



NEWSLETTER

MAY
2023

PO Box 100627; Anchorage, AK 99510-0264

907/334-8049

www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

TRAILS CONFERENCE KICKS OFF THE TRAIL SEASON IN APRIL

Alaska Trails was excited to bring participants back together for the 2023 Alaska Statewide Trails Conference, April 12-14, at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage, with most sessions shared via Zoom. The session presentations and videos are available at: www.alaska-trails.org/conference-archive-links.

Wednesday's presentations set the groundwork for the conference with a session on Sustainable Trails 101 and a longer session on trail funding. Jon Underwood, owner of Happy Trails and past president of the Professional Trail Builders Association, taught participants the basics for sustainable trail design. State parks employees laid out the grant opportunities available across the state. The Chugach Park Fund shared their recent success with grants and other fundraising, and the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) outlined how their assistance helps trail projects.

Thursday began with a panel discussion on an Office of Outdoor Recreation with experts from Michigan and Utah as well as the Outdoor Industry Association. Lee Hart of the Alaska Outdoor Alliance led the discussion which included a video from Sen. Loki Tobin. Other Thursday sessions included updates on the Alaska Long Trail, the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the Tongass Sustainable Trails Strategy, and updates on projects in Homer, Soldotna, and Kodiak.



On Friday, the sessions began with a keynote from Kim Frederick of Chinook Associates. Kim's over 40 years of trail experience provided a great baseline for how to organize a trail program, recruit good people and give them the training they need. He was followed by three Alaskans – Blaine Smith, Christine Byl and Gabe Travis – who further focused on how to train great crew leaders in Alaska.

Community groups from around the state presented next including the Kenai Peninsula Back Country Horsemen's Association and the Alaska Recreation and Parks Association. The day closed with sessions on: How to Break Rock, Trails as Transportation, Invasive Species and Map Technology.

Alaska Trails would like to extend a special thank you to all the presenters who took the time to share their knowledge and expertise.

In addition, Alaska Trails is grateful to the Conference Sponsors who have been consistent supporters of the event throughout the years.

BIG THANKS TO THE RACE ACROSS ALASKA WINTER CHALLENGE

Alaska Trails is, once again, very grateful for the overwhelming support from the Race Across Alaska Winter Challengers, including Race Director Heather Helzer and all the participants.

In the 2022-23 race, 2,688 racers logged their miles from the Winter Solstice in December through the Spring Equinox in March. They raced distances to match the Alaska Long Trail and much more, with the longest being the distance from Ketchikan to Deadhorse – 2,000 miles.

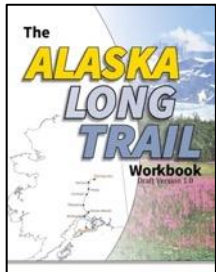
In addition to the RAAWC donating a portion of the entry fees for each participant, racers were invited to make an additional donation – AND they sure did! Those extra donations from the racers totaled over \$25,000. The entire donation to Alaska Trails for the Alaska Long Trail project = \$56,001 – WOW!

We are excited to continue the momentum on the Long Trail with this great support, especially to be working on current projects and future planning for new segments.



PHOTOS, INPUT NEEDED FOR ALASKA LONG TRAIL WORKBOOK

SEND PHOTOS Interested in the Alaska Long Trail route details? A draft of the Alaska Long Trail



Workbook has been put together and is now available for you to peruse! This living document is a compilation of proposed routes that identifies existing trails, potential issues and areas of trail that need work, gaps in the route, and analyzes routes to determine their “time of completion” and difficulty:

<https://www.alaska-trails.org/workbook-draft>

The workbook is still a working draft, and we would appreciate your help in making it more complete! Do you have high resolution photographs you'd be willing to share from portions of the Alaska Long Trail route? Please contact

xlopez1818@gmail.com.

ALASKA TRAIL STEWARDS NEED YOU FOR A NEW SEASON

VOLUNTEER Are you getting excited for summer hiking and trail work? We sure are! A National Forest Foundation grant helped us build new tread on the Iditarod National Historic Trail in Chugach National Forest last year, in partnership with Alaska Geographic. During one volunteer event alone, Alaska Trail Stewards volunteers and Alaska Geographic youth constructed 300 feet of tread, making the trail safer, more sustainable, and more enjoyable for all! We are planning two volunteer events in the Chugach National Forest for this coming summer, and we hope you'll consider joining us!

