it.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:40 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Casey Bain
Email
<a href="mailto:caseyb1989@gmail.com">caseyb1989@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>I'm sorry to the Nordic Skiers but this is public land, something that is already at a premium in Juneau. Juneau holds no rural roads or off-road areas. Skiers can litter too. Since the gate changed how people use the area for winter recreation, that should be enough. I stand against the limitation of public lands to special interest groups, especially when there are private mining claims and other uses for the land other than skiing.</p>



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Morgan Davis <mindandmotion@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:38 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek: please only allow non-motorized use during winter

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to express my strong support of keeping the Montana Creek drainage restricted to NON-MOTORIZED traffic during the winter months. My family regularly uses the volunteer maintained nordic tracks on a very regular basis over the winter. On several occasions a 4 wheeler drove up the road and it truly wrecked the track set and wasn't able to be effectively re-groomed to a satisfactory state until the next large snowfall. Skiers, hikers, dog walkers, and snowshoers all use this drainage compatibly during the winter, but they don't mix with motorized use.

Please do not even consider a shared use a viable solution. It is not. Thank you for supporting the masses that use the area for skiing and snowshoeing over the winter by saying no to a small number of 4-wheeler enthusiasts.

Sincerely,

Morgan Humphreys Davis

Juneau, AK

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:36 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Nicole Ferrin

### Email

[ferrin.nicole@gmail.com](mailto:ferrin.nicole@gmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

I strongly oppose closing the Montana Creek Road for motorized use. Closure of yet another trail to motorized use is not the answer, it should be expanded. Just over a mile is not long enough, make it longer and you'll see less people going off the trail illegally.

Many trails around the area (and statewide) only exist because they were a dirt bike trail (Dredge Lake) or an old logging/mining road. Then overtime they get shut down by one group being louder than the rest. Lack of available trails for off-road use is obvious when the number of trails are counted that are already closed to them vs ones that aren't.

The nortic skiers just got a large area with beautiful new trails last year by Skaters Cabin. This has improved the frequent illegal parking on the road that occurred and was never enforced in previous years (in fact they covered no parking signs with plastic bags). Now the skiers parking is infringing on users of the gun range, yet they want to close the area as they have to others. It may appear that there are more cross country skiers in Juneau, but that's probably because there is more opportunity for the recreation. There's no sense in buying an ATV if you have no where to ride it.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Allison Bidlack <albidlack@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:32 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Winter Access

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hello,

I am writing to you as a concerned member of the Juneau Nordic Ski Club. The Montana Creek road past the rifle range is used heavily by Nordic skiers throughout the winter (including the Juneau Nordic Ski Team for young skiers). Montana Creek provides the most consistent snow coverage in the Valley and thus is an important resource for our backcountry user community. Winter use by motorized users would entirely eliminate this trail as an option for skate skiing, and motorized users can already access Spaulding Meadows using the snowmachine trail near UAS housing.

Please consider closing the road beyond the gate at the rifle range to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 to preserve access to skiers during the winter months.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,  
Allison Bidlack

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:32 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Jesse blair
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:jesseblaorak@gmail.com">jesseblaorak@gmail.com</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Don't close this area to motor vehicles. In fact open more areas for snowmachining and wheeling.. You hear a sled/wheeler coming for miles, there's no safety concern, these people who want access for their activity only are just selfish.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:26 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Jake Ritter
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:ritterpants@yahoo.com">ritterpants@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Douglas
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Closing a ROAD to motorized traffic is absolutely absurd. Especially when there is such a large community of people that enjoy motorized recreation and are allowed so little area for that purpose.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:21 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Kyle Schweissing
Email
<a href="mailto:kyle.schweissing@gmail.com">kyle.schweissing@gmail.com</a>
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Please keep Montana creek open for motorized access in the winter. Please look into options for allowing these two groups to co exist better. Allowing access during certain hours, allowing motorized access on one side of the trail only, making a closer snow machine access point, restrictions for motorized access with permitting, speed limits, etc. The only way it should be shut down to motorized access is if a different area is being provided.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:19 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Tyler Douglas
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:tylerpdouglas@gmail.com">tylerpdouglas@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
As someone who enjoys the outdoors I am not for the closure to motorized vehicles. In times like these we need as many activities available to promote mental and physical well being

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:16 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Danielle Meeker
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:meekerde@gmail.com">meekerde@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Downtown
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
<p>I am in support of the Montana Creek Road Closure. As someone who cross country skis, I appreciate the opportunity to recreate outdoors without excessive noise or safety risk.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Danielle Meeker</p>



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** britab@ak.net  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:14 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Use of ATVs in Juneau area

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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To the Juneau PRAC Committee Members;

I would like to offer support to close the Montana Creek Road to ATV use past the rifle range from November 1 to May 1.

I was raised in Auke Bay, and have been a long-time hiker and skier in these areas. I have also done volunteer work to build a number of cabins in Juneau including working on the cabins in Spaulding Meadows and up Dan Moller. I also spend time using ATVs on Prince of Wales Island where there is an extensive network of logging roads. These roads are hardened and are not full of hikers, so they are appropriate for ATV use. The situation is quite different on Montana Creek Road and in Spaulding Meadows where there are many muskeg areas that are easily damaged by motorized vehicles. There are several problems with ATV use on the Montana Creek Road during the winter:

- There are obvious safety concerns related to combining skiers and walkers with motorized vehicles. This is an accident waiting to happen. The Montana Creek Road is not wide enough to accommodate a ATV trail and a ski trail.
- In five minutes, one snowmobile can ruin a ski trail that would have been used by hundreds of skiers. Most snowmobilers and ATVers are considerate and careful, but I have been in Spaulding meadows and on Mendenhall Lake when a snowmobile or 4 wheeler had completely ruined the trail for skiing.
- ATV and snowmobile use is loud. When I am riding a 4-wheeler, I wear ear protection. One loud motorized vehicle can impact the enjoyment of many hikers or skiers. The exhaust is also not pleasant for hikers and skiers.
- There is an alternate path for snowmobiles to get into Spaulding Meadow, so this access is not necessary.
- Lastly, I have concerns about how expanded use will be monitored to avoid damage to the meadows and wetlands. Motorized vehicles have already damaged the wetlands along the Montana Creek Road, in some areas in Spaulding meadows, and along the existing trail. Again, most riders are careful and thoughtful about where they ride, but some are not. The amount of damage that can be inflicted by just one careless rider is significant and long-lasting. I would encourage very careful consideration of development of additional trails for motorized vehicles so that they are built in areas where they will not cause long-term damage and the impact will be monitored.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns,  
Brita Bishop

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:11 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

James Andersen

### Email

[andersen2156@gmail.com](mailto:andersen2156@gmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

Closing Montana creek to atv and motorized vehicles is discrimination against a user group. There are very few places for atv and dirt bike riders to even go in Juneau. There are plenty of other places for walker's, hikers and bicycles to ride and walk. I've spent my whole life in Juneau and have watched little by little this city close more and more places to atv riders. I've also watch Allen marine close there store and stop selling atv's Honda hut has also slowed down on atv sales. I'd like to see more places to ride open up, and more stores/ dealerships sell atv's and dirt bikes. Which in turn will help improve Juneau's economy and possible add revenue to the state in taxes in the form of my atv users registering their vehicles.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:02 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Angela Mickle
Email
<a href="mailto:angie@mickletech.net">angie@mickletech.net</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>My husband and I love to ride our ATVs but find that we mostly do so in Canada because Juneau's ATV trails are lacking.</p> <p>As a lifetime resident of Juneau and the owner of 3 ATVs I feel strongly that this area needs to stay open to recreational motorized vehicles. Juneau does not have enough ATV riding options as it is.</p>

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Parks Rec  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:02 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** FW: Fred Hiltner testimony re: Montana Creek sharing use

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**From:** CindaFred StanekHiltner <svsongline@me.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 11:57 AM  
**To:** George Schaaf <George.Schaaf@juneau.org>; Parks Rec <Parks.Rec@juneau.org>  
**Subject:** Fred Hiltner testimony re: Montana Creek sharing use

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Fred Hiltner

Juneau, AK

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee  
Juneau, AK

Dear PRAC Committee,

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to offer testimony regarding the use of Montana Creek for now and into the future.

I have been an avid cross country skier for forty years in Juneau. It is a sport enjoyed by hundreds of Juneau citizens as for its excellent exercise, incredible beauty, family participation, and lifting of spirits throughout the winter.

Now we find ourselves challenged by choosing the best plan for sharing the road between user groups, with most agreeing that grooming and skiing in the winter is not safe or compatible with motorized use on this narrow road.

I think these are the main points to consider when you make your decision:

1. The 2014 Parks and Recreation agreement, after a lengthy and appropriate process and no strong opposition, made the decision to bar motor vehicles on Montana Creek Road during the winter and that decision has worked well except for a few violations by motor vehicle use. This is still the best decision and could be enforced by locking the kissing gate.
2. The best outcome will be the most obvious “win-win” decision- Non-motorized use during the months of November 1 through May 1, and allowing motorized use the rest of the year. This is a great way to share access between groups, and has created few issues between user groups. Sharing the road between seasons will not appease all, but will allow the greatest benefit for both sides- access and safety for skiers, walkers, and snowshoers in the winter months, and access for motor sports in the summer.
3. I have heard about the JORA petition by off-road vehicle enthusiasts. Please be aware that this petition is not specifically about motorized use on Montana Creek Road, but asks petitioners if they want unlimited access to many other areas in the Juneau area. I am also hearing that some petition signers are not Juneau residents.
4. I feel strongly that recurring issues with access for off-road could be mitigated by initiating a forward reaching plan for these vehicles that is away from residential neighborhoods, and designed specifically for this use.

A plan, located out the road, was put forward years ago by the city, but was dropped because of lack of funding. If a plan is drawn up, to the point of being ready when funding becomes possible, it will be ready if a grant

is approved. This was a missed possibility this time, when the Covid CARES funding was available in Juneau for “shovel ready” projects. I recommend that this ATV park be fully planned and become “shovel ready” so that action can be taken if such an opportunity presents itself again. This plan becoming ready will also help to lessen the increasing acrimony between user groups that we see today.

I thank you again for your dedication and hard work on this issue, and appreciate your considerations for these ideas.

Sincerely,

Fred Hiltner

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Parks Rec  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 12:01 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** FW: Montana creek

-----Original Message-----

From: Wendy Whelan <wwhelan@gci.net>  
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 11:15 AM  
To: Parks Rec <Parks.Rec@juneau.org>; George Schaaf <George.Schaaf@juneau.org>  
Subject: Montana creek

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Please do not allow motorized vehicles on the Montana Ck trails, as it is used by so many hikers, skiers, and bears. Surely another area can be set aside? Trail Mix has worked hard to improve many trails for hikers, bikers and skiers, who far outnumber the ATVers. They could form their own group to make areas for their own use.

Wendy Whelan

Juneau

Resident since 1980

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 11:53 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
James Young
Email
<a href="mailto:jamey907@gmail.com">jamey907@gmail.com</a>
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I am strongly against the closure of Montana Creek road to motorized vehicles as proposed. There are not enough places in Juneau as it is where motorized vehicles can be operated. Nordic skiers have unlimited access to all trails. On a road this wide, there is plenty of room for both vehicular and skier/hiker traffic. There are already ordinances that prohibit unsafe operation of motorized vehicles so there should not be any reason to not be able to coexist.



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 11:48 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Cody Wilkie
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:mr.cody@live.com">mr.cody@live.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
As a person who enjoys out door activities I feel this is a gross over step. To ban members of the public to a public are. Especially when that group trying to be banned is actively and has been working on a shared use platform for all parties interested.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 11:46 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Edward Rauterkus
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:edrauterkus@yahoo.com">edrauterkus@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Lemon Creek
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I vote no on closing the road and we should have a lot more trails for 4 wheeling and snow machine riding My wife is disabled and really enjoys me driving Her to the bridge

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 11:35 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Brian Weed
Email
<a href="mailto:Alaskanweed@yahoo.com">Alaskanweed@yahoo.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Out the Road
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>Montana Creek Trail is a historic road, connecting the Mendenhall Valley to the mines out the road. Vehicles have been driving on it for as long as I've been alive. There are many places to Nordic Ski; Mendenhall Lake, Eagle Crest, Eagle Beach Campground, just to name a few. Each of those are spread out around town making access for everyone. The ATV crowd and Snow Machines don't have very many places, and don't have a lot of area in the places they do have. Now people that know me, know I like nature, hiking and history. I don't ATV or Snow Machine at all, never have. But this town keep chasing off the young generation, and more aggressive sports and activities. I'm sick of it. Montana Creek is the perfect place for ATVs and Snow Machines as it connects to Spaulding Meadows. It gives them more room to play. The CBJ can always make a rule like Spaulding has for how deep the snow has to be, so less chance to tear up the ground. The Nordic Ski group should not get full access to this.</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 11:33 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Kelix de Zagottis

### Email

[kelix.dezagottis@gmail.com](mailto:kelix.dezagottis@gmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Douglas

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

Do not do this. I do not own any off road motorized vehicles and still stand with the winter motor crowd on this one. If you want peace and quiet away from motors there is plenty of space.

The allowed winter motor access is already very small and not very impactful. Most non motor users seem to not respect others rights to recreate and enjoy the Juneau wilderness in there own way. With the right amount of snow, vehicles have a minimal impact on the environment.

As an avid non motor winter skier I find this to be an evangelical yuppy agenda. Balance and mutual respect is keep. What restrictions that are in place are enough!

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 11:31 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Mark Sanders
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:sandersservices@yahoo.com">sandersservices@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Please give ATV more access

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 11:29 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Brandon Ridle
Email
<a href="mailto:ridlebrandon@yahoo.com">ridlebrandon@yahoo.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
How/why is it that a group like the Nordic cross county ski folks who can literally ski anywhere they please but the off road community has really zero trails or areas to go. Yes the trail your trying to close and a little trail out near Amalga but Amalga it's not a riding area. It seems like the city plays favorite when it comes to cross country skiers and kayakers. We are the largest city (area wise) in the US but we have no riding areas!

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 11:09 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Gretchen Keiser
Email
<a href="mailto:gekeiser@gmail.com">gekeiser@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>I support the closure of the end of MT Creek Road to motorized vehicles during the winter months. I am a cross-country skier who uses that area, and ATVs and snowmobiles really chew up the track set for skiers. As our winters warm with climate change, this area is inland &amp; high enough to have the only really good, colder conditions for skiing in the Valley. Plus, it's a quiet and more natural alternative to the Mendenhall campground.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 11:08 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Matthew LaPierre
Email
<a href="mailto:lapierrematt94@hotmail.com">lapierrematt94@hotmail.com</a>
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Please, do not close this road. Everywhere you drive there's no trespassing and fences and gates and boulders blocking everything. You guys just spent 3 million on a road on Douglas that you can't even drive on. Even protected by security cameras. Please don't block another road.



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 11:03 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Andrea Hirsh
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:ar053hirsh@gmail.com">ar053hirsh@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Stongly in support of restricting motorized vehicles November 1st through April 1st

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:59 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Daniel Palicka
Email
<a href="mailto:danpalicka@hotmail.com">danpalicka@hotmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Downtown
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
All public lands should be open to all users. User groups need to find ways to work together. The road allows access to a bigger area that would also become off limits for all user
The gatenon Montana Creek Rd should be moved down the road past the rifle range to next big pull out.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:59 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Demian Schane
Email
<a href="mailto:demian_schane@yahoo.com">demian_schane@yahoo.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Downtown
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I support closure of the road during the winter months. The trail isn't conducive to both motorized use and non-motorized use. But, it's clear that the city work with the motorized users to find/develop access to locations besides the Dan Moller area.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:56 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Corey Baxter
Email
<a href="mailto:Coreybaxter@gci.net">Coreybaxter@gci.net</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>This area should be left open to all user groups during the winter months. We all pay taxes and it needs to be open to all users not just a small minority group that has requested for it to be changed. Maybe the snowmobile club and ATV club need to send in a request that it only should be open to motorized use and to be shut down for the Nordic ski club during those months? do we really want to go down that path and split this community up more then we have over the years? lets be smart about this and keep it open to all user groups. thanks</p> <p>Corey Baxter</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:56 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Jason Srader
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:farawayjay@hotmail.com">farawayjay@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Douglas
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Please always consider all groups of users, don't single out one group and favor their wants over others. Everyone must be tolerant and considerate to work for compromise. I do-not support closing this area to motor vehicles.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:53 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Caroline Walker
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:cdub_32@me.com">cdub_32@me.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Out the Road
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Keep it open. We cater to enough ridiculous requests in this town (turning ball fields into glorified dog parks). No. No you may not keep squeezing motorized recreation for alpine skiers.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:53 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Ethel Dybdahl
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:emdybdahl@hotmail.com">emdybdahl@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Lemon Creek
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
What motorized vehicles are being targeted?

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:51 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Dave Klein

### Email

[Dave@alaskafamily.net](mailto:Dave@alaskafamily.net)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

With the inconsistent snow conditions in Juneau, this is the one area that provides the best ski conditions to x-country skiers. This area should be closed to motorized use (ATV's and snow machines). Motorized users are incompatible with skiers, snow shoers, and hikers on the narrow roadway with numerous blind curves while pinched in between hillside & and winding river. This river is vital to salmon and wildlife health and should be protected.

Motorized users have thousands of acres of terrain available on Douglas Island and Spaulding Meadows for winter riding (accessed via University Drive).

The narrow 2 mile road section (about 2.4 acres) that JNSC grooms has been closed to winter motorized users and should be specifically designated non motorized during the winter ski / grooming season - Nov 1 - May 1.

Thank you,

Dave Klein  
Auke Bay



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Bob Marshall <marshall.bob2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:48 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; Juneau Nordic\_Ski\_Club  
**Subject:** Montana Cr Road Closure

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Parks and Recreation Committee,

Please support closing Montana Creek Road to motorized use beyond the rifle range gate each winter.

As you know, the road beyond this gate has been maintained for nordic skiing for many years and provides thousands of skier days each winter. This use is not compatible with motorized use..

Thank you for your attention to this important issue,

Robert Marshall

Juneau AK 99801

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:43 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Mark Sams

### Email

[moose8420@gmail.com](mailto:moose8420@gmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

The road should not be closed to motorized use at any time. Closing the road prevents the current multi use facility that it currently is. This policy appears to be geared to one user group and will Not be inclusive to all uses of the public facility. Motorized use in the CBJ borough for off-road vehicles is already very limited. Closing another location to motorized vehicles in the winter will further restrict one user group to the benefit of another.

Looking at winter time motorized off-road vehicle access areas, all are multi-use facilities. If looking at other user groups, i.e. skiers, there are numerous ares for access, but many of them are not inclusive to other user groups witch may or may not be on CBJ land.

I think that if you want to include the most amount of community access to CBJ land, closing the area to motorized use would not be in the best interest of the community as a whole. This location can help user groups interact more, learn from each other and maybe not be so opposed to each other. If we keep separating uses for access to public lands we will lose the interactions between the different user groups and we will not learn to work together to better our community.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Jeff Wilson <jwilson@wileng.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:40 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli; Parks Rec  
**Cc:** Borough Assembly; Rorie Watt; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek non-motorized winter Access

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear PRAC,

It is sad to see that once again we are pitting our Juneau community against each other on recreational opportunity uses!

Motorized use vs human powered recreation! We've been through this so many times together, trying to find a place for motorized use of existing trails and lakes. The public debates for motorizing the Eaglecrest road quarry, Windfall lake access roads, Auke Lake jet skis, and now the Montana Creek road. What have we learned? The two do not mix well!

How does high speed motorized use of the Montana Creek Road work with hikers, skiers and bike riders? Winter use for over 600 Nordic ski club members that groom and maintain the Montana Creek road should be PRAC's highest recreational goal. It's close to the majority of valley residents for winter skiing, dog walkers, and hikers, doesn't cost the tax payer a penny, and is good honest exercise for youth, elders, and families.

It's been shown over and over, motorized use doesn't mix well with pedestrians. Montana Creek Road gate should be locked during winter snow months to protect the hard work of the groomers and keep the safety of the skiers and pedestrians a priority!

Outdoor Recreation is what keeps Juneau Great!

Thanks - Jeff

Jeffrey W Wilson

Juneau, AK

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Bill Hanson <bhfootloose@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:38 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Please Close Montana Creek Road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range to Motorized Users from Nov 1 to May 1

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear PRAC,

Please Close Montana Creek Road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range to Motorized Users from Nov 1 to May 1.

Please also install the pedestrian kissing gate permanently.

Both actions are essential to maintain the current, very high use of this road by cross country skiers.

Allowing motorized users will completely displace the long time existing use by skiers.

The Montana Creek Road is one of the very few places in Juneau for people of all ages and skill levels to cross country to ski. If it is opened to motorized traffic between November and May, the heavy use by skiers will be eliminated.

Montana Creek remains open and safe when Mendenhall Lake is unsafe or has insufficient snow. This occurs every year. In some years, the lake is essentially unavailable. I and my family ski here extensively each year.

Sincerely,

William Hanson  
Douglas, AK

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:37 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Rachel Michaud

### Email

[rachelmichaud907@gmail.com](mailto:rachelmichaud907@gmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

I don't believe that the road should be closed to motorized vehicles. Especially NOT year round.

As one of only two places where ATVs are legally permitted I think that would be devastating to the community. There are many places around town to ski including right down the road at the Mendenhall Campground. Closing this area to motorized vehicles without opening a new designated area for snow machines and ATVs is only going to encourage irresponsible use of other lands.

I don't want to see this road closed year round to motor vehicles especially as that limits access to trails and the archery range for summer users. I personally have issues with walking on pavement due to problems with my feet and having to walk the road to get to some of my favorite trails would discourage me from using the area.

Closing things doesn't solve problems. I'm happy to read that illegal activity in this area has decreased but it really hasn't decreased it has just been happening elsewhere. Please don't close this area to motorized use.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:35 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Scarlett Adam
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:1969morningstar@gmail.com">1969morningstar@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Douglas
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Either it is open and available to all residents of Juneau or it is closed to all residents of Juneau. No one group should have preferential treatment and access.

