



NEWSLETTER

Apr
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PO Box 100627; Anchorage, AK 99510-0264

907/334-8049

www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

NEXT TRAIL TALES TO SUPPORT GREAT LAND TRUST, AK TRAILS!

Alaska Trails is excited to team up with the Great Land Trust to present the 13th installment of the Trail Tales storytelling series. This event will be held Thursday, April 4, at the 49th State Brewing Company in Anchorage. Doors open at 6:30. Stories start at 7:00 pm.

In the spirit of Arctic Entries, storytellers will share seven-minute stories about their trail experiences, adventures and life in general. Come enjoy this fun event and support both Alaska Trails and the Great Land Trust.

Molly McCammon, director of the Alaska Ocean Observing System and a super-committed Alaskan for more than 45 years, will share a story at the event. Her story: "The Girls Take the Dogs to the Hot Springs." Other storytellers include Roman Dial, Pat Pourchot, Kelly Yanoshek, and Lisa Maloney, author of *Day Hiking Southcentral Alaska* (see story on book in Southcentral section).

Tickets are \$15 and are available at: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/trailtales.html>. Pizza by the slice and drinks will be available for purchase throughout the evening.
(Photo: Storyteller Molly McCammon will be at the upcoming Trail Tales; courtesy of Molly McCammon)



REGISTER NOW FOR 2019 STATEWIDE TRAILS CONFERENCE

If you register for the Statewide Trails Conference by April 1 (no foolin') you will be entered into a drawing for two \$50 gift cards to the Mooses Tooth / Bear Tooth!

This year's Alaska Trails 2019 Statewide Trails Conference will be held April 18-20 at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Our conference keynote speaker is Lisa Maloney, author of the soon-to-be-released *Day Hiking Southcentral Alaska*. Lisa and publisher Mountaineers Books are donating 1% of the proceeds of the book to Alaska Trails! (See story on book in Southcentral section.)

We would also like to thank our most recent sponsors Alyeska Pipeline Service Company and Friends of State Parks Mat-Su for their generous support. Other great sponsors include ConocoPhillips, Base



Camp Anchorage, Bosco's, Alyeska Pipeline, and Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation. If your business or employer would like to help sponsor the conference, please contact Alaska Trails at: 907-334-8049 or office@alaska-trails.org.



We have many great presenters, including Ryan Branciforte, co-founder and CEO of OuterSpatial, which is leading an approach to mapping that gives stewards of our open spaces — including government agencies and nonprofits — control over what information is presented and how it's presented via mobile apps. His presentation will feature a few local Alaska-based organizations as well as others throughout the country. See more descriptions of breakout sessions and the Active Transportation Track on our conference website: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/2019-trails-conference.html>

A pre-conference training with Mike Shields will again be held. This course will be Terrain Dynamics and will be held April 16-17. It will include a field day at Russian Jack Springs Park South. Class size is limited, so email soon to reserve a spot (steve.cleary@alaska-trails.org).



Alaska Trails' annual conference provides trail users and the wider public a statewide opportunity for training and networking with trail professionals. Government agencies, trail builders and non-profits will be able to share what they have learned and engage in conversations with others to share best practices and new ideas. There are many ways to enjoy Alaska's trails and the conference brings them together all under one roof. Trails and outdoor recreation are a public health asset and an economic engine for the state and the trails conference seeks to raise the profile of trails and their importance to Alaska.

For agenda, registration and other details, please go to: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/trails-conference.html> and for more information, contact Steve Cleary at steve.cleary@alaska-trails.org or 907-334-8049. Updates on the 2019 conference will be posted on our Facebook Event page at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/362704607889730/>

(Steve Cleary photo from 2018: Alaska State Trails program manager Darcy Harris outlines the Recreational Trails Program in a panel focused on trail funding.)

ALASKA TRAILS MEMBER MEETING TO BE HELD DURING CONFERENCE

- When: Thursday, April 18, 12-1pm (during lunch of the Trails Conference – lunch provided)
- Where: Cuddy Center at UAA - see map here: <https://goo.gl/maps/nbN7MVCAYwN2>
- Who: Members in good standing
- Agenda: Review of 2018 achievements. 2019 plans. Update of the Alaska Trails Bylaws - see proposed changes to the by-laws at our website here: <http://tinyurl.com/y25suqd9>

Help take Alaska Trails to the next level. Come vote on changes that will improve the efficiency of the organization without compromising its effectiveness.

