



NEWSLETTER

Sept
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907/334-8049

www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

LAST CHANCE TO VOLUNTEER WITH THE ALASKA TRAIL STEWARDS!

Join the fun in Chugach State Park to help complete a sustainable trail on the backside of Flattop Mountain. Work will be done on National Public Lands Day, Sept. 30.

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.

Full details and sign up at: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/volunteer--alaska-trail-stewards.html>

THIRD ROUND OF TRAIL TALES TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER

Alaska Trails and the Chugach Park Fund are excited to present the third installment of the Trail Tales storytelling series. We hope to see you there!

The event will happen Thursday, September 21, at the 49th State Brewing Co. in Anchorage. Doors open at 6:30. Stories start at 7 pm. Tickets are \$15 and are available at the Alaska Trails website: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/trailtales.html>

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 great trails across Alaska and beyond. Food and drinks will be available for purchase throughout the evening.

SAVE THE DATE! OUR FALL FUNDRAISER IS COMING IN OCTOBER

Our Fall Fundraiser will be held Thursday, October 19, at the 49th State Brewery in Anchorage. Come celebrate a great year of trail building, volunteers and fun! The event will include great food and drinks, a silent auction, and door prizes. For more information, please contact Alaska Trails (907/334-8049; office@alaska-trails.org)

MOUNTAIN BIKE SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER IN ANCHORAGE

Alaska Trails is working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) to bring you an Alaska Mountain Bike Summit. The summit will be held October 6 and 7 at the Kincaid Park Chalet in Anchorage. Presenters at the Summit will include Michelle Barker of IMBA and Zach Jarrett, regional outdoor recreation planner, BLM Oregon/Washington State office. Jarrett is also the primary author of: *Guidelines for a Quality Trail Experience*.

Please save the dates. More details coming soon. To help us craft the agenda to make sure we are planning a great event, please fill out our survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FTZJH3T>

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Steve Cleary, Executive Director



Volunteers Eclipse Expectations

Three events in one week in August highlight the success of the Alaska Trail Stewards (ATS) program this summer. Alaska Trails is grateful for all the partners who have helped build this program. We're not done with this season yet, but we're looking forward to an even bigger and better summer in 2018.



Alaska Geographic volunteers working hard in the rain in Whittier on the Emerald Cove Trail. Photo by Byron Corral.

More than 25 volunteers donated nearly \$7,000 worth of labor while about a mile of the Emerald Cove Trail in Whittier on Saturday August 12. Volunteers used beach gravel and large rocks on the trail and did some short reroutes as well. The trail, especially from the beach, is well used up to the waterfall, so the work done was very valuable to the public.

"I was really impressed with the Alaska Geographic volunteers. They brought 10 teens who worked hard, had fun, and did not complain about being wet

all day" said Mike Downs of the National Park Service – Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, one of the driving forces behind ATS.

Whittier Parks and Recreation staff members were excellent hosts for the volunteers. They had a good plan, logistics were well thought out, even with a boat ride. The picnic and giveaways at the end were a very nice bonus for the volunteers.

Beginning on August 14, a small group of volunteers replaced a bridge at Mile 15.9 on the Resurrection Pass Trail in collaboration with the US Forest Service. Through a grant from the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, Alaska Trails was able to hire Alpine Air to transport materials for the new bridge via helicopter. The efficient bridge-building crew worked faster than planned and was able to build the bridge and abutments in just two-and-a-half days. All users of this popular trail will appreciate the new bridge and the enjoyment it will bring. Please give us a report next time you pass over it!

(Continued on next page)



Resurrection Pass bridge building crew celebrating a job well done. Photo by Art Copoulos.

On Saturday, August 19, ATS volunteers once again worked in the clouds of Chugach State Park (CSP) on the backside of Flattop Mountain. This has been an ongoing effort with ATS and CSP over the summer and it is really bearing fruit. A sustainable trail design is critical to preserving the character of this beautiful and popular area. Alaska Geographic teens once again showed up in force and added their can-do spirit to the project. ATS will once again take to this trail on National Public Lands Day. Please see our website for sign-up information.