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:35 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Tom rathbone
Email
<a href="mailto:jetboat25@hotmail.com">jetboat25@hotmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>That road has always been available for motorized access. And should remain so. Cross country skiers can go any where they please. But they want to take one of the very few motorized use options away from motorized users. This shouldnt even be proposed. Juneau snowmobile club has begged and begged for cooperation from the city for more access. They raise their own funds and are organized and considerate. In particularly for eaglecrest as safe access for machines to get to the back side of douglas. The ski club and cbj arent even considering of proposing dual use. The ski club wants it and CBJ obviously is biased and supports that. The skiers gave the entire mendenhall lake and mendenhall campground. As well as they have the majority of spaulding meadows as well.</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:34 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Jason Mcdonald
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:jmc4242@yahoo.com">jmc4242@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Lemon Creek
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I think it should be left open and not closed so only one selfish organization can have access to it. There's plenty of room on the road for both activities



## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:32 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Joleen Langel
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:joleen.langel@gmail.com">joleen.langel@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Keep public lands public. I do not support private interest groups being permitted exclusive access to public lands.

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:31 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Bryce Mecum

### Email

[brycemecum@gmail.com](mailto:brycemecum@gmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Downtown

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

Thanks for the chance to comment and thanks to P&R for the background provided in the memo with the subject "Use of Montana Creek Road by Motorized Vehicles".

I support this proposal and would like to see the closure.

Snowmachines don't mix with other user groups and this portion of Montana Creek Road, from Nov 1 to April 1, supports many other (non-motorized) user groups simultaneously which co-exist with one another peacefully.

That said, I would have liked to see the aforementioned memo address the history and potential consequences of granting a single user group what is effectively an exclusive right as this proposal aims to do for the Juneau Nordic Ski Club. Has CBJ done this in other areas of Juneau? If so, has it been met with controversy and how was the controversy resolved?

In addition to more background, I would have liked to see some information on whether this closure might have impacts elsewhere in town. Will this increase congestion of other areas frequented by snow machines such as the Treadwell Ditch or Lake Creek trail. Unless CBJ is going to pursue a complete ban on the use of snowmachines, it might be prudent for CBJ to consider providing another location for snowmachine use to replace the loss of Montana Creek.

Thank you for the chance to comment.

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:30 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Brent Tingey
Email
<a href="mailto:brentingey@hotmail.com">brentingey@hotmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>I strongly recommend abstaining from closing Montana Creed Road to motorized vehicles. I personally do not use the area in winter time for either cross country activity nor snowmobiling but know that there is extremely limited land on which to recreate with motorized vehicles. I enjoy both types of recreation and can see both sides of the argument but the bottom line is that closing Montana Creek will only result in further contention between the two groups and force snowmobiler congestions in the last remaining areas where it is permitted.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:26 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Zach Bicknell
Email
<a href="mailto:zbicknell@hotmail.com">zbicknell@hotmail.com</a>
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Have been partaking in various motorized and non-motorized family activity for over 25 years in this area. One of the few motorized areas left in town and should absolutely not be in question to have it removed during any time of the year! The Nordtic club has been nothing but abusive of the area to fellow users and I have even been threatened and had ski poles swung at me while on a atv. There are many ski friendly areas that can be utilized without hindering people that partake in different activities. Many atv users maintain the trail all summer to make the winter activities possible and without them the precious ski club wouldn't have a trail. There is absolutely no reason both activities can't be done all year!

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:15 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Matthew Whistler
Email
<a href="mailto:mattwhistler@ymail.com">mattwhistler@ymail.com</a>
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Do not close the one of the only areas in this town where people can ride atv's, dirt bikes, or other motorized vehicles. There are plenty of areas to cross country ski. This town needs things to do or else the drug and crime problem will continue to rise.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Rick Sexton <hosspac@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:14 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Please preserve this area for non motorized activity!

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Lauren Verrelli,

I am writing to ask you to not open Montana creek road for motorized vehicles between Nov 1 - May 1 beyond the gate at the Rifle Range. This is a pristine, quiet area for hundreds of winter hikers and skiers to enjoy. Please help us preserve this magical area!

Thank you,  
Rick Sexton

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:14 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Florence Johnson
Email
<a href="mailto:Fejcps@yahoo.cohbim">Fejcps@yahoo.cohbim</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Out the Road
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>Please do not. This request is for a certain group of people. And there are lots of other city properties they can go. I was born and raised here. I love to go outside and play winter and summer, mostly just walking. Then in the winter I'm told I can't go certain public places.</p> <p>The skiers have a lot of places to go play. Not to mention Eaglecrest.</p> <p>And while we're on this subject, I support snow machines.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Dawn Sexton <letters4dawn@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:12 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Ms. Verrelli,  
Please help keep Montana Creek trail motorized vehicle free November 1-May 1. The trail is  
such a serene place to cross-country ski, hike, & snowshoe.  
Thank-you so much,  
Dawn Sexton



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Lynda Giguere <lynda.giguere@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:09 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Ski Trail

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hello,

As an avid x-country skier and member of the Juneau Nordic Ski Club, I ask that you keep the Montana Creek Ski trail closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed. This trail is groomed by volunteers and enjoyed by a large number of enthusiastic skiers and hikers and has been for years. It is easily accessible. Opening it to motorized users would severely limit the few choices skate skiers, in particular, have to enjoy Juneau's beautiful settings.

Motorized users have many more options and miles to roam. Again, please keep the trail closed to motorized users from November 1 to May 1, and the kissing gate permanently installed.

Sincerely,  
Lynda Giguere

Douglas, AK

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:08 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Thomas Mattice
Email
<a href="mailto:tom.mattice@juneau.org">tom.mattice@juneau.org</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Trails should never be restricted to a single user group or discriminate against another user group. This is public land and should remain as open access to all user groups. If the proposed trail system can be built it would be a huge winter recreation boost for the city building access to high elevation snowfields more days of the season. It could create a loop that could be groomed and maintained for all users and tie all the way into Spaulding meadows creating the largest recreation loop in town and giving users access more days a year do to better snow conditions. If the Nordic club wants another trail to themselves perhaps consider the pioneer road. There is limited motorized access in Juneau and it should remain open to all. The snowmobile club often provides rescue services to cross country skiers and others and keeping this trail open would simply insure better emergency response to all user groups as well.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 10:06 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Lindsay Crapo
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:lkell161@gmail.com">lkell161@gmail.com</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
This trail is NOT exclusive to anyone and should remain open to ALL people interested in using it, ALL year round. I do not agree with closing this trail to anyone at anytime.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:57 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Dave Mitchell

### Email

[dmitchel@gmail.com](mailto:dmitchel@gmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

I believe that the closure is appropriate and has worked very well for the past several years. Not closing the road will effectively eliminates the Nordic Club's and general public's ability to use the road for skiing, walking or snowshoeing. The road is too narrow for both Nordic skiing and any other motorized use.

Snowmobiles have access to the same area by way of the access at the University. I can't imagine any advantage to trying to access this same area through Montana Creek and giving this access effectively removes the ability to ski here.

Given the hundreds of comments in support of closing this area, that you have already received, I think the decision is easy and well supported.

Thank you,

Dave Mitchell

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:57 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
michael dunayski
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:otto.dunayski@juneau.org">otto.dunayski@juneau.org</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Just a quick thought. if you made the stop point up the road at the trailers there would be parking for the skiers without having to park at the gun range.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:48 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Calvin Boddy
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:calvinboddy@hotmail.com">calvinboddy@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Please do NOT close down the ONLY trail that ATVs have to ride for one group. While their are MANY other options for walking/ski trails the ATV community only has this one to enjoy

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Parks Rec  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:48 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** FW: PRAC comments RE: motorized use on land in an around the Montana Creek drainage  
**Attachments:** PRAC comments - Opposition to of road motorized use on pblic land.docx

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**From:** Rory Darling and Jan Moyer <alaskakayakers@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:16 AM  
**To:** alexander.giudice@gmail.com; cmertl@corvus-design.com; edriccarrillo.8@gmail.com; eehars@yahoo.com; josh@chathamelectric.com; duncan503@gci.net; mike\_eberhardt@alaska.gov; crenshaw@gci.net; rutecki@gci.net; Wade Bryson <Wade.Bryson@juneau.org>; will@chimney-fish.com; Parks Rec <Parks.Rec@juneau.org>; George Schaaf <George.Schaaf@juneau.org>  
**Subject:** PRAC comments RE: motorized use on land in an around the Montana Creek drainage

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Please accept the attached letter as comments in opposition to proposals to open public land in the Montana Creek drainage to off road motorized use.

Rory Darling

## Open letter to the Juneau Parks and Rec Advisory Committee

RE: Motorized access to the Montana Creek watershed

Dear PRAC,

It has come to my attention that the Juneau Off Road Association has proposed opening unrestricted year round access to motorized use of an extensive area including Spaulding Meadows, the Montana Creek Trail beginning at the gun club and surrounding forests and meadows. I oppose any proposal that introduces motorized use (other than trail maintenance or emergency operations) in ANY of these areas in the strongest terms.

Simply stated, none of the land in question can withstand the catastrophic damage cause by ATV or motorcycle use. Boggy earth is immediately trashed with no chance of recovery. Subsequent users avoid previously trashed areas, thus spreading the damage. Hillsides are eroded as tracks channel running water into now-bare rivulets. There is no avoiding these consequences and no possible mitigation once the devastation commences. Physical evidence of this effect is abundant throughout the borough – there is nothing “theoretic” about permanent loss of intact and biologically productive land.

Snowmobiles are no better. They displace the far less intrusive skiing, hiking, and snowshoeing. Human powered winter users have already been displaced by motorized use in the Dan Moeller basin, and snowmachines frequently violate restrictions in Spaulding Meadows. The presence of any motorized use with its noise, pollution, and destruction in effect preempts healthy and non-consumptive use of the land.

Off road motorized users wish it were not so, but the steep and wet terrain is physically incapable of withstanding the punishment that motorized use delivers with every single trip.

CBJ and the State have no obligation to provide every piece of public land to every possible user. Motorized use is in direct conflict with recreational non-motorized use. As stewards of the land, with its obviously fragile rain forest characteristics, the PRAC and other bodies would be derelict by



ignoring the physical realities of allowing incompatible motorized use in ANY of these areas. Doing so would be to the everlasting detriment of long-established skiers and hikers who find refuge in these areas, which are very limited in the Juneau area and under a continual one-way downhill squeeze (Dan Moeller, Echo Cove).

Please match the values of conserving fragile, productive, and irreplaceable land with actions that prevent the means of their destruction.

Rory Darling, Auke Bay Alaska

38 year Juneau resident with intimate knowledge of the land and waters of Southeast Alaska.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:47 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Paul Curry
Email
<a href="mailto:paul@seextinguisher.com">paul@seextinguisher.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Out the Road
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I am opposed to the closing of the access to motorists vehicles. There are already a disproportionate number of non motorized recreational areas in Juneau and further limiting access to this area will unfairly restrict equal use to all users. While I do not own an ATV mostly due to there not being a reasonable location to use one. If the city decides to close this access there should be another location opened to replace it.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:45 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Tim Shockley
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:chiefs907@yahoo.com">chiefs907@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Absolutely not! If the ski club wants exclusive rights to land then they can purchase land for their use.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Demian A. Schane <demian\_schane@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:43 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** winter use of Mt. Creek

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Dear CBJ:

For many years (since I can remember), the Montana Creek trail has been used for xc skiing, hiking, running, and walking during the winter. It has been closed to motorized access, along with many trails in Juneau for the obvious reason that the two activities are often incompatible. While I support finding more areas for motorized access, Montana Creek is not a suitable one. I therefore support the effort to keep the road the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from November 1st to May 1st.

I also support permanent installation of the pedestrian kissing gate, which I understand has been part of the intent for a long time.

Thank you.

Demian Schane  
Juneau, AK

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:38 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
John Nagel
Email
<a href="mailto:freestylin257@yahoo.com">freestylin257@yahoo.com</a>
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I believe that Montana Creek Road should be closed to motorized traffic except grooming for cross country skiers and for emergencies. It seems to me the road is already closed during this time. I also would like to voice my displeasure regarding ATV use on the dirt road beyond the bridge. There are some new "trails" being "pioneered" by ATV's and motocross and are a nuisance to users and the ecology. Thank you for reading.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:37 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Alli Rosen
Email
<a href="mailto:allirosen@hotmail.com">allirosen@hotmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I am in favor of closing this section of Montana Creek Road to motorized vehicles in the winter. This is the only place in the valley for nordic skiers to train on hills. It is extremely popular all winter long. The parking lot is often full of happy skiers. I am a member of the nordic ski club and donate funds to keep this (and other) trails groomed for nordic skiing. Maintaining this area for nordic skiing is very important to me. Unfortunately I don't believe nordic skiing and the proposed motorized uses can co-exist.

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:34 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Dominic Branson
Email
<a href="mailto:dombak@aol.com">dombak@aol.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
There are very few places for motorized recreational use in this huge borough. In contrast there are many, many ski areas. Not only should this proposal not move forward, the CBJ should look to expand opportunities for motorized recreation areas.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Frank Rue <frankrue44@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:26 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana creek comments

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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I Lauren, I have submitted comments in favor of closing Montana creek trail to motorized use during the winter. I suggested a spring date to reopen to motorized use of April 30. I would like to amend that to: "March 31 or when snow conditions make skiing no longer possible whichever is earlier."

Thank you.

Sincerely  
Frank Rue

Juneau



## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:14 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Terry Allen
Email
<a href="mailto:terryjallen@gmail.com">terryjallen@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
There are already tons of places for people to ski in this town and very few, almost non existent, places for me to ride off road vehicles with my sons. I would suggest that instead of shutting down yet another place to off road vehicles, the city look at more places to open. Let's let everyone enjoy this city, and not just keep catering to one sector of the population. Thank you, Terry Allen

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Jamie Daniels <djamie8413@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:06 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Cc:** Lauren Verrelli; JNSC Board

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Good morning all,

I want the road beyond the gate at the rifle range closed to motorized users from Nov 1<sup>st</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup> and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed. During the winter it is already packed with skiers and ski activities.

I have an idea for the motorized users, perhaps consider opening up the Dredge lake trail. It was originally the motorized users trail.

Thank you

Jamie T. Daniels

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:04 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Jessy Wolfe
Email
<a href="mailto:Jjw1398@gmail.com">Jjw1398@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Lemon Creek
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I disagree with closure on the road, having vehicle access to the end of Montana is necessary for atv riders and equipment to get to the trail head. There have been so many people striving for this access for somewhere to ride, and I believe everyone will be a big part in protecting the location and preserving the trails, wild life to the best of our ability and will hold each other very accountable

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:03 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Emily Wright
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:emilywright@gmail.com">emilywright@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Downtown
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I fully support closing the Montana Creek Road to motorized vehicles (with the exception of grooming equipment).

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:02 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Barry Nydam
Email
<a href="mailto:thewho20006@yahoo.com">thewho20006@yahoo.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Montana creek trail is open for everyone year round. Cross country skiers have dredge lakes area as well as other areas to ski too. But over all the trail needs to be open to all of the public year round. There needs to be consideration for other people who live here.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Kathleen Hanna <tokahanna@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 8:58 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Fwd: Montana Creek

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Kathleen Hanna <tokahanna@yahoo.com>  
**Date:** August 24, 2020 at 8:56:04 AM AKDT  
**To:** parks.rec@juneau.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

We support the closure of Montana Creek to off road vehicles. It is such a pristine area for walking, skiing, and snow shoeing in the winter. People of all ages enjoy it and as seniors in our 70's it is accessible for our recreational needs. Thank you for listening to our input.

Kathy and Tom Hanna  
Sent from my iPhone

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 8:52 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
joe bingham
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:trakari2003@yahoo.com">trakari2003@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
leave the motorized access. there very few places in the city where you can legally ride a motorized vehicle . don't take another away just because one user group doesn't like them. there is literally over a hundred places to go cross country ski in Juneau.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 8:50 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Tyler wallace
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:viking_sportsak@hotmail.com">viking_sportsak@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Lemon Creek
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I am against closing the road to ORV use at any time in the year. Juneau has strangled the community of safe accessible riding places as it is. There are more options for the ski team to go to than there are for the ORV community, leave Montana creek open and invest more money to the benefit of the ORV group.



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Bess Crandall <bess.a.crandall@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 8:35 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek- please no motorized use in winter

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hi There,

I am writing in support of closing the road beyond the gate at the rifle range to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and that the pedestrian kissing gate be permanently installed. I am a regular cross country skier at the Montana Creek trail and it is one of the best places to be in winter in Juneau. It's a large community of skiers that rely on that area for regular fresh air, exercise and socialization.

Thanks for hearing my concerns,

Bess Crandall

**Lauren Verrelli**

---

**From:** Fred Fisher <frederick.w.fisher@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 8:35 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek road

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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My name is Fred Fisher, I live in Bonnie Brae.

I request that Montana Creek road beyond the gate at the shooting range remain closed to motorized users from November 1 through May 1 each year and that the pedestrian kissing gate be permanently installed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sent from my iPhone

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Charlee Gribbon <charleegribbon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 8:32 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Cc:** info@jnski.org; Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Road for Skiers

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

---

Greetings,

I want the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

Snowmachines do need safe and appropriate access to the backcountry, but not to the detriment of walkers, skiers and dogs enjoyment of the area.

Thank you

Charlee Gribbon

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Cris Waste <criswaste@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 7:31 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek road

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Please keep the road beyond the gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from November 1 through May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

Thank-you.

CRIS WASTE

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Annie Janes/Bill Janes <anniebilljanes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 6:37 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek ATV Use

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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I am vehemently against this proposal. There is no way that the Juneau Nordic Ski Club will be able to maintain a classic ski track or smooth skate-ski conditions if ATVs and snowmobiles use the corridor. Please keep this area as non-motorized use only. It has been that way for years, and it serves many Nordic ski enthusiasts and walkers. I suspect there are far more people in these two user groups than there are ATV users.

Than You  
William and Annie Janes

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 11:15 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Keith Reeder
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:reederk@gmail.com">reederk@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Douglas
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I am NOT for this proposal. Juneau has little access as is for motorized recreation. In fact I'd like to see proposals to open up some more area to it.

**From:** Will Elliott <elliott.will@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 11:07 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; JNSC Board  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Comments

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear PRAC members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Montana Creek trail. I'm writing to you as a Juneau resident and trail user, as well a representative of Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition (AQRC). We're a statewide nonprofit organization that works to protect an equitable balance on public lands between motorized recreation and quiet, traditional forms of recreation, like cross country skiing. Recognizing how important the Montana Creek trail is to skiers, snowshoers, dog walkers, and other non-motorized users throughout the year, we encourage you to safeguard existing uses of Montana Creek by keeping the trail closed to motorized traffic beyond the shooting range gate.

Members of the Juneau Nordic Ski Club volunteer a tremendous amount of time and money to maintain Montana Creek— not just for club members, but for the whole public to enjoy. It's worth the effort because Montana Creek is Juneau's best and most accessible option for cross country skiing. For much of the year, it's the only option, aside from an hour round-trip up to Eaglecrest. Yet opening Montana Creek to recreational motorsports would change things entirely.

During a recent visit to the trail, I observed dirt bike riders doing laps back and forth for over an hour, causing other users to stop and step off the trail again and again. As a snowmachine owner myself, I can tell you that the typical snowmachine you'll see in the back of a pickup around town has double the horsepower of a typical dirt bike. Consequently, with Montana Creek's sharp corners, long straightaways, and steep creek banks, mixing snowmachines with skiers, snowshoers, and dog walkers is asking for an accident, especially when midwinter users are out after sundown.

While we might expect most snowmachine riders to be responsible, there are always the outliers— like the young man a friend and I encountered the previous winter while skiing on Mendenhall Lake. The drive belt on his snowmachine had blown up, stalling him in the middle of the groomed ski trail. As he borrowed one of our phones to call his father for assistance, he mentioned casually that he had been going 70 miles an hour.

Moreover, a shared arrangement, where snowmachines have access part of the week and skiers another part, wouldn't work well in Montana Creek. Most snowmachines in Juneau have narrow tracks with deep lugs, for riding steep terrain and deep snow. By contrast, trail grooming equipment can only skim a very wide, thin layer with each pass. Compare the Treadwell Ditch trail in winter to Montana Creek: because of snowmachine traffic, the Ditch

trail gets quickly rutted with moguls that make skiing or winter biking prohibitively difficult, pushing out non-motorized users. There's no way to repair the impact of motorsports traffic and return the trails to skiable shape until new snow fills them in.

Snowmachines have plenty of access to world-class terrain on Douglas Island. Allowing one of our most important non-motorized winter trails to be transformed into another snowmachine track would be all cost and no benefits for most Juneau residents. Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition urges you to protect existing users' access to Montana Creek by keeping the trail nonmotorized.

Sincerely,

Will Elliott

Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition, Secretary



## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 10:35 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Elias Burkhouse
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:eliasburkhouse@yahoo.com">eliasburkhouse@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I am opposed to closing the area to motorized vehicles

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 10:29 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Gail Thompson
Email
<a href="mailto:revngem@gmail.com">revngem@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Montana Creek Road should remain open to ORV this winter. This is one of few places that OHV vehicles are allowed without having to travel longer distance, increasing chances of commute accidents in inclement weather and road conditions if they are forced out of MCR. While I am not presently an ORV owner, I support their equal access to this area for recreation. They don't have as many choices as cross country skiers have.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Brian Glynn <brian.glynn2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 10:19 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Subject:** Montana Creek cross country ski area

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members,

I am writing to make known my position on the winter use of the portion of Montana Creek Road beyond the shooting range.

I feel strongly that it should remain closed to motorized use during the period November 1 to May 1 of each year.

Sincerely,  
Brian Glynn  
Juneau, AK

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 10:13 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Katie Kowalchuk
Email
<a href="mailto:naturekatie@yahoo.com">naturekatie@yahoo.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I'm writing in support of keeping the Montana Creek Road closed to motorized vehicles. As someone who enjoys getting outdoors for enjoyment and exercise, I find the groomed ski trail at Montana Creek to be a valuable asset in Juneau. I fear that if motorized vehicles were allowed, that their impact would not make nordic or skate skiing possible. Motorized vehicles have several places where they are free to explore, I hope Montana Creek can be preserved non motorized winter use. Thank you!

