



# NEWSLETTER

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[www.alaska-trails.org](http://www.alaska-trails.org)

## ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

### ALASKA TRAILS, MAT-SU TRAILS TO HOLD TRAIL TRAINING

Alaska Trails and the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation will be holding a trail assessment training in the Mat-Su on August 5.

The training will be held from 9am to 5pm at the Valley Recycling Center and Crevasse Moraine Trails. This one-day training includes both classroom and field portions. It is designed to teach volunteers the basics of sustainable trails, common problems on trails and a process for identifying and cataloging those problems. Various methods – both paper and electronic – will be employed to collect and organize the data gathered.

The instructor will be Mark Gronewald of Trailwerx. Lunch will be provided.

For more information contact Alaska Trails Executive Director Steve Cleary at 907/334-8049 or [steve.cleary@alaska-trails.org](mailto:steve.cleary@alaska-trails.org)

### GEOBLOCK FROM ALASKA TRAILS AUCTION FINDS A HOME

Here's a nice note and photo we got from Asta Spurgis, director of the Eagle River Nature Center:

*I'm attaching a photo of a volunteer trail day at the Nature Center that took place on June 29, 2017. REI Anchorage helped spread the word – Mike Morganson joined the crew to fix a section of muddy, wet trail on the Albert Loop Trail. We used the geoblock that we won at your AK TRAILS auction last year. The volunteers did a fabulous job. Thanks!*



### PROGRAM PROVIDES TRAIL USERS A WAY TO GIVE BACK TO TRAILS

Alaska Trail Stewards welcomes anyone who wants to work hard and help out on the trails, whether you're new to trail maintenance or have been using tools for years. We still have a couple of events on our schedule, including Flattop-Canyon Road Trail (August 19) and Chugach State Park on National Public Lands Day in September. For more information see: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/volunteer--alaska-trail-stewards.html>

## STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### ALASKA GAS PIPELINE WOULD AFFECT VARIETY OF TRAILS

Now is the time to speak up on the effects the Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline (ASAP) would have on trails in Alaska. The comment period for the project's Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) ends on August 14.

The path of ASAP, which would transport natural gas from the North Slope to the Cook Inlet area, bisects Alaska and crosses several trails, including the Iditarod National Historic Trail and the Rex Trail. Facilities built to support the project could also affect trails. For example, one facility is now planned on a piece of University of Alaska Fairbanks property over which a portion of the historic Skarland Trail passes.

Determining how the ASAP would affect trails is not easy. RS2477 right-of-ways, some of which are trails, and the Iditarod Trail are mentioned in the Final EIS (search for "trail" in the PDF). Many other smaller trails are not mentioned. A good starting point is to use the project's interactive map, zooming in to the area you are concerned about. Look for support facilities as well as the pipeline itself.

It is important for concerns to be heard as soon as possible in the planning stages. Adjustments are much easier to make if concerns are brought up early. Comments may be submitted to [asapeiscomments@erm.com](mailto:asapeiscomments@erm.com)

The interactive map, Final EIS and the draft Supplemental EIS can all be found at: <http://asapgas.agdc.us/documents.html>

A few public hearings on the SEIS are still scheduled for early August in Anchorage, Healy, Cantwell and Trapper Creek. See the schedule here: [http://asapgas.agdc.us/public\\_events.html](http://asapgas.agdc.us/public_events.html)

### RTP GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD STARTS EARLIER THIS YEAR

The timeline and associated deadlines for Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant applications have shifted a few weeks earlier this year.

RTP grants provide reimbursable, matching funds to develop and repair recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. Grants are also available for trail-related environmental protection, safety, and educational projects.

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation has adjusted the grant application period to provide for a more efficient process. The new timeline is as follows:

- All application and informational documents will be available at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm> on or before July 15;
- Applicants must begin public outreach on their proposed projects by September 15;
- Grant applications must be submitted by October 15.

Anyone with questions about RTP grants may contact Darcy Harris at 907-269-8699 or [darcy.harris@alaska.gov](mailto:darcy.harris@alaska.gov).

