

# 2018 Statewide Trails Conference Keynote and Breakout Details



## THURSDAY KEYNOTE SESSION:

**Title:** The Power of Volunteers on Trails

**Date/Time:** Thursday April 26th, 9:15 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. Blaine will showcase some of the past projects of the Alaska Trail Stewards and set the stage for the great work that will happen in the 2018 season.

---

## 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 NO<sub>3</sub>, 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](#)

**Presenter:** [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 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 – *Tsalteshi Trails*

**Description:** Panelists will discuss the challenges, successes and lessons learned in building and maintain 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 27<sup>th</sup>, 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:** Trails that accommodate all users will be the focus for this panel, highlighting what has happened in the past and the philosophical basis for inclusive trails. Speakers will highlight how Alaska can increase such trails with some specific examples.

### 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*



**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.

## **FRIDAY KEYNOTE SESSION:**

**Title:** UAA Engineering Student Presentations

**Date/Time:** Friday April 27th, 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

**Presenters:** Professor Osama Abaza  
UAA Engineering Students

**Description:** UAA engineering students team up with various partners for in-depth projects that seek solutions for trail and other projects. Students will present on several projects they have worked on.

## Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> – Mountain Bike Trails!

### **SATURDAY KEYNOTE SESSION:**

**Title:** Ramping UP Trail Use

**Date/Time:** Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 9:15am -10:00 am

**Presenters:** John Hunter, American Ramp Company

**Description:** John Hunter has over 10 years of experience in the development of parks and recreation infrastructure with a primary focus on action sports development. He has been a part of hundreds of skate and bike park projects in communities throughout the world. Recently John has been focused on working with communities to build Bicycle Playgrounds for kids and beginner cyclists. His presentation will focus on such facilities can be the bridge to getting a new generation on bikes and to teaching them the basics of mountain biking and biking in general.

### **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 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 28<sup>th</sup>, 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.