We'll have other volunteer events as well. Find out more on our Alaska Trail Stewards Program page:



<https://www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-trail-stewards>

SUPPORT NEEDED FOR ALASKA LONG TRAIL IN THE STATE BUDGET

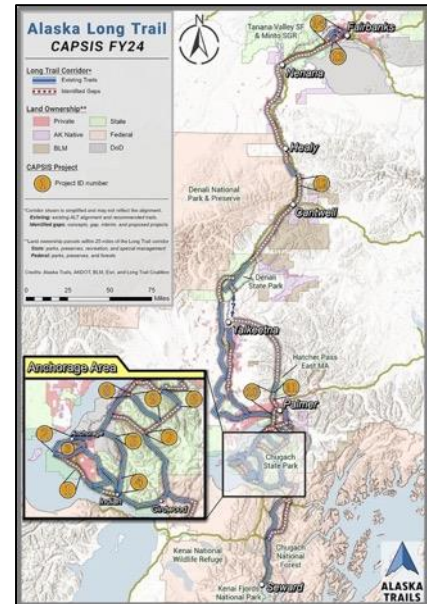
ADVOCATE Alaska Trails and our partners have recently submitted 14 Alaska Long Trail projects into FY24 state capital budget, totaling \$9.5 million. These projects will fill key shovel-ready and planning-ready gaps in the section between Anchorage and Fairbanks. The 14 projects include:

- Building new non-motorized trails
- Existing multi-use trail improvements
- Planning studies to identify links between segments
- Improving trail access and parking
- Wayfinding and cultural heritage
- Separated highway paths for safe non-motorized travel

You can find more information, including the specific projects here:

<https://tinyurl.com/97e6zmfc>

Please consider supporting some or all these projects by writing letters to your state legislators: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/long-trail-support>



ALASKA TRAILS HAS TOOL TRAILERS READY FOR TRAIL PROJECTS



BORROW As you start planning trail building and maintenance projects, remember that Alaska Trails has mobile tool caches available to loan to organized trail groups in Southcentral and Interior Alaska. One cache is in the Fairbanks area and the other is in Anchorage/Mat-Su Valley area.

The trailers have a bunch of trail tools including McLeods, Pulaskis, rakes, gloves, and much, much more. If you would like to borrow one of the caches, please contact us (info on masthead).

SPRING TRAILS ARE VULNERABLE, PLEASE USE WITH CARE

TREAD LIGHTLY Alaska Trails asks that you please keep in mind how your trail activities might affect other trail users, especially in the spring.

As snow melts and the ground thaws, the trails become extremely muddy. Using muddy trails at this time can result in ruts that stay all summer when the trails dry out. Those ruts can make the trails difficult to use all summer and into the next winter. They help create erosion by keeping water on the trails.

But with a little thought this problem can be greatly reduced.

- **Try to be patient.** Stay off the trails if you can. If you are unsure if a trail is ready to be used, check it out with the commitment to turn back if you are doing too much damage.
- **Choose low impact.** If you use the trails in several different ways, choose the method of travel that will cause the least amount of damage if you do run into some muddy sections.
- **Pick your trails carefully.** Use well-drained trails with lots of southern exposure. They typically dry out the quickest. If you just have to get muddy, please limit your activities to trails that are already



thrashed.

- **Help them drain.** Sometimes just a well-placed boot heel can drain ponded water off a trail. Even more permanent drainage can be provided with a shovel, Pulaski or McLeod. Getting pooled water off the trail helps them dry out.

An alternative to using trails in the spring is to get out on foot or by bike and go explore quiet subdivision roads new to you. You get to be outside, be active, and probably find out new things about your community.

Photo: Erosion on a popular trail in the Chugach State Park as seen on September 9, 2020 (Lex Treinen/Alaska Public Media)

SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

April 20: On this #ThankfulThursday, we would like to say a big thank you to the 327 donors who have pledged over \$21,000 to Alaska Trails through Pick. Click. Give! We will continue to advocate for your Alaskan trails, building new ones, maintaining old ones, and connecting the trail community across the state. You can adjust and add pledges until August 31 by logging into your myalaska account: <https://my.alaska.gov/>



STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY EVENT REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

REGISTER Join us on June 3, 2023, for National Trails Day. Connect with more people in your area who share your love of being outside.

