



NEWSLETTER

Oct
2018

PO Box 100627; Anchorage, AK 99510-0264

907/334-8049

www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

ALASKA TRAIL STEWARDS NEEDS PEOPLE WHO LOVE TRAILS

Alaska Trail Stewards projects are still happening! We hope you can come join us. The Lazy Moose Trail work party on Saturday, October 6, has been SOLD OUT. Thank you to everyone who signed up; only 10 volunteers were needed. But another work party is being planned for October 20. We don't have the details yet, so keep checking on our trail stewards webpage (see link below.)

Alaska Trail Stewards is an Alaska Trails program designed to help give volunteers opportunities to maintain and improve the trails that they and many others love. Below are the volunteer days we have scheduled for the rest of this summer. For more information and to register see: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-trail-stewards.html>

(Photo of a recent trail work party in Hatcher Pass by our Trails Technician Kristen Mrozowski.)



SAVE THE DATE! OUR FALL FUNDRAISER IS COMING IN OCTOBER

Our Fall Fundraiser will be held Friday, October 19, 6:30-10:30pm at the 49th State Brewery in Anchorage. Come celebrate a great year of trail building, volunteers and fun!

Come meet the Alaska Trails board and staff. Executive Director Steve Cleary will give an update on all the exciting summer projects that the Alaska Trail Stewards have been working on and a look at what's to come this winter and next year for Alaska Trails.

The event will include great food and drinks, door prizes, and a silent auction featuring outdoor gear and adventures and much more. For more information, please contact Alaska Trails (907/334-8049; office@alaska-trails.org) or see our Facebook event: www.facebook.com/events/2083252731991405/

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>

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM APPLICATIONS DUE IN OCTOBER

Make sure to get your Recreational Trails Program applications submitted on time. Applications must be turned in by October 15.

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 grants are administered through the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. Informational documents are available at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm>;

Questions? Contact Darcy Harris at 907-269-8699 or darcy.harris@alaska.gov.

LWCF GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE IN EARLY NOVEMBER

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation is accepting grant applications for development or enhancement of facilities related to public outdoor recreation. Eligible applicants include state, regional, or local governments (cities, boroughs or tribal entities) that have the legal authority to provide park and recreation services on public lands.

The application deadline is 4 p.m. on Friday, November 9. The application package is available online at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/lwcf.htm> or by contacting grants administrator Jean Ayers at jean.ayers@alaska.gov or 907-269-8694.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant program provides up to 50 percent matching assistance for the cost of a project. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation anticipates \$1.5 million may be awarded to eligible Alaska projects.

Grant requests are limited to \$25,000 minimum and \$250,000 maximum in LWCF federal share. The total project cost must be at least \$50,000 to justify a \$25,000 grant request.

(From Department of Natural Resources press release)

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: <https://www.americantrails.org/national-recreation-trails/apply>

TRAIL EASEMENT MIGHT LOWER YOUR PROPERTY TAX

If you've got a recreational trail running across your property that is open to the public, you may qualify for a reduced property tax.

State law requires that land subject to a public recreational use easement (which can include trails) must be assessed at its true value. This recognizes that such easements restrict what a landowner can do

with the property subject to the easement. (See AS 29.45.062 and AS 34.17.100. Find Alaska Statutes at www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/folio.asp.)

However, the land or trail in question must have a legal easement. Granting an easement to the state is free and fairly easily. Download the two-page "Public Recreation Easement" form at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/forms/>. The link for the PDF document is about halfway down the page under "Land Forms." Granting the easement will also give the landowner tort and liability immunity (AS 34.17.055).

If you think you may qualify for a property tax reduction due to this law, contact your local government's Assessing Department.

FORAKER GROUP OFFERS CLASSES FOR NON-PROFITS STATEWIDE

The Foraker Group, which is dedicated to strengthening Alaska's non-profits, offers classes about the proper workings of non-profit groups, which include many trail and trail user groups. If you are a member or employee of a non-profit group consider taking one of the classes, which are offered in several communities and statewide by teleconference. For more information visit the Foraker Group website (www.forakergroup.org/) or call 907/743-1200 or (toll free) 877/834-5003.