*(From Alaska Department of Natural Resources press release)*

### STATEWIDE TRAILS AND PUBLIC LANDS RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- Eagle Watch, State Parks (several recent issues have had trail-related stories): <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/eaglewatch/eaglewatcharchive>

## STATEWIDE LINKS

- Ethan Tyler to serve as new Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation director: <http://tinyurl.com/yc3lruek>
- 10 Amazing Alaska Hikes Under 3 Miles You'll Absolutely Love: <http://tinyurl.com/yadwec4a>
- Valdez Hosts 2nd Annual Gathering of Outdoor Recreation Industry: <http://tinyurl.com/ybeqtb5v>

### NED ROZELL'S TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE HIKE

- High summer along the pipeline's path: <http://tinyurl.com/y9ugn42b>
- Daily respites during a summer-long walk: <http://tinyurl.com/y75snloj>
- Dog partner enhances hike across Alaska: <http://tinyurl.com/yctbpywh>

### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- How to document your Alaska adventure: <http://tinyurl.com/ya77vh5z>
- Everybody does it: What to know before you 'go' in the backcountry: <http://tinyurl.com/ydduoqun>
- Thank you, kind stranger, for carrying my friend's 100-pound dog across a boulder field: <http://tinyurl.com/ybgxwf3z>
- Don't leave your spork at home, and other tips for hungry backpackers: <http://tinyurl.com/y82lmhn2>

## SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

### KODIAK TRAILS PROBLEM RELEVANT ACROSS THE STATE

The following note, posted on the (Kodiak) Island Trails Network Facebook page, addresses an issue relevant to any trails project:

*We are feeling a little push-back from trail users at the South End trail of Near Island, as last night someone decided to remove some foliage we had placed in a section of re-routed trail. I suspect the user liked the old route, and didn't appreciate the "encouragement" we had provided to use the new one. While relocating a pile of brush is not exactly an act of vandalism, it is discouraging to our crews and wastes valuable resources as we replace it and resort to other management measures.*

*When Island Trails Network or any ranger or trail crew re-routes your favorite trail, it can come as a surprise as you round the bend and see something that wasn't there yesterday. Please know that these surgical changes performed by ITN are usually by request of the landowner, and they are always intended to benefit either the trail user, the natural environment, or in this case both.*



To read the entire post see: <http://tinyurl.com/yc7xofzj>

## CHUGACH STATE PARK RELEASES HILLSIDE BIKING MAP

Check out our new map on which Hillside trails are open to biking and when they're closed. Please remember, no off-trail riding. For those interested in printing this bike map here's a link:

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/Assets/uploads/DNRPublic/parks/units/chugach/HillsideBikeMap.pdf>

<http://tinyurl.com/y8fdyzdr>

*(From Chugach State Park Facebook page)*

## SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

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- New K'esugi Ken Campground: Go for the views, stay for the fun (and trails): <http://tinyurl.com/ya93soqr>
- Learned on Kesugi Ridge: Sometimes a sufferfest is simply inevitable: <http://tinyurl.com/yc72mpvs>
- State and Ahtna reach (proposed) settlement on long-disputed Klutina Lake access (comment deadline Aug 30): <http://tinyurl.com/ybfvhfgm>
- Cordova by Trail (within a larger story about a Cordova trip): <http://tinyurl.com/y8eqlu9j>
- Outdoor Explorer radio show: Erin McKittrick and her Cook Inlet trek: <http://tinyurl.com/y99zunv7>
- Anchorage is making a new effort to curb illegal parking at state park trailheads: <http://tinyurl.com/ycnl5lgt>
- Riders praise Mirror Lake singletrack trails: <http://tinyurl.com/ybc7kwzr>
- HEADLAMP: Skywalk from Eagle River to Turnagain Arm: <http://tinyurl.com/y9j7jr95>

## KENAI PENINSULA

- Alaska's lawmakers ask feds to solve Cooper Landing Bypass conflicts: <http://tinyurl.com/y9ebex2d>

## KODIAK

- Borough Maps Monashka Trails, From Deer Social Zones to Bear Latrines: <http://tinyurl.com/y8bx8ksk>