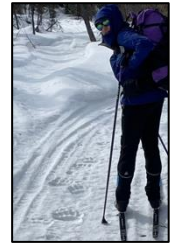
Each year, National Trails Day reaches millions of people through advertising, social media, and word of mouth. Registering an event on the official National Trails Day event site is a great opportunity to connect to new and existing trail users in your community who are looking for outdoor events.

Register your event here: <https://americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/host-information/>

WATCH FOR BEARS, MOOSE CALVES WHEN OUT ON THE TRAILS

It's calving season for the moose and things can get dangerous really fast when you surprise a moose or get too close and the mama decides it's time to protect her young. And, of course, bears are out of hibernation and active. To learn how to avoid surprising animals and deal with uncomfortable or dangerous situations, check out these resources:

- www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livewith.moose
- www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/Wildlife.aspx



Also, check out this Alaska Science Forum column on early rising bears: <https://tinyurl.com/3sz8nybt>

Ned Rozell photo: Bear tracks on a trail in the Chena River State Recreation Area

ALASKA STATE PARKS POSITIONS CAN INCLUDE TRAIL WORK

Alaska State Parks has a variety of seasonal positions through its the Alaska Conservation Corps (ACC), which are paid jobs, and its volunteer program. Tasks will vary and may include trail work, maintenance, fee station, or office work. Most positions begin in late May or early June. For more information see:

- ACC: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/misc/accinstr.htm>
- Volunteer Program: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/vip/index.htm>

WATCH FOR BIRD NESTS WHEN WORKING ON TRAILS

Trail work sometimes requires downing trees or clearing shrubs. When doing so make sure not to violate



the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which makes it illegal for anyone to “take” migratory birds, their eggs, feathers, or nests. “Take” includes destroying or damaging active bird nests or eggs. Different areas of the state have different sensitive periods generally occurring between April 15 and July 25. However, if you encounter an active nest at any time leave it in place and protected until young hatch and depart. “Active” is indicated by intact eggs, live chicks, or the presence of an adult on the nest.

For more information and recommended time periods for avoiding vegetation clearing see:

www.fws.gov/alaska-bird-nesting-season

Photo from Denali 101: www.denali101.com/denalinationalpark/birds_of_denali.html

HELP SLOW CLIMATE CHANGE: FIX YOUR GEAR, PATAGONIA ACTION

Climate changes affects everyone, including trail lovers.

For winter trail lovers, a warming climate can mean shorter snow seasons, and more extreme events like snow droughts and rain-on-snow events. For summer trail lovers, climate change can bring more droughts, wildfires, flooding, and permafrost thawing, all of which can hurt trails and the lands through which they run. These impacts will just get worse unless we slow climate change, which means we need to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate change may seem like an overwhelming problem, but we humans created it one step at a time, and we can solve it that way, too. Let’s do what we can to ensure that future winters still have usable snow for us and for our children, grandchildren, and beyond.

Here are some things you can do right now to help make a difference.

Use Patagonia Action Works



Patagonia
Action
Works

For almost 40 years, Patagonia has supported grassroots activists working to find solutions to the environmental crisis. But in this time of unprecedented threats, it’s often hard to know the best way to get involved. Patagonia Action Works connects individuals with environmental organizations, to take action on the most pressing issues facing the world today.

<https://www.patagonia.com/actionworks/home/choose-location/>

Take a personal action

Fix or patch your outdoor (and other) gear rather than buying new. Eventually, gear must be replaced, but see how long you can make what you have last. If treated properly, good gear can last a long time. Or consider buying used. Fewer things being manufactured, means less energy being used to make them. It also means fewer things ending up in the garbage. Here are some resources:

- To fix your gear: <https://www.ifixit.com/>
- How to Repair Your Outdoor Gear: <https://www.adventureprotocol.com/repairing-outdoor-gear/>
- 8 Tips for Fixing Your Gear: <https://www.gearaid.com/blogs/learn/8-tips-for-fixing-your-gear-on-the-go>
- Repair Your Camping Gear: <https://backpackers.com/outdoor-guides/how-to-repair-camping-gear/>
- Buy Used Gear: 5 Best Sites to Shop: <https://gearjunkie.com/news/where-to-buy-used-outdoor-gear>



- Where To Buy Used Outdoor Gear: <https://www.theplanetedit.com/used-outdoor-gear/>
- Used Outdoor Gear: <https://www.thecoolist.com/used-outdoor-gear-stores/>

SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA STATE PARKS

April 21: From our Denali State Park Staff: This time of year can be incredibly stressful for our moose throughout the Denali State Park area. 😞 😞

Each spring moose are at the end of their winter survival curve. The snow is deep, and their winter reserves are diminished. Think of it as an energy budget that is about to expire. With low energy reserves moose tend to become more aggressive or unwilling to leave an area or trail.