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

- State parks newsletter: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/#> > Newsroom > Current Eagle Watch issue
- Hunting season means lots of traffic on trails. It may be time to revisit ATV regulations: <http://tinyurl.com/yatyzok5>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- When life overwhelms, enjoy the #AKoutdoors without posing for Instagram: <http://tinyurl.com/y8bty8zx>
- Ever larger us (Medred): <https://craigmedred.news/2018/09/05/ever-larger-us/>
- It's easy to fall in love with Alaska in the fall, especially if you dress for it: <http://tinyurl.com/y9rbuba9>
- Bears, bushwhacking and otherworldly peaks: 12 days in Gates of the Arctic National Park: <http://tinyurl.com/y844rc5f>
- Outdoor Explorer radio show:
 - Using your feet: <http://tinyurl.com/ydfnntqa>
 - Enjoying the fall season: <http://tinyurl.com/y7urehok>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

MAT-SU TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION HAS GOOD TRAIL NEWS

In a recent newsletter the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation announced fundraising for a new trail project and a successful trail maintenance partnership

THE KESUGI RIDGE TO CURRY RIDGE TRAIL IS HAPPENING!

We heard loud and clear that YOU want more multi-day trails in Mat-Su and we are listening. In partnership with Alaska State Parks, we are actively raising funds to design and build a 15-mile connector trail linking the Kesugi Ridge trail with the Curry Ridge trail in Denali State Park. The total project cost is \$1.1 million. If we are able to raise the funding required, we intend to start construction during the summer of 2019. Join us and be part of making projects like this one happen for the Mat-Su. Please consider becoming a member click here: <https://matsutrails.org/donate/>

SHOWING A LITTLE LOVE TO LOWER MATANUSKA PEAK TRAIL

This summer in partnership with the Mat-Su Borough and the Student Conservation Association, we were able to support a trail crew of enthusiastic strong-backed young people to upgrade the Lower Mat Peak Trail. They fixed erosion issues around McRoberts Creek and added a few switchbacks. They did a great job! The trail is way better. High fives to the trail crew and to our friends at SCA and the MSB.

PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT ON KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARK PLAN

The Department of Natural Resources is seeking public input on a draft revision of the Kachemak Bay State Park and Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park Management Plan. The draft plan includes management guidance and facility recommendations for these two park units, as well as guidance for Diamond Creek State Recreation Site, Eveline State Recreation Site, and Overlook Park State Recreation Site.

Since the last management plan was adopted in 1995, park uses have increased and changed as the result of changes to the economy, area infrastructure, and tourism trends. The goal of this plan revision is to address these changes, address management challenges, and update recommendations for long-term facility development. Additionally, the draft plan includes a trail management plan that provides trail sustainability recommendations, trail design and management criteria within the park units.

Written comments are encouraged during the public comment period. To facilitate the public's review of the public review draft, reference copies in print format are available at the Homer public library and the Islands and Oceans Visitor Center. The public review draft is also available on DVD by request and online at: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/plans/kbay/kbayplan.htm>.

To receive full consideration, comments must be received no later than October 19, 2018. Comments can be submitted by mail, fax or email to: Kachemak Bay State Planning, 550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1050, Anchorage, AK 99501, Fax: (907)269-8915, Email: monica.alvarez@alaska.gov.

(From Department of Natural Resources press release)



OPEN HOUSE TO ADDRESS CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST PLAN

A Public Open House meeting will be held in October on the Draft Land Management Plan (LMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Chugach National Forest. The meeting will be on October 9 from 5:30 to 7pm at the USFS Supervisor's Office, 161 East 1st Street, Door 8.



The LMP describes the 15-year strategic vision

for managing the approximately 5.4 million acres of National Forest System lands in southcentral Alaska that capitalizes on the strengths of the 2002 Plan and builds on the commitment to contribute to the regional economy through recreation and tourism, salmon fisheries, and wild renewable resources.

The LMP is available at https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd589412.pdf. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement analyzes the potential effects of four alternatives.