Alaska Trails is grateful to all the volunteers, partners and sponsors who have made this program such a success, particularly our financial contributors: ConocoPhillips, the Kenai Mountain Turnagain Arm Heritage Area (KMTA) and the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance.

See you on the trails,



P.S. A big thanks to Bosco's for donating an airline ticket to Alaska Trails for me to attend the Confluence conference in Valdez. Read about the conference in the statewide news section.



Rain didn't dampen enthusiastic volunteers in Chugach State Park. Photo by Mike Morganson.



ALASKA TRAILS APPLIES FOR GRANT TO CONTINUE MTB TRAILS

Alaska Trails is applying for a grant to continue work on singletrack mountain bike trails at Mirror Lake in Chugiak.

If the application is approved, the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant will be phase two of the Mirror Lake project. Alaska Trails and the Chugach Mountain Bike Riders will collaborate to design and build three miles of designed use singletrack mountain biking trails. The trails will be located on the Edmonds and Mirror Lake Municipal Park Land in Chugiak. The singletrack trails will be integrated with the current Nordic ski trails that are located adjacent to the Glenn Highway. Phase 2 of the project will build on Phase 1, which was made possible by a previous RTP grant. Please see this link for a full Public Notice and MAP: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/rtp-projects.html>

ALASKA TRAILS HAS TOOL TRAILERS READY FOR TRAIL PROJECTS



The trails building and maintenance season is not over yet. Don't forget 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).

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

TRAILS TO BE A KEY TOPIC AT 'SUMMIT ON THE OUTDOORS'

The "Second Annual Confluence: Summit on the Outdoors" will be held on Friday, September 22, in Valdez.

The goal of this year's event is to identify and prioritize ideas to help make Alaska's outdoor recreation industry more successful. The best ideas from the event will be brought before the state legislature during an outdoor recreation industry lobby day next March. Trails will be one of the key breakout topics so trail builders, trail enthusiasts, city planners, retailers and others should plan to attend and weigh in. Information and online registration can be found at <http://levitation49.org/confluence>.

This second annual gathering of stakeholders interested in Alaska's outdoors as a driver for rural economic development and healthy lifestyles will take place at the Valdez Civic Center. Attendees expected to participate include a cross-section of outdoor-focused elected officials, planners, land managers, businesses and non-profit organizations.

The keynote speaker this year will be Luis Benitez, a guide, adventurer and founding director of the Colorado Office of Outdoor Recreation. Another special guest will be Cailin O'Brien-Feeney, director of local outdoor recreation advocacy for the Outdoor Industry Association.

This event is co-sponsored by the Outdoor Industry Association, REI and Valdez-based host organization Levitation 49. For more information on the summit see: <http://www.levitation49.org/valdez-2017/>

GRAD STUDENT SEEKS INPUT ON OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY

Christian Mogensen, a graduate student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, is conducting a survey regarding people's experience with outdoor recreation. The survey is part of Mogensen's effort to collect data for his graduate project. His project centers around getting people more involved with outdoor recreation, and the benefits associated with outdoor recreation activities. Mogensen is also the outdoor adventures assistant coordinator at DRAW, UAF's Department of Recreation, Adventure and Wellness. If you have any questions, you can contact Mogensen at: cgmogensen@alaska.edu

The survey takes about 10 minutes, and is open to everyone over 18 years old. Find the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6QFG7Z3>

NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL APPLICATIONS DUE SOON

Some applications for designating a trail as a National Recreation Trail are due by November 1.



For trails on private, city, county, or state land, or on federal land NOT overseen by the Department of Agriculture, the designation process goes through the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). Those applications are due on November 1 of each year.

For trails on National Forests, National Grasslands, and National Recreation Areas and associated lands, the designation process goes through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Those may be submitted anytime, but must be submitted by February 15 to be included in publicity with DOI designations each June.

For more about applying see: www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails/ApplyNRT.html

SEPTEMBER DEADLINE FOR RTP GRANT APPLICATIONS OUTREACH

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 have been available since July 15 at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm>;
- 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.