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 10:06 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Emily Kane
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:DrEmilyKane@gmail.com">DrEmilyKane@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Downtown
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
<p>I am absolutely in favor of the proposed road closure during the winter months. Mixing pedestrian and vehicular traffic seems intuitively untenable. ATVs and snowmobiles have a wide range (1000s of acres) in the vast CBJ. Why do they need this bit of road? The road links to DNR lands including Spaulding Meadows which should also be protected from motorized erosion. Just as important, policy governing densely urban areas must prioritize people's safety all year around. If Montana Creek Road is not needed for CBJ functions during non-snow months, perhaps it can be re-designated as a trail? Thank you Parks and Rec for keeping our town awesome!</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 9:55 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Brian Crapo
Email
<a href="mailto:sirflabbersham@yahoo.com">sirflabbersham@yahoo.com</a>
Residence Location
Out the Road
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Exclusive motorized use by the nordic ski club cannot be a right they have. It's a road, keep it open.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 9:38 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Robert Underwood
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:thelocalguycharters@gmail.com">thelocalguycharters@gmail.com</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Lemon Creek
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
This is a great place for ATV riders to enjoy! Safer option then out the road especially during the winter. As a life long Juneau resident, I would like to see more options for outdoor activities for families.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 9:16 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Darren Wetherall
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:darren_wetherall@yahoo.com">darren_wetherall@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Protect the interest of all of Juneau's residents. Do not block recreational activities for any user group. I support the use of motorized vehicles including the Juneau Nordic Ski Clubs snow machine on the Montana creek road system.



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Derek Weiss <nordicweiss@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 9:10 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hi,

I am writing to you to voice my concern over the debate concerning Montana Creek and allowing motorized use.

In the past I have been an avid snowmobiler and can understand both sides of the argument. I have also been a lifelong nordic skier and enjoy this activity with my nine year old son and wife. I am a member of the JNSC and have done volunteer grooming for them in the past.

Being an avid skier and frequent user of Montana Creek in the winter, I can attest the the popularity of this non-motorized use. I feel this area holds significant public health value to the community at large both from a physical and mental health perspective. Juneau is an outdoor community in an adverse climate. I feel our residents highly value the opportunity to recreate outdoors in a non-motorized way.

Please consider the historical use of Montana Creek by non-motorized users and understand the importance of this resource to the community of Juneau.

Regards,  
Derek Weiss

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Constance Baltuck <constancebaltuck@me.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:56 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Cc:** Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Nordic Skiing on Montana Creek Trail

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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To: Juneau Department of Parks and Recreation

Many in Juneau can't afford or are uninterested in downhill skiing but still want to engage in outdoor winter sports. Nordic skiing is the perfect solution and it has become more and more popular in the years I have been here. The city subsidizes Eaglecrest at great cost; in contrast, preserving the Montana Creek trail for winter use by Nordic skiers is supported entirely by the Nordic Ski Club; they regularly groom the trail which is enthusiastically and heavily used by Nordic skiers. It is the most reliable trail for snow cover, providing healthy outdoor recreation that is accessible to all ages and budgets.

Allowing snow machines, or other ATVs, to share the trail would be about as safe as letting cars drive down a city sidewalk. Motorized vehicles and cross-country skiers just don't mix. In addition to the danger of vehicle/pedestrian collision accidents, a single use by one of these vehicles destroys the tracks set by volunteer groomers that work so hard to provide opportunities for so many.

Please don't allow motorized vehicles on the Montana Creek trail during the Nordic ski season.

Thank you,

Constance Baltuck

Juneau, AK.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Scott Doddridge <scottdoddridge@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:08 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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I want the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users [from Nov 1 to May 1](#) and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

Regards,  
Scott Doddridge  
Juneau  
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Sent from my mobile

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:01 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

calen young

### Email

[calen.t.young@gmail.com](mailto:calen.t.young@gmail.com)

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

i personally, as a life long juneau resident, born and raised, think it would be a good idea to keep the montana creek road trail open to off road veichles. as i said, i grew up in the mendenhall valley and lemon creek as a kid and remember quite a few places open to ride my atv with my family on the weekends as a quick and fast way to get out and see some of juneau's many beautiful sights. as i spend more time in my home town i see time and time agian, the places i used to roam as a child, closed to motorized veichles and it leaves me with a heavy heart. please do not get me wrong. i very well understand that there are alot of bad eggs in the community that also, unfortunantly take part in the activity and it pains me to associate myself with them. but please understand that there are so many locals in this beautiful capitol of ours that would love nothing more than to take themselves, their kids, grandkids or just some friends, new to town, out to have some fun. I, as well as many of my life long friends, who also grew up here and partake in atv's (when i say atv's that is four wheelers, snowmachines, dirt bikes, and so forth) can count on half a hand, how may areas are open to off road veichles. they took dredge lake, they took sheep creek, they have taken so many other prospects of areas to ride some have resulted to jumping their dirt bikes right off the highway across from fred myers. please do no take one of our only two places us juneauites can use our atvs. it would be awesome if i could pass one of my more favorite past times off to my 5th generation juneauite children and their (hopefully juneauite children). thank you for considering my input and i hope you keep a wonderful orv spot open.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 7:52 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Lynne Clements
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:Flower24@gci.net">Flower24@gci.net</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I am opposed to restricting this area. There are plenty of areas for people to walk and hike and ski. The snowmobile and 4 wheelers need accessible areas without having to go to the end of the road!!

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 7:41 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
John Harvey
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:33jharvak12@gmail.com">33jharvak12@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Douglas
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I am against this proposal. Juneau Nordic Ski Club needs to share the road and support diversity in winter recreation.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 7:35 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Anthony Sexton
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:deray907@gmail.com">deray907@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Douglas
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Please do not close this land for atv use we need more places to ride otherwise we end up riding in the neighborhoods/highways.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** MaryLou Gerbi <marylougerbi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 7:28 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Cc:** Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek winter trail for non-motorized users

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee:

For safety's sake, please close the Montana Creek Road beyond the gate at the Rifle Range to motorized users during the winter season from November 1 to May 1 and install a pedestrian "kissing" gate for the safety of all non-motorized users. When motorized vehicles have access, they create a safety threat to cross-country skiers, walkers, hikers and all other non-motorized traffic. Motorized use is safe only for motorized users. Non-motorized users, those on foot, cannot get out of the way quickly enough to be safe. Motorized users also create a single-use trail since others can't maneuver the ruts created by ORVs. There are trails on Douglas Island and the Spaulding Meadows trail out the road for ORVs. Montana Creek has been used and maintained for years by and for non-motorized users. For safety's sake, please don't open the Montana Creek Road during the winter to ORVs. We don't want anyone to be injured or killed.

Thank you.

Mary Lou Gerbi

[gerbi@alaska.net](mailto:gerbi@alaska.net)



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Malou Peabody <mdewolfpeabody@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 7:05 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek XC Ski Trail

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Greetings,

I am writing to request that the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range remain closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and to have a pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

In winter I utilize the Montana Creek trail every day as it is the only trail in the valley that offers continuous snow until May during those winters when Juneau enjoys snow at sea level.

XC skiing is my daily medicine in winter as it helps correct lower back and other structural health issues.

I moved to Juneau in 1991 and left for about seven years in 2005. My husband and I could not wait to move back to our "home town" when the first opportunity arose. We chose to live in the valley to be in close proximity to our xc ski trails. Montana Creek is a jewel to everyone who lives in the valley. Juneau's population center is the valley and everyone here can be on their skis and at Montana Creek in less than ten/fifteen minutes.

As Montana Creek is a groomed trail, it is enjoyed by runners, dog walkers, snowshoers, hunters, and skiers. I believe keeping this trail available to non-motorized sports offers the most diverse use of the trail, regardless of income level.

ORVs create an exclusive use zone around them just by their operation – excluding non motorized users. If ORVs (primarily snow machines) get the green light for winter use, we will lose our groomed ski trail at Montana Creek, and I would be just devastated.

Thank you for your careful consideration,

Malou Peabody

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 7:02 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Cheyenne Cuellar
Email
<a href="mailto:cheyennecuellar@gmail.com">cheyennecuellar@gmail.com</a>
Residence Location
Downtown
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>Please close Montana Creek Road during the winter months to motorized traffic. Hundreds of Juneau residents use the groomed ski trails on Montana Creek Road in order to stay healthy and happy during the winter months. Just one motorized vehicle can ruin the the grooming for all of the skiers. Additionally, the road is narrow with some sharp corners. Motorized traffic on the road with skiers is dangerous.</p> <p>Close the road to motorized vehicles.</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 7:00 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Ray Kaiser
Email
<a href="mailto:rkaiser1002@gmail.com">rkaiser1002@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Riding ATVs and snowmobiles is a healthy activity that many in this community enjoy year round. I don't believe we need more restrictions and less access for motorized use, I believe we need fewer restrictions and should open more areas. There's enough room for all of us to unwind, exercise, and enjoy the outdoors in whichever way we choose. Keep Montana Creek Road open!

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Diana Paul <dmpaul@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 6:55 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Cc:** Lauren Verrelli; infor@jnski.org  
**Subject:** support non-motorized recreation at Montana Creek

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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To Whom it may concern,

I am in support of non-motorized healthy outdoor recreation at Montana Creek.

Montana Creek offers great non-motorized recreation during the winter months. There are dedicated individuals who groom the area almost daily to keep it in good condition. Montana Creek is a very narrow area if motorized vehicles were permitted it would be impossible to use for cross country skiing. There have been many man hours and equipment used to create a great area to be enjoyed by non-motorized individuals. There are many miles the off road motorized vehicle people enjoy and already have a well established trail to Spaulding Meadows.

Thank you for your time

Diana Paul

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 5:47 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Rachelle Smith
Email
<a href="mailto:rachellekula@gmail.com">rachellekula@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Out the Road
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>I do NOT support the road closure. As a Nordic skier myself I have ample area to ski. To take this away from the other groups that have so little area to use just doesn't seem right. I use eagle beach, mendenhall campground/lake and the Eaglecrest Nordic trails. I have also skied out Montana creek at least once a winter and never been bothered by snow machines.</p> <p>I oppose this as it is just not fair. CBJ has only taken from the motorized sports community without ever giving them any area to recreate in.</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Robert Deering <rcdeering@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 5:45 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Trail

### EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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I would like to register my support for closing off the Montana Creek Trail to motorized access during the winter months.

The unique location of the trail makes it possible to groom and maintain that cross-country ski trail using the same equipment that's used to groom and maintain the campground and lake trails.

Off-road motorized vehicles and human-powered recreation are incompatible on the Montana Creek trail. Safety is a very serious issue - the speed and size of off-road vehicles pose a serious threat of injury or death. Off-road vehicles will also destroy the trails needed for nordic skiing. The negative impacts are entirely one-sided, to the detriment of the non-motorized users.

Juneau has an aging population. Encouraging and providing access to outdoor exercise during the winter months is recognized as a critical need in this community. Nordic skiing is an ideal activity for both young and old residents. The Juneau Commission on Aging has conducted detailed surveys of our aging community, and access to recreation has been consistently listed as *important or very important* by more than 75% of Juneau seniors. Some of the most common health conditions suffered by seniors (high blood pressure, osteoporosis...) are significantly improved by low-impact exercise, such as nordic skiing. [https://3tb2gc2mxpvu3uwt0l20tbhq-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/2010\\_Final\\_Juneau\\_Senior\\_Needs\\_Survey.pdf](https://3tb2gc2mxpvu3uwt0l20tbhq-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/2010_Final_Juneau_Senior_Needs_Survey.pdf)

This is especially important during the COVID pandemic, when indoor exercise activities will be extremely curtailed through this winter and perhaps much longer. Seniors are especially at risk from this disease.

In 2011, the Juneau Assembly adopted the [Juneau Climate Action and Implementation Plan](#), which set a target of a 25% community-wide emissions reduction to be achieved by the year 2032. That target has not yet been met. Opening the Montana Creek trail to motorized use is a decision that goes contrary to that adopted goal.

The Montana Creek trail is a valued resource available for everyone in our community. The cost barrier to non-motorized use is very low, even for folks who use off-road vehicles in other locations. Once it's opened to motorized vehicles, that resource becomes severely diminished for all but the relatively small percentage of motorized off-road residents.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Robert Deering

Juneau

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 5:41 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Jennifer Kelley
Email
<a href="mailto:jrkface05@gmail.com">jrkface05@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I don't think it's fair that one group can just come in and wedge out other groups when it comes to public land use — even through due process. It's a bully move. Skiers and hikers have many places they can enjoy their activity. ATVs and Snow-machines, however, are very limited on where they are permitted access. Don't make this access even more restrictive.

**Lauren Verrelli**

---

**From:** Gretchen Roffler <gretchen.roffler@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 5:35 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek road

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Greetings,

I am writing to support the closure of the Montana Creek road (beyond the rifle range gate) to motorized users during November 1 - May 1. Further, I support the permanent installation of a pedestrian kissing gate. Montana Creek is one of the only places in Juneau with consistently reliable snow for winter recreation including nordic skiing and walking. Motorized use is not compatible with these activities on the Montana Creek road and could even be dangerous because of how narrow the road is. There are many other areas where motorized users can recreate, but nordic skiing is limited to the few trails that are groomed and maintained by volunteers.

I believe that a closure to motorized users during only a portion of the year would create a fine balance between user groups.

Thank you for your consideration,

Gretchen Roffler

Douglas



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Stuart Cohen <invworld@alaska.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 5:24 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Sirs,

I am writing to urge you not to open the Montana Creek trail to motorized traffic. Motors and skiers do not coincide well because of matters of speed, ideal surface for travel, and noise. One or two off-roaders can wreck the experience of a dozen skiers. I've ridden 4 wheelers on an island near Sitka; they are a lot of fun, but they need a lot of space to be enjoyed without disturbing other people. Additionally, they destroy the environment. Take a look at the area around Echo Cove, and you can get the picture. The Montana Creek area is beautiful and quite and does not comport well with the noise and erosion of off-road vehicles. Please do not permit this activity.

Thanks,

Stuart Cohen

Juneau, AK

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 5:23 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Cheryl Carson
Email
<a href="mailto:tcarson@gci.net">tcarson@gci.net</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Out the Road
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>Please consider closing the road during the dates listed above. This venue is heavily used by cross-country skiers during that time and I should think it is an important safety measure to keep vehicles out of that section from November through April. I would hate to see anyone injured unnecessarily. The road is snowy and icy in the winter and is best left free of motorized vehicles.</p> <p>Thank you</p>

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** greg huebschen <greghip@zoho.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 5:14 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info  
**Subject:** montana creek

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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I would like to see Montana creek road beyond the gate at the rifle range close to motorized vehicles during the winter. In the summer, my preference would be no motorized vehicles past the creek crossing. I remember years ago when vehicles could drive to the end of the dirt road. Unfortunately, there was always seemed to be trash, discarded old appliances, and the occasional long term camper. Thank you for your consideration.

Sent using [Zoho Mail](#)

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Donna Pierce <donnabpierce@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 5:09 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek trail

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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I offer these comments to the members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee considering the winter closure of the Montana Creek access to motorized use. I support the winter closure. I have skied there for numerous years with my family and we have financially supported the considerable investment in grooming and track setting equipment.

The primary issue, in my view, is one the petition supporting motorized use completely ignores--and that is the fundamental incompatibility of skiing and snow machining. Attempting to combine the two is a significant safety hazard, as Eaglecrest has long recognized, and on a narrow, twisting track is especially dangerous. In addition, running any motorized equipment over a set track destroys it, and all the time, effort and money put into it by volunteers. In effect, motorized use of this trail in the winter would displace nordic skiers from the area.

The petition further misrepresents the issue, saying among other things that it calls for year around closure.

I urge you to honor the established use of this area in the winter by nordic skiers and walkers.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Pierce

Juneau

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** gilbertson@gci.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 5:04 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Road

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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We request that the Montana Creek Road beyond the gate at the Rifle Range be closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed. The road is important for skiing and other non-motorized uses, such as walking and snow-shoeing, which are enjoyed by hundreds of people. Volunteers spend many hours each winter keeping the road groomed for skiing and there is no charge to the public for this service. In summer, hundreds of hikers and dog-walkers use the road, too. Motorized use is not compatible with these non-motorized recreational uses.

There are other options available for snowmobilers in the winter. If conditions are good at sea level they can go up the Lake Creek access at the University Housing. That was built decades ago to separate the Spaulding Meadows for skiers on the west from snowmobilers on the east side. Seems like a similar solution could address this.

If skiers, 4 wheelers and snowmobilers are allowed to use the same trail it will be chaos. Time to think of a good solution. It worked years ago in the Spaulding Meadows episode!

Happy Trails,

Steve and Joan Gilbertson

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 4:58 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Chris Heckler
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:chrs@ptialaska.net">chrs@ptialaska.net</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I am opposed to the road closure because the cross country skiers have the entire Mendenhall campground area as well as many others all over this town.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Patricia Carr <pcarr17300@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 4:52 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Road

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Dear Parks and Rec,

I have been a frequent user for over 25 years of Montana Creek Road for cross country skiing, snowshoeing, walking and accessing the creek for flyfishing.

I am requesting that the road be closed from November 1 until May 1 with the gate at the rifle range closed for that period. The pedestrian access gate needs to allow access for those on foot.

Montana Creek Road has some of the most consistent snow coverage near sea level for skiing and snowshoeing through the winter. The relatively gentle terrain is good for those like me who can not alpine ski or go up mountains for back country cross country skiing. The area supports the growing youth Nordic Skiing population which is wonderful. Also, I often see parents with children in back carriers skiing on the road.

ATVs and snow machines do not fit this area. The road is too narrow to support such use. I am not sure two machines could safely pass in opposite directions, especially at speeds they often travel. As a skier and snowshoer, I would be afraid of getting run over by snow machines Or having to get out of their way. The snow machines would be so loud that they would spoil my outings. Sound would echo in the valley especially beyond the bridge. Also snow machines would destroy tracks laid by skiers or the groomers.

Snowmobilers and ATV riders need a more open space and longer broader trails. Montana Creek is not such a place.

I, and others, who travel by skies, snowshoes, or foot need this area for winter use.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Carr  
pcarr17300@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 4:07 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Stefan jones
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:jonesstefan22@gmail.com">jonesstefan22@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I have lived here my whole life and bringing something like this around would be so beneficial for adults and the youth! Give it a chance and see what it can offer to all of juneau!



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Shawn Hatt Cohen <rscohen@alaska.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 4:01 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Close the road

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Hello,

I am writing today to support the Juneau Nordic Ski Club and other X-country skiers for their use of the road beyond the gate at the rifle range. This road, in my opinion, should be closed to motorized vehicles for the danger they cause to skiers and the damage to the groomed trail. The city granted the JNSC use of this trail and should honor its word. Another location should be arranged for snowmobilers to enjoy.

Thank you,  
Shawn Hatt Cohen

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 4:01 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Emily Robbins
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:erobbins00@yahoo.com">erobbins00@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I think Montana creek should be open to everyone during the winter months. That all groups in Juneau will benefit from having Montana creek open.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** suesloss@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 3:52 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** CLOSE Montana Creek to ATV's and Snowmobiles NOW!

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Dear PRAC Board Members and those concerned,

I'm a 40 year resident of Juneau who loves hiking and cross-country skiing on Juneau trails. After 40 years, I must say that most seasons I would welcome exploring elsewhere and further afield from the old familiar trails.

Giving Montana Creek trail over to ATV's and Snowmobiles access will DECREASE available and accessible trails for hikers, runners, and skiers.

I've been on Spaulding in the spring and come across empty beer cans littering the snow! I hear that this summer ATV's have rutted and damaged the road, trail and forest areas of Montana Creek trail.

What type of stewardship of our trails and forest are motorized recreation users proposing? From what I see and hear it certainly doesn't appear to be a "leave no trace" mentality. Tire and snowmobile tracks across the alpine vegetation definitely leaves a long-lasting trace.

I know there is a demand for areas the off-road motorized vehicle users can recreate in, and I want to see our neighbors and friends enjoying the Tongass as much as non-motorized users.

However, Montana Creek IS NOT in the best interest of all users to be trashed summer and winter by off-road vehicles. I think it is very clear that more trails need to be planned and made to meet the needs of all users.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter, Respectfully, Susan Sloss.

Juneau.

Sent from my iPhone

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 3:33 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Matthew S. Brown
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:browndog1ne@yahoo.com">browndog1ne@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Douglas
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
There needs to be somewhere out the road for these ORVs, not downtown or on Douglas where it creates noise pollution for residents

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 3:33 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Joshua Kreick
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:kreick21@yahoo.com">kreick21@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Lemon Creek
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I feel that there has been a lot of effort to find a place for atv users it enjoy their sport. We have many trails that can be utilized by skiers. Juneau needs more healthy outlets for its community and this is one of them.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Paul McCarthy <paulmccarthy7@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 3:19 PM  
**To:** info@jnski.org; Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Re: No snow machines on Montana Creek Road!

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Oops, sorry, meant to include this info with the email below.

I ski and hike on Montana Creek Road all year 'round, with my activity depending on the season...

Thanks for banning motorized traffic in this area.

Paul McCarthy

Juneau, AK

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**From:** Paul McCarthy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 3:14 PM  
**To:** info@jnski.org <info@jnski.org>; parks.rec@juneau.org <parks.rec@juneau.org>; Lauren.Verrelli@juneau.org <Lauren.Verrelli@juneau.org>  
**Subject:** No snow machines on Montana Creek Road!

Hi. I am writing to register my opposition to the use of motorized traffic on Montana Creek road beyond the gate near the rifle range closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1. Furthermore, I advocate that the pedestrian "kissing gate" be permanently installed. There are other places that persons on snow machines can ride, places that do not have salmon spawning creeks parallel to them. In fact, I support only muscle-powered activities (skiing, mountain-biking, hiking) on Montana Creek all year long.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 3:15 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Michelle Sydeman
Email
<a href="mailto:msydeman@gmail.com">msydeman@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>I am a regular user of Montana Creek in the winter. I am 61 and an asthmatic, but I love to ski in nature along a groomed trail without a lot of up and down. Montana Creek is exceptional in that regard. It is close to town, gorgeous, peaceful and well maintained by a team of dedicated volunteers and community members who contribute financially to purchase equipment and gas for grooming. I support closing this area permanently to motorized vehicles to maintain the pristine nature of the trail (past the gun range!) and preserve the work of those who give their time to enhance ski conditions for large number of Juneau residents who enjoy cross country and skate skiing. Last year one snow machiner decimated the trail on at least two occasions when I was out there. It was disappointing. My hope is that this area can be set aside for non-motorized winter use.</p>

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Mary Zahn <kozzahn@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 2:59 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Subject:** montana creek trail

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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It has come to my attention that ATV users have badly damaged the Montana creek trail . If they can't be respectful of how they are using hiking trails they should not be allowed on them.

Sincerely  
Mary Zahn



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 2:49 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Randy Alford

### Email

[rjsitara@gmail.com](mailto:rjsitara@gmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

I oppose closing this area to use by only a single group of people. These are public lands, not private lands. Public lands should provide for public use and should not exclude any legitimate public use. Those who operate off road vehicles have the same rights as those that ski or skate or hike. I do not operate an off road vehicle.....I do hike. I would be delighted to share the trails with others.