- Chapter 1. Purpose of and Need for Revising the Chugach National Forest Land Management Plan - Discusses the background of the proposal, explains the purpose and need for revising the land management plan (forest plan or plan), and briefly describes the Forest Service's proposal for achieving the purpose and need.
- Chapter 2. Alternatives - Discusses a range of reasonable alternatives, including the no action alternative. These alternatives are based on significant issues raised by the public and other agencies. This chapter also explains why other alternatives were dismissed from further consideration. It includes a summary comparison of the environmental consequences associated with each alternative that defines the issues and provides a clear basis for choice among the alternatives.
- Chapter 3. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences This chapter describes the environmental effects of implementing the alternatives. It describes the affected environment, by resource areas, as a baseline against which the impacts of alternatives are compared. The description of the affected environment is followed by disclosure of the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of implementing each of the alternatives.
- Chapter 4. Consultation and Coordination.

The DEIS and supporting documents are available at https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd589297.pdf. Comments may be submitted to www.fs.usda.gov/goto/chugach/plancomments. To view submitted comments are available at the reading room click here: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/ReadingRoom?project=40816>

(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston; Frank Kovalchek photo of Lost Lake from Wikimedia Commons.)

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- 50 years later, Tuesday night is still the time to run (trails) in Anchorage: <http://tinyurl.com/y93eqnze>
- New Matanuska Experiment Farm & Extension Trailhead Facebook page: <http://tinyurl.com/y86lcjpp>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Seth Holden Hut volunteer video (less than 2 minutes): <http://tinyurl.com/y88tdg6r>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

BLM INVITES PUBLIC TO CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF RIVERS AND TRAILS

The Bureau of Land Management's Eastern Interior Field Office will join the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in hosting a 50th anniversary celebration of the National Trails and the National Wild & Scenic Rivers acts on Tuesday, Oct. 2, at the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center in Fairbanks. The public is invited to stop by the free event anytime between 4 and 7 p.m. to enjoy refreshments, hands-on activities for children, and short films and presentations.

"We're excited about this unique opportunity to share the scenic beauty and unique stories of Alaska's trails and wild and scenic rivers with the public," said Eastern Interior Field Manager Adam Carr. "For locals and visitors alike, these trails and rivers provide an unforgettable way to enjoy public lands."

On Oct. 2, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed the National Trails System and Wild & Scenic Rivers acts, establishing the two systems. Criteria for designation vary, and elements of the systems are stewarded by a variety of federal, state and local agencies and nonprofit organizations, including the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The BLM's Eastern Interior Field Office manages the popular Pinnell Mountain National Recreation Trail and three of Interior Alaska's wild and scenic rivers: Beaver Creek, Birch Creek and the Fortymile.

Additional information about the Oct. 2 celebration is available from Teri Balser at (907) 474-2368.

(From BLM press release; photo of Pinnell Mountain National Recreational Trail from BLM)

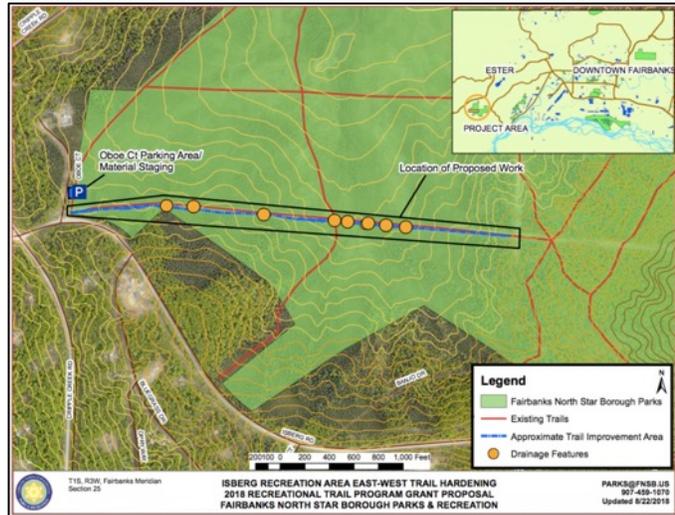


COMMISSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS TRAIL PROJECTS, ISSUES

Several interesting Fairbanks-area trail projects are referred to in the August meeting minutes of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Trails Advisory Commission (TAC). A draft of the minutes can be found here: <http://fnsb.us/Boards/BoardCommissionMeetingDocuments/2018Sep11TaFP.pdf>.