SPRING TRAILS ARE VULNERABLE, PLEASE USE WITH CARE

Alaska Trails asks that you please keep in mind how your trail activities might affect other trail users, especially in the spring.

As snow melts and the ground thaws, the trails become extremely muddy. Using really muddy trails at this time can result in ruts that stay all summer when the trails dry out. Those ruts can make the trails difficult to use all summer and into the next winter. They help create erosion by keeping water on the trails.

Early season damage of trails is a recurring problem. Many people are chomping at the bit to get

outside once the snow melts. And some people love to get as muddy as they can while out on the trails. But with a little thought this problem can be greatly reduced.

- **Try to be patient.** Stay off the trails if you can. If you are unsure if a trail is ready to be used, check it out with the commitment to turn back if you are doing too much damage.
- **Choose low impact.** If you use the trails in several different ways, choose the method of travel that will cause the least amount of damage if you do run into some muddy sections.
- **Pick your trails carefully.** Use well-drained trails with lots of southern exposure. They typically dry out the quickest. If you just have to get muddy, please limit your activities to trails that are already thrashed. A little more damage probably won't make a big difference, but a trail in nice shape can be damaged for a season in a hurry.



An alternative to using trails in the spring is to get out on foot or by bike and go explore quiet subdivision roads new to you. You get to be outside, be active, and probably find out new things about your community. For additional ideas see this Fairbanks Daily News-Miner story: <http://tinyurl.com/jfsq5b5>

(Constantine Khroulev photo of a badly rutted Trail Creek Trail in the White Mountains National Recreation Area.)

ALASKA TRAILS HAS TOOL TRAILERS READY FOR TRAIL PROJECTS



As you start planning trail building and maintenance projects, remember that Alaska Trails has mobile tool caches available to loan to organized trail groups in Southcentral and Interior Alaska. One cache is in the Fairbanks area and the other is in Anchorage/Mat-Su Valley area.

The trailers have a bunch of trail tools including McLeods, Pulaskis, rakes, gloves, and much, much more. If you would like to borrow one of the caches, please contact us (info on masthead).

ALASKA TRAILS NEEDS YOUR HELP TO PRESERVE, PROMOTE TRAILS

This newsletter is brought to you free by Alaska Trails. Our mission is to enhance the Alaska trail experience by supporting sustainable, world-renowned trails through advocacy and education. We couldn't do this without support from our members. Please join or renew your membership here: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/join.html>

All year long we strive to:

- Promote the health, social and economic benefits of trails by educating users through forums, conferences, information materials, training and other activities.
- Preserve and improve public trail access by assisting public and private organizations in forming coordinated programs, policies, and standards.
- Promote sustainable trail systems for all users by developing and providing technical assistance for trail projects.

GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS FOR TRAILS ON STATE BUDGET FRONT

We've received some good news regarding funding for trails programs in Alaska. In a response to an advocacy letter from the Interior Trails Preservation Coalition, based in Fairbanks, Rep. Grier Hopkins (D – Fairbanks) wrote that a subcommittee had restored funding for the Recreational Trails Program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Snowmobile Trails Program.

"I am happy to report that the House Finance Subcommittee for the Department of Natural Resources (on which I sit) reinstated the funds for trails programs which you referenced in your letter, thereby rejecting the budget decreases proposed by Governor Dunleavy," Hopkins wrote in a letter dated March 22. He added that the "budget now heads to the House Finance Committee before making its way through the subcommittee process in the Senate."

Rep. Hopkins also warned trail advocates should not to get complacent.

"Make no mistake, the budget process is a political one. Please consider voicing your values and positions by sharing your views through letters to the editor of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, posts on social media and by continuing to attend community meetings and social organizations – and asking that those organizations take a stand on the issues important to them."

