KEYNOTE SESSIONS:

Title: The Power of Volunteers on Trails

Date/Time: Thursday April 26th, 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Presenters: Steven Moore, Former Volunteer Program Coordinator for Washington Trails Association
            Blaine Smith, Retired Trails Professional, Alaska Trail Stewards Supporter

Description: Volunteers are making an increasing impact on trails, particularly on trail maintenance needs. As budget for city, state and federal land managers continue to decline, this will become even more important. Steven Moore will highlight the amazing success that the Washington Trails Association has had with volunteers. He will trace the history of their volunteer efforts, describing key partners and methods for volunteer recruitment and retention.

            Blaine Smith has been working on trails in Alaska for decades. His experience and excitement for trails and particularly for volunteer work on trails will be the focus of his keynote.

SCROLL DOWN FOR BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS
Breakout Sessions – Thursday, April 26th, 10:45 AM - Noon

TRACK: TRAIL DESIGN / LAYOUT

Title: Sustainable Trails 101
Presenters: Jon Underwood – Happy Trails

Description: This is a condensed version of the introductory course on sustainable trail building. Come and see what it takes to make the great trails that you have been using all these years. This class will emphasize sustainable design elements, trail planning, and management concepts for all trail enthusiasts.

TRACK: CONSTRUCTION / OPERATIONS / MAINTENANCE

Title: Before the Dirt Work: Clearing & Prepping for Construction
Presenters: Christine Byl - Interior Trails
Gabe Travis - Interior Trails

Description: Most people think of excavation and grubbing as the important part of trail building. But clearing the corridor is where construction begins, and it's more complicated than you'd think. We'll discuss best practices for clearing flagline alignments, corridor width in relationship to sideslopes, labor options and more.

TRACK: ADVOCACY / FUNDING

Title: Government Funding Sources for Trails – P/R, TAP and RTP
Presenters: Darcy Harris – State of Alaska DNR – Recreational Trails Program
Marcheta Moulton – State of Alaska DOT – Transportation Alternatives Program
Bruce Dale – State of Alaska ADF&G, Pittman / Robertson

Description: As state coffers continue to shrink, funding sources for trails are even more important. Knowing where dollars can come from is important. Panelists will discuss various government grant programs that have funded trails and could provide funding for future projects. Grant programs to be discussed include: the Recreational Trail Program, the Transportation Alternatives Program and the Pittman-Robertson Fund.

TRACK: PARTNERSHIPS / VOLUNTEERING

Title: Alaska Trail Stewards – Volunteer Roundtable
Presenters: Steve Cleary – Executive Director, Alaska Trails
Kristen Mrozowski – Trails Technician, Alaska Trails
Steven Moore – Former WTA Volunteer Coordinator
Eileen Kazura – Education Program Director, Alaska Geographic
Description: Key personnel with the Alaska Trail Stewards program and Steven Moore, former volunteer coordinator for the Washington Trails Association will build on the keynote presentation to highlight past successes and challenges of working with volunteers in Alaska. Then the focus will shift to the future – both the 2018 field season and the years to come. Land managers, volunteers and trail organizations are encouraged to come and share their experiences as we plan for success.

Breakout Sessions – Thursday, April 26th, 1:15 PM – 2:30PM

TRACK: TRAIL DESIGN / LAYOUT

Title: Trail Management Plans
Presenters: Tom Bickauskas – State Lead for Recreation, NLCS and W&SR - BLM Alaska
Randy Goodwin – Alaska Travel Management and Transportation Planning Program Lead - BLM Alaska

Description: Discussion on BLM travel and transportation management process and how BLM manages access, determines off-highway vehicles area designations, and makes road and trail decisions. Explain the travel management planning process - route inventory and evaluation, NEPA and the plan development, and how the public can participate. Provide an update on the Steese National Conservation Area and the White Mountains National Recreation Area travel management plans and upcoming public meetings. Update on Alaska Federal Lands Long Range Transportation Plan.