It is my understanding that the ski clubs would like to exclude access to those that are not skiers. I snowshoe and have personally suffered verbal attacks from skiers for even being in the area. I have as much right to be there as anybody else. Ski clubs have many places to ski. They have Eaglecrest, the Mendenhall Glacier in the winter with access from skaters cabin, Eagle Beach recreation area, Montana Creek, Mendenhall Campgrounds, Dredge Lake, Spaulding Meadows, and the list goes on.

I am only aware of some off-road activities out by Echo Cove and some snow machining near the Dan Moller trail in the winter. This shows the inequities in allowable use of public lands.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 2:49 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Dennis Nichols
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:woodsyal.nichols@yahoo.com">woodsyal.nichols@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Lemon Creek
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Don't close this road please. Whittier access is important for all of us. I am both a skier and a snowmobile Rider. I cross country ski. There's room to coexist

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 2:48 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Jeanne Alford

### Email

[rjsitara@gmail.com](mailto:rjsitara@gmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

I oppose closing this area to use by only a single group of people. These are public lands, not private lands. Public lands should provide for public use and should not exclude any legitimate public use. Those who operate off road vehicles have the same rights as those that ski or skate or hike. I do not operate an off road vehicle.....I do hike. I would be delighted to share the trails with others.

It is my understanding that the ski clubs would like to exclude access to those that are not skiers. I snowshoe and have personally suffered verbal attacks from skiers for even being in the area. I have as much right to be there as anybody else. Ski clubs have many places to ski. They have Eaglecrest, the Mendenhall Glacier in the winter with access from skaters cabin, Eagle Beach recreation area, Montana Creek, Mendenhall Campgrounds, Dredge Lake, Spaulding Meadows, and the list goes on.

I am only aware of some off-road activities out by Echo Cove and some snow machining near the Dan Moller trail in the winter. This shows the inequities in allowable use of public lands.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Jessica Lujan <jessicarlujan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 2:35 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Road

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Please keep the road beyond the gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users [from November 1 through May 1](#) and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

Thank-you.

Jessica Lujan

Sent from my iPhone

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 2:34 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Lori Crupi

### Email

[lcrupi@yahoo.com](mailto:lcrupi@yahoo.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Douglas

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

Hello,

Please close Montana Creek Road past the rifle range to motorized vehicles from November 1 - May 1.

Montana Creek is a widely loved place for nordic skiers of all ages and ability levels to enjoy outdoor winter recreation. I absolutely love skiing there and have been doing so multiple days a week for the past several winters. We taught our children to nordic ski there, and have accompanied groups of elementary school students there on school field trips. Both of our now teenage children are involved in the Nordic Ski program and they exercise and socialize along that 2 mile stretch of trail multiple times a week in the winter. That area is particularly important because it gets cold earlier and stays cold longer than other parts of Juneau, making it a dependable place for snow even when other parts of town are not. Volunteer groomers dedicate countless hours and much hard work making the trail skiable for the extensive community of nordic skiers who rely on this area to recreate all winter long. I particularly love skiing while the Nordic Team is practicing because it is inspirational to see dozens of teens engaging in healthy outdoor activities during the day and under headlamps at night.

I respect the need to share Juneau trails with multiple kinds of users, but this two mile stretch of ski trail is loved and used by so many different people in our community! Unfortunately, motorized vehicles ruin the ski track so are not compatible in the area in the winter months. Please close Montana Creek Road past the rifle range to motorized use, from November 1 - May 1.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,  
Lori Crupi

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Buckley Linda <lindagramma@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 2:08 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Subject:** montana creek

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Please do not allow motorized vehicles on this beautiful trail. Multi use does not have engines and walker/skiers mingling very compatibly.

Thank you.

Linda Buckley

**From:** Denise Carroll <alaskadm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 1:59 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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I and many other Juneauites love hiking on Juneau's many wonderful, varied and scenic trails. Have you been on Montana Creek trail recently? ATVs (four wheelers) have been allowed to use this trail and have torn through the underbrush causing major damage, i.e., crushing plants and shrubs, leaving deep muddy scarring tracks filled with water, and moving further into the forest when even they can't maneuver through the nightmare of destruction they have caused. Several organizations in town that frequent the Montana Creek area are pushing for complete closure to the Montana Creek Rd. for ATVers. It will take YEARS for the forest to recoup. Please, please close the Montana Creek Road to ATVers and snowmobilers and preserve this wonderful forest setting.  
Denise Carroll

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 1:40 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Alison Lee
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:alison.lee0507@gmail.com">alison.lee0507@gmail.com</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I think this is a good move. ATV's do not need to come out and ruined the trails for people in the winter. I honestly don't think ATV's should be out there at all. They don't respect the water bodies out there. But, this is a good start.



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 1:22 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Scott May
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:Mays2121@yahoo.com">Mays2121@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Please close it to motorized vehicles. Thanks for seeking input.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Mary Furuness <mf1026@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 1:20 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana creek

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Hello,

I want the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users [from Nov 1 to May 1](#) and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed. Thank you. Mary Furuness

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 1:00 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Dave Ringle
Email
<a href="mailto:dvringle@gmail.com">dvringle@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I use Montana Creek extensively for cycling in the summer and skiing in the winter. There is extensive damage from off road vehicles in the area. It is difficult to see multi use access in such a small road. Snow machines grooming at 5mph is much different from high speed travel. Skiers and dog walkers would be unsafe with other users in the narrow roads. Currently there is no access from the road to Spaulding meadows or other much more appropriate motor vehicle use areas. Restrictions are needed for the safety of the large number of users found skiing and walking in this trail.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** mary capobianco <capobiamm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 12:57 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** No to motorized vehicles on Montana Creek

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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I would like to add my voice to those AGAINST motorized vehicles on Montana Creek Trail. More quiet, less noise to those who have used and maintained it over the years. Plenty of other places to use motorized vehicle.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary Capobianco

Sent from my iPhone

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 12:45 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Jeanny Smith
Email
<a href="mailto:knigi.70@gmail.com">knigi.70@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
No. We should not be limiting the access on this road to a single group or type (non-motorized) of people. Snowmachiner's have a right to be there the same as cross country people or people walking their dogs. Or people riding their bikes. The road needs to be open for activity.

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 12:20 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Mark Kennard
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:kennardmd@gmail.com">kennardmd@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I do not believe we should close public lands for one group of people. Those lands are for everyone not just a particular group. I do not ride atv/snowmobile and I don't cross country ski. I am a voting resident who believes that both groups can use the public lands

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 12:02 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Dale McFarlin

### Email

[iamlordcheese@gmail.com](mailto:iamlordcheese@gmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

First of all, I want to state that I am a Parks and Recreation employee. Hopefully this opinion will not get discounted. I spend a great deal of my time outside. Primarily I enjoy Mountain Biking, Skiing, Hiking, paddling, and swimming. These are all human powered activities. This is what I enjoy. There are many options for me to enjoy the activities I love. I pay attention to issues and do my best to be non judgmental and objective. I have seen over and over again, access for ATV's become denied. I hear peoples frustration and anger over this. I am human and admit sometimes I find it tempting to social profile and draw general conclusions about ATV users. They are loud. They can go fast. They can create a higher impact on trails. They can be dangerous. Non the less, life is a dangerous sport. Restricting a specific user from accessing public lands specifically in this case is the wrong idea. The road is a right of way to gain access to DNR and Federal lands. To close use of this right of way to a specific user in my view is elitist. Skiers have Mendenhall, Auke, and Twin Lakes when safe. They have Mendenhall campground, Montana Creek, Eagle Beach, Eaglecrest, Spaulding Meadows, and anywhere else they desire wherever there is snow. Where do ATV's any time of year have to go? I can not think of anywhere other than private land and Maybe Echo cove below high tide line. I am not sure exactly. My main concern here is that by allowing this proposal to become approved will result in further divide among our citizens and added distrust and anger towards our local government. Believe me, people are already angry about this proposal. It simply is not fair. To be redundant, I don't ride ATV's. I enjoy solitude in nature and working my body hard by self power. I think an outside objective view allows for a stronger case and added validity to how this proposal is simply inequitable, and elitist, being exclusive to some, and inclusive to others. Public lands should allow a greater access to a variety of user groups when safe and available. I hope this proposal gets turned down. A yes will only create discourse, agitate and divide. Do what is fair and right and say No to this proposal.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 12:02 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Chris Parker
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:cparkerjnu@gmail.com">cparkerjnu@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Douglas
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Please do not further limit motorized access in Juneau without opening another place in it's stead. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Corinna Cook <corinna.cook@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 11:50 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Hi Parks and Rec.

I support the retention of current limits on public use of the Montana Creek Trail.

Multi-purpose skiing, snowshoeing, fatbiking (is that a thing out there?), and dogwalking in the narrow travel corridor of Montana Creek Trail all depend on pedestrian safety. As is, we have that. Motorized access would compromise pedestrian safety in unacceptable ways.

With much gratitude to the Juneau Ski Club, its volunteers, and the resources it puts toward creating skiable zones - especially at present, in the tumultuous time of climate change - I encourage Parks and Rec to keep the Montana Creek Trail safe for human-powered winter wonderland seekers, and barred to snowmachine access.

Thanks a whole bunch for managing our gorgeous community zones. Corinna

Corinna Cook, PhD

[www.corinnacook.com](http://www.corinnacook.com)

**Lauren Verrelli**

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 11:31 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

**Name**

Nick Yankee

**Email**

[nyankee@alumni.uidaho.edu](mailto:nyankee@alumni.uidaho.edu)

**Phone**

**Residence Location**

Mendenhall Valley

**Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure**

I support a road closure from the Hank Harmon gate to the bridge during the time proposed from November 1 to April 1. We limit offroad use all over town, and this area is just one more place where limiting offroad use allows more Juneau residents to access the area. The Spaulding snowmobile trail, for instance, discourages all users who can not afford a snowmachine in the winter to use the public trail. While I fully support access for all forms of recreation, we can't justify a form of use that is a luxury few can afford and prevents most residents from accessing public lands. Designating the road for offroad use, while it seems like it's fair by allowing all users to access the trail, in reality reduces the ability of those who hike, bike, ski, and run up Montana Creek to continue doing so. The fair thing to do is allow everyone to continue to access Montana Creek, regardless if they can afford an ATV or not.

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 11:27 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Tyler Ferrin

### Email

[tyler\\_ferrin@hotmail.com](mailto:tyler_ferrin@hotmail.com)

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

Parks & Recreation Department

I do NOT support the closure of the 1/2 mile of Montana Creek Road to motorized use.

It's easy to count the number of trails open to motorized use during the winter, Lake Creek Trail, Dan Moller Trail, Montana Creek Road, and the Forest Service road at 25 mile. On the other hand, it's even easier to count the number of trails closed to the Nordic Skiing, zero.

In my experience, on other shared trails in the borough there have been little to no conflicts between the two user groups. This could be due to the fact that the Juneau Snowmobile Club grooms the Lake creek and Dan Moller trails.

There were 57 trails listed on the 2020 Master Plan Survey the Parks and Rec. department put out. I feel that if the Nordic Ski Club doesn't want to share the road/trail they could pick one of the 54 remaining trails on the survey to develop into another one of their groomed locations.

I do hope the department sees how ironic this proposal is, closing a road to motorized use.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 11:13 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Mary Smith
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:elmarysmith@hotmail.com">elmarysmith@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Everyone deserves access. Leave OPEN!!

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 11:07 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Shawn Sundberg
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:chilypilgrim@att.net">chilypilgrim@att.net</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Out the Road
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
LEAVE IT OPEN!! Let's not make this an elitist community.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Justin Dorn <dornjustin@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 10:55 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Access

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Parks and Recreation,

I'm writing to support the broad public use of Montana Creek Trail through the prohibition of motorized vehicles north of the shooting range from November 1 to May 1, and a suitable gate to enforce this. Snow machines create exclusive use zones around themselves, especially on a constrained trail like Montana Creek. Beyond the noise and pollution, and beyond the constant damage to the track and grooming, hundreds of pounds of machinery hurtling along a narrow pedestrian path is a recipe for injury and death. Opening up the trail to all uses, as ORV wants, would actually close the path down to *everyone except* snow machines. The broadest public good is served by keeping the Juneau winter recreation trail that serves residents for more of the year than any other open to everyone except motorized vehicles, because otherwise, it will by default become open to *only* motorized vehicles.

Thank you,  
Justin Dorn

Sent from [Outlook](#)

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 10:47 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Eileen Sundberg
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:tahoesun1@att.net">tahoesun1@att.net</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Out the Road
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Everyone deserves access!! No closure

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 10:44 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Colter Boehm

### Email

[colter@bobcatofjuneau.com](mailto:colter@bobcatofjuneau.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

As the owner of Bobcat of Juneau, a father, and an avid hiker I fully support keeping the Montana Creek road open to Off-road Vehicles.

As the owner of a small business I see the economic benefit of having a designated area for individuals to ride. It will help with small business throughout Juneau in many different ways. Riders will buy atv's, accessories, etc and such for riding all the way stopping at the store on their way out for lunch while they are riding.

As a Father of 3 kids and someone who volunteers to help with troubled youth. I see this as another activities for kids to help develop responsibility, get them out to enjoy the outdoors. Essentially this is good clean fun and offers another alternative for youth to keep them off the streets and out of trouble.

As a fellow hiker, I take my family on trails hiking throughout Juneau often. There are dozens of trails designated for non-motorized use only, summer and winter time. To close down one of the only motorized areas because certain individuals/groups are wanting it closed is grossly unfair.

Once again I fully support keeping the access open to motorized vehicles.

Colter



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Parks Rec  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 10:28 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** FW: Montana Creek winter trail

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**From:** Greg Cook <gregcookalaska@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:54 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec <Parks.Rec@juneau.org>  
**Cc:** Wayne / Merry Carnes / Ellefson <merrywayne@gmail.com>; Carl Brodersen <carlhcb@gmail.com>; Corinna Cook <corinnacook@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Montana Creek winter trail

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Parks and Recreation,

I'm writing to support the retention of current limits on public use of Montana Creek Trail, specifically including and maintaining the prohibition of motorized vehicles north of the shooting range from November 1 to May 1, and a suitable gate to enforce this. Snow machines create exclusive use zones around themselves, especially on a constrained trail like Montana Creek. Snow machines cause obnoxious noise and pollution. They cause unnecessary damage to the ski track and waste the efforts and time of the Juneau Nordic Ski Club's tremendous, volunteer trail-groomers. Snow machines hurtling along a narrow pedestrian path are a recipe for injury and death. Opening up the trail to ORV use would actually close the path down to everyone except snow machines, because it would create unsafe conditions for all non-motorized users. The broadest public good is served by keeping the Juneau winter recreation trail that serves residents for more of the year than any other open to everyone except motorized vehicles, because otherwise, it will by default become open to *only* motorized vehicles.

Thank you,

Greg Cook  
Active Recreational Consultant  
Vadrouilles, batifolages, frasques et fredaines

Douglas, ALASKA

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Laura Liu <lauraliu2@me.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 10:24 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** PRAC: no ORVs on Montana Creek Trail

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Good afternoon to all,

Our names are Laura and Albert Liu. We live in West Juneau and we are hikers as well as avid winter trail skiers.

Albert and I love Montana Creek. We ask you to keep the road beyond the gate at the rifle range closed to motorized vehicles from November 1 through May 1 annually.

We also ask that you keep the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

***Montana creek trail is our “go to” ski place. Please don’t let it be taken away.***

When snow is scarce elsewhere, we can almost always find enough to ski on Montana Creek. It has ideal conditions for making and retaining snow.

We ski at Montana Creek approximately 70% of the winter season. Perhaps even more during low snow years.

It’s been great for our mind, body and spirit. Skiing the trail has helped us stay in shape. Since we started skiing Montana Creek we began looking forward to winters more. Conversely, we became more disappointed to see winter ending each year.

Montana Creek is breathtakingly beautiful and accessible for us. We can’t fly to a ski resort or afford expensive ski fees. We can afford the reasonable \$65 annual Juneau Nordic Ski Club fee covers grooming the trail.

We worry about the preservation and protection of the trail. The noise, disruption to wildlife and damage motorized vehicles will cause to the trail also concerns us.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Genuinely,

Laura & Albert Liu

Juneau AK 99801

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 10:19 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Jennifer Blood
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:jenmarieblood@gmail.com">jenmarieblood@gmail.com</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Please keep Montana Creek Road open to all motorized vehicles year round

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 10:18 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Tawney Paine
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:tawneymarshall@gmail.com">tawneymarshall@gmail.com</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I agree with no access to motorized vehicles on Montana creek trail during winter. Thank you.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** M Dowling <dowlingak@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 10:06 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Winters

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Snow machines will ruin the Montana Creek Trail for Nordic Skiers. This trail is maintained, groomed, and cared for all winter by volunteers. We've seen what snow machines do to that grooming on the Mendenhall Lake. And many of us still seek out and enjoy the quiet and solitude of a place away from motorized use. The Nordic ski community in Juneau is large and vibrant with school programs and family involvement. We have only a few places to go that are motorized-free and groomed for classic and skate skiing: Eagle Crest on Douglas Island, Montana Creek and the Mendenhall Glacier Campground on the other side of town, and the Eagle Beach loop way out the road. We need more places for Nordic use, not fewer. Many other trails are accessible to snow machines. Anywhere they go they create their own exclusive zone around them, as broad a swath as the noise they make and the rutted trail they create. I support snow machine use, but let's keep that use off our established groomed trails.

Keep the gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from November 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

Margaret Dowling  
Juneau, AK

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 10:03 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Jacqueline Tupou
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:jacqueline_tupou@yahoo.com">jacqueline_tupou@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I think it's a great idea to have a place motorized users can utilize. Harmony is crested when we make a place for ALL to have a seat at the table and a place to exist.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Annmarie Martin <annmariam010@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 10:03 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** End of Montana Creek Road - close to non-motorized vehicles in winter please!

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### EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Good morning Lauren,

Please make the end of Montana Creek road (near the rifle range) a closed road to motorized vehicles from November through May 1st as it is one of the few areas for hiking and cross-country skiing during the winter. This is a highlight to the Juneau community and having motorized vehicles on it will ruin the groomed trails.

I have quit using the trail at the top of Pioneer Road and onto Treadwell Ditch and Dan Moeller trail in the winter because of the ORVs. and I live in Douglas! They have ruined that trail in the winter and have made it dangerous to be hiking or skiing, as they travel much too fast, have horrible exhaust fumes, and create huge ruts.

They would ruin the pristine trail system at the end of Montana Creek road, which many times is the only place to ski when it is raining at lower elevations.

I urge you to not allow ORVs to use this road/trail during the winter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ann-Marie Martin

Douglas

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 10:01 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Sara Shutt
Email
<a href="mailto:ennaaras3@gmail.com">ennaaras3@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I believe that Montana Creek should remain open to ORV and NOT limited to only used by skiers. Skiing of all types has many places to recreate and enjoy the outdoors, shared and not. ORV use is constantly limited and shut down, continually ignoring the diversity of Juneau's outdoor recreation population.



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 9:59 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Megan Wallace
Email
<a href="mailto:wallace.megs@gmail.com">wallace.megs@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Please do not close Montana Creek Road to motorized vehicles. Nordic ski users should not have exclusive use of this public land. There is no reason users cannot recreate together. To further restrict access to ATV users is unwarranted. There are currently only two places in Juneau for ATV use. There are far more places for nordic ski users to recreate. To close off one of two areas for ATV use because nordic ski users would simply prefer exclusive use is not in the best interest of all stakeholders. Despite their allegations, allowing ATV use on Montana Creek does not prevent nordic ski users from using this trail. These two user groups are more than capable of sharing this public space. Do not close Montana Creek Road.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Tee Miller <teemiller17@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 9:42 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Cc:** info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Road

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hello. I respectfully request that Montana Creek Road beyond the gate be closed to motorized vehicles from November 1st to May 1st. This is a stellar place for cross country skiers to practice their craft. I know I am so grateful to the volunteers of Juneau Nordic Ski Club for keeping the area groomed and tracked for skiers. It is such a wonderful gift to have this area to "play in".

Warm regards,  
Tracey Miller  
Juneau, AK

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Beth Leban <coleevan9@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 9:40 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Creek - winter use

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Please ensure that the heavily used Montana Creek Nordic ski trail area is preserved for Winter ski use by the many in our community who seek out this environmentally friendly winter recreation. It is imperative that the land beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range be closed to motorized vehicle users from Nov 1-May and that the pedestrian gate be permanently installed.

Beth Leban

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Sally Donaldson <sallyanndonaldson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 9:40 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Cc:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Mt. Creek Road and gate

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Hello Parks,

I want the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and a pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed. Snow machines would ruin the skiing, and make it impossible for this 74 year old body to ski there on my often-used place to ski in winter. Montana Creek is usually the last place for snow to stay when it is melting everywhere else.

Thanks for taking public input.

Sally Donaldson  
Juneau

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Rory Darling and Jan Moyer <alaskakayakers@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 9:36 AM  
**To:** alexander.giudice@gmail.com; cmertl@corvus-design.com; edriccarrillo.8@gmail.com; eehars@yahoo.com; josh@chathamelectric.com; duncan503@gci.net; mike\_eberhardt@alaska.gov; crenshaw@gci.net; rutecki@gci.net; Wade Bryson; will@chimney-fish.com; Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Comments on Use of the Montana Creek Road

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Why should motors have more priority than human powered activities? These are NOT compatible activities. Every time motorized vehicles claim another area of Juneau, the human powered citizens lose yet another place to get exercise, have some peace and quiet, and enjoy the out of doors.

I used to x-country ski up to the Dan Moller bowl. But the snowmobiles took over that valley years ago so I do not ski or snowshoe up there in the winter anymore. Who wants to be run over by a big smelly loud machine zooming up behind you?

I stay away from the north part of Spaulding meadows as the snowmobilers have claimed that. They are supposed to stay on "their" side of the meadow, which is clearly marked by signs on trees, but their telltale machine tracks show that they have not followed the rules and frequently zoom over to the "non-motorized" side of the meadow.

And now they want to take Montana Creek away from us? NO! NO! PLEASE NO! Hikers, bikers, runners, x-country skiers, dog walkers and kids in baby strollers all use the Montana Creek road/trail ALL YEAR ROUND.

Have you been up to the Montana Creek road and seen the mess that has been made by the ATVers riding around in the muskeg? It is amazing how much damage has been made. Muskeg is quickly destroyed by traffic and creates huge mud holes which will take years to recover, even if no additional traffic continues to ride over it.