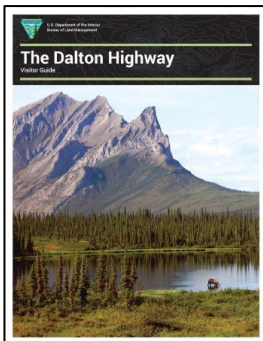
These types of encounters may result in injury to yourself or damage to your equipment. When encountering moose please remember to give them their space to reduce human wildlife conflict and to help them make it into the spring season. In the end, by avoiding areas of high moose concentrations we ensure a healthy population for future recreational pursuits and keep ourselves safe in the process.

Thank you for your consideration!

Photo by JLS Photography

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

April 25: Planning a trip up the Dalton Highway this summer? 🚗 🚌 🚲 We're getting ready to welcome you on an unforgettable journey to the far north – across the mighty Yukon River, past the Arctic Circle, through the heart of the Brooks Range, and beyond!



The #Arctic Interagency Visitor Center in Coldfoot will open for the season on Saturday, May 27. Stop in to see our award-winning exhibits, talk with friendly, knowledgeable staff, or join in a ranger program! Learn more at <http://ow.ly/GxVU50NJBjW>

Eager to go camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, or gold panning? There are many things to do along the Dalton! For travel tips and more information, download and read through the Dalton Highway Visitor Guide:

<https://www.blm.gov/alaska/public-room/brochure/dalton-highway-visitor-guide>

STATEWIDE LINKS

- Advocates make economic case for improving Alaska's outdoor trails: <https://tinyurl.com/mr2mb3fb>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Lake Clark Skate Date (another Luc Mehl adventure): <https://tinyurl.com/mrxzc22m>
- BLM Seeks Input on Campground Fee Changes, New Public Cabins: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9dcuwu>
- Kotzebue to Kivalina (a Luc Mehl adventure) <https://thingstolucat.com/2023/04/26/kotzebue-to-kivalina/>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

CHUGACH PARK FUND DONORS HELP REBUILD EAGLE RIVER TRAIL

Thanks to our donors, the Chugach Park Fund this summer will rebuild the last three miles of the South Fork of Eagle River trail in Chugach State Park. The Rasmuson Foundation provided a \$115,000 matching grant, and through generous donations by ConocoPhillips Alaska and other donors, the project will go forward.

The South Fork work will be done by Alaska Trails, which will have a work crew camped near the trail for much of the summer. The trail runs from an Alaska State Park trailhead parking lot back about 5.5 miles to Symphony and Eagle Lakes and backcountry beyond. The first couple of miles of trails were rebuilt several years ago; the remaining three miles are often brushy, wet, and braided. The expectation is for the new trail to be well defined and well drained!



If you're hiking the trail this summer, be aware that trail work will occur for several weeks, but the trail is expected to remain open throughout the summer. Other work funded by the Chugach Park Fund this summer includes brushing work on several trails in the park, and minor drainage/maintenance work. More information on the fund, and a link for donations, is at <https://alaskacf.org/funds/chugach-park-fund/>

Photo courtesy of John Quinley: A typical area needing work.

NEW CONNECTING TRAIL PLANNED FOR SELDOVIA AREA

Bretwood Higman of Ground Truth Alaska had a post recently on the Tutka Backdoor Facebook page about a new trail-linking project in the Seldovia area:

We got our permit!

It's been a roughly 2-year process, but we now have a DNR permit to build trail between Seldovia and the Red Mountain Road. This will make the link - all public easements from Taylor Bay to Seldovia, 50 miles of trail.

And you can help! I'll be working on the trail from Aug 4 to 17, starting near Seldovia and working toward Graduation Peak. You can join in whenever you like in that timeframe. I generally recommend people, especially if you're new to trail building, join for at least 5 days so that you can learn some skills then put them into practice. Email me if you're interested (contact@groundtruthtrekking.org).