TRACK: CONSTRUCTION / OPERATIONS / MAINTENANCE

Title: The Hows and Whys of Trail Maintenance
Presenters: Mike Shields - Technical Consultant

Description: An overview of the primary tasks involved in routine annual maintenance, how it differs from rehab and reconstruction, task frequency and continuity, particular tools and skills required, and what happens when it is not done regularly. The presenter will show what factors influence the intensity of the maintenance effort on any given trail and how we might get maintenance done when there is no dedicated funding for it.
TRACK: ADVOCACY / FUNDING

Title: Emerging Technology: E-Bikes
Presenters: Cary Shiflea – Owner, Alaska E-Bikes
            Kevin Murphy

Description: E-bikes are an emerging technology to which land managers and trail users are adjusting. Come hear about the technology and how E-bikes will interface with current trail infrastructure.

TRACK: PARTNERSHIPS / VOLUNTEERING

Title: Youth Working on Trails
Presenters: Annie DuBois – Youth Employment in Parks Program Coordinator, Anchorage Park Foundation
            Brad Muir – Natural Resource Manager, Municipality of Anchorage
            Jeff Samuels – Partnership Director, Student Conservation Association - AK
            Eileen Kazura – Education Program Director, Alaska Geographic

Description: Involving youth in trail construction not only teaches them valuable skills, but it also develops the next generation of trail advocates. Panelists will discuss the lessons they have learned while working with youth and the great opportunities that come from working with young people.

Breakout Sessions – Thursday, April 26th, 2:45 PM – 4:00PM

TRACK: TRAIL DESIGN / LAYOUT

Title: Digital Maps and New Map Technology
Presenters: Tom Bickauskas – State Lead for Recreation, NLCS and W&SR - BLM Alaska
            Tina Miller – Senior Geographic Information Officer – Municipality of Anchorage

Description: The Bureau of Land Management - Alaska, has created Digital Public Information Maps for areas that contain BLM-managed land. A BLM representative will explain the process for creating, approving and distributing these new maps.

The Municipality of Anchorage Geographic Data and Information Center is focused on ensuring authoritative content with the highest degree of access. The mapping platform for Anchorage has been rebuilt, with new information available for businesses and residents alike.
TRACK: CONSTRUCTION / OPERATIONS / MAINTENANCE

Title: Soil erosion and off-highway vehicle stream crossings in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley
Presenters: Kristina Fillman - Alaska Pacific University, Environmental Science grad student

Description: Nearly one in four Americans participate in off-highway vehicle use every year. The number of potential riders using the trails each year can affect soil erosion, water quality, rider safety, and habitat fragmentation. The Matanuska-Susitna Valley in southcentral Alaska has been selected for this study, because of its abundance of water bodies and recreational trails. A total of seven recreational trails have been selected, with differing water bodies and user groups. Trail-based soil erosion that occurs near stream crossings represents a non-point source of pollution to streams, which can harm aquatic life, disrupt salmonid spawning habitat, and increase water-treatment costs. GIS data, which includes past aerial imagery, current satellite imagery, and drone footage, will be used to quantify the changes in trail density from 1949 to present day to evaluate soil erosion rates. Water quality sampling will test for turbidity, BOD, and NO3, in accordance with best management practices. Flow rates, rainfall and temperature, in addition to changes in trail slope will provide a baseline of erosion rates across trail types for a summer season. This soil erosion and water quality research will be useful for recreational trail management to ensure the sustainability of the growing off-highway vehicle population in southcentral Alaska.

TRACK: ADVOCACY / FUNDING

Title: Measuring Trail Use
Presenters: Paul Twardock – Director of the Institute of Culture and Environment and Professor of Outdoor Studies at Alaska Pacific University
James Sowerwine – Super Volunteer, Alaska Trail Stewards
Kim Carpenter – Municipality of Anchorage

Description: Counting trail usage is the best way to make sure trails count. Demonstrating data that show the importance of trails to communities will not only serve to highlight the health, economic and social benefits of trails, but will also show why trails need continued investment. This panel will highlight several ways trail usage can be measured and how that data can be best used.

TRACK: PARTNERSHIPS / VOLUNTEERING

Title: BIG Ideas for Trails: Alaska Long Trails
Presenters: Nate Sievert - Alaska Long Trails
Nat Haslett – Alaska Long Trails
Description: How can Alaska capitalize on global demand for destination long trails? From the Appalachian and Pacific Crest Trails to the hut-to-hut circuits of Europe and New Zealand, routes supporting extended outdoor travel attract growing numbers of adventurers each year. An update on the Trans-Alaska Trail project will introduce a conversation on leveraging existing land and water rights-of-way to establish Alaska’s own world-class long trails.