(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>
- BLM's Frontiers (Summer 2017): <http://tinyurl.com/y7hf56p4>

STATEWIDE LINKS

- Writer produces new edition of guide book: <http://tinyurl.com/y75dstve>
- State looks to update Bicycle and Pedestrian plan: <http://tinyurl.com/ybgvvdur>
- Tell friends your game plan before a backcountry trip — and remember to send proof of life: <http://tinyurl.com/ydbtbugy>
- SnowTRAC annual meeting scheduled for September 6: <http://tinyurl.com/yb3a2uk3>
- Could The Lure Of Trails Salvage Alaska's Economy?: <http://tinyurl.com/ydgg2qee>
- Several Alaska maps features on new BLM digital map site: <https://www.blm.gov/maps>
- Yes, babies and backpacking go together: <http://tinyurl.com/y8po3ve6>

NED ROZELL'S TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE HIKE

- Crossing the divide into a new world: <http://tinyurl.com/ycyc66bf>
- In fifth month, Trans-Alaska hike nears end: <http://tinyurl.com/y8wh3z4d>
- Final steps to Mile 0 of summer walk: <http://tinyurl.com/yb93u8gz>
- Hike across Alaska ends with after-dinner bear: <http://tinyurl.com/y8yzso5r>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Paddling in place or going in reverse, this amateur is a work in progress: <http://tinyurl.com/y9f2lyrk>
- Book an outdoors date with a loved one: <http://tinyurl.com/yco7tyg6>
- There Is No Tomorrow (fatbike/packraft expedition in northwest Alaska): <http://tinyurl.com/y99f85u3>
- Lake Clark National Park's only public-use cabin is a gem: <http://tinyurl.com/y9dajhwb>
- On flat ground after a climb? Gravity can still get the best of you: <http://tinyurl.com/y9zxb3sa>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

YOUNG WORKERS HELP CLEAN UP CROW PASS TRAIL

In mid-August, a group of eight youth, recruited and organized by Alaska Geographic and supported by a generous grant from REI, spent four days removing litter and illegal campfire rings on the Crow Pass Trail. The group consisted of youth from Anchorage, Girdwood and Whittier.

Between the Raven Creek drainage and Eagle River, the group cleaned up over a dozen impacted campsites and removed 27 illegal campfire rings. They also collected two large bags of trash and spoke with all parties hiking the trail about Leave No Trace and backcountry trip planning. The group also did some work to improve the visibility of the Clear Creek ford site.



A huge THANK YOU to Alaska Geographic, REI and especially to these eight young people who worked hard cleaning up the trail for everyone's benefit! Win-Win!

(From Chugach State Park Facebook page: <http://tinyurl.com/yag5hk83>)

KENAI -TURNAGAIN GROUP ANNOUNCES FALL 2017 GRANT CYCLE

The Kenai River-Turnagain Arm (KMTA) National Heritage Area is accepting grant applications. The deadline to apply is Friday, September 22, at 5pm. Now in its eighth year, KMTA's grant program provides funding to local communities to develop projects that recognize, preserve, and interpret the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm's historic, scenic, cultural, and recreational resources.

Application instructions and grant criteria can be found on KMTA's website at: <http://www.kmtacorridor.org/grants/>. The minimum criteria for interested applicants requires that your project is:

- Located within the Heritage Area (this includes the communities of Seward, Moose Pass, Cooper Landing, Hope, Whittier, Girdwood, Bird, and Indian).
- Consistent with the Heritage Area's purpose to increase public awareness and appreciation for the natural, historical and cultural resources of the Heritage Area.
- Commits a minimum match of funding for at least 50% of the project's costs.
- Will be completed within a 12-month period following selection by the KMTA Board of Directors.

All grant applications must be received by the deadline to be considered for this cycle. The review process will be completed within about six weeks of the application deadlines. Applicants are notified of their award status in writing.