- Second phase of the Skyline Ridge Trail restoration project: This borough project was underway as of Thursday, September 27. The project has been filling in deep ruts on the Skyline Ridge Trail, the main trail running through Skyline Park, and armoring the trail with gravel and topping. This second phase deals with the lower part of the trail. The first phase dealt with the upper part of the trail. This project was funded by a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant.

- Proposed Skyline Ridge to Goldstream connector: This borough project, submitted for an RTP grant, would reroute a trespassing section of the connector trail off of private land and onto FNSB and State land. The new trail would provide a legal connection between Skyline Ridge and the Goldstream Public Use Area (GPUA). It would also improve access to the GPUA by developing a trailhead off the roadway at Noel Drive and installing wayfinding signage throughout the park. (For a map of the area see: <http://tinyurl.com/ydh4k6ql>).
- Proposed Isberg Uplands summer access: This borough project, submitted for an RTP grant, would improve year round access to the uplands in the east side of the Isberg Recreation Area. Currently the only access to the uplands from the trailhead at Oboe Court is via a multiuse trail in a powerline clearing that crosses very wet, muddy terrain. (A map of the area can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/y7t6bmlb>)
- Equinox Marathon Trail sinkholes: Shortly before the Equinox Marathon some sinkholes were identified along the marathon trail in the intertie power line east of Goldhill Road. The trail was closed, but the sinkholes were ultimately fixed before the marathon. (That section of trail was closed during the marathon for a different reason. A landowner mistakenly believed that a portion of the trail did not have legal right-of-way across his land in that area. Local trail advocate Stan Justice did some research, identified that a legal right-of-way does exist, and has since talked with the landowner, who said he will allow access.)
- Goldstream Valley proposed rezone: Borough parks staff are working with the community planning department and residents to identify trails in the area of the proposed rezone and discuss possible protections. The TAC is also interested in helping facilitate and strategize for a better a better plan for trail access in the area.
- A committee of the TAC is working on a rewrite of the borough's Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan.



(From FNSB Trails Advisory Commission minutes and other sources; map of Isberg proposal from FNSB)

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Bring persistence when looking for Compeau Trail challenge sign: <http://tinyurl.com/ya2zefa6>
- Trailblazer Awards - 2018 Summer Trails Challenge (Oct 6): <http://tinyurl.com/y7y47aug>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Runner learns why Equinox is the toughest marathon you'll ever love: <http://tinyurl.com/y7d4685w>
- Invasive weed spreads: Elodea now found in Manley Slough and Birch Lake: <http://tinyurl.com/y79mogef>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

USFS WELCOMES PUBLIC COMMENT ON ROADLESS RULE BY OCT 15

Exempting the Tongass National Forest from the Roadless Rule is back in the news. The issue is highly charged with a range of perspectives from municipal, Native and business interests in Southeast as well as expressions of concern throughout the US since National Forests belong to all Americans.

- Read the Walker administration's position on the issue: <http://tinyurl.com/y9pmdpww>
- Read this history-filled opinion piece from Trout Unlimited: <http://tinyurl.com/yapds6xp>
- Read the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership advice on how to create a rule that will remain settled no matter who's desk the buck stops at in Washington or Juneau: <http://tinyurl.com/y8ozql55>

Get informed and weigh in! Deadline for public comment is October 15. Click here to offer comment either by traditional online comment form or a cool interactive Story Map: <http://tinyurl.com/y77w5rr2>

(From Valdez Adventure Alliance email)

SOUTHEAST LINK

- Sitka Trail Works *Paper Trail* newsletter (Fall 2018): <http://sitkatrailworks.org/news/>
- Sitka Trail Works is applying for grant to repair Sea Lion Cove Trail: <http://tinyurl.com/y8gnflz6>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC ACCESS TO PARKS, REC LANDS

Hydro Flask, in partnership with the Outdoor Foundation, is excited to announce the opening of their 2018 grant round of the Parks For All grant program. The application is now open for 2019 non-profit program activities and applications are being accepted. If you are a nonprofit dedicated to building, restoring, maintaining, or providing public access to parks and recreational public lands, Hydro Flask wants you to apply.

Parks For All supports the development, maintenance and accessibility of public green spaces so people everywhere can live healthier, happier and more fulfilled lives. If this sounds like your organization, don't miss your chance to apply today.