NOW THE BAD NEWS

Several veteran state workers are leaving these programs, either to retire or to take jobs elsewhere. Alaska State Trails Coordinator Darcy Harris is leaving April 1 to take a job with the Municipality of Anchorage. Her position had reportedly been downgraded. Grants Administrator Steve Neel, another key staff member, is laid off effective June 30 under the governor's budget. Neel may retire even if the funding is restored. Diane Houston, an accounting technician, who has done billings for the Recreational Trails Program and the Snowmobile Trails Program for many years is also moving on as of March 29.

While the empty existing positions will be filled and the cut positions may end up being funded, the loss of experience will surely be felt. It's hard to say exactly what the effect will be, but the loss of that much experience all at once can't be good. The earlier concern that Recreational Trails Program grants may end up being available only to the state seems even more likely.

Under Gov. Dunleavy's budget the Snowmobile Trails Program is to be completely cut, state administration of the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund appeared to have been cut (essentially rejecting more than \$1 million in federal funding this coming year), and state administration of the Recreational Trails Program is to be severely cut back, possibly making the funding available only to the state. (Currently about half the funding goes to local governments and nonprofit groups.)

There are other possible effects, hinted at by Harris in a goodbye email.

As far as the other events that I have worked on with many of you, such as First Day Hikes, National Trails Day, and National Public Lands Day, keep up the good work! I do not know how Alaska State Parks will engage with these in the future...

Trail advocates from around the state will likely have differing opinions about Gov. Dunleavy's budget, but if you would like to see any or all of these program continue, please speak up.

- Gov. Dunleavy's contact info: <https://gov.alaska.gov/contact/>
- Alaska State Legislature contact info: <http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/>

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

PARK SERVICE ANNOUNCES CHALLENGE COST SHARE PROGRAM

Got a great idea that will help people enjoy and protect a national park, national trail, or Wild and Scenic River? Then round up some partners and get ready, because the NPS Challenge Cost Share Program is accepting applications until April 8.

Challenge Cost Share projects are intended to build collaboration between the National Park Service (NPS) and a wide variety of project partners -- non-profit, for-profit, or educational institutions. The Challenge Cost Share program is designed to cultivate shared efforts supporting the NPS mission with National Parks, National Trails, and Wild and Scenic Rivers and their partners.

The program encourages partnership projects that increase and enhance recreational access and enjoyment of these lands and waters, and that protect them for future generations.

For 2019, the program will provide a total of \$386,000 to support these projects. Up to \$25,000 will be awarded per project, and the selected partner organizations will need to match those funds 1-to-1 with their own funds and/or in-kind support.

For complete information and application procedures, go to: <https://www.nps.gov/ccsp>

COMMENTS SOUGHT ON STATEWIDE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and DOWL is holding a virtual-public open house for the Alaska Statewide Active Transportation Master Plan 2019. The purpose of this open house is to provide the public with an opportunity to review the master plan, ask questions, and provide comments to the planning team. The public open house and 45-day comment period started March 18 and concludes May 3.

Visit the website www.akbikeped.com to view the Master Plan, join the email list and make a comment.

The Master Plan is:

- A policy document to define future goals, policies and objectives to encourage the creation of a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian network for the State of Alaska.
- A framework to enable the identification of current facilities, needs and an approach to addressing gaps using defined objectives.
- An accountability document with specified performance measures, to enable DOT&PF to measure its progress toward achieving the plan's purpose.

(From DOWL email)

BLM OFFERS LEAVE NO TRACE MASTER EDUCATOR COURSE

The BLM is pleased to announce that the Leave No Trace Master Educator course is coming to Alaska.

This is a backpacking course to be held in the White Mountains National Recreation Area. Course dates are the week of June 24. Course cost is \$650. See the following link or contact Kelly Egger with any questions. To learn more about Leave No Trace (LNT) go to this web site: <https://lnt.org/>. Please contact Kelly (kegger@blm.gov; 907-474-2242) to register for the course, as it is not listed on the web site.

Course participants should have a commitment to teaching others and sharing the LNT principals. BLM, as with other agencies, has incorporated LNT principals into its permitting process as well as recreation and youth programs across the state.

The five-day Master Educator Course is the top tier of Leave No Trace training. This course provides participants with a comprehensive training on Leave No Trace skills and ethics with practical application during a field-based course. Participants learn minimum impact techniques through multiple methods including discussions, scenarios, demonstrations, and hands-on activities.