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Anchorage climbers set speed record in Chugach Mountains: <http://tinyurl.com/y8wuw9a6>
- New Mat-Su park offers lots of scenery along Knik Arm: <http://tinyurl.com/y7j3mtjs>

- A new Mat-Su map shows a special, hidden place: <http://tinyurl.com/ybkefffn>
- Singletrack Advocates National Public Lands Day event in Kincaid Park: <http://tinyurl.com/ydejeleg>
- The trail on the west side of Russian Jack Springs Park golf course was renovated by Youth Employment in Parks in July and is now open and ready for use: <http://tinyurl.com/y8zwwg3ek>
- Packrafting the 'Goat Trail remix' in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park: <http://tinyurl.com/y97m7pzn>

KENAI PENINSULA

- Tsalteshi: single and ready to mingle: <http://tinyurl.com/yawn28w4>
- A Lost Lake trail run to remember: <http://tinyurl.com/y76uhgv4>

KODIAK

- The intersection of the channelside trail and North End park needed some work. So this happened: <https://www.facebook.com/islandtrails/posts/10155485092703476>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

COMMENT DEADLINE DUE FOR YANKOVICH-MILLER HILL PROJECT

Comments are due by September 6 on a proposal to reconstruct Miller Hill and Yankovich roads and possibly build a multi-use path along a portion of Yankovich Road.

The state Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has come up with three alternatives that can be viewed on the project website: <http://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/yankovich-miller/>

The most controversial part of the project is whether to build a multi-use path along Yankovich Road and, if so, how that path would be built. The alternative with the biggest change would be to build a separate multi-use path. (An existing path has already been built from the Yankovich/Miller Hill intersection to a spot across from the Large Animal Research Station, aka the Musk Ox Farm. A new path would connect it to the path on Farmer's Loop Road.) A separated multi-use path would be the most expensive and would affect the greatest number of property owners, but it would also benefit the greatest number of non-motorized trail and road users. Which side of Yankovich the path would be built has not been determined.

Another alternative would be to build a multi-use path that is connected to Yankovich Road. The third alternative would have no multi-use path. All alternatives would rebuild Yankovich Road with shoulders. The road currently has no shoulders. The no-path alternative would have six-foot shoulders, the connected path would have four-foot shoulders, and the separated path alternative would have five-foot shoulders.

For guidance in comments see the Comments Sheet link on the right side of the page. Comments can be sent to: isadora.fanning@alaska.gov

PORTION OF FARMER'S LOOP PATH TO BE RESURFACED

A portion of the separated path along Farmer's Loop Road is being resurfaced along with the road itself. Work on this project started in August and will last until October 31.

Work will take place from College Road/Alumni Drive to just past Auburn Drive.

Details:

- Work will first take place from Alumni Drive/College Road to Tanana Loop.
 - Hours of operation for this section are 7pm-7am, 7 days/week.
- Work will then move to Tanana Loop to Auburn Drive.
 - Hours of operation for this section are 8am-10pm, 7 days/week.
- Drivers should expect short delays and loose gravel. Please watch for lane restrictions, flaggers and pilot car operations.
- Bike and pedestrian access will be maintained, but expect loose gravel and detour routes.

Work to be completed:

- Remove and reconstruct the asphalt surface on the road and bike path.
- Improve lighting and traffic signals.
- Remove and replacing culverts.
- New concrete curb and gutter, and ADA compliant crosswalks.

For construction updates:

- www.AlaskaNavigator.org
- 511.Alaska.Gov (<http://511.alaska.gov/alaska511/mappingcomponent/index>)

For project information:

- Rebekah Matar, Exclusive Paving, 322-2226 or rcoats@colaska.com
- Andy Pagel, ADOT&PF Project Manager, 451-5446 or andrew.pagel@alaska.gov

This season, work will last through October 31. Work will resume again next construction season.
(From Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities email)

LAND WITH TRAILS NEAR FORT KNOX MAY RETURN TO STATE

A 700-acre parcel of land near Fort Knox with several trails may be handed over to the state. The Bureau of Land Management has decided that land can be returned to the “public domain.” The state of Alaska has identified the land as a “priority for acquisition.” Now it’s up to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to decide if the land will be conveyed to the state.