I strongly support keeping the gate closed on the Montana Creek Road all year to preserve this beautiful, quiet place. But at a minimum, the gate must be closed November 1-May 1 so the motors do not ruin the x-country ski track that is set by the Juneau Nordic Ski Club and used frequently by their hundreds of members. These two activities cannot co-exist.

Thank you. Please protect the area and vote down the motorized use of the Montana Creek area.  
Jan Moyer

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 9:28 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Amanda Durrant
Email
<a href="mailto:amanda@necrotec.com">amanda@necrotec.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
The gate on Montana Creek Road should remain. Motorized vehicles pose a safety threat to me and my family running and skiing in the area. Landslides and erosion are also a big issue along the riverbank, which will further be exacerbated with regular use by motorized equipment. Although, I do agree than an additional area for OTVs would be well utilized in Juneau, Montana Creek Trail is not the appropriate area due to its high foot traffic, blind corners, and erosion problems.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Keith Carlson <kccarlson@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 9:16 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Montana Crk

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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I'm a long time user of the Montana Crk Trail for XC-skiing and hiking. Been skiing out there since before grooming. Not always interested in the longer ski now required by the placement of the gate at the rifle range. But the gate does control the garbage that previously accumulated at the parking at the bridge turn around. Be nice to have the option of creek side ski without the long ski from gate to creek (but without the garbage accumulation).

Be nice to be able to share use of the area with the snow machiners. But they've proven irresponsible users by their attempted use of the closed and groomed trail last spring to ruinous effect to the groomed trail. So, move the gate to the bridge, and close winter use to snow machines.

Thx.

Keith Carlson

Juneau, AK

Sent from my iPhone

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 9:11 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Jasz Garrett

### Email

[jaszgarrett@gmail.com](mailto:jaszgarrett@gmail.com)

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

Montana Creek Road does not need to be closed. It should stay open. Everyone has been respectful and careful there in the winter months, at least while I've been out there which is quite often. People enjoy snowmobiling and skiing there and it is also has great flat trails that disabled people can also enjoy. It's one of Juneau people's favorite spots to see the Northern Lights. Furthermore, I just don't see why it has to be closed-what roads will close next? Instead, why not schedule more police stationed if that is the worry, or scheduled times for activities.



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Chris Hinkley <chrishink17@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 9:00 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Please consider closing the Montana Creek Trail Road from Nov 1 to May 1

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hello,

I am writing to recommend that CBJ close motorized access to the montana creek trail/road during the winter. The nordic ski club spends lots of time and money to maintain this trail for a large number of users and the trail is quickly destroyed by others on ATVs.

I am both a skier and a snow machiner and while I understand there is a lot of tension here, I think this decision makes the most sense.

The road should still be open to motorized access during the summer months (which is when it primarily gets used anyway). Winter use already takes place at spaulding meadows and there is plenty of room for us to play up there.

Thanks for your consideration,

Chris Hinkley

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:57 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Destiny Buruato
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:buruatodestiny@gmail.com">buruatodestiny@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Out the Road
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Keep the road open to 4 wheelers, skiers have plenty of places to ski and the 4 wheelers don't

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Mark Schwan <aukebay@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:56 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Letter re Montana Creek skiing  
**Attachments:** Montana Cr Rd winter use.docx

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hello, attached is a short letter expressing my opinion regarding the conflicts with winter use, motorized versus non-motorized, on upper Montana Creek. Thank you for your work.

Mark Schwan  
Juneau

25 August 2020

To Whom it May Concern,

This is just a short comment regarding the use controversy on upper Montana Creek Road, specifically the winter use of the road by snow machine riders and the use by cross country skiers.

I am not a skier or a snowmobiler, but my partner cross country skis the area, so I have heard of the conflicts in use, specifically how the tracks left by the snow machines ruins the area for cross country skiers.

I believe the area should be off limits to snow machines during the winter, with the winter access through a permanently installed pedestrian gate. I understand it is called a kissing gate. I did not know that.

I certainly support the snow machine owners' rights to have access to some areas where they can enjoy their recreation, but given the number of people skiing and maintaining the Montana Creek road in the winter, and how one snow machine passing through the area ruins it for all the skiers, it just seems a no-brainer to me. i.e. don't allow the motorized recreational use there.

To me, it is analogous to letting hunting occur in a popular wildlife viewing area. You establish a system to support an extensive popular viewing program, but then let a few hunters kill all the animals the wildlife views have come to see. Some competing uses are really mutually exclusive.

Sincerely,

Mark Schwan

Juneau

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:55 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
April Gilbert
Email
<a href="mailto:aprilsilk@hotmail.com">aprilsilk@hotmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I disagree with this proposal. There are too few places for snow mobiles and other off road motorized vehicles to use here in Juneau already. I would prefer if we could open all Juneau trails to both and use them the way they do up in Skagway and Whitehorse. They alternate weekends so that both may enjoy them in the winter. It would be amazing to be able to use snowmobiles to get up to some of the cabins in the winter but most of the areas around them are closed to motorized vehicles.

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:55 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
MANDEE COLLINS
Email
<a href="mailto:mdcollins@alaska.edu">mdcollins@alaska.edu</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Downtown
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I am against the closure of Montana Creek Road to motorized vehicles. This land is one of very few that is accessible to off road vehicles in Juneau, and limiting it isn't fair to all outdoors sports and activities. Closing it to appease one group in favor of another is not the way to go; we need to find a solution to have this land accessible and usable to all outdoor winter sports and activities. A special trail for cross country skiers and snowshoers, area for snowmobiles and ATVs, and whoever/whatever else needs access for their legal activity.

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:35 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Jessie Palomino

### Email

[j.palomino907@gmail.com](mailto:j.palomino907@gmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Douglas

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

I think closure of Montana Creek Road would be unfair and unnecessary. There are already very limited spaces to operate an OHV in Juneau and closing another one not only creates congestion and discontent but shows that a large swath of peoples preferred form of recreating is not recognized or appreciated.

There are plenty of spaces that people can ski in town with many of them being exclusive use. Some of these areas are even funded and maintained by the city. The ohv community on the other hand has to their accessible terrain regularly called into question and must fund all their own facilities themselves and have taken it upon themselves to repair the bridge on Montana creek taking all the proper steps such as permitting to do so.

Therefore, I think that it's only fair to keep the road open. No party is saying that they want exclusive access to the area but by putting up a gate the city would be by default denying access to some.

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:34 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Vanessa Duran
Email
<a href="mailto:nessa0427@hotmail.com">nessa0427@hotmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
It should stay open to every & all Juneauites. No one club should be able to deny access to others simply because they don't want to try & come to an inclusive agreement for access to all



## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:26 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Amy Feldmeier
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:Amyfeldmeier@hotmail.com">Amyfeldmeier@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
There aren't a whole lot of places for snow machines to go and this road is great for that type of winter recreation. Please keep available to those who like to do these winter activities.

**Lauren Verrelli**

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:25 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

**Name**

John Kearney

**Email**

[johkear@yahoo.com](mailto:johkear@yahoo.com)

**Phone**

**Residence Location**

Mendenhall Valley

**Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure**

Parks and Rec. needs to support the population as a whole and not exclusive groups. Seems very biased and discriminatory towards certain groups such as off road equipment ATV snow machine use. Please consider other users.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Heidi Lengdorfer <hlengdorfer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:25 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Keep Montana Creek Closed to ORVs

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

---

Good morning Juneau Parks & Rec et al,

Please maintain the closure of the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range to recreational motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1. I also ask that you install a permanent, suitable pedestrian gate for this purpose. Doing so will keep the broadest use of this area to Juneauites seeking respite from their COVID-19 cabin fever this winter.

Opening this area to motorized users will decrease usability for the community as a whole, creating an exclusive zone for ORV users only. In this time of COVID-19, when our physical activity is mostly limited to outdoor recreation, it would be depriving pedestrians and skiers of an easily-accessible, family-friendly area for physical activity during winter. Physical activity is a key factor for good mental and physical health, reducing obesity and helping some of us with our acquired "quaren-ten" from this spring/summer. Given this dismal summer, I am personally hoping we get a good ski season this year.

I appreciate that ORV users would like to use this area, however this precludes the greatest public good. Please keep Montana Creek Trail closed to recreational ORV/motorized vehicles.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.  
Heidi Lengdorfer

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Parks Rec  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:23 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** FW: Montana creek road

-----Original Message-----

From: Fred Yates <fred12yates@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:10 AM  
To: Parks Rec <Parks.Rec@juneau.org>  
Subject: Montana creek road

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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I am opposed to closing the road at Montana creek rifle range. I think it is unfair to allocate public lands to a single user group. I think compromise is in order. I think the off road vehicle users need a place as well. Cross country skiers have many areas to enjoy our community. Off road vehicles are heavily restricted and have few areas to operate. I think the space could be shared.

I am not a member of either of these groups

Fred Yates

Juneau

Sent from my iPhone

**Lauren Verrelli**

---

**From:** Parks Rec  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:22 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** FW: Montana Creek Road winter use

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**From:** Adrian Slater Home <aslater@alaska.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 11:46 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec <Parks.Rec@juneau.org>  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Road winter use

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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We would like to register our support for a proposal to close the Road at the end of Montana Creek Road to motorized vehicles during the winter months. Specifically, we'd like to see the road closed after the gate at the Rifle Range and a permanent pedestrian kissing gate installed.

We love to be able to ski on this trail in winter when it is beautifully groomed by June's Nordic Ski Club. We would hate to lose this wonderful asset.

Thank you,

Adrian Slater and Justine Emerson

Juneau

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:20 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Elias Joven
Email
<a href="mailto:eliasjoven@hotmail.com">eliasjoven@hotmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I am opposed to the road closure to ORV's during the proposed time period. There are limited to no areas where ORV's may frequent. The trail systems should be equal access to all. I find it disturbing that one group is being given priority of use during a select time period. Access for all or no access there should be no division of resources.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Parks Rec  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:19 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** FW: Montana creek public use

-----Original Message-----

From: Carolyn & Mike Fox <foxhouse@gci.net>  
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 5:31 PM  
To: Parks Rec <Parks.Rec@juneau.org>  
Subject: Montana creek public use

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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CBJ,  
Please do not allow ATV use (other than for ski trail maintenance/grooming) in the Montana Creek drainage.  
My concerns are increased mud / silt runoff into Montana Creek fish habitat; and; damage to the winter ski trail.  
Thank you for your consideration in this matter.  
Mike Fox  
Juneau.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Parks Rec  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:18 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** FW: Montana Creek Recreation Use Request

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**From:** Cynthia Krehbiel <cynthialelapin@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 5:00 PM  
**To:** alexander.giudice@gmail.com; cmertl@corvus-design.com; edriccarrillo.8@gmail.com; eehars@yahoo.com; josh@chathamelectric.com; duncan503@gci.net; crenshaw@gci.net; rutecki@gci.net; Wade Bryson <Wade.Bryson@juneau.org>; will@chimney-fish.com; Parks Rec <Parks.Rec@juneau.org>; George Schaaf <George.Schaaf@juneau.org>; mike.eberhardt@alaska.gov  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Recreation Use Request

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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This may be a duplicate for some of you. We did not have Mr. Eberhardt's correct address.

Good afternoon,  
We humbly request that the Montana Creek Road remain off limits to motorized vehicles. Over the years we have enjoyed skiing, picking berries, working to fill potholes and observing nature on the road, so we would hate to hear the noise and see the destruction that motorized vehicles would bring. This request is important to our well-being and we greatly appreciate your consideration.  
Sincerely,  
*Cynthia and Thomas Krehbiel*  
*Juneau, AK*



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 8:04 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Scott Cichoracki
Email
<a href="mailto:scichoracki@hotmail.com">scichoracki@hotmail.com</a>
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>It's ridiculous to give one group priority over others on a public road. Skiers can ski literally anywhere while off road vehicles are severely limited in places they can operate. What an incredibly selfish and entitled proposal. I urge everyone to do what's right and deny this proposal and keep this road public and not to turn control of this public road over to a fringe minority group they hardly anyone has ever heard of until this proposal.</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 7:29 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Erich Schaal

### Email

[erich\\_870@hotmail.com](mailto:erich_870@hotmail.com)

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

Dear PRAC Committee,

I do not support closing a portion of Montana Creek Road to motorized vehicles from Nov 1 to April 1 of each year. ORV access has been severely limited in Juneau for several decades with the closing of the Dredge Lakes area and improvement projects have been rejected by a vocal minority such as the ORV park near Sunshine Cove and the Temsco Pond.

I support the continued use of the Montana Creek Road, it's right of way and the historical access it has provided for a very long time, since mining activities began in the drainage almost a century ago. While the infrastructure has started to become overgrown, the historical and beneficial uses are not forgotten and it is an appropriate place for continued use by ORVs.

I recommend the skiing community work with the ORV community to insure safe access for all, but skiing should not exclude the winter use by ORV's.

Sincerely,

Erich Schaal

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 7:25 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Louis Juergens
Email
<a href="mailto:aktrophy@gmail.com">aktrophy@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Hello, I am a skier and not an ATV or snow machine user. This proposal is clearly one-sided. We have numerous places to enjoy skiing and the off-road groups have minimal. Our community needs more opportunity for outdoor recreation and tactics like this make it more difficult to keep our youth active and off drugs. Please do not close another door for outdoor opportunities because a few object.

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 7:23 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

David Miller

### Email

[millerdavem@gmail.com](mailto:millerdavem@gmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

Juneau is already the most restrictive town in the State. Please do not close yet another location where our residents can use their off road vehicles. If this closer is due to pressure from those who like to cross country ski, just keep in mind that the only location in the entire borough closed to cross country skiing is Egan drive.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 7:02 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Regena Deck
Email
<a href="mailto:genadeck@yahoo.com">genadeck@yahoo.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Out the Road
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Allowing access to ORV further enhances our quality of life and enjoyment of Juneau's resources. I think disallowing any one type of outdoor activity in favor of another does not make a lot of sense. The idea that anybody using an ORV would be abusive to property or resources is unfair. There are limited areas in Juneau and Douglas for ORV use at this time. Allowing responsible users access to more trails just makes good sense.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 6:54 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Katherine Knapp
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:kayredlinger@yahoo.com">kayredlinger@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Douglas
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Keep it open for use to all recreation. I use that road for cross country in the winter and hike the trail in the summer. I can share with my neighbors who do other activities because having a community who respect each other's rights to participate in the outdoors IS ALASKAN.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 6:02 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
jeff martin
Email
<a href="mailto:alaskarookie@gmail.com">alaskarookie@gmail.com</a>
Residence Location
Lemon Creek
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
with such limited motorized access in the borough, it is lopsided in placing this restriction to all users of the public domain in favor of a few, the Nordic club has multiple areas that are dedicated to only winter use by this select group, eagle crest alpine trail, half of Spalding meadows, eagle beach campground, dredge lake, this would be a restriction on many to favor the few.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Sarah Ernst <sarah.em.ernst@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 5:41 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Trail for Skiing Please!

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Good Morning,

The Montana Creek trail is a beautiful and quiet place for non-motorized winter recreation. If it were opened up to motorized uses, that would severely negatively impact the ability of the nordic ski community to use that trail.

Please keep the gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and have the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed.

There are plenty of opportunities for motorized winter recreation on Douglas and limited skate skiing locations. Thank you for considering our plea to keep Montana Creek quiet.

Kind Regards,  
Sarah



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** B Carpeneti <bcarpeneti@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 5:25 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear Parks & Rec,

I'm writing to support the broad public use of Montana Creek Trail through: 1) prohibition of motorized vehicles north of the shooting range Nov 1 - May 1 and 2) a kissing gate to enforce this. Snow machines create exclusive use zones around themselves, especially on a constrained trail like Montana Creek. Beyond the noise, pollution, and constant damage to the track and grooming, hundreds of pounds of machinery hurtling along a narrow pedestrian path poses a danger. Please consider that opening up the trail to snow machines may actually close the path to *everyone* except snow machines. That would be a sad loss.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service.

Respectfully,  
Bianca Carpeneti

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 5:02 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Wyatt Nicholson

### Email

[wyattwnicholson@hotmail.com](mailto:wyattwnicholson@hotmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

I'm not going to lie I saw this coming. When you decided to put the gate in up Montana Creek I knew that it was just a matter of time before you would try and pull the pin and just say no more access. I have been born and raised here and I've watched as everything that I've enjoyed has been shut down with nothing I can do about it. There are so many restrictions and limitations on where people can take four wheelers and other motorized vehicles in this town I've given up and sold my wheeler so congratulations you won.

The thing that I find the worst about this is how you're just open about how you are planning on giving it to the Nordic Ski club for half the year. They have literally zero restrictions on where they're allowed to ski but as soon as you put the gate in they got to take over the only trail in town where motorized access is allowed and isn't it convenient that now just a few years later you want to give them full access to a historic mining access road.

Even trying to look past the trying to shut down motorized access do you have any idea how much of a pain it is to try and shoot the bow range. Ever since the gate got put up not only do I have to walk another quarter mile but the damn groomer packs ice in to the road and makes is a solid pack of ice. I don't even know how many times I've slipped on the hill before the start of the range and ended up on my ass or smashing my bow into the ground but it's very frustrating.

I would say thank you for your time but I have a feeling that this is going to be treated like every other time something like this comes up, so have fun with your cross country ski club because I have a feeling whoever is in charge of this decision is a member of the club who's trying to take over the one trail with legal motorized access in town.

Wyatt

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 4:47 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Jake Oudekerk
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:jakemoudekerk@gmail.com">jakemoudekerk@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Apposed!

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 4:09 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Justin Aubin
Email
<a href="mailto:aubin.justin@gmail.com">aubin.justin@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Do not close Montana Creek Road to OHV's. I unfortunately have sold my off-road vehicles because in Juneau they are little more than in the way. Being as there are only two places to use them. One is too dangerous to transit to half the year and they other is Montana Creek. Should Montana Creek Road be closed it will create a burden for JPD to enforce and further reduce income for CBJ and the State in the form of less OHC registration and trailers registered as well as making criminals out of those just trying to find a place to enjoy their public lands in the way they enjoy while minimizing their impact on others.

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 2:20 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Joshua Bourn
Email
<a href="mailto:kulludar@yahoo.com">kulludar@yahoo.com</a>
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
It would be nice to be able to go farther past the gate than just at the gun range! There are parts of the year that fall into that time zone that doesn't have snow. People of all sectors should be able to go out there and enjoy it's many miles of travelable road. Since were a capitol city and deal with so much ocean landlocking , and it's already there. Keep it nice for all! To share.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 2:08 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Midgi Moore

### Email

[midgimoto@gmail.com](mailto:midgimoto@gmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Douglas

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

Dear Madame Mayor and CBJ Assembly,

I am writing to respectfully request you not close areas to motorized vehicles such as snow machines. Many Alaskans enjoy riding their machines in the winter and it seems grossly unfair to eliminate the few areas they have to ride.

They are citizens and residents of our city as much as alpine and Nordic skiers are, and should be afforded the respect of their passions as much as anyone else.

It would seem that if we are a city striving for inclusiveness, we should find a way for the riders to enjoy their sport. There are plenty of areas for cross country skiers to be out and enjoying their passion. It is only right we find a win-win solution. It is my sincerest hope we consider all Juneauites when making these decisions.

Thank you,

Midgi Moore

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 1:21 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Susan Cloudy
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:seephotoid@hotmail.com">seephotoid@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
No Winter closure! What's the ratio of skier recreational places vs motorized recreational places? There's plenty of space for both to use Montana Crk and one group shouldn't be favored over the other.

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 12:05 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Macall Lawrence
Email
<a href="mailto:maclaw133@gmail.com">maclaw133@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I disagree with cutting it off. We have so many people with disabilities who use it because it is flat and very useful for people in chairs or who don't walk as easily as others. Like anyone else, they don't necessarily want to just walk on brotherhood. If you close the road, you are closing an option for them.



## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 11:59 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Tristian Dyakanoff
Email
<a href="mailto:tndyakanoff@gmail.com">tndyakanoff@gmail.com</a>
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I feel that this is not okay. Closing this area to ORV is not the way to go. We live in Alaska and have many places to do outdoor activities besides drive ORV's without being punished. This area is a small but close by place that everyone should be able to have access to. I have many others that would agree to keeping this open year round for the sake of everyone. ORVS, skiers, dog walkers, etc.

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 9:00 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Theresa Svancara
Email
<a href="mailto:tjsvancara@hotmail.com">tjsvancara@hotmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Out the Road
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>I strongly support closure of the proposed section of Montana Creek Rd to motorized vehicles Nov 1-April 1. I ski on the road in the winter time and know that having snow machines on the road would pose very dangerous situations to skiers. Hills and curves restrict visibility which could result in deadly collisions.</p> <p>Please close this portion of road to motorized use.</p> <p>Thank you, Theresa Svancara</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 7:01 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Nanci Spear
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:nancispear@yahoo.com">nancispear@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Out the Road
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Cc skiing and motorized vehicles do not mix. Please do NOT allow motorized vehicles on Montana Creek trail. Snow machines have Douglas trail. Let's be safe

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 5:43 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Robert Trousil

### Email

[trousil@bigsky.net](mailto:trousil@bigsky.net)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Lemon Creek

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

Dear PRAC committee members,

Our family has been avidly skiing Montana Creek since our arrival in Juneau eleven years ago. Our daughter, a committed member of both the 4-H developmental ski group in her earlier years and Juneau Nordic Ski Team most recently, has enjoyed countless hours training on the groomed ski trail of Montana Creek. The rest of us have also found this ski venue to be unique and a great place to enjoy our love for skiing.

Not only do we enjoy skiing Montana Creek, but we have met hundreds of people, young and old, who also thoroughly and truly the skiing experience that this relatively short affords. Montana Creek is certainly one the only skiing opportunity that fits all levels of skier with its gentle gradient that is expertly groomed by a very committed group of volunteers. The snow pack invariably lasts longer in Montana Creek than any other cross-country ski venue here in Juneau.

Allowing motorized vehicles to recreationally use the first three kilometers of the Montana Creek trail during the winter months is entirely incompatible with the skiing venue and associated grooming practices that has established itself over the years. The trail could not be practically groomed, or otherwise maintained, if it were travelled by snow machines that incise, break up and obliterate the snow base, the classic tracks and corduroyed skate surface that is at times pain-stakingly prepared by the groomers.

There are many individuals in Juneau who take cross country skiing, in its various forms and levels, very seriously if not passionately. The sport is part of the fabric of the overall Juneau community, and it is growing. It gives an outlet for young and old to develop their skills to whatever level they wish to take themselves to. Many cross-country skiers see Montana Creek as a recreational opportunity and a place to relax and enjoy the solitude of this unique winter wonderland. Those who take it more seriously, ski to reach new heights of achievement. This trail is welcoming to all levels and all abilities.