Breakout Sessions – Friday, April 27th, 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

TRACK: TRAIL DESIGN / LAYOUT

Title: Basic Terrain Dynamics – Terrain as the Ultimate Control
Presenter: Mike Shields - Technical Consultant

Description: A brief look at the nature and basic mechanics of the ground we build trails across. Treats that ground as a dynamic "structure" and covers slope stability (including on flat ground), soil mechanics, terrain surface and subsurface hydrology, the roles of bedrock and vegetation, all these factors in combination, and surface indicators of subsurface phenomena. Stress is on using this knowledge effectively in the selection of trail routes, structures and drainage systems that work for rather than against ground stability.

TRACK: CONSTRUCTION / OPERATIONS / MAINTENANCE

Title: Making it Work: The Evolution of Trails in Chugach State Park
Presenter: Pete Panarese – Chugach State Park - Retired
Blaine Smith – Chugach State Park - Retired
Joe Hall – Chugach State Park, Trails Specialist

Description: What do you do when you wake up and realize a majority of your trail system is completely unsustainable? This panel of current and former State Park trail managers will discuss the many successes and failures of one of Alaska’s most iconic trail systems. Learn about what the park inherited upon its creation, the challenges of wilderness trails in an urban environment, trails that do more harm than good, the push towards sustainability in the park, the social dynamics around fall-line trails and where the park is heading. Rarely do we have the chance to build our trail systems from the ground up on a blank slate, learn from real-world evolution of trails in Chugach State Park.
TRACK: ADVOCACY / FUNDING

Title: The Alaska Forest Fund
Presenter: Patrick Shannon - Pacific Northwest Director for the National Forest Foundation

Description: The Alaska Forest Fund is an innovative collaboration between the National Forest Foundation and the US Forest Service. Hear how it got started and the success it is having working on trails across the state.

TRACK: PARTNERSHIPS / YOUTH

Title: Kenai Trails Update
Presenters: Lia Slemons – Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area
Bill Holt – Tsaltesshi Trails

Description: Panelists will discuss the challenges, successes and lessons learned in building and maintaining trails in the Kenai. Topics will include past and present projects, collaborations and partnerships, funding and sustainability.

TRACK: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Title: Plans, Projects and Making Connections: Fish Creek Trail and Wayfinding
Presenters: Robert Devassie – Senior Transportation Engineer, Alaska DOT&PF
Brooke Blessing – Project Management and Engineering, Municipality of Anchorage
Kevin Jackson – Alaska DOT&PF

Description: Presenters will highlight the South Fish Creek Trail Rehabilitation and the Fish Creek Trail Connection both of which are in the Spenard area of Anchorage. The projects include many improvements to the trails - including connecting up with a new section of pathway at the Northwood Park, improving connectivity for the community. The connection project will also construct a new section of trail and pedestrian bridge between Spenard Road and Northwood Drive.

More information can be found at the Trails Rehabilitation website.
Breakout Sessions – Friday, April 27th, 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

TRACK: TRAIL DESIGN / LAYOUT

Title: Trails for the Soul: Aesthetics, Artistry and Trail Design
Presenter: Mark Gronewald - Trailwerx

Description: Most of us agree that trail design is both a science and an art. There have been many classes about the science; this one is about the art. In this presentation we take a peek into the cranium of a typical trail user, review lessons learned from landscaping styles of earlier cultures, and identify effective ways to subtly delight the visual senses, enhance satisfaction, minimize conflict, and reduce human-caused trail degradation.”

JOINT INTERACTIVE SESSION

TRACK: ADVOCACY / FUNDING
TRACK: PARTNERSHIP / YOUTH
TRACK: CONSTRUCTION

Title: Trail Advocacy, Connections and Consensus
Presenter: Lee Hart – Principal, Valdez Adventure Alliance
Kristine Bunnell – Former Alaska Trails board member

Description: Come prepared to participate in this exciting interactive session that starts with a brief overview of the Confluence Coalition and progress made during a fly-in to Juneau to raise awareness for the outdoor recreation economy. Then we'll roll into a facilitated discussion aimed at developing a list of goals and trail priorities from around the state. We'll turn your input into a report that can be used to persuade local and state officials to provide more financial and political support for trails.