The parcel of land has several trails running across it, including trails used in the Gold Discovery Run. The trails are used year-round by a variety of trail users, including runners, mountain bikers, snowmachiners, ATVers, and mushers.

The BLM Eastern Interior Field Office completed an environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act to assess the relinquishment and determine whether the land was suitable for return to the public domain. To read the environmental assessment and FONSI, please visit the project website via BLM’s National NEPA register at <http://bit.ly/ParcelG>.

DISCHARGE THAT STOPS CHENA RIVER FREEZING UP FOR RENEWAL

The state is collecting comments on a water discharge permit for the power plant off the Chena River near downtown Fairbanks. The warm water discharged by the plant keeps the Chena River from freezing over during the winter, thereby preventing the creation of a potential winter trail on the river. Of course, there are also benefits associated with the operation of the power plant, owned by Aurora Energy.

People interested in commenting on the discharge can attend a scheduled public meeting or send their comments via email or mail. Pertinent information is below.

Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) permit

- Facility Name: Aurora Energy, LLC Chena Power Plant
- Permit Number: AK0053333
- Discharge Location: Chena River

- Review Period: August 25, 2017 to October 11, 2017
- Permit documents can be accessed from the ADEC Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program website (<http://dec.alaska.gov/water/wwdp/index.htm>) under the Public Notice section.
- Written comments can be submitted via email to: Angela.Hunt@alaska.gov or by mail to:

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

For questions, please call Angela Hunt at 907-269-7599.

Meeting/hearing

Date: September 28, 2017

Public Meeting: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Public Hearing: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Location: Westmark Fairbanks Hotel and Conference Center, Rampart Room 813 Noble Street Fairbanks

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- 'Wacky loop' in Mt. Prindle area lives up to name: <http://tinyurl.com/ybbednf8>
- BLM clarifies side-by-side rules: <http://tinyurl.com/yc4el8rp>
- Next FNSB Summer Trails Challenge is Sept 20: <http://tinyurl.com/y8avo24w>
- Waterfowl hunting again allowed at Tanana Lakes rec area: <http://tinyurl.com/y7b82ks3>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

SOUTHEAST LINKS

- Haines couple owes \$52,000 after trying to block people driving on their land: <http://tinyurl.com/yb6ad5d5>
- Sitka's Mosquito Cove – Trail Maintenance Aug. 21- Sept. 14: <http://tinyurl.com/yavnyxdy>

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

TRAIL GUIDES

- 10 Easy Hiking Trails on the Blue Ridge Parkway: <http://tinyurl.com/y9q2qvo9>
- Top 10 Michigan bike trails for novice, expert riders this summer: <http://tinyurl.com/ybrfbzb2>

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- Trails.com newsletter: <http://email.trails.com/q/1mPplcRgNdyEbky78SN/wv>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- A Detailed Inventory Is Critical To Revitalizing OHV Trail Systems: <http://tinyurl.com/y9wp7hjz>
- IMBA Supports Bipartisan Bill To Improve Trail Access On Public Land: <http://tinyurl.com/y95oaymo>
- Selecting a Campsite: <https://americanhiking.org/resources/selecting-a-campsite/>
- Congress Continues to Promote Land Access: <http://tinyurl.com/ycbwa9v6>
- American Trails hikes the hill in Washington, DC: <http://tinyurl.com/y9kxgdba>
- Book delves into the rich history of American hiking club culture: <http://tinyurl.com/y8urzbg7>
- Game-Changing Rails to Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y96eagh7>
- Discovering What Makes An IMBA EPICS Ride So "Epic": <http://tinyurl.com/ybl54sfr>

INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- World's longest pedestrian suspension bridge opens in Switzerland: <http://tinyurl.com/yag3tc8y>
- Whitehorse a great destination for mountain biking road trip: <http://coast-magazine.com/arctic-adventures>
- Trans Canada Trail links the nation and its people: <http://tinyurl.com/y7azu7mh>

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