What we'll be doing:

- Laying out trail alignments
- Digging the trail into slopes, building tread and corners
- Chiseling steps into bedrock in some areas where the trail has to navigate small cliffs
- Cutting brush to reroute small sections of trail
- Making plank boardwalks in the wet spots

- "Trail gardening" to encourage species like ferns rather than salmonberries along the edge of the trail - this helps make it easier to keep it maintained.

If you're interested in trails this will be an opportunity to help out, and to learn about the theory and practice of sustainable trail-building. I find it tremendously fun and many of our volunteers keep coming back so I think I'm not the only one!

And if you can't come - any financial contributions are much appreciated! For volunteers joining in trail work we'll cover transportation to Seldovia as well as snacks (and tools) - donations help cover that. There are also some significant costs associated with the permitting process, so we could really use some help paying for that!



Photo: The view down from Graduation peak to Seldovia - the part of the trail we hope to get finished this year!

KODIAK TRAILS GROUP NEWSLETTER FULL OF ISLAND TRAIL NEWS

Island Trails Network in Kodiak has lots of news in its Spring 2023 Newsletter: a new executive director, several volunteer opportunities; and updates on several projects. Read the newsletter here:

<https://mailchi.mp/a7b08a97394c/spring2023newsletter?e=2e22dc9bcb>

TRAIL-RELATED PROPOSITIONS PASS IN ANCHORAGE ELECTION

Two trail-related propositions passed as part of the recent Anchorage election. Proposition A will fund improvements to the city's urban park and trail system and Proposition 6 will create a Chugach State Park Access Service Area for the Anchorage Bowl. Read more about these and other propositions that passed in this Alaska Current article: <https://tinyurl.com/3fvjwehv>

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA HUTS ASSOCIATION

March 21: Have you ever wondered about this map and the routes depicted on it are? Former Board member, the late Shawn Lyons either completed or imagined these as hiking routes in the Manitoba Hut area, and the route descriptions can be found in the "Selected Hikes" binder in the corner of the cabin.



HOMER TRAILS ALLIANCE



April 11: Trail work season is right around the corner, well, with any luck, in another month or two. We've been busy here on the ridge, skiing, fabricating boardwalks and mobilizing materials to work sites. If you have an interest in volunteering visit our web site <https://homertrailsalliance.org/> and choose volunteer.

FRIENDS OF KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARKS

March 29: REMINDER: Please fill out your 2023 State Parks/Friends volunteer packet now- so you can be added to the email list for 2023 volunteer opportunities!

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Oz-hQPPnbQLLvKIWdTDn367iLXwqHowo/view>

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Mat-Su draft bike, pedestrian plan will guide upcoming construction: <https://tinyurl.com/3357ut9s>
- Moose Loop Trail Challenge - Sign up Today! www.facebook.com/events/194867983252854/
- Anchorage Parks and Trails Attract and Retain a Quality Workforce: <https://tinyurl.com/yc479h3y>
- Unlocked funding to connect Anchorage's Coastal and Ship Creek trails: <https://tinyurl.com/3dpn452x>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

FAIRBANKS BOROUGH LOOKING FOR NEW TRAIL COORDINATOR

Want to support trails in the Fairbanks Borough in a big way? Consider applying for the Fairbanks Trail Coordinator position. Bryant Wright recently left the position, and the Parks and Recreation Department is looking for candidates. Look at the job posting and see if you have the minimum qualifications. Wright did a great job while in the position, so you've got a good foundation to work from.

Fairbanks Trails Coordinator job posting: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8tzejv>

To see what sorts of things are possible while in this position, read this article about Wright's time in the position: <https://tinyurl.com/hn3538ra>



Bryant Wright photo: Wright started the popular winter and summer trails challenges.

FAIRBANKS BORO ASSEMBLY SUPPORTS STEESE TRAIL TUNNEL

At a late April meeting, the Fairbanks Borough Assembly unanimously passed a resolution in favor of the Steese Expressway/Johansen Expressway Interchange Project including the Steese Expressway trail tunnel. Through the resolution, and using the "strongest legal language that the Borough Attorney would let them insert," the Assembly has let the Department of Transportation know that the borough wants the tunnel included, according to trails volunteer Bruce Jamieson.

Also, the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce recently passed a unanimous resolution of support for the trail tunnel, Jamieson said.