SNOWMOBILE TRAILS PROGRAM APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The Snowmobile Trails Program was not included in Gov. Mike Dunleavy's budget (see link at bottom of story), but the state legislature has not had its say yet. The program has been cut and restored in the past. So, even though the program's future is uncertain, administrators are moving ahead as normal. Therefore, the following notice is currently valid.



Grant applications for the state Snowmobile Trails Program are now available. Public notice for applications must be posted by June 10. Grant applications must be submitted or postmarked by July 1. This program, administered by the state Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, provides reimbursable, matching grant funds for trail easement acquisition, development and maintenance of trails and trail-related facilities for snowmobile use. The program also provides funds for snowmobile safety programs. Matching funds are not required for safety programs.

Grant funds are generated from annual registration fees paid to the state by snowmobile owners statewide. For more information on the Snowmobile Trails Grant Program and the Grooming Pool, please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/q33aj9m>

For general grant questions regarding the program please contact the Grants Administrator (907/269-8709). For project development questions please contact the State Trails Coordinator (907/269-8699). Or contact either one through the Department of Natural Resources email page (<http://tinyurl.com/3umsvj5>).

- Snowmachine trail maintenance funding cut from Dunleavy budget: <http://tinyurl.com/yxbjx5b3>

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY COMING UP THE FIRST SATURDAY IN JUNE

National Trails Day is happening June 1, but as of the end of March there was just one event registered for Alaska: Whittier Trails Day. If you are interested in leading or organizing an event, visit <https://americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/> for information on how to host an event and where to register an event. National Trails Day is the country's largest celebration of trails. Events will take place in every state across the country and will include hikes, biking and horseback rides, paddling trips, birdwatching, geocaching, gear demonstrations, stewardship projects and more.

KEEP TRACK OF STATE LAND USE PLANS FOR IMPACT ON TRAILS



The state Department of Natural Resources has several plans and studies underway across the state that affect how the state deals with its lands. Often this includes land and water trails. These plans and studies have opportunities for public comment.

Take a look at the planning web page for the Division of Land, Water, and Mining (<http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/>). If you see a plan or study that affects trails important to you, please look into opportunities for public comment.

STATEWIDE LINKS

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Self-Rescue advice: <http://tinyurl.com/y64ajozx>
- Heat-sensitive camera called a 'game changer' for Alaska search and rescue: <http://tinyurl.com/y2tn4qys>
- Medred on Alaska "Parks booming": <https://craigmedred.news/2019/03/16/parks-booming/>
- Visits to national parks in Alaska hit their highest number ever in 2018: <http://tinyurl.com/y3r6ab4k>
- Confluence: Summit on the Outdoors newsletter: <http://tinyurl.com/y6ju89jm>
- Stakeholders seek ways to grow Alaska's outdoor recreation economy: <http://tinyurl.com/y2fsvdpv>
- Why you should embrace the 'microadventure': <http://tinyurl.com/y53eaysk>
- Hike It Baby challenge starts April 1 (several Alaska chapters): <https://hikeitbaby.com/hike-it-baby-30/>
- Alaska moose-hunter can 'rev up' his hovercraft, court rules: <http://tinyurl.com/yytyfteo>
- Outdoor Explorer radio show:
 - Health, healing and the outdoors: <http://tinyurl.com/y5bksm16>
 - Adventure and science: <http://tinyurl.com/y4c7c563>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

BOOK ABOUT HIKING IN SOUTHCENTRAL DUE OUT ON APRIL

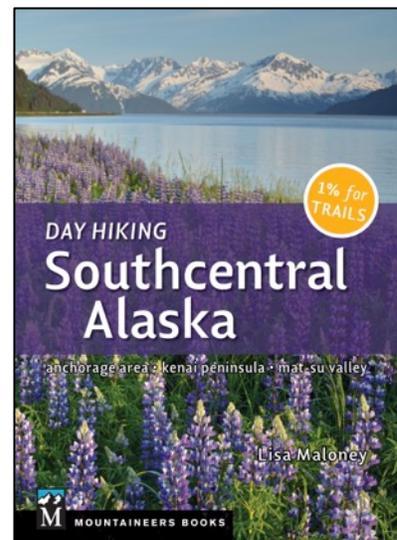
A new book about hiking in Southcentral Alaska by Mountaineers Books is due out in April.