TRACK: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Title: Continuous Routes for Walking & Biking - Completing the Network
Presenters: Brian Looney, PE – CRW Engineering Group
Colin Singleton, PE – CRW Engineering Group
Christi Meyn, EIT - CRW Engineering Group
Kelly Yanoshek, EIT – CRW Engineering Group

Description: CRW Engineering Group will present on several projects all with the focus on how Anchorage can connect biking and walking resources better, overcoming obstacles and completing the network that will enable more and safer Active Transportation. Presenters will share their experience working on a continuous bicycle and pedestrian corridor through Mountain View and Russian Jack. The AMATS projects on Pine Street, McCarrey Street, Mountain View Drive and Peterkin Boulevard provide a missing bicycle connection and address some of the obstacles pedestrians face along the corridor. They will provide an overview of the
development of Bike Maps for Anchorage and MatSu.

In addition, they will provide a brief overview of the League of American Bicyclists’ Smart Cycling education program and how Anchorage and other communities can benefit from the program.

**Breakout Sessions – Friday, April 27th, 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM**

**TRACK: CONSTRUCTION / OPERATIONS / MAINTENANCE**

**Title:** Accessible Trail Design  
**Presenters:** Ira Edwards –  
Roy Wahl  
Jared Zimmerman – **Crew Leader, National Park Service - Denali**

**Description:** Coming Soon!

**TRACK: ADVOCACY / FUNDING**

**Title:** Funding Trails – Bonds, Budgets and Beers  
**Presenters:** Beth Nordlund – **Executive Director, Anchorage Park Foundation**  
Erik Boraas – **Executive Director, Trail Mix Inc. – Juneau**  
Andy Schroeder – **Executive Director, Island Trails Network - Kodiak**

**Description:** Trail groups are coming up with more and more creative ways to raise money – both for their organizations and for trail projects in general. Come hear about recent bond initiatives, summer concerts, beer sponsorship and film festivals – all in an effort to build, maintain and sustain trails and trail organizations.

**TRACK: PARTNERSHIPS / YOUTH**

**Title:** Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update  
**Presenters:** Marcheta Moulton – **State of Alaska DOT**  
Renee Whitesell – **Planner, DOWL**

**Description:** The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is creating a Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and associated supporting documents to articulate the long- and medium-range bicycle and pedestrian transportation planning needs of the state.
The driving force behind the development of the Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan comes down to five (5) key components: 1. There is no current plan in place., 2. Biking in Alaska is becoming more popular., 3. There is significant unmet need for safe streets., 4. Tourists that visit Alaska typically do not use a car., 5. Safety needs to be a priority.

Find more information at: http://akbikeped.com

**TRACK: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION**

**Title:** Walkability and Walk Audits  
**Presenter:** Joni Wilm – Senior Transportation Planner – Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator  
Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions  
Robert Devassie – Senior Transportation Engineer, Alaska DOT&PF  
Jessica Smith – Planner, Mat-Su Borough

**Description:** Walking is not alternative transportation. It is original transportation. Participants fresh from the Walkability Action Institute - April 9 - 12, 2018 in Decatur, Georgia will share their experience and knowledge. The institute, sponsored by the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, believes all states and communities should be designed to support physical activity and non-motorized forms of transportation so that people can have the policy, system, and environmental (PSE) supports needed to engage in active lifestyles, whether recreationally or through essential daily functions like commuting to and from work, to community destinations, and/or places of interest (community events, schools, shopping, etc.).

The Mat-Su Borough's Jessica Smith will share how the Borough is using walkability training and walk audits. The session will conclude with a facilitated discussion among participants on what this means for their communities and how they can tie their trails efforts to broader themes of walkability.

**Breakout Sessions – Friday, April 27th, 2:30 PM – 3:45 PM**

**TRACK: TRAIL DESIGN / LAYOUT**

**Title:** Contractors' Roundtable: How to Get Beautiful Trails  
**Presenters:** Christine Byl – Interior Trails  
Mark Gronewald – Trailwerx  
Gabe Travis – Interior Trails  
Jon Underwood – Happy Trails
Description: The trails conversation often focuses on funding, sustainability, and logistics, but taking a good trail to a great one is an art. Join four contractors in discussing what to ask for and what to look for if you want to get aesthetic trails.