These are steps in a long journey. More needs to be worked out, including funding sources, but the project is moving forward. Thank you to everyone who expressed their support for the project to the Assembly. Your voice was loud, and it was heard.

For more information on this project, there are a couple of posts about it on the Interior Alaska Trails website:

<https://www.interioralaskatrails.org/>

Advocates are asking supporters of the project to thank the Assembly for letting DOT know the borough residents strongly support this project. Contact the Assembly here: <https://fnsb.gov/Directory.aspx?DID=64>

Graphic: Red square shows approximate location of tunnel and possible trail connections. Steese-Johansen intersection is at the bottom, Steese-Farmer's Loop intersection is at the top.



LAND TRUST TO HOLD MEETING ABOUT TRAILHEAD PROPOSAL

The Interior Alaska Land Trust will be holding a public meeting on May 20 regarding a trailhead proposal off Farmer's Loop Road.

The meeting will be held Saturday, May 20, from 1 to 3pm at Mushers Hall, 935 Farmers Loop Road. The trust is considering building a trailhead off Farmer's Loop Road near its intersection with Midnight Sun Street. The trailhead would access the trail network in Creamer's Field Migratory Wildlife Refuge, also known as the ADMA trails.

For more information call 907-699-2281.



Graphic: Green area shows approximate location of proposed trailhead.

OPEN HOUSE ON YANKOVICH/MILLER HILL ROAD PROJECT

An open house on the Yankovich Road/Miller Hill Road Reconstruction and Multi Use Path project will be held on Wednesday, May 3 at 5:30 p.m. at UAF U-Park Building, 1000 University Ave, Rm 156. The goal of this project is to make Yankovich and Miller Hill roads safer for all users.

Learn more about the open house and project here: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/yankovich-miller/>

PATH NEAR CHENA LAKE REC AREA TEMPORARILY REROUTED

A recreational pedestrian and bicycle path will be rerouted temporarily beginning April 26 at the Chena River Lakes Flood Control Project in North Pole.



The reroute is next to the Chena Lake Recreation Area.

Currently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Alaska District is preparing for the summer construction season with a focus on continuing work on the Moose Creek Dam Modification Project. A key component of this effort is to establish a concrete batch plant just north of Lake Park Road.

Due to the increased construction activity in this area, the bike path will be redirected from Lake Park Road to the South Access Road. The alternate route will ensure the safety of cyclists and pedestrians. Meanwhile, motorists are likely to encounter flaggers north of Lake Park Road.

“We appreciate the public’s patience and understanding as we resume construction,” said Justin Kerwin, senior park ranger for the Chena Project. “Our priority is to make improvements to the dam, but we still want to support our recreational users.”

To read more about the project see: <https://tinyurl.com/rqs87pv7>

From US Army Corps of Engineers press release

SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

EVENT BY ROVE CO

May 15th and 16th 2023 from 6-7:30 pm, we are partnering with Prospector Outfitters to host a two-day course where you will learn the basics of how to navigate with a map and compass. No electronics necessary! You will learn how to read a topographic map, how to orient your map using a compass, how to take compass bearings and translate them to a map, and how to follow a compass



bearing. Absolutely no experience required! Course materials will be provided by the instructor. Recommended to bring note taking material.

Cost of course is \$40 for both days and can be purchased at: <https://rovecooutdoors.com/.../map-and-compass-navigation...>

There are only 12 spots for this course. Please note that this class is only offered in person and in Fairbanks.

More info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/243943658034329/>

ALASKA STATE PARKS

April 25: **Northern Region alert**

All trails in the Chena River State Recreation Area will be CLOSED TO MOTORIZED USE from April 30th-May 26th. This is to allow the trails to dry out and minimize negative impacts to the resource.

Trails remain OPEN to human powered traffic (Foot, Ski, Snowshoe, etc.). Please plan accordingly as you will not be allowed to use motorized transportation to access public use cabins from April 30th-May 26th.

Thank you!