## BEARS AND TRAILS

- Avoid Campbell Creek trails in Far North Bicentennial Park until fall, bear experts say: <http://tinyurl.com/ybrtxgln>

## INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### INTERIORWIDE LINKS

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- Public services end at Delta-area parks; concessionaires sought: <http://tinyurl.com/yc74vof2>
- Volunteers step up to clean, re-open Delta Junction park outhouses: <http://tinyurl.com/y92kkcvy>
- Water height was perfect for Fortymile River float: <http://tinyurl.com/yahfofjr>
- Half mile of bushwhacking separates cabin trails: <http://tinyurl.com/ycvolkro>
- Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System newsletter (Summer 2017): <http://tinyurl.com/yd2kuwv>

## SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

### COMMENTS SOUGHT ON COMMERCIAL USE OF TONGASS TRAILS

Comments are due by August 7 for a proposal to authorize commercial use of 11 trails, two roads and two campgrounds in the Tongass National Forest. Commercial uses or activities are defined as “any use or activity on National Forest System lands: a) where an entry or participation fee is charged, or b) where the primary purpose is the sale of a good or service and, in either case, regardless of whether the use or activity is intended to produce a profit”.

Comments on the proposed commercial allocations and potential for this project to affect historic, religious, and culturally significant properties, as well as personal, recreational, and other commercial interests are requested. Regular updates to the project, including scoping letters, draft EA, and draft decisions, can be found at [http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa\\_project\\_exp.php?project=52033](http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=52033). For more information or to submit comments, contact Mike Mullin at 907-747-4274 or email [mmullin@fs.fed](mailto:mmullin@fs.fed).

*(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)*

### SOUTHEAST LINKS

- New bridges, old trail: Treadwell Ditch Trail getting upgrades: <http://tinyurl.com/yd2ec3a9>
- Echo Ranch land swap goes ahead: <http://tinyurl.com/ycaxraqa>

## 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](http://www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html)

*ADVOCACY*

- Administration's Budget Proposes Catastrophic Cuts to Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y99woxrq>

*FUNDING*

- Polaris T.R.A.I.L.S. Grant (for ATVs; Sept 1 and March 1 deadlines): <http://tinyurl.com/zcz8u7a>

*TRAIL GUIDES*

- Michigan's 6 Most Beautiful Bike Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/yc8q3eq6>
- Explore Idaho by Rails-to-Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/yd6jf27y>
- 7 great urban trails in Twin Falls, ID: <http://tinyurl.com/yadjr8hy>
- 5 Hiking Trails You Need to Explore This Summer in Northern Nevada: <http://tinyurl.com/y9lzdq5d>
- 5 Michigan Trails with a Twist: <http://tinyurl.com/ycq9msxu>

## STUDIES

- Data Collection Bike To Assess Trails & Take Google Images: <https://dmampo.org/data-bike/>
- Economic and Health Benefits of Bicycling and Walking (CO): <http://tinyurl.com/ybat4vmk>
- Economic Impacts of Active Transportation (UT): <http://tinyurl.com/y8dbex3e>

## OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- Transportation Alternatives Annual Report (includes state-by-state breakdown): <http://tinyurl.com/vwuf4zu>
- Green Infrastructure in Parks: <https://www.epa.gov/nps/green-infrastructure-parks>
- The man reclaiming lost Cherokee trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y9slw3u4>
- The future of urban trails: routes for electric vehicles?: <http://tinyurl.com/y7p2flst>
- E-bikes would be allowed on Michigan trails if legislation approved: <http://tinyurl.com/yde863e5>
- \$53M to go to U.S. national park maintenance, infrastructure: <http://tinyurl.com/y7yjowln>

## INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- Top UK MTB Trail Locations: <https://www.tetongravity.com/story/news/top-uk-mtb-trail-locations>
- British Canoeing Launch 10 New Canoe Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y7uto3yy>
- Olle Trail opens in Mongolia's grasslands: <http://english.donga.com/List/3/03/26/965667/1>
- 5 Irish Trails With Spectacular Views: <http://irelandways.com/irish-trails-with-spectacular-views>

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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](mailto:fbxtrails@gmail.com)