The Juneau Nordic Ski Team uses Montana Creek to regularly train, providing an opportunity for young skiers to set and reach self-initiated goals through the sport of classic and skate skiing. I have watched this team and its dedicated coaches use Montana Creek in creative ways for years. The JNST is indeed an inspiration to many of us who watch these young athletes ski up and down this trail, preparing themselves to race in Anchorage and Canada, or to stay in condition to compete in the highly successful cross country running or track programs.

Opening Montana Creek to recreational, winter-specific motorized travel would mark the end of Montana Creek as a gathering place and a valuable training venue for nordic skiers. There are many opportunities that are afforded and are open to recreational snow machinists in the Juneau area, including Douglas Island and Spaulding Meadows, but there are few options for recreational cross-country skiers that offer some form of reliable snow pack and non-extreme terrain. There have been times when the only place with adequate snow cover was found at Montana Creek. Without Montana Creek, there would times when there would be no available options to cross country ski during some of the winter months, particularly later in the season.

Our family has made cross country skiing part of our winter lives. Our daughter has been inspired by those who have coached her, and friends who share her ski interests. We have watched both of our daughters experience the wonderful wintertime sights

and sounds in both daylight and night that this short trail at Montana Creek. Those memories carry them forward with a certain expectation that such experiences will be protected by those who make decisions to do so. In the time since arriving in Juneau eleven years ago, I am sure that 1000's of skiers have skied 1000's of kilometers along Montana Creek. By effectively taking away this short section of trail by not limiting motorized access during the winter ski season would be heart breaking and a great loss to the ever-growing cross skiing community here in Juneau.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

The Trousil Family

Robert, Linda, Melia Lu and Jin Yue

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 5:38 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Tyman Comstock
Email
<a href="mailto:wrgtyc@gmail.com">wrgtyc@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>I can not support the proposal.</p> <p>I use Juneau trails for Hiking winter and summer but with such limited access for the use of Motorized off road vehicles I feel without a plan to provide alternative areas for such use it severely limits that user group.</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 4:34 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Melia Lu Trousil

### Email

[trousil@bigsky.net](mailto:trousil@bigsky.net)

### Residence Location

Lemon Creek

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

Dear PRAC Committee,

Skiing has always meant a lot to me. It is a way to get outside, get exercise and hangout with friends. I was the team captain of the Juneau Nordic Ski Team (JNST), last year, and was a member of the team for the past 7 years. This year I hope to help and be part of the ski team in some way. Through the many years of skiing I have made many friends, and countless memories with the team, and it has always been one of my highlights of the year.

Montana creek in particular has always been one of my favorite places to ski. I love the mix of terrain and challenges that the trail gives. I would be deeply saddened to see the trail being chopped up on account of motor vehicles, and would request the gate be closed from November 1st to May 1. Volunteers take time out of their busy day to groom and maintain the trails, and it is used by hundreds of skiers, including many youth, a week.

Skiing is a sport, many youth in Juneau are dedicated to. They show up to practice three to four days a week, no matter the weather. I have always been amazed with the dedication of the team. It has been pouring or snowing sideways but we all would show up to practice and make the best of it. I want the younger generation to have the best shot they can at a sport that I love and having poor trail conditions won't help that happen. Closing Montana Creek to motor vehicles will help keep the trail conditions in tip top condition and make it so the ski community of Juneau is able to come and are able to enjoy the ski trail for many years to come!

Thank You for your thoughts and consideration.  
Sincerely,  
Melia Lu Trousil

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 3:10 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Karen Wright
Email
<a href="mailto:karenlrite@aol.com">karenlrite@aol.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>Dear decision makers,</p> <p>I believe that closing down the Montana Creek Trail to motorized traffic is a mistake. There are really only a few trails that are available to motorized vehicles at any time of year. This is one that I believe should remain open to motorized traffic. The Nordic skiers already have the Mendenhall Campground in that area to ski, and there should be a way for each type of recreation use in the area if it can be offered. It wouldn't make sense for motorized use to be allowed at the Mendenhall Campground to allow for the same use because of the nearby housing area. If people are using the Montana Creek Road area for the motorized recreational use then the local residence are not inconvenience, or bothered by noise, or traffic.</p> <p>I am not in support of shutting down motorized use on the Montana Creek Trail.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p> <p>Karen Wright, local property owner, business owner, and voter.</p>



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 1:37 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Carl Dierking
Email
<a href="mailto:carlbecky2@gmail.com">carlbecky2@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Out the Road
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>I am in strong support of the proposal to close the portion of Montana Creek Road to motorized vehicles between the rifle range and the bridge at the end of the road. The Nordic Ski club spends countless hours grooming this road as a trail for multiple types of skiing and it just takes one carelessly driven snowmobile to easily destroy it. With Juneau's climate it's often hard to keep enough snow throughout the winter but this trail is located in a colder interior valley where it's one of the last to melt. This extends the ski season considerably and makes it an important winter recreation area. Motorized snow machines do not mix with skiing and hiking, since ruts and uneven surfaces are hazards that lead to injuries. There are already many options for motorized vehicle operation in the winter without ruining the few options available for "non-motorized" recreation.</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 1:15 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Sonia Ibarra

### Email

[snibarra@alaska.edu](mailto:snibarra@alaska.edu)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Out the Road

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

Dear Parks and Recreation Department,

My name is Sonia Ibarra and I have lived in Juneau since 2012 and am committed to making Juneau my home for decades to come. I am an avid harvester of wild foods and medicines in the Juneau area. I am also a hiker, bicyclist, fisheries researcher, and mentor to youth in the sciences.

I am writing to you in support of the proposal to close a portion of the Montana Creek to motorized vehicles from November 1 through April 1. My understanding is that grooming of the trail during these winter months by the Nordic Ski group would be exempt from this closure and would still be able to maintain and groom the trail for cross country and skate skiers.

Gracias,  
Sonia

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 10:32 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Peter Flynn
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:flynn.peter@gmail.com">flynn.peter@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Shared use would be great, whether a few designated days, or at least work with USFS to allow a winter only spaulding snowmachine access up from just over the bridge. I'm a xc skier but appreciate the better protected snowpack of montanna ck.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** arrabish@gci.net  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 10:06 AM  
**To:** alexander giudice; cmertl@corvus-design.com; edriccarrillo 8; eehars@yahoo.com; josh@chathamelectric.com; duncan503@gci.net; mike eberhardt; crenshaw@gci.net; rutecki@gci.net; Wade Bryson; will@chimney-fish.com; Parks Rec; George Schaaf  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Road

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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To : CBJ PRAC

I am writing in support of closing the gate to upper Montana Creek Road and trails to off-road vehicle use. I am a cross country skier, hiker and dog walker and I use the trail often all year.

In particular, I am concerned about winter use of the trail.

Due to recent warming trends with Southeastern Alaskan winters, there have been years when the Mendenhall Campground and the lower cross country trails at Eaglecrest do not have good snow coverage for most of the winter.

There are hundreds of Juneau-ites who cross country ski and use Montana Creek Road in the winter. Our options go down to zero if the gate is open in the winter to off-road vehicle use. The use of snowmachines and skiing are NOT compatible.

Snowmachines can access Spaulding Meadows and can ride up there to their heart's content. They do not need to have access to Montana Creek Road.

I am also in favor of keeping the gate closed in the summer. The ATVs are destroying the areas where they have access, just go look and see for yourself if you have any doubts. Giant muckholes where there were once beautiful muskeg meadows.

I would be in favor of keeping the Montana Creek Recreation Area reserved for non-motorized outdoor activities such as fishing, archery, hiking, walking, skiing and running. There are many many more people living in Juneau who do non-motorized activities than those who own off-road vehicles. Opening the area to ORVs means that the majority of people who want to recreate in non-motorized ways are shut out because motorized and non-motorized recreation are NOT compatible.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Arra

Juneau, AK

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 9:35 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

John Sisk

### Email

[juansisk@gmail.com](mailto:juansisk@gmail.com)

### Residence Location

Douglas

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

Dear Juneau Parks and Recreation Department:

I support keeping the Montana Creek Road as a nordic ski only area in the winter, closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1. This road has become the primary reliable ski track -- both skate skiing and classic -- for Juneau. The Juneau high school team trains there, the 4H club uses the trail and it is the go-to place for many of us for reliable skiing in the face of a warming winter climate in which other trails are increasingly spotty.

A snow machine is used for ski trail grooming, which involves careful towing of track setting trailers to get the trail just right. However the operation of recreational snow machines and tired or other tracked vehicles on top of the set ski track ruins the ski trail. For this reason, even though philosophically I would like to share the winter trail, that is not feasible. Unfortunately, use by motor recreation vehicles is not compatible with Nordic skiing at Montana Creek.

I wish there were more opportunities in Juneau for my motor-loving friends, but driving on the Montana Creek ski trail is not the answer. In the summer, Montana Creek Trail is or could be open to OHVs. Dan Moeller Trail provides good snow machine access to much of Douglas Island and perhaps additional routes like it need to be opened up on the mainland. I had thought that the alternate snow machine trail to Spalding Meadows addressed snow machine interests. It might make sense for Parks and Rec to inventory potential winter recreation trails for all users and then go through a process for allocating uses and then making appropriate trails.

Please also consider that:

Every winter the Juneau Nordic Ski Club (JNSC) spends hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars grooming the road beyond the gate for non motorized users.

JNSC has provided volunteer grooming on Montana Cr. road for the past 15 years providing thousands of skier days to the public in the only reliably snow covered area at sea level.

Youth skiers spend many days and evenings skiing and training on this ski trail from beginning skiers to older ski team racers.

JNSC volunteers helped to coordinate and provide labor to repair the bridge across Montana Cr. in addition to annually keeping the road clear of brush, fallen trees, and landslides.

Thank you very much for your consideration. Please close the Montana Creek Road to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1.

John Sisk

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Parks Rec  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 8:27 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** FW: Montana Creek ski trail

-----Original Message-----

From: jsepel@gci.net <jsepel@gci.net>  
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 4:25 PM  
To: Parks Rec <Parks.Rec@juneau.org>  
Subject: Montana Creek ski trail

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Sent from my iPhone wow!! Why can't we share!! I love cross country skiing But before the ski club started setting tracks, I had no problem with sharing the trail with the snow machines — in fact I liked when the snow machines set track and I skied between their tracks-/ or you could have one side of the road skiers and the other half snow machines — why spoil 2 activities, darn — I think people can learn to share the road and not spoil it for the other group— I never had any problem with the snow machines before they started grooming the trail— Sincerely, Joyce Sepel

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 7:06 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Sam Sollie
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:ssollie@gci.net">ssollie@gci.net</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I don't ski or ride snowmobiles. I always see land taken away from the motorized people but never added to. Are you going to limit the ski club from other areas as to be fair ?

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 7:04 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Scott Spickler
Email
<a href="mailto:sspickler@gmail.com">sspickler@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>The gate should be left open for snow machines and ATV users. To deal with the people that dump garbage at this location, as well as many other dump zones, the CBJ should install multiple web cams. If you make the penalty painful enough, the convicted violators will realize its more cost effective to take their garbage to the dump like the rest of the law abiding citizens of Juneau.</p> <p>There are already multiple locations in the Borough for the Nordic ski club to utilize.</p> <p>Thank you</p>



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2020 12:51 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Kelly Tonsmeire
Email
<a href="mailto:asdn@gci.net">asdn@gci.net</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>My wife and I have lived in Juneau for more than 40 years. We ski at Montana Creek several times a week during ski season. It is the one place in Juneau that has consistent snow. Hundreds of Juneauites ski there regularly, as well.</p> <p>Motorized vehicles destroy the grooming necessary to ski. Please close Montana Creek Rd. to motorized vehicles from 11/1 to 4/1 to preserve this critical community recreational asset .</p> <p>Thanks you</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 30, 2020 9:17 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
david job
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:djob@gci.net">djob@gci.net</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Downtown
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
The road should be closed to all motorized traffic except for cross country grooming equipment,

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 30, 2020 7:13 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Mossy Mead
Email
<a href="mailto:mossyschuss@gmail.com">mossyschuss@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Hi, I'm now living in Fairbanks where there are plentiful, non-motorized/no-dogs allowed ski trails. During the recent 4 years I was in Juneau I made countless trips up and down the Montana Creek Trail on my skis in the winters. There are very few Nordic Ski Trails in Juneau. Montana Creek is the best one for holding a snow pack when all the other trails are melting off in the rain. I've experienced, first hand, the results of just one motorized vehicle using the trail in winter. The trail, that so many ski on, was trashed by just one 4 wheeler going up the trail one time. In an era with global warming ruining our snow I tend to vote in-favor of non-fossil fuel burning ways to get outdoors and get exercise. I vote NO on motorized use of the Montana Creek Trail in the winter. Thanks.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 30, 2020 6:01 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Susan Oshida
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:avesta@ak.net">avesta@ak.net</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Downtown
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
<p>Yes, Please close the road between November 1 and April 1. It is great skiing from the gate and it is regularly groomed for skiing. In the past there has been motorized vehicles that have totally destroyed the tracks.</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 30, 2020 12:57 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Dan Branch

### Email

[avesta@ak.net](mailto:avesta@ak.net)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Downtown

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

I oppose the proposal. I am also puzzled about the wording of it because the trail has been closed to motorized traffic for several winters. Why then, would the proposal be to close the trail to motorized traffic rather than to open it to such traffic. This tactic should not shift the burden of proof to those who want to continue the closure.

As anyone who uses the ski trail knows, Montana Creek enjoys a unique micro climate which preserves snow cover during mid-winter thaws. The Juneau Nordic Ski Club capitalizes on this with daily grooming efforts. In the past two winters, their efforts have been undone by someone violating the no-motorized rule by driving a four wheeler up the trail.

The local snow machine organizations have done a wonderful job working with government land owners to increase their access to snow covered trails. They built great access trails to the Treadwell Ditch and Auk Nu Meadows. Similarly, the ski club has maintained a great ski trail on Montana Creek, the Mendenhall Campground, and Mendenhall Lake. There is no reason for CBJ to interfere with this balance by motorizing Montana Creek or ban snow machine use on the trail to the John Muir Cabin.

Up until now, our city planners have implemented policies that recognize that snow machine and nordic skiing are mutually exclusive activities. If CBJ chooses to allow motorized use of Montana Creek, it will be make it impossible for skiers to groom the trail. This will favor people with the thousands of dollars necessary to own a snow machine or ATV. But it will harm many more, including school children, who get exercise using the trail.

For these reasons, I oppose any change to trail use policies that would allow motorized use of Montana Creek Trail.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 30, 2020 12:09 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Christy Gentemann

### Email

[ladygentemann@gmail.com](mailto:ladygentemann@gmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Douglas

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

Dear CBJ Parks & Rec,

I'm writing in support of the seasonal closure of Montana Creek to off-road/motorized vehicles Nov 1 - April 1 with an exemption for snow machine grooming by the Juneau Nordic Ski Club.

The Montana Creek trail is one of the most popular cross country ski trails for Nordic skiers. In addition, it is the most reliable and accessible trail with snow cover almost all winter which makes it an extremely important trail for the cross country skiing community.

Motorized use is not compatible on the Montana Creek trail in the winter and cross country skiing will cease to exist there if motorized use allowed in the winter. Just one motorized vehicle can create deep ruts on the groomed trail which takes hours to repair.

Motorized users already have Lake Creek and Dan Moller trails to use and access more areas in the winter. Given the limited number of cross country ski trails with reliable snow cover in Juneau, this would be a major loss for the Nordic community.

Sincerely,

Christy Gentemann

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 30, 2020 9:27 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Rebecca Dierking
Email
<a href="mailto:carlbecky3@gmail.com">carlbecky3@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Out the Road
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>With distress I see that consideration is being given to open Montana Creek road to motorized vehicle traffic from November 1st-May 1st. I am extremely opposed to this plan. I have used this beautiful trail for cross-country skiing for the past 15 years. Motorized traffic would completely destroy the ability to ski safely and enjoyably there. This is one of the few places that snow remains for an extended amount of time for skiing and gives access to the public for skiing and snow-shoeing and hiking during the winter and early Spring months. I have see youth groups use it extensively, along with seniors in the community. The Juneau Nordic Ski Club has invested time and effort by volunteeers over the years to keep this trail a viable option for outdoor recreation for skiers, hikers, and snow shoers. It would be a tradgedy to allow motorized vehicles to destroy this trail. PLEASE do not consider opening to to them!</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 30, 2020 8:30 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Brooke Schwarting
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:schwartings@mac.com">schwartings@mac.com</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Out the Road
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
<p>I am writing in support of closing the Montana Creek Road, beyond the gate at the rifle range, to motorized users from November 1 to May 1. I also support permanently installing the pedestrian kissing gate.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Brooke Schwarting</p>



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 30, 2020 6:58 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Maureen Hall
Email
<a href="mailto:maureenhall976@gmail.com">maureenhall976@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>Folks at Parks and Rec,</p> <p>I fully support the closure of Montana Creek Road starting at the rifle range during the winter months. The road has become a well used and popular place for cross country skiing, available when lower elevation skiing might have disappeared due to rain. Countless hours go into maintaining the trails for skiing led by a dedicated group of volunteers. It is a shame if a handful of people can destroy this effort by running snowmobiles or four wheelers up the road. If people need to access the wilderness for trap lines, I'm sure someone at the ski club would be happy to teach them how to ski and help connect them with used gear. Snowshoeing is also a viable option to access trap lines.</p> <p>Thanks, Maureen Hall</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 30, 2020 4:03 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Heidi Hall
Email
<a href="mailto:heidihall907@gmail.com">heidihall907@gmail.com</a>
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I was born and raised in Juneau. I grew up skiing and have used the Montana Creek trail for the past 30 years. It is not a compatible trail to share with motorized vehicles. Please do not allow motorized vehicles on that trail November 1-April 1st. So many youth use this trail and also multiple members of the community walk their dogs on the trail. Please. We beg you to keep motorized vehicles off the trail. Thank you for considering. I know this is a hard decision for you.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 29, 2020 4:49 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Colleen Dimmitt
Email
<a href="mailto:Dimmitt.Colleen@Gmail.com">Dimmitt.Colleen@Gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Yes! I love skiing out Montana creek in the winter! It's such a beautiful trail and easy access. It's totally doable to grab my skis after work and head out there with my dog. Closing the trail to motorized vehicle access would make it so much more enjoyable. Snow machines and atvs ruin the atmosphere for everyone they encounter with their deafening noise and smells.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 10:31 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Dick Farnell
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:dickfarnell@hotmail.com">dickfarnell@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Downtown
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Please keep the Montana Creek trail closed to motor vehicles from Nov 1 to April 1 to allow cross country skiing and snowshoeing. Thank you.

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 8:31 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Ellen Pavitt
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:ellen@gopavitt.com">ellen@gopavitt.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I support closing Montana creek road to motorized traffic during winter as is being proposed.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 5:13 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Rick Caulfield
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:caulfield99801@gmail.com">caulfield99801@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Out the Road
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Please support the closure of Montana Creek Road to motorized vehicles from Nov 1 to April 1. Thank you.

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 4:40 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Rick Thibodeau
Email
<a href="mailto:rick.designworks@gmail.com">rick.designworks@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I would like the Montana Creek Road to be closed to motorized traffic (except for nordic skiing grooming machines operated by the Juneau Nordic Ski Club, which has been grooming the road for years) from Nov. 1 to May 1, in order to preserve its unique use as a nordic ski trail. Keeping the "kissing gate" in place just beyond the rifle range also would be important. The pioneer road near the end of the North Douglas Highway seems to me a better place for the use of snowmachines and atv's. Thank you. Rick Thibodeau

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 2:21 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Janice Gray
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:rabbit@alaska.net">rabbit@alaska.net</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Please don't close it



## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 1:50 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Tom Kimlinger
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:akim@gci.net">akim@gci.net</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Douglas
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Keep the road open to all users including motorized vehicles, there should be more than one place to recreate with an ATV motorcycle or snowmobile.
Thank you

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 1:36 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Demian Schane

### Email

[demian\\_schane@yahoo.com](mailto:demian_schane@yahoo.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Downtown

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

Good afternoon. Unfortunately, this area really isn't conducive to both snow machines and non-motorized users (hikers, skiers, dog walkers, etc.). And, as far as I've observed over the last 15 years, it hasn't been used (or allowed to be used) by motorized users during the winter.

I support finding areas for motorized users, but given the noise, lack of pollution control technology, and size of the vehicles, the area needs to be far more open than this trail can provide.

As a result, I support closing the Montana Creek trail to motorized vehicles between Nov. 1 and April 1.

Thank you.

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 10:32 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Zach Forst
Email
<a href="mailto:zfsailor@gmail.com">zfsailor@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Out the Road
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>I utilize the Montana creek skate trail 20-30 times a season. It is an excellent easy access cardio workout during the dark winter months. The trail is heavily used by skiers, families, and dog walkers. Loosing this groomed ski trail would be a detriment to the mental health of Juneauites.</p> <p>I own a four wheeler and have owned a snow machine. This trail is not long enough to make loading and unloading a machine worth the effort.</p> <p>Instead let's focus on making a park similar to what Sitka has at Nelson logging road. Extend the small road at Amalga or the Pioneer road on Douglass for motorized users.</p> <p>Non motorized users utilize Montana Creek 1000-1 and pay to maintain it with volunteer hours. Let's keep it that way!</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 10:29 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Stacy Sedgwick
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:stacysedg@gmail.com">stacysedg@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Out the Road
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I am in favor of closing Montana Creek to motorized vehicles from November 1st through April 1st. This is a tremendous resource for cross country skiers and walkers during the long winter months. Snow machines do have other areas to operate during the winter as well.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 9:59 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Ben Freas
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:freasboarder@gmail.com">freasboarder@gmail.com</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
This is literally the only trail for four wheelers, how many places are there to cross country ski in Juneau? Also there in no reason the road could not be shared. Look at the tread we'll ditch trail on Douglas, snow machines, hikers, skiers use it together all winter.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 9:49 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Tim Hall
Email
<a href="mailto:hall.tim3019@gmail.com">hall.tim3019@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I would like to see the road closed from Nov 1 to May 1. No motorized users with the exception of nordic trail setting for skiers. Trail use by other motorized vehicles is not compatible with the 1000's of skier days. One 4 wheeler screws it up for 1000's of skiers and typically unrepairable. I know I have volunteered my time, fuel, maintenance for over 15 years setting ski trails. In this time of pandemic people need their outside recreation, space, air and exercise!