Day Hiking Southcentral Alaska was written by Lisa Maloney and includes hikes on trails in and around the Mat-Su Valley, Chugach State Park, Skilak and Kenai Lakes, Whittier, Seward, Homer, and more.

Lisa Maloney has lived in Alaska for more than 25 years. A former outdoors columnist for The Anchorage Press, she also covered a nationwide hiking and backpacking beat for About.com, served as senior editor at Alaska magazine, authored the award-winning travel guidebook *Moon Alaska*, and contributes outdoors and lifestyle articles to a number of publications. Follow her hiking adventures at www.hikingalaska.net and on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @HikingAlaska.

Maloney will be the keynote speaker at the Alaska Trails 2019 Statewide Trails Conference to be held April 18-20 at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Lisa and Mountaineers Books are donating 1% of the proceeds of *Day Hiking Southcentral Alaska* to Alaska Trails. (For more on the conference see: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/2019-trails-conference.html>).

To purchase the book and to learn more see: <http://tinyurl.com/yyoreaar>



(From Mountaineers Books press release)

VOTING DEADLINE COMING UP ON ANCHORAGE PARK PROPOSITION

On Tuesday, April 2, Anchorage residents can vote on Proposition 5 to allocate \$3.95 million towards the revitalization of local parks and expansion of trails that all people can enjoy.

Specific improvements would include:

- Campbell Creek Trail Rehabilitation and Wayfinding (\$750,000): These funds would make the Anchorage trail systems easier to navigate by adding directional signage and resurfacing the Campbell Creek Trail north and east of Taku Lake.
- Elderberry Park Master Plan Implementation (\$500,000): If passed, this would create a new entrance to the Coastal Trail in order to offer a safe access point for bike riders and others.
- Northeast Connector Trail/Chugach Foothills Connector (\$300,000): This plan would create a new trail, boardwalk and bridge to provide access to the Far North Bicentennial Park from the Scenic Foothills neighborhood.

Click here (<http://tinyurl.com/y8ev7fxc>) to find your closest polling location, and use the People for Bikes ballot tracker (<https://peopleforbikes.org/2019ballottracker/>) to stay updated on this measure.

Thanks to the Anchorage Park Foundation for helping advance this measure.

(From People for Bikes email)

NEW KINCAID PARK MAP COMING OUT THIS SUMMER



Keep your eyes peeled for a new map at Kincaid Park this summer!

Park Planner Taylor has been working tirelessly with the crew on a new design and the final draft is ready to go to production. A big thank you goes out to GCI for sponsoring the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail kiosk in Kincaid and the Anchorage Park Foundation for helping with this project. Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage also put in a lot of work last fall to install the bases in the ground along the trail, so watch out for new junction posts going in this summer as well.

(From Anchorage Parks and Recreation Facebook page)

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR FOUNDATION CHALLENGE GRANTS

The application period is now open for Anchorage Park Foundation Challenge Grants. Applications must be submitted no later than Sunday, April 14.

Community Challenge Grants are a way for your park or trail improvement project to come to life with your community energy matched dollar for dollar! We award your doable project idea with a dollar-for-dollar matching grant for the energy you put into your project through cash donations, volunteer labor, and in-kind materials or services.

Community Challenge Grants improve Anchorage parks and trails and increase feelings of community in neighborhoods by bringing a lasting capital investment into our park system. They offer a way to achieve community priorities to improve a park or trail that would not otherwise be funded through the Municipality of Anchorage.