FAIRBANKS CYCLE CLUB

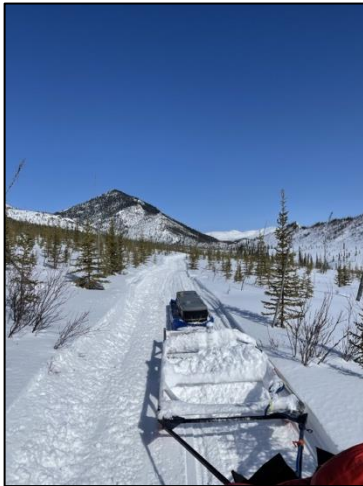
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Learn more about the open house and project here: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/yankovich-miller/>

BLM-WHITE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

April 20: ❄️ Trail Conditions Report ❄️

Winter is almost over in the White Mountains and the trail crew swept through the cabins this week to clean out accumulated trash/food, change out fire extinguishers and assess maintenance needs. From the Wickersham Dome Trailhead they went out the Trail Creek Trail to work on Lee's, Moose, Creek, Crowberry and Cache Mountain cabins. Then they went out the Wickersham Creek and Fossil Creek Trails to work on Borealis, Caribou Bluff and Windy Gap cabins.



👉 Read the detailed trail report here: www.blm.gov/visit/white-mountains/trail-update

The BLM's winter travel limitations end April 30, when we switch to the new summer travel limitations approved in October. To help visitors navigate the motor vehicle limitations, we made a new summer recreation georeferenced PDF map for the White Mountains.

👉 Check out the new map here: <https://tinyurl.com/y9rwzaky>

FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

April 12: The Salcha-Delta Soil and Water Conservation District has an online trail guide that includes trails in the Salcha-Delta area, toward Tok, and a couple on the Denali Highway. I just recently found

out they have book version. It is available at the district office in Delta Junction at Alaska Highway milepost 1420.5 in the Jarvis Building (second floor of the same building where the DMV/Troopers are), office number 219. The books are available for \$15 each, and acceptable payment is either check or cash.

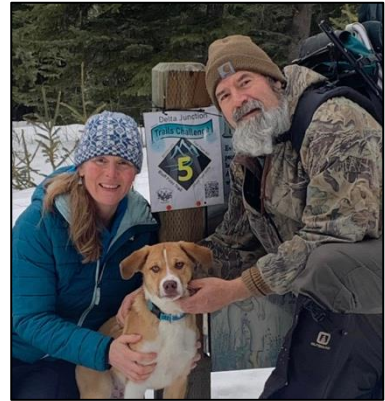
You can see the online version here: <https://www.salchadeltaswcd.org/trails/>

DELTA JUNCTION TRAILS ASSOCIATION

April 2: That's a wrap on this year's Winter Trails Challenge! Darren Bruning, Tracy Dunham, and Ellie Mason squeaked in just under the wire and finished since the last update - congrats! We had 49 folks sign up and 19 people finish.

Donnelly Flats trail (#3) was the hardest and 18 people found the sign for that one. Town Trails (#6) wasn't too difficult, but there are no signs at the trailhead and it is not as well known. Only 18 people found that one. Next was Bluff Cabin Trail (#4) with 22, Bluff Point (#5) with 24, and the Liewer and River Walk Park Trails were tied with 28. 12 people chose to substitute or add a 7th by picking their own trail.

It's encouraging to see so many people out and about in the winter! Let's plan on doing this again next year. Comment below for which trails you would like to see included and any other feedback you want to give.



INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- The Quintessential White Mountain Experience (fatbike): <https://tinyurl.com/45942n6m>
- A Tale of Two Trails: Same Trail, Different Days (fatbike): <https://tinyurl.com/mr46aae9>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

COMMENT SOUGHT ON KETCHIKAN'S WARD LAKE REC AREA PROJECT



Comments are due by May 5 on Ward Lake Recreation Area improvements near Ketchikan. Comments are being collected in the project's Environmental Assessment (EA) for several actions at the recreation area over the next 5 years to improve recreation experiences, safety, and habitat. Proposals include: a new cabin at both Signal Creek Campground and Perseverance Lake; repairs to roads, trails, signs, and shelters; stream and native vegetation restoration; and a new day use shelter at the Last Chance Campground. Full descriptions of each component are included in the EA.

To review the EA and additional information, go to <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=61319>. Submit comments to <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public//CommentInput?Project=61319>.

From What's Up? by Peg Tileston; photo from US Forest Service

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

TRAIL MIX, INC.