**TRACK: CONSTRUCTION / OPERATIONS / MAINTENANCE**

**Title:** When Sustainable Design Doesn’t Work  
**Presenters:** Mike Shields - Technical Consultant

Description: Discussion of where, when and why some elements of “Sustainable Trail Design” do not work as they’re supposed to. Can such failures be anticipated before layout and construction, and are there ways to compensate for their absence as a design element? Are there any effective corrective actions available when such failures occur after construction?

**TRACK: ADVOCACY / FUNDING**

**Title:** The Iditarod Turns 40!!!  
**Presenter:**  
Kevin Keeler – BLM  
Karen Kromrey – USFS  
Judy Bittner – State of Alaska

Description: Alaska’s iconic Iditarod Trail turns 40 this year and the National Trail System turns 50. Panelist will highlight the interesting history of the Iditarod and some great projects that will be happening – this summer and into the future – to ensure that the Iditarod's next 40 years are great.

**TRACK: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION**

**Title:** Anchorage Vision Zero - Streets should be safe for everyone.  
**Presenters:** Wende Wilber AICP PTP - Principal, Kittelson & Associates  
Andrew Ooms PE - Senior Engineer, Kittelson & Associates

Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate all traffic-related fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. We know that in Anchorage, traffic collisions disproportionately impact people who walk and bike.

Description: The Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) is applying a data driven, systems-based approach to develop a Vision Zero Action Plan. Findings from the data analysis will be presented including maps of the
“high injury” corridors and intersections and the underlying causes of deaths and severe injuries on our roadways (what’s happening, why, when, to whom). Identifying where crashes occur repeatedly and why they are happening affords the opportunity to prioritize scarce funding in areas where it’s needed most. While still in development for the Action Plan, the presentation will include an overview of the countermeasures toolkit that applies National Best Practices in engineering, education, enforcement to local conditions. All solutions will be equity-based and as such public engagement has been targeted to reach the most vulnerable populations with a strong emphasis on social equity.

Saturday, April 28th – Mountain Bike Trails!

KEYNOTE SESSIONS:

Title: Ramping UP Trail Use

Date/Time: Saturday, April 28th 9:15am -10:00 am

Presenters: John Hunter, American Ramp Company

Description: Coming Soon!!!

Breakout Session – Saturday, April 28th, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

TRACK: MOUNTAIN BIKES / TRAIL BUILDING

Title: Risk Management for Mountain Bike Trails

Presenter: Maeve Nevins-Lavtar – Park Planner, Municipality of Anchorage
          Sam Severin – Attorney, Municipality of Anchorage

Description: Mountain Bike trails are exploding in popularity in Alaska. More trails are being built every year and there are lessons to learn about the risks those trails have, and how land managers can assess and manage those risks. Using local projects and other single-track examples, the presenters will highlight the lessons they have learned that can be applied to future projects – both from the perspective of the land manager and the trail group.
Breakout Sessions – **Saturday, April 28th, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**TRACK: MOUNTAIN BIKES / TRAIL BUILDING**

**Title:** Single track Roundtable - New Trails, New Ideas  
**Presenter:** Various presenters TBD

**Description:** Building off the fall Mountain Bike Summit that occurred in Anchorage, mountain bike groups from around the state will showcase what they have done AND what they are hoping to do in the future. Focus will be on what we can do together – to share resources, ideas and strategies to get more trails built and maintained.

Breakout Sessions – **Saturday, April 28th, 12:30 PM – 1:45 PM**

**TRACK: MOUNTAIN BIKES / TRAIL BUILDING**

**Title:** Sustainable Mountain Bike Trails: Where Form Meets Fun  
**Presenter:** Jon Underwood – Happy Trails

**Description:** How does a mountain bike trail differ from other sustainable trails? What features make it fun and interesting? We will explore this in a short classroom session and then take a field trip to the Hillside mountain bike trails to see how it looks in design and construction.

FIELD TRIP – **Saturday, April 28th, 2:00pm – 4:00pm**

**TRACK: MOUNTAIN BIKES / TRAIL BUILDING**

**Title:** FIELD TRIP – Hillside Trails  
**Presenter:** Jon Underwood – Happy Trails

**Description:** Building off the previous session, participants will join Jon Underwood on a walk through the Hillside mountain bike trails – both existing and yet to be built trails - to see how it looks in design and construction.