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 9:19 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Albert Liu

### Email

[LLiu2@cfl.rr.com](mailto:LLiu2@cfl.rr.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Douglas

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

Good morning,

My wife, Laura and I have been residents of West Juneau for nearly 10 years and previously lived in Haines. We frequent the Montana Creek Trail especially during the winter ski season. It is our favorite trail to ski since it usually has the best ski conditions.

I would just like to say, I want the road closed to motorized users from November 1st to May 1st.

During our light snow seasons Montana Creek is often the only trail with enough snow coverage for skiing. Without access to the trail during those winters we would not be able to get outdoors to ski.

Sincerely,  
Albert Liu

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 8:31 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Betsy Fischer

### Email

[scottbetsy@gci.net](mailto:scottbetsy@gci.net)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

Montana Creek should be closed to recreational motor vehicles during the winter so that the Juneau Nordic Ski Club can continue its good work of providing groomed ski trails to the Juneau community. Once recreational vehicles are allowed on the road it will prevent all other users from enjoying it. ATV's and recreational snowmachines dig big ruts in the snow and travel at high speeds. There is no way to regulate their speed and behavior as you would be able to do on a patrolled city or state road. If you allow recreational vehicles on Montana Creek you will deny hundreds of skiers, snowshoers and other pedestrian recreational users from enjoying the beauty and health benefits of exercising along Montana Creek in the winter. The JNSC will have to abandon grooming the trails as it would be cost and time prohibitive to constantly try to repair and maintain the trails after recreational vehicles are on it. Please do the right thing. Look somewhere else for these motorized vehicles to recreate in the winter. And do not ignore the fact they already have the Lake Creek trail and Dan Moller trail to run their machines in the winter. Thank you.



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 8:17 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Jared Buchmiller
Email
<a href="mailto:jared.buchmiller1@hotmail.com">jared.buchmiller1@hotmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
ATV riders have 2 limited areas to ride which are shared use, while others have access to all other trails in town. this is not fair to close the road to benefit one group. shared access should continue and if non atv riders desire a more quiet outing they should go literally anywhere else. Respect is required on all trails but if you access a shared use trail you should expect to encounter ATV traffic period. I used to ride atvs down south but do not here due to lack of trails. DO NOT CLOSE THE ROAD.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 7:49 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Albert Savikko
Email
<a href="mailto:alsavikko@gmail.com">alsavikko@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I oppose the closure of Montana Creed Road during the winter. This would eliminate another potential access to Spaulding Meadows to motorized vehicles in the winter. The existing snow machine access to Spaulding Meadows has limited parking and the University of Alaska has not allowed expansion of this parking area.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 7:33 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

**Name**

Susan Hargis

**Email**

[sudie1ak@yahoo.com](mailto:sudie1ak@yahoo.com)

**Phone**

**Residence Location**

Downtown

**Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure**

Please keep the road CLOSED to non-motorized use during the winter months. The motorized use is a completely incompatible use, and has huge noise and environmental impacts not only to skiers but also to any other non-motorized users. It creates an exclusive area just for motorized users. And somehow it has to get addressed for them to stay in their zones - they already go past their zones and surprise and are a danger to skiers. Please keep the barrier and install a kissing gate. They already have areas to use, and those need to be clearly defined or they will end up taking all of the natural areas for motorized use.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 5:05 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Annelise Fenn
Email
<a href="mailto:annelisefenn@gmail.com">annelisefenn@gmail.com</a>
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I believe a closure to motorized vehicles on this road in the winter would be a positive action, allowing people to recreate in this area on skis or on foot without having to be on constant alert for vehicles. It would also preserve the snow quality and provide a nicer and quieter setting for recreation.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 5:02 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Robin Marks
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:robin_marks01@yahoo.com">robin_marks01@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I want the Montana Creek Road to remain closed in the winter to motorized vehicles. Thank you, Robin

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 10:26 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Josh Fortenbery
Email
<a href="mailto:fort0124@gmail.com">fort0124@gmail.com</a>
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Please close the end of Montana Creek Road to motorized vehicles from November-April. This is one of the few spots in Juneau with consistent snow that can be groomed for Nordic skiing throughout the winter, and if the road is open to motorized vehicles then it will essentially be closed to Nordic skiers as snow machines destroy the groomed tracks that volunteers work hard to set. Please keep this space in Juneau open to the Nordic ski community, particularly at a time when safe outdoor exercise options are more important than ever.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 9:58 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

**Name**

Jon Kurland

**Email**

[jonkurland1@gmail.com](mailto:jonkurland1@gmail.com)

**Residence Location**

Mendenhall Valley

**Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure**

Please vote to close Montana Creek Road to motorized vehicles from November 1 through April 1 each year from the rifle range to the bridge. Motorized vehicles are fundamentally incompatible with use of this area for cross country skiing. This is the single most reliable place for cross country skiing in Juneau in low snow conditions. We have nowhere else to go. Montana Creek Road receives a high volume of skier traffic and many more citizens make use of it for skiing than would ever use it for snow machines or four-wheelers. Support outdoor recreation by closing this area to motorized traffic! Thank you.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** rkwell@gci.net  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 9:32 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; JNSC Board  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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PLEASE do not allow motorized vehicle access to Montana Creek in the winter (have at it in the summer! for camping and berry picking and mushroom gathering). A single ride on an ATV destroys hours of grooming and enjoyable conditions for nordic skiers. I believe you will find that the nordic ski use would far outnumber motorized use in the winter. The trail often has slides (as is the current situation...you can barely walk past certain parts...let alone ride on something) not far beyond the area that is groomed for skiing. Thus vehicles realistically could not gain access to the meadows or many miles of trail...but the distance is adequate for skiers to get a nice workout by completing a single pass or several repeats on the trail. This is the only reliable area for winter nordic skiing that is accessible in the valley. It is a great asset for keeping our population physically healthy (and mentally healthy this crazy covid year)...adults and kids from the 4-H group as well as school groups.



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 8:23 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Michael Heumann
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:mpheumann@hotmail.com">mpheumann@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Out the Road
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I dont want to see it closed. There are plenty of options that allow for multiple uses including alternateneing days of access for various groups.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 8:07 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

**Name**

isaac benson

**Email**

[benson.isaac@gmail.com](mailto:benson.isaac@gmail.com)

**Phone**

**Residence Location**

Douglas

**Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure**

I strongly urge you to keep Montana creek closed to motorized use from nov 1 to may 1. here is a haiku I wrote to emphasize the beauty of this space.

quietly gliding  
silent sport enthusiasts unite  
save montana creek

This place means so much to many people from young to old. It is an incredible resource that deserves to be preserved. Skiers are known to live in harmony with nature and be good stewards of the land. do you trust the snowmobilers to do the same? for the sake of keeping this pristine space intact, I urge you to keep Montana creek free from motorized conveyance. thank you for your time and consideration.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 7:44 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

**Name**

Karlynn Welling

**Email**

[rkwell@gci.net](mailto:rkwell@gci.net)

**Phone**

**Residence Location**

Out the Road

**Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure**

PLEASE do not allow motorized vehicle access to Montana Creek in the winter (have at it in the summer! for camping and berry picking and mushroom gathering). A single ride on an ATV destroys hours of grooming and enjoyable conditions for nordic skiers. I believe you will find that the nordic ski use would far outnumber motorized use in the winter. The trail often has slides (as is the current situation...you can barely walk past certain parts...let alone ride on something) not far beyond the area that is groomed for skiing. Thus vehicles realistically could not gain access to the meadows or many miles of trail...but the distance is adequate for skiers to get a nice workout by completing a single pass or several repeats on the trail. This is the only reliable area for winter nordic skiing that is accessible in the valley. It is a great asset for keeping our population healthy...adults and kids from the 4-H group as well as school groups.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 7:13 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Abbey Janes
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:abbey_lu@hotmail.com">abbey_lu@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Douglas
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Please continue to close the road to motorized use in the winter! Montana creek road is a vital part of the Juneau outdoor recreation scene. It would be devastating to the current and past users who number in the thousands. Thank you.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 7:05 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Danny Babcock

### Email

[readymandan@gmail.com](mailto:readymandan@gmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Douglas

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

Hello, thank you for allowing comments regarding this public interest. I currently reside near the Montana Creek Road system and enjoy its diversified use. I utilize both motorized and non-motorized travel on the road as allowed by the law and I feel that this privilege greatly enriches the quality of life for my family and I. I feel that shutting down the use of motorized vehicles for this area is an exclusive and special interest group- focused resort and does not represent a benefit for our collective community. I have learned and understand that not all users of the Montana Creek Trail are respectful or sensitive to the needs and wants of others who use this road. I believe this statement applies to both motorized users and Non-motorized users. I understand that a simple solution would be to exclude one type of use (motorized) but leaves almost nothing left for access for people who live in the valley. I also understand that once a regulation is put into place it is difficult to change and thus our freedom is permanently restricted. History has proven this as we have experienced similar events come to pass in neighboring areas such as the dredge lake trail system. Currently the dredge lake trail system as well as the Mendenhall campground are available and offer up phenomenal opportunities to Nordic skiing and other non-motorized use. Perhaps we can identify a sense of fairness and equality in recognizing The benefit of maintaining the Montana creek road system in it's diversified status and resist the urge to monopolize the entire valley and all of its access points for motorized vehicle use. Thanks.

**Lauren Verrelli**

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 6:33 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Wayne Coogan
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:wdc@cooganalaska.com">wdc@cooganalaska.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Out the Road
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
This proposal discriminates against poor people. They will be forced to dump their old appliances and furniture in the local landfill at cost like the rest of us. CBJ should have more compassion.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 6:16 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Suzanne Sauerteig
Email
<a href="mailto:takublu@gci.net">takublu@gci.net</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Downtown
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I love skiing, the outdoors and the silence of snow, so you might think that access for snow machines would be off my list but I've got kids who like to snowmachine and make a lot of noise out in the woods and they need a place to recreate too. A place that's not 40 miles out of town. We've pushed them out of dredge lakes, the airport, North Douglas now they drive all the way out to Echo Cove - that's not any better for the environment and it worries me when they drive on that road. Let's revisit Dredge Lakes or North Douglas or find an alternative before you prohibit anyone's use.

## Lauren Verrelli

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 5:04 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Julius Adolfsson

### Email

[julius.adolfsson@gmail.com](mailto:julius.adolfsson@gmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Downtown

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

As a member of the JNSC I want the road to be closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1.

JNSC spends hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars grooming (156 days and over 835 hours last season) the road beyond the gate for non motorized users. A single motorized user can destroy the groomed trail by creating deep ruts which are not only hazardous but take many hours for volunteer groomers to remove.

JNSC has provided volunteer grooming on Montana Cr. road for the past 15 years providing thousands of skier days to the public in the only reliably snow covered area at sea level.

- Motorized users are incompatible with skiers, snow-shoers, and hikers on the narrow roadway with numerous blind curves. Youth skiers spend many days and evenings skiing and training on this ski trail from beginning skiers to older ski team racers. JNSC volunteers helped to coordinate and provide labor to repair the bridge across Montana Cr. in addition to annually keeping the road clear of brush, fallen trees, and landslides. ORVs create an exclusive use zone around them just by their operation thereby excluding non-motorized users.



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** dmayer@gci.net  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 4:22 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Montana Creek Access Gate

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Greetings, I have heard that the CBJ is considering a petition to open the Montana Creek Road beyond the gate at the Rifle Range to all motorized users. This has been the prime cross country ski track in Juneau for years, and allowing open motorized uses would destroy the cross country ski track.

I support keeping the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range **closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1** and the pedestrian gate permanently installed. Thank you.

Diane Mayer  
Juneau

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 3:47 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Sabrina Jones
Email
<a href="mailto:jonesse@whitman.edu">jonesse@whitman.edu</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>Please keep the road closed to motorized users from Nov. 1st to April 1st! I personally hike, snowshoe, and ski on this trail in the winter, and even one motorized vehicle makes the trail exclusive to motorists. It creates a dangerous situation for any human-powered recreation. I am concerned about the possibility of a motorist colliding with skiers, since Montana Creek has many sharp turns. Additionally, the snowpack could be destabilized in that area if motorized vehicles are allowed; snowmobiles exert a much higher force and wear more on snowpacks than non-motorized forms of recreation.</p> <p>I am not affiliated with the Juneau Nordic Ski Club, but appreciate them volunteering their time to maintain the trail in the winter. If the Montana Creek road is opened in the winter to motorists, it becomes an unsafe environment to recreate using non-motorized vehicles. Please keep it closed during the winter months.</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 3:21 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Milt Barker
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:mbbarker@gci.net">mbbarker@gci.net</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Downtown
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I support the closure. We don't allow motor vehicles on sidewalks.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Marianna Carpeneti <mcarpeneti@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 1:52 PM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** ORV petition re. Montana Creek Trail

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hello -

I'm writing to oppose ORV's petition to open Montana Creek Trail during the wintertime to snowmachine use. I love to snowmachine myself (and used to own one). And I think that allowing a variety of motorized vehicles on Montana Creek in the spring, summer, and fall is fine. But during the winter months snowmachines on the Montana Creek Trail would really change the environment for non-motorized users of the trail. Montana Creek is one of the most reliable places to cross-country ski, even with the warmer winters we've had, and I encourage the CBJ to continue its policy of limiting motorized used to the Nordic Club's grooming equipment.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,  
Mari Carpeneti

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 1:19 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Nancy Jones
Email
<a href="mailto:thomasn@gci.net">thomasn@gci.net</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>Please reinstate the ordinance to keep motorized vehicles from using Montana Creek Road during the Nordic ski season. That trail is the best one we have due to the colder temperatures and amount of snow it gets. Skiers have used it for years without snowmobile damage until recently when someone repeatedly forced the gate open. Our groomers spend hours making beautiful tracks for our skiers. It is safe for walkers, runners, and skiers during the winter without snowmobiles on the trail. Thank you for considering my comments.</p> <p>Nancy Jones</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 11:51 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Richard Monkman
Email
<a href="mailto:rdm@gci.net">rdm@gci.net</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Downtown
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Strongly support the proposed closing. The upper Montana Creek Road is a valuable non-motorized recreation and exercise area for all CBJ residents. It's a training area for the high school cross-country ski teams, a wonderful workout area for local skiers, and a beautiful walk or leisurely ski place for codgers like myself. Opening it up to snow machines is going to destroy this community asset. There are lots of places for mechanized travel. Let's keep Montana Creek snowmachine free. Thanks!

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 11:46 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Eric Torgerson
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:i@erictorgerson.com">i@erictorgerson.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Douglas
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
This is one of the few places in Juneau that have consistently good skiing. The snow machiners already have Dan Moller, as well as Mendendhall Lake. Seems perfectly reasonable to restrict Montana Creek to just non-motorized use.

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 11:36 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Jeremy Woodrow

### Email

[jwoodrow311@yahoo.com](mailto:jwoodrow311@yahoo.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Out the Road

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

I strongly urge the City & Borough of Juneau Parks and Recreation Department to maintain the winter-time closure of Montana Creek Road to motorized vehicles. While I generally support more access for wintertime motorized vehicle users, it should not come at the peril and displacement of another well-established user group. Locations in Juneau where snow machine use is frequent have inherently eliminated other user groups due to the impacts created by the machines. This has been widely accepted and tolerated by non-motorized user groups who have instead established other areas to recreate. I will continue to support any effort made to seek & create new locations for any user group where it does not displace an existing user.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Woodrow  
Auke Bay, Alaska



## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 11:27 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Melanie Brown

### Email

[alaskamel@yahoo.com](mailto:alaskamel@yahoo.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Downtown

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

There are not that many kilometers of trail where nordic skiers can go and participate in their quiet sport. If the stretch at Montana Creek is lost skiers will be left with a small trail at the campground that is less than 2.5 kilometers and a loop at Eaglecrest. For those who have much more time to seek trails, there is track set at Eagle Beach, but that is a long drive that requires a lot of added time.

I fail to see why the short road at Montana Creek would appeal to snowmachiners as it is a short run for a motor vehicle.

My children have also enjoyed this trail over the years with their 4H ski group and the Nordic Development Team. This activity teaches a multitude of lessons to youth who are brought up on it and the health benefits are unrivaled by most sports.

Please do not forsake the safety and quality of track for the skiers who use this trail.

Thank you for reading my comments.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 11:05 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Brent Crowe
Email
<a href="mailto:brentcrowe1@gmail.com">brentcrowe1@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Out the Road
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>This road and the trail at the end of it has been used for motorized access since the road was built. There are people that continue to do so. It is absurd that one user group can start setting track in a multi use area and then complain of the other users to the point of banning them. There are lots of flat motorless tracks all over town and several In The valley. The trail along the river to brotherhood the under thunder much of dredge the entire unplowed bike path. Do not close to motorized used.</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 8:59 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Etta Eller

### Email

[ettaloueller@gmail.com](mailto:ettaloueller@gmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

To whom it may concern,

I am a member of the Juneau Nordic Ski Team. I am a lover of the outdoors and winter. I love the Montana Creek trail and I love being able to ski there safely. And as so, speaking for the entire Juneau ski community, I want the gate beyond the gun range to be closed from November 1 to April 1.

Last year was my first year on the team. By joining I was seeking out a competitive skiing community, in which I could recreate outdoors and be surrounded by a group of peers I feel connected to. I found that. JNST brought me connections to my fellow athletes and so so many positive, healthy role models. I have been looking forward to this ski season for a long time, not only because of the skiing, but because of the life long community that rests there.

If the ATV's were allowed access to Montana Creek, JNST and the rest of the Juneau ski community would no longer ski there. Skiers would feel unsafe, never knowing exactly what was around the corner. Additionally, in one ATV trip, the carefully groomed trail that countless volunteers give there mornings too, are ruined and unable to ski on. Montana Creek is one of, if not my favorite place to train. The gradual uphill helps your strength and endurance. Also, it is the only ski trail in the valley that has hills. If we could not train there, valley groups would add many hours of commuting to Eaglecrest four times a week. In pre-covid times, carpooling would be an option, but many families will not risk there health for a ride, and so the result will be no skiing or more miles on your car.

Thank you for reading and please please take my input into consideration.

Sincerely,

Etta Eller

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Kevin Maier <kevinkmaier@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 8:57 AM  
**To:** George Schaaf; Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; Rorie Watt  
**Subject:** Montana Creek motorized use

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear PRAC,

In a letter I sent prior to your August meeting (copied below), I asked the PRAC and CBJ to consider **a year-round closure of Montana Creek to motorized use** at the CBJ-managed parking lot at the end of the road upstream of the Hank Harmon Rifle Range. My argument hinged on the premise that this is at best a marginal venue for ATV users, offering a short section of gravel road and trail to legally ride. As such, the venue inherently invites exploration, which it is clear will come with degradation to essential anadromous fish habit. Since that time, I've become aware of a petition and a rather ambitious plan to develop the upper Montana Creek watershed for ATV use, proving my point that this is **not a viable arena** for modern ATV riding unless significant development occurs.

I'm heartened to learn that ATV advocates are pursuing permits and proper legal protocols to ride, but as the documents in your August 4, 2020 packet prove, the watershed has been marred both by historical **illegal riding** and by recent efforts to develop pioneer trails that will threaten the streams and anadromous fish.

Since the meeting, I have also been in communication with local experts at ADFG, the Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition, and I have been reading Alaska Statute. Armed with this knowledge, I will now be vigilantly watching, and notifying ADFG and the Alaska State Troopers anytime I encounter illegal ATV use in the watershed. As the angling community gets up to speed on the laws regarding ATV use and feels empowered to report violations, I think we will all very quickly realize that the Montana Creek watershed is not the place to develop an ATV riding venue.

Indeed, after a month of research, I am even more convinced that CBJ should close this access point to ATVs year-round and **actively seek an alternate location to develop for ATVs**. I know a lot of work has been done on finding a venue, but much of this work happened in the 1990s; the machines have changed, the demand has changed, and use patterns have changed. It is time to re-open this discussion.

I'm not an ATV user, so I'm not certain about site requirements. I'm also not clear on land ownership, but the quarries near Lemon Creek seem like good options. It seems to me they could be fully developed to support various motorized uses without impacting important non-motorized

recreation, while also offering potentially more rewarding terrain without the destruction of anadromous fish habitat.

In short, it appears that there is demand for a motorized venue, and that Montana Creek cannot sustain current use let alone more aggressive development. So in addition to encouraging the **PRAC to recommend to CBJ Parks and Recreation execute a year round non-motorized closure of Montana Creek**, I am also asking the PRAC to consider forming a subcommittee to explore alternative locations in CBJ to develop for motorized use.

Thanks, as always, for the important work you are doing. Balancing multiple uses on City land is a tricky business, and I applaud your efforts to keep groups with wildly different expectations and interests happy, especially in such challenging times.

Sincerely,

Kevin Maier

JUNEAU AK 99801

[kevinkmaier@gmail.com](mailto:kevinkmaier@gmail.com)

Dear Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee,

As past president of the Tongass Chapter of Trout Unlimited, a member of the Juneau Nordic Ski club, and an avid fly fisherman and hunter, I know that you are hearing compelling arguments for creating a non-motorized section of Montana Creek from Juneau residents who value this area for its spectacular recreational opportunity. I'm writing today not in any official capacity save for that as dad to two boys you learned to catch wild salmon and char in the section of Montana Creek above the bridge. **I urge you to protect this section of stream with a year-round non-motorized closure beginning on the parking lot side of the bridge upstream of the Hank Harmon Rifle Range. I realize this area is managed in a multi-agency collaboration, but I hope it is within the purview of the PRAC to recommend a closure for non-motorized use of the sensitive upstream habitat that this trail accesses.**

Simply put, Montana Creek is a rare urban stream that deserves protection. My boys and I start fishing Montana creek in June and spend countless days up there right up until the coho pair off to spawn and the pods of dollies vanish in November. Henry who is now 9 caught his first solo

dollies on flies at age 7; Reed, who is now 13, caught some of his first coho in this section at the same age. We've forged some great family memories in those pristine waters. It is a rare day we don't see friends (including a fair number of my boys' classmates and peers who have ridden their bikes up there) also chasing wild fish. I work as a fishing guide with Bear Creek Outfitters in the summer, taking tourists to countless streams via float plane. We get to fish some spectacular watersheds that are inaccessible by road, and as a consequence, see very little fishing pressure and habitat degradation, but Montana Creek not only holds its own against these remote streams, it in fact a more productive and spectacular system than many of our fly-out destinations.