For more information see: <http://tinyurl.com/y3s98mut>

(From Anchorage Park Foundation website)

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Trip to Knik Glacier on fat-tire bikes is hard work, but well worth the effort: <http://tinyurl.com/y4s8osps>
- Three men ski their own tour of Anchorage -- 90 miles in 12.5 hours: <http://tinyurl.com/yyqd6v3y>

- State Parks receives ski trail grooming grant for Independence Mine: <http://tinyurl.com/y3y7k459>
- Agreement permanently conserves Alaska island (with trails) near Kodiak: <http://tinyurl.com/y58jk4h8>
- Invitation to bid: Rabbit Lake Trailhead Improvements: <http://notice.alaska.gov/193298>
- (Kodiak) Island Trails Update: <http://tinyurl.com/y2volvdn>
- Outdoor Explorer radio show: Hiking in southcentral Alaska: <http://tinyurl.com/yxk8eauv>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers Spring Bike & Gear Swap (Apr 20): <http://tinyurl.com/y3nye3ar>
- Kodiak Outdoor Film Festival (April 5): <http://www.islandtrails.org/film.html>
 - See trailer here: <https://vimeo.com/324780478>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

INPUT SOUGHT ON WHITE MOUNTAINS, STEESE TRANSPORTATION

BLM Eastern Interior Field Office is seeking public input on trails and access in the White Mountains and Steese areas. Currently we are collecting preliminary information and verifying our road and trail inventory. After the inventory is complete, the field office will develop transportation and travel plans for these areas. An environmental assessment will be prepared in conjunction with the plans. The plans will address both motorized and non-motorized access, allowable types of motorized and non-motorized use, road and trail networks, travel on Birch Creek and Beaver Creek and conflicts between user groups.

People can view the information and comment online and/or attend the meetings. Meetings will be held in Anchorage (April 3), Fairbanks (April 4), Central (April 5), and Fort Yukon (April 8). To see more about the meetings see: <http://tinyurl.com/y5o49k8b>

For more and to comment see: <http://tinyurl.com/y2x5ow99>

HELP LOCAL GROUPS WIN GRANT MONEY THROUGH REI CAMPAIGN

You can help three Fairbanks groups win grant money for trail projects from REI through the company's "Loving Our Local Outdoors" campaign.

REI plans to give \$20,000 in grant money to the three groups for trail stewardship projects in the Fairbanks area as part of the campaign. All the groups will receive some of the \$20,000, but how much depends on REI members. The three groups and their projects are as follows:

- The Interior Alaska Trails and Parks Foundation: Work with the Fairbanks North Star Borough to improve signage and conditions of Skyline Ridge Trail.
- The Interior Alaska Land Trust: Improve trails and add bridges at Chinook Park along the Cripple Creek historic channel.
- The Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks: Maintain and improve trails in the Birch Hill Recreation Area.

Here's how it works:

- When REI members make an in-store purchase between up until April 8 they will receive a token at the register. (Tokens are not available with online purchases.)
- The member can then use the token to vote on one of the three groups. (A display is up in the REI store lobby.)

- All REI members (including staff of the groups and REI staff) are eligible to receive a token after each purchase made during the campaign.
- A certain amount of the funds have been set aside for “member choice.” Those funds will be divided among the three groups depending on the voting. The more tokens a group gets, the more funding it gets.
- After the campaign is over, REI will report back to customers the total grant amount to each of the three local stewardship projects.

So, if you shop at REI from now until April 8, make sure to get your token and vote. (If you aren't given a token, you can remind the sales associate. They have a lot of promotions happening right now and sometimes forget.)

ASSEMBLY DENIES REZONE REQUEST OFF CREAMER'S/ADMA TRAILS

The Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly apparently rejected a request to rezone property near the Creamer's Field/ADMA trails that had been causing a lot of discussion and concern among trail users and neighbors.

Stan Justice, a trails advocate who opposed the rezone, attended the meeting on March 28 and said that the assembly denied the rezone request by a 7-0 vote. He said more than 20 people testified on the request with only the business owner who requested the rezone, Don Duncan, speaking in favor. As of this writing, no local independent news story of the meeting has been found on the Internet.

The rezone had been requested by Duncan to enhance his snowmachine touring business, which has been operating in the area for a number of years. The rezone would allow him to keep his snowmachines at the property rather than truck them to the site for tours. Discussion by trail users and neighbors about the rezone had generally been negative, though some people have spoken in favor of the proposal.