The application deadline is Friday, October 19. To apply see: <http://tinyurl.com/y7rxzr8k>

EMERGING LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE IN OCTOBER

The deadline to apply for the Hulet Hornbeck Emerging Leaders Scholarship Program is October 15.

The program is part of the 2019 International Trails Symposium (ITS) and Training Institute. It will bring 16 young adults, ages 21-28, to Syracuse, New York April 28 to May 1, 2019.

The online application is now available at: <http://tinyurl.com/y7bkhhdv>

At the ITS, Emerging Leaders will learn from experts, get practical experience with a service project, network with professionals, engage in discussions with career advisors, and take a step closer to a career in the trails world, so they, too, can leave a lasting legacy on the world— as Hulet did.

Diversity and inclusivity are important to us so that we can meet everyone's deepest needs, values, and long-term interests. We welcome individuals of all backgrounds to apply regardless of past trails experience. We are more interested in potential.

(From American Trails email)

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

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

CONTESTS

- National and International Trails Awards (nomination deadline Dec 3): <http://tinyurl.com/y7rbfw7g>
- National Recreational Trail photo contest (deadline Dec 15): <http://tinyurl.com/y72do9vl>

TRAIL GUIDES

- We run Austin (TX): Three trails that are worth the sweat: <http://tinyurl.com/ycvvlc8o>
- Mountain Biking Park City: A 3-Day Guide to Trails and Epic Rides: <http://tinyurl.com/ycglpkve>
- VIDEO: Great Gorge Adventure — The American Falls trails (Niagara Falls): <http://tinyurl.com/y7laswfg>
- Georgia's hiking trails trade traffic for relaxation: <http://tinyurl.com/y7d4dv43>
- 4 hiking/running trails you've got to try near Asheville, North Carolina: <http://tinyurl.com/ybkrxn3n>
- Best hiking trails in metro Detroit: <http://tinyurl.com/y842r5dg>
- 10 must-hike trails in the Chattanooga (TN) area: <http://tinyurl.com/y8frp2ty>
- 9 Prettiest Hiking Trails Around The World That Should Be On Your Outdoors Bucket List: <http://tinyurl.com/yckkepk>
- 10 Great Trails Every Mountain Biker Should Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/yca9ol5q>

FUNDING

- First Recipients of IMBA's New Trail Accelerator Grants Announced: <http://tinyurl.com/y76jwq5c>

STUDIES

- The Impacts of Mountain Bike Tourism in Oakridge, Oregon: <http://tinyurl.com/y83yrge6>
- 12 Science-Backed Reasons To Spend More Time Outdoors: <http://tinyurl.com/y9wdeosj>
- The Lancet: 1.4 billion adults risk disease from doing too little: <http://tinyurl.com/ycpvnlg>
- How does weather affect bike and pedestrian trail traffic?: <http://tinyurl.com/y854w7qp>

TRAILS AND RUNNING

- Making the transition from pavement to dirt: Tips, tricks for trail running noobs: <http://tinyurl.com/yabnjz3n>
- Trail Etiquette: How to Be a Better Person on the Trails (runner's POV): <http://tinyurl.com/y8smczsn>

- Try Running Trails to Become a Stronger Runner (and to Give Your Knees a Break): <http://tinyurl.com/yah64mgw>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- Karel Sabbe Sets New Fastest Known Time On The Appalachian Trail: <http://tinyurl.com/y7chadzu>
- Take Only Pictures... And Don't Geotag Them: <http://tinyurl.com/y9aap3uk>
- Hiking a diverse trail: The great outdoors is finally drawing more people of color: <http://tinyurl.com/ybzjt2o4>
- 3 Ways to Tackle Trash on Trail: <http://tinyurl.com/y9o9zw96>

INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- Top 10 hiking trails near Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: <http://tinyurl.com/y7kyqjhh>
- Masar Ibrahim al-Khalil long distance cultural hiking route (Palestine): <https://masaribrahim.ps/>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- House Passes Bipartisan Legislation To Get Children Outdoors: <http://tinyurl.com/yasa4w5z>
- Our Kids Need Us To Explore Outdoors With Them. Here's Why: <http://tinyurl.com/ybl6rdja>
- Outdoor Recreation Economy Accounts For 2.2 Percent Of GDP: <http://tinyurl.com/y7smu33e>

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