Last fall my boys and I were dismayed to discover a noisy crew of a dozen four wheelers tearing through the muskeg and small tributary streams as we were walking up to check on the dollies. While they were ostensibly creating "trails" to ride and have fun, we saw mudpits, smashed blueberry bushes, poorly trimmed alders, and general destruction instead of the usual wolf tracks, brown and black bear sign, otters and the odd ermine. Three years ago we heard a moose crashing through the brush and marveled at this rare visitor. We live in Juneau for nearby opportunities to interact with wild landscapes and animals like this, and CBJ parks are uniquely designed to provide these opportunities to see and track our wild neighbors. We need to protect and preserve these landscapes and experiences.

There are laws designed to prevent this habitat destruction, of course, but the multi-agency patchwork of land creates confusion. A forward-looking CBJ parks directive would be the simplest solution to this problem.

Indeed, forward-looking protections are more important than ever for our wild anadromous fish. I grew up in Western Washington on the Olympic Peninsula, once a timbered oasis crisscrossed with an astounding array of salmon-producing streams. In the course of my families' three generations on the Peninsula, these salmon-streams fell one by one, victims of logging, road building, and slow but irreversible habitat loss. True, a few salmon and steelhead streams remain, but they are shadows of their former productivity. While some of this decline can be explained as a product of the machinations of global capital (notably, hydropower and hatchery production), most of the decline is best understood as a function of small changes made at the local level. As all the post-mortems of pacific salmon suggest, salmon decline is most accurately described as a story of death by a thousand cuts. We have a chance to get it right in Alaska, of course, but it requires forward thinking and preventative measure like this one.

I'm sympathetic to the motorized users, as there is a dearth of places to ride, but this is at best a marginal option, offering a short section of wide trail that can be covered in a matter of minutes. Any further trail development in this area to make it a more viable off-road-vehicle destination can only come at the expense of fish, habitat, and the wild creatures who need these spaces to thrive.

Finally, as a Nordic skier, I spend dozens of lunch-breaks each year trying to get better at skate skiing but mostly happy to be able to get out of my office for an hour and move in a stunning

landscape. This requires grooming and careful attention to our increasingly marginal snowpack. I hope the wealth of commentary makes it clear that a winter ban on motorized travel is a no brainer. **While complicated, a year-round ban on motorized use is the best solution here, and this could be easily accomplished with a gate blocking upstream motorized travel on the streamside of the CBJ managed parking area.**

Thanks for your service, and thanks for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Kevin Maier

Juneau AK 99801

[kevinkmaier@gmail.com](mailto:kevinkmaier@gmail.com)

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 8:28 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Dana Manchee
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:dana.manchee@gmail.com">dana.manchee@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Please keep Montana creek open to all users. As a nordic and down hill skier I know it is possible to share trails. Let us allow atv's to have trails and a safe way for everyone to enjoy the long winter months .



**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Thomas Thornton <t.fox.thornton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 7:58 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Cc:** Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** To PRAC Re: Montana Creek access for motorized use

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Dear CBJ Parks and Recreation:

I write in support of keeping Montana Creek access road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and the pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed. If opened to motorized use, such use would severely compromise if not destroy this trail's unique values as quiet respite for walkers, birders, snowshoers, and Nordic skiers. The trail is too narrow and noise mitigation for motorized vehicles is not possible in that valley, where the sounds of the river itself are a part of the unique experience of the landscape.

Thank you,

Tom Thornton

Juneau, AK

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 4:39 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Max Mertz
Email
<a href="mailto:max@mertzcpa.com">max@mertzcpa.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>Don't change the current access to the road. Focus your energy somewhere else. We need more opportunities for access, not fewer. This is misdirected and the impacts are overstated. I and my family use that road to the end frequently - and it is to hike, not to ride four wheelers or snow machines. The problems aren't as bad as the justification memo created by staff indicated.</p> <p>Your efforts would be more effectively focused on finding and developing a place for folks to ride. Work to expand, not reduce outdoor opportunities.</p>

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 8:58 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Heather Mahle

### Email

[hmahle907@gmail.com](mailto:hmahle907@gmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

There are over a hundred trails in the City and Borough of Juneau (according to DNR). All these trails are open to Juneau Nordic Ski Club and any Cross-Country skier. In fact, all of Juneau Beaches, Lakes, Sidewalks, and Parks are also open to the Juneau Nordic Ski Club in the winter. You might even see them on quiet street of Juneau, I've seen them in marshes and parking lots too, not to mention they have access to anywhere in the backcountry.

The ORV's have extremely limited places to go to enjoy their outlet, their sport, and their family fun in Juneau. The snowmobile club works hard to maintain trails and do grooming and they do a great job at it too. It is beyond unreasonable to let one club with unlimited options to enjoy their sport work to shut down one of the only places for others to enjoy their sport, outlet, etc. This location was an old mining road and also is by the gun range, therefore noise level simply has no basis, and history of this location also makes location doable too for the ORVs. I'm not an ORV owner, nor do I ski. My husband rides snow machines (who prefers Spalding) and my son downhill skis. I believe Juneau can share this location in the winter, there really is no legitimist reason why one group should be shut down at this location. Again, Nordic Ski Club and any Cross-Country Ski Club have Hundreds of locations they can use, why shut down one of three (or less) spots ORVs can use. Everyone needs an outlet for physical fitness and mental health, especially this winter.

The City should send a message to our community that they represent all in our community. All Alaskan communities get to enjoy ORVs (and not just out of necessity, but as sport, fun & outlet), Juneau community members should also have that opportunity.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 8:35 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Aaron Day
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:ak-eski@hotmail.com">ak-eski@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I think that the road should be open for all. The Nortic Ski Club has plenty of places to go already. They have loops at the ski area to use as well. Off road vehicles are very limited and the city keeps restricting access. The road should be open for all.

## Lauren Verrelli

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 8:16 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Cathy Connor

### Email

[conecathy@gmail.com](mailto:conecathy@gmail.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Douglas

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

Dear PRAC Members,

My husband and I are both 37 year Juneau residents and have always been cross country skiers during our time here, as are our 3 kids, born and raised in the Capital City.

Now 68 years olds, we spent over 60 days of this past winter skiing on the nordic trails around Juneau--- to get our daily winter exercise and to keep our sanity during pandemic times.

The Juneau Nordic Ski Club puts a ton of volunteer effort into grooming the trails for its members and the public at large, especially Montana Creek Trail. Please do not let snow machines use the Montana Creek Trail during the winter. The snow machine enthusiasts have the Treadwell Ditch (access from 5th St. Douglas and Blueberry Hills West Juneau and the Mt. Jumbo bowl areas as well as Spaulding Meadows vis UAS Dorm area access to enjoy the backcountry. A

All of this volunteer trail-grooming work for nordic skiers can be wiped out with one traverse by a single snow machine--- destroying the skiing pleasure for many more nordic skiers.  
 Thank you for your attention.

Cathy Connor

Douglas AK

Former PRAC member

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 3:20 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Ben Murray
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:benjaminsmurray@gmail.com">benjaminsmurray@gmail.com</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Douglas
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Close to all motorized, including groomers.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 3:10 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Ken Alper
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:kenalper49@gmail.com">kenalper49@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Douglas
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I support the closure. My family enjoys nordic skiing and that's a nice flat path that would be a good addition. As I understand it, the road is already closed to cars in winter. Thank you.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 2:17 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Steve Kocsis
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:shiva8128@gmail.com">shiva8128@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I am in favor of this proposal. This is my main winter activity as a retired senior.



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** Andrew Grossman <andrew\_grossman@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 1:44 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** Fw: Montana Creek

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### EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Please consider the following comments.

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**From:** Andrew Grossman  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 23, 2020 1:45 PM  
**To:** parks.rec@juneau.org <parks.rec@juneau.org>  
**Subject:** Montana Creek

I lived in Juneau for 30 years, from 1979 to 2009 and still return as often as possible. I would like to add my historical and professional perspective on this issue. Montana Creek was probably the first trail that I skied, and it was always one of my favorites for summer hikes and runs. I would hate to see it opened for motorized traffic. This is a narrow canyon, and impacts of motorized traffic, noise, fumes, pollution, cannot be isolated from non-motorized uses. I was on the Juneau Parks and Rec Advisory Board, and later, the State of Alaska Parks Advisory Board. From that perspective, I know that this trail has been under pressure by off-road interests for decades. My objection to opening hiking trails and ski trails has two components. 1. You cannot satisfy the wants of motorized vehicle operators: They can travel many miles within a few minutes and subsequently become bored and require more territory to satisfy their interests. Motorized users are almost by definition, insatiable. Witness Douglas Island, the entirety of which is almost totally available to snowmobilers, yet it isn't enough(?)! 2. Motor vehicles operate on public lands to the exclusion of non-motorized uses. They simply create too much noise, air pollution, and often, trash, to the furthest reaches. They compress ski trails so skiers can no longer get a bite on snow.

Finally, I was a fish and wildlife biologist as long as I lived in Juneau before retirement. Montana Creek is one of the more sensitive and richest habitat areas in the Juneau area. The creek is one of the most productive salmon spawning and rearing creeks in Juneau. It hosts one of the higher populations of black bears and is also frequented by brown bears and wolves. Increased disturbance of these habitats could well result in more wildlife moving into the Mendenhall Valley where they face destruction.

Thank you for considering these comments.  
Andrew Grossman

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 12:40 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Hal Daugherty
Email
<a href="mailto:juneaucanvas@gmail.com">juneaucanvas@gmail.com</a>
Residence Location
Out the Road
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
One groups push to eliminate another groups use is against anything I would ever promote! While there are numerous locations for XCountry skiing there is only one legal place for ATV use. Besides the city looking the other way for users out at Echo cove.. this push to remove access for competing uses is the antithesis of what our community should be standing for.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 12:02 PM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Nola Lamken
Email
<a href="mailto:borealight@yahoo.com">borealight@yahoo.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Downtown
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I like the idea of closing the road beyond the gate to motor vehicles during wintry months. It is a beautiful place for quiet, nonstressful exercise and recreation, and closing it would help wildlife. Closing it during that time will provide a restorative place, much needed during these times.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 10:28 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Bonnie Chaney
Email
<a href="mailto:saginawchannel@gmail.com">saginawchannel@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Downtown
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I support closure of Montana Creek road to motorized vehicles November 1 through April 1. Motorized vehicles do incredible damage to the forest that will take decades to recover from. Montana Creek road is also heavily used in the winter by cross-country skiers and the high school ski teams. Allowing motorized vehicles would not be compatible with cross country skiing.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Brandee Gerke <Brandee\_Gerke@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 9:00 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec; Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** Please protect nordic skiing opportunities at Montana Creek

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Hello Parks and Recreation Committee,

Please protect the nordic skiing opportunity at Montana Creek by keeping the road beyond the gate by the rifle range closed to motorized vehicles from November through April. I have a physical disability that prevents many forms of outdoor activity, though (thankfully!) I can still get excellent exercise on skate skis. Snow shoeing and classic cross country skiing are no longer activities I can do without pain. Skate skiing requires a set/groomed track and the track at Montana Creek is the most reliable trail available for skate skiing in Juneau. It is easily accessible, the terrain is very suitable for skate skiing, and the setting is so serene. Skiing at Montana Creek supports my well-being in such valuable ways in winter. The Montana Creek ski trail is heavily used by Juneau's community/families. It would be a significant loss to my family and I if it were no longer suitable or safe to skate ski at Montana Creek.

I understand the ORV community's interest for places to use ORVs. When Mendenhall Lake is frozen, it's adequately large to support all users (ORVs, skiers, hockey, etc.). And ORVs have access to other trails that are not suitable for skate skiing. Please consider how ORVs may have access to areas without eliminating the suitability of the areas to existing users.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Brandee Gerke

## Lauren Verrelli

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 8:54 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Ben Williams
Email
<a href="mailto:kleheni@gmail.com">kleheni@gmail.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Douglas
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
<p>Please do this. My understanding is that this area was generally slated to be closed to motorized use in the winter, hence the gate is already there. Simply use the gate - thus preserving one of the few and consistent locations for nordic skiing in Juneau. This has a minimal affect on users as there are very few individuals interested in running their motorcycle or atv through the snow and the area is of limited interest to snow machiners. Also, the first two vehicle types wouldn't be able to operate without the grooming that is payed for and done by nordic skiing volunteers.</p> <p>Thanks for providing a place for input!</p>

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Scott and Traci <stgilmour@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 8:25 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli; George Schaaf  
**Cc:** Chris Mertl  
**Subject:** Letter for PRAC - September 1, 2020  
**Attachments:** PRAC Public Comment Skiers v. ORV.docx

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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Good morning,

I have attached a letter for inclusion in the PRAC packet regarding the ongoing ORV conversation. I will be watching and sending you all good vibes for a sound community driven decision. Good Luck!

:)

Traci Gilmour

Juneau, AK

August 26, 2020

TO: Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

FROM: Traci Gilmour, Juneau, AK

RE: Montana Creek Road Skiers vs. ORV

Thank you for taking public comment on this topic. Thank you for your time and service to our community.

As some of you remember, I sat on the PRAC during a time when CBJ, riders and residents did a lot of research on areas to allow OHV activity. None of those areas panned out. One was too valuable, one was too expensive and one rejected by riders as it was too far out the road. The Federal Government has been approached in the past by a Riding Association for space on their lands. Montana Creek was the only area identified for legal ORV rider activity. I know this is not ideal for Riders and skiers. What an opposite activity. While I don't always support ORV use, I oppose the closing of Montana Creek to riders.

The city has worked hard in favor of a search for space for riders. This may not be seen by those that have recently joined the fight for space. Space for ORV activity has been a heated conversation for more than 12 years. I have watched residents fight for peace in their neighborhoods and riders fight for an opportunity to ride inside city limits. I have watched riders both have civil debate and argue their points well. I have watched angry, expectant community members demand their piece of the pie for riding. This city is not environmentally nor eco-friendly to riders. We don't have a large expanse of land needed for Off Road Vehicles like Haines or Hoonah. We have too many mitigating factors like mountains and wooded areas with fragile ecosystems, residential areas, Federally, State and Privately owned lands that aren't available for this type of use. The PRAC recommended to the city that space be identified but prohibited any ORV activity near or within earshot of residential areas. This recommendation makes the city's job very difficult. If you look at historical meeting documents the City Planners and well paid researchers have done their due diligence as have community members. The argument that everyone deserves the City to give them somewhere to host their activity is difficult. This is an expensive conversation that the City just cannot support, the space needed for riders to ride is too great and proven unaffordable to create.

With that, I see a problem with the proposed closure to riders. Skiers have an opportunity to ski in many areas that are off limits to riders. These areas include, but are not limited to Mendenhall Campground, Eagle Beach and Eaglecrest. These areas have groomed runs (thank you to the Nordic Ski Club) specifically meant for cross country skiing. Riders have been shut out of most all areas in Juneau and vicinity due to the nature of their activity. This is one area identified legal to riding. I do not agree with shutting riders out of Montana Creek. We are increasing the animosity toward the city and skiers and asking for elevated emotions and continued arguments.

What I do encourage is skiers and riders continue to share a resource and work together to identify any possible areas that coexist with the community and the environment. This is an opportunity for discussion if we respect each other. The problem is continued strife in a community that has a lot of perceived space, but little area to offer.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 8:21 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Benjamin Manly
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:benjaminmanly@gmail.com">benjaminmanly@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
My stance on this, is that if ORV users get pushed out of yet another trail, even if it's just seasonally, it will hurt the local businesses that sell and maintain these units. Why bother buying an ATV, or snowmobile, if there's no where to ride it. Please consider that these decisions have further reaching consequences than just losing another place to ride. Thank you.

**Lauren Verrelli**

---

**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 7:33 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

**Name**

Anies Sadeghi

**Email**

[capt.sadeghi907@hotmail.com](mailto:capt.sadeghi907@hotmail.com)

**Phone**

**Residence Location**

Douglas

**Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure**

I think that motorized access I. The Montana creek area should be permitted all year long. The acces yo areas to use four wheelers and motorized vehicles is more limited than access for cross country skiing. The land out Montana creek can be a shared access for both users to enjoy. Skaters cabin and Mendenhall lake (at times) are both set for the use of cross country skiing also.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 7:18 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Daniel fink
Email
<a href="mailto:danthetireguy@yahoo.com">danthetireguy@yahoo.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Out the Road
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I remember as a boy riding 3wheelers with my grandpa. As I got older racing dirt bikes with my uncles and cousins. Juneau has a growing atv and snow machine community and an ever decreasing area to ride. If this area is closed it will only serve to drive more riders to grow angry with the CBJ. I also grew up cross country skiing with my family. All of us had skis and would venture out all over Juneau. We need to find a happy medium for both activities. But closing another area to mechanized travel furthers the gap and builds tension between the two groups. I work with a large group of people from out of town and the state. They see Juneau as a joke. The town where you can't do anything fun. This closure would add to that premise. I love Juneau. I grew up here, but its feeling less and less like home.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 7:16 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
Debbie White
Email
<a href="mailto:debbie@isellalaska.com">debbie@isellalaska.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Out the Road
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
I do NOT want to see snowmachine restricted to only one location in the borough. This is completely unfair and selfish of the cross country ski community to want to block another user group. When I was a kid, we had several places we could ride ATV's, dirtbikes (the road around the community garden was our track!). We shouldn't have to take our machines to Haines to ride and the West Juneau location would be the only place left for local users. If anything, we need MORE access.

**Lauren Verrelli**

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**From:** Linda Squibb <squibblinda@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 7:15 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli

**EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS**

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August 25, 2020

To Parks and Recreation,

I am writing to you because I am a cross country skier and for many years have enjoyed the skiing that the Montana Creek trail provides. It is often the first trail available for x-country skiing in early winter and one of the last ones to lose snow in early Spring. It is a hidden gem and provides so much enjoyment for my husband and I and our family and grandkids when they visit. It is so peaceful to x-country ski along the creek. It is also used for Nordic Ski Club training during the winter, and I see these athletes enjoying this trail frequently. I would respectfully request that the road beyond the Gate at the Rifle Range be closed to motorized users from Nov 1 to May 1 and a pedestrian kissing gate permanently installed. I believe this area would be spoiled if it was opened to off road machines.

Thank you for considering my comment as you deliberate this issue.

Sincerely,  
Linda Squibb  
[squibblinda@gmail.com](mailto:squibblinda@gmail.com)

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 6:55 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Karen McGee
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:sunmore1958@msn.com">sunmore1958@msn.com</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
I am against the closure.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 6:53 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Jessica Geary
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:jessicageary@gmail.com">jessicageary@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone</b>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Out the Road
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
There are already plenty of places to ski. Literally anywhere and there are no Places to ride ATVs so this closure makes no sense.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 3:14 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

Name
John Newell
Email
<a href="mailto:newellsoccer@yahoo.com">newellsoccer@yahoo.com</a>
Phone
Residence Location
Mendenhall Valley
Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure
Please don't. While I certainly respect cross country skiing, they have a multitude of trails and places they can ski including Montana Creek. You should not be closing an area to one user group just so another user group can have the place to themselves.



## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 2:10 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

<b>Name</b>
Mindi Shoemake
<b>Email</b>
<a href="mailto:mindi.shoemske@gmail.com">mindi.shoemske@gmail.com</a>
<b>Residence Location</b>
Mendenhall Valley
<b>Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure</b>
Keep the road open for everyone.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** domadmin@juneau.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 1:22 AM  
**To:** Lauren Verrelli  
**Subject:** New submission from Montana Creek Road Closure

### Name

Colleen Torrence

### Email

[colleen.torrence@icloud.com](mailto:colleen.torrence@icloud.com)

### Phone

### Residence Location

Mendenhall Valley

### Your comments on Montana Creek Road Closure

I oppose closing this area to use by only a single group of people. These are public lands, not private lands. Public lands should provide for public use and should not exclude any legitimate public use. Those who operate off road vehicles have the same rights as those that ski or skate or hike. I, Myself, do not have or use an off road vehicle, however I do hike. I would be very glad to share the trails with others.

It is my understanding that the ski clubs would like to exclude access to those that are not skiers. I have as much right to be there as anybody else.

Ski clubs have many places to ski. They have Eaglecrest, the Mendenhall Glacier in the winter with access from skaters cabin, Eagle Beach recreation area, Montana Creek, Mendenhall Campgrounds, Dredge Lake, Spaulding Meadows, etc., etc.

I am only aware of some off-road activities out by Echo Cove and some snow machining near the Dan Moller trail in the winter. This shows the inequities in allowable use of public lands.

## Lauren Verrelli

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**From:** C. Chastain <cecjnu@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2020 12:58 AM  
**To:** Parks Rec  
**Cc:** Lauren Verrelli; info@jnski.org  
**Subject:** ORVs on upper Montana Cr.Rd.

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

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Dear Parks and Recreation,

I believe the best interests of Juneau Borough residents would be served by closing upper Montana Creek Rd. to ORV use beyond the gate at the Rifle Range, Nov 1 to May 1.

I have been x-c skiing in Juneau Borough since before(!) track-setting began in Mendenhall Campground. (= ++YEARS!!). Thanks to the x-c lessons JNSC has provided to kids & families, x-c skier turnout has grown hugely!!!

It seems fairly obvious that skiers would be at risk if ORVs were on upper Montana Cr Rd at the same time as skiers. Also, it only takes one passing ORV to ruin the track JNSC sets with their specialized track-setting gear. JNSC efforts to provide reliable, quality skiing to Borough residents costs donors \$\$\$ and many hours of volunteer person-power - all wasted in a flash by one passing ORV.

One of the first few times I skied Montana Creek I noticed that the muskeg just west of the Rifle Range had apparently been used for short-track racing by the snow machines. Warm spring weather had thinned the snow, but no matter. The ORVs had roared on. Much of the muskeg was destroyed & most of the area turned into a HUGE mud hole. It was ugly.

I remember when ORVs first appeared on Mendenhall Lake. They thought nothing of tearing (literally) across the ski track that JNSC had set.

I once encountered an ORV towing a huge inner tube loaded with kids & others - right down the ski track like it was a thoroughfare just for them. I blocked the ORV & asked the driver to please not drive along the ski track. He really didn't get the message & tooled off on his way, distorting the entire track as he went.

X-c skiing elsewhere, not Juneau -- in a lovely, park-like area of open scrub forest, perfect for x-c skiing I thought. But the area had been opened to snow machines. I tried skiing there anyway. Bad idea.

Snow machines apparently search out any patch of unbroken snow to make their mark. Their tracks ruined what had been really nice, skiable spring snow in a beautiful setting. It was depressing. The snow machine dudes also camped there. I revisited later, after the snow was gone - a huge area of trash, garbage and ..., in what had been a beautiful natural park.

Thanks for providing this opportunity to comment on the proposed opening of upper Montana Creek Rd. to winter ORV use.

Yours very truly,

C.E. Chastain