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.

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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
Joe Hall – Trails Specialist, Chugach State Park
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
TBD –

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 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.

MORE COMING SOON
TRACK: CONSTRUCTION / OPERATIONS / MAINTENANCE

Title: Emerging Technology - Drones
Presenters: TBD

Description: Drones can survey and map an area to a fine detail for various types of construction. Certified drone pilots that have been employing their skills for clients around the state. Come and see what drones may be able to do for trails and land managers.

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 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:** The Evolution of Chugach State Park  
**Presenter:** Pete Panarese – Chugach State Park - Retired  
Blaine Smith – Chugach State Park - Retired  
Joe Hall – Chugach State Park, Trails Specialist

**Description:** As big as many national parks and right on Anchorage’s back doorstep, Chugach State Park is often the first choice for trail users in the Anchorage area – as well as visitors from around and out of the state. But it was always a state park. Eklutna Lake was the site for military maneuvers involving hundreds of soldiers. How did this park develop? What does its future hold and what can other land managers learn? Come hear and enjoy the decades of experience this panel possesses.

**TRACK: ADVOCACY / FUNDING**

**Title:** The Alaska Forest Fund  
**Presenter:** TBD

**Description:** The Alaska Forest Fund is an innovative collaboration between the US Forest Service and the National Forest Foundation. 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 Mountain Turnagain Arm Heritage Area  
Bill Holt – Tsalteshi 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:** Coming Soon!

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**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
           TBD

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: TRAIL DESIGN / LAYOUT

Title: Stages of Trail Design and Layout
Presenter: Jon Underwood – Owner, Happy Trails

Description: Coming Soon!

**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: 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.

Breakout Sessions – Saturday, April 28th, 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

TRACK: TRAIL DESIGN / CONSTRUCTION

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: VOLUNTEERING ON TRAILS

Title: Volunteer Success Stories
Presenters: Steve Cleary – Executive Director, Alaska Trails
           Eileen Kazura – Education Program Director, Alaska Geographic
           Joe Hall – Trails Specialist, Chugach State Park

Description: Volunteers are increasingly doing more and more important work on trails in Alaska. As budgets shrink this will only increase. Presenters will highlight some past successes and 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.

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: Coming Soon!!

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

TRACK: TRAIL DESIGN / CONSTRUCTION

Title: The Stages of Trail Projects - Design, Build, Maintain
Presenters: TBD

Description: Coming soon!!

TRACK: VOLUNTEERING ON TRAILS

Title: Volunteers from the Land Manager Perspective
Presenter: Joe Hall – Chugach State Park

Description: COMING SOON!!!
**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.

**Joint INTERACTIVE Sessions – Saturday, April 28th, 2:30 PM – 3:45 PM**

**Title:** Volunteers Plugging into 2018 Projects

**Description:** VOLUNTEER SIGN-UPS FOR SUMMER PROJECTS

Alaska Trails has been a leader in bringing parties together to collaborate on harnessing volunteers in trail stewardship. The Alaska Trail Stewards (ATS) is one such effort to train and retain committed volunteers to maintain trails. We’ve all heard the news about the State of Alaska and the impending budget deficits. Now it’s time for us to roll up our sleeves and get to work. Your ideas are not only necessary but imperative for this discussion.

**Title:** Mountain Bikes in Alaska - Plan for follow up

**Description:** Building Momentum and Leadership for Mountain Bike trails in Alaska!

Alaska has a growing contingent of great mountain bike trail and inspiring groups and individuals trying to do more. Let’s take the time to plan next steps for following up on this great momentum to harness the experience and drive and plan for more trails in the future.