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- If you want an Alaska experience, Tolovana Hot Springs will deliver: <http://tinyurl.com/y5ylb6t8>
- Charley River slideshow (Fairbanks Paddlers), April 3: <http://tinyurl.com/y2a6lfed>
- Trailblazer Awards - 2019 Winter Trails Challenge (April 11): <http://tinyurl.com/y3akcync>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Fairbanks Borough Parks and Recreation survey (deadline April 30): <https://fnsbparks.metroquest.com/>
- Eight Fairbanks borough commissions have vacancies (including trails): <http://tinyurl.com/y2pwtjbr>
- Exploring the beauty and danger of ice caves: <http://tinyurl.com/y6kptmwb>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

SOUTHEAST LINKS

- The unique international agreement behind the Log Cabin Ski Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y2c6ohkw>
- 'Confluence': Hiking, paddling, and pedaling outdoor recreation into Alaska's economic future: <http://tinyurl.com/y3unnz5b>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS

WEBINARS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, TRAINING, ETC.

- For a listing of upcoming trail webinars workshops, conferences, and other meetings, see the American Trails calendar at: www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- American Trails news publications: <http://www.americantrails.org/trailtracks/index.html>

TRAIL GUIDES

- 5 great winter hiking trails in Colorado Springs: <http://tinyurl.com/y4yf3yru>
- County of San Diego picks 10 prime trails for 2019: <http://tinyurl.com/y6j8h2wt>
- 7 of Atlanta's most scenic running trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y6chb8rw>

FUNDING

- North Face Explore Fund grant (application open Feb 25-April 2): <http://tinyurl.com/hkdfzn3>
- Federal Highway Administration funding chart (has trails-related categories): <http://tinyurl.com/zqz2m8p>
- National Forest Trail Stewardship fund (deadline April 15): www.wildernessalliance.org/trail_funding
- Clif Bar Family Foundation grants (for groups, projects; ddline June 1): <http://tinyurl.com/y5es3wjc>

VOLUNTEERING

- American Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacations: <http://tinyurl.com/ydh95kp8>
- Conservation Volunteers International volunteer trips: <https://conservationvip.org/destinations/>
- American Trails' *Trail Ambassadors* program for National Recreation Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y5sgnukn>

STUDIES

- OHV Economic Impact Studies Available: www.nohvcc.org/ohv-economic-impact-studies-available/
- Pedaling Away from Anxiety—Cycling and Mental Health: <http://tinyurl.com/y7r3tbh3>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- Register your National Trails Day Event now: americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/host-information/
- Mountain Biking Is Booming In Appalachia—But What Does It Take To Get Trails Built?: <http://tinyurl.com/y2ku6ect>
- Do wheelchairs belong on hiking trails?: <http://tinyurl.com/y524f3um>

INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- €10 Million Allocated to Irish Mountain Bike Trail Initiative: <http://tinyurl.com/y29qkpic>
- Adapting to melting ice trails isn't easy, even for Arctic locals: <http://tinyurl.com/y4sjws9p>
- The Best Trails in the World Right Now: <http://tinyurl.com/yyttn8o5>
- How to stay safe on jungle trails and hikes: <http://tinyurl.com/y3xwafj2>

- Trail Sustainability Engagement Questionnaire (World Trails Network): <http://tinyurl.com/y6fbtvg5>
- 23 of the world's best hiking trails: www.cnn.com/travel/article/best-hiking-trails-world/index.html

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- 13 Trailblazing Outdoor Women You Should Know: <http://tinyurl.com/y67s5zsl>
- Cold-Weather Camping Tips to Keep You Warm While You Sleep: <http://tinyurl.com/y2s5ebqr>
- Mountain House Partners With Terracycle To Announce Free Recycling Program: <http://tinyurl.com/y54vhwh7>
- All Kids Outdoors writing contest (for teachers, deadline April 19): <http://tinyurl.com/y5aqq33z>
- Constant Thought video, Iraq War veteran deals with PTSD on trail (13 minutes): <http://tinyurl.com/yzz2afh>

The Alaska Trails board meets via teleconference on the first Tuesday of each month from noon to 1:00 pm. If you want to hear more about Alaska trail topics, share trail information, or propose a trail project, join us for an hour. Members and the public are welcome. Call for more information and meeting details [907-334-8049](tel:907-334-8049).

A copy of this newsletter will also be posted to our web site. Newsletters come out at the beginning of each month. Deadline for articles is five days before the first of the month. Send stories to Editor Eric Troyer at fbxtrails@gmail.com