April 26: Are you ready for spring and summer hiking? 🥰👟

To prepare for the trails, make sure to check out our new Trail Guide. One of our favorite features of the Trail Guide is the cabin locator! 🏠 Booking a cabin has never been easier. Head to the guide, find the cabin you're interested in, click on it, and then follow the link to the cabin reservation page. ✨

You can find the guide at <https://trailmixinc.org/trails/>

April 25: Say goodbye to wobbly ladders and risky tree climbs! 🌲🪚 A pole saw is the ultimate tool for safely trimming high branches without leaving the ground. 🧠⚡

A pole saw is a type of power tool that is designed to help with pruning or trimming trees and other tall plants. 🌲 It is essentially a chainsaw blade that is mounted on a long pole, which allows the user to reach high branches without having to climb a ladder or use other specialized equipment. They are particularly useful for pruning trees that are too tall or too dense to be pruned with a regular chainsaw or pruning saw. 🪚

In this photo, a crew member holds up a pole saw on Perseverance Trail. The crew used the pole saw to clear away overhanging branches that impeded trail use.



April 20: The sun is shining and Juneauites are coming out of hibernation! 🐻☀️ While many trails are still snowy, there are quite a few that are ready for spring hiking! Here are a few of our favorite snow-free spots right now:

- 👉 Lena Point Trail
- ☀️ Point Louisa
- 👉 Mendenhall Peninsula Trail

Head to <https://trailmixinc.org/trails/> for more trail information! 👟

April 12: Yippee for YEP! 🎉

Youth Employment in Parks is hiring for the 2023 season! Trail Mix is incredibly excited to continue working with YEP students to improve Juneau's trails. 👟

✨ Get paid this summer to work on local parks and trails, build job skills, and have fun outdoors!

Must be 16 +, currently enrolled in school and have a 504, IEP, or disability to apply. ✨

👉 Apply online at www.bit.ly/YEP2023Application



April 4: Make way for the McLeod! ☁️

Clearing a path through dense undergrowth has never been easier with the trusty McLeod tool! 🌱 We love using McLeods at Trail Mix to move gravel and cut away soft vegetation.

The McLeod tool was invented by Malcolm McLeod, a U.S. Forest Service ranger in the early 20th century. 🌲 It was designed to be a versatile tool that could be used for a variety of tasks, including clearing brush and building trails, as well as fighting wildfires. It consists of a long handle with a flat, rectangular blade on one end and a rake on the other.

SITKA TRAIL WORKS

April 11: This week's #TrailTuesday features the Herring Cove Trail to Beaver Lake. While Beaver Lake can also be accessed from Blue Lake Road, this trail starts from Herring Cove and follows the creek leading to an incredible waterfall view. The trail continues on to loop around Beaver Lake through the muskeg and returns back along the creek. There are fun features all along the trail and this time of year, keep your eyes open for the skunk cabbage starting to pop up!



SOUTHEAST LINKS

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- The Dirt April 2023, newsletter of Juneau's Trail Mix: <https://tinyurl.com/mwjtp33>
- Sitka Trail Works hiring Operations Coordinator: <https://sitkatrailworks.org/join-the-trail-works-team/>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS

WEBINARS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, TRAINING, ETC.

- For a listing of upcoming trail webinars workshops, conferences, and other meetings, see the American Trails calendar at: www.americantrails.org/training/calendar

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- American Trails "Trail Tracks": www.americantrails.org/newsletter

VOLUNTEER

- Conservation Volunteers International Program newsletter (Apr): <https://tinyurl.com/4993dbpc>
- Am. Hiking Society's 2023 Volunteer Vacations: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacation-trips/>

FUNDING

- FOX Factory Trail Trust (**applications reviewed quarterly**): <https://trailtrust.com/>
- Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative (OHVs, **quarterly deadlines**): <https://yamahaoai.com/>
- Clif Family Foundation grants (ddline June 1): <https://clifffamilyfoundation.org/grants-program>
- National Forest Foundation awards (deadline June 7): <http://tinyurl.com/px7y6ke>
- MAP: Announcing a Change to NFF's Flagship Grant Program: <https://tinyurl.com/jhfm4ytt>

OTHER LINKS:

- Top 10 Requests for Trails and Outdoor Recreation Master Plans: <https://tinyurl.com/5ah3xtdn>
- American Trails Announces \$500K Fundraising Goal for Trails Program: <https://tinyurl.com/3wea7rmk>
- The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: How 7 Popular Trails Have Changed: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8bts6x>

- Review of Trails in Climate Resilience and Emergency Response: <https://tinyurl.com/56ujpy36>
- 2023 Advancing Trails Awards Announced: <https://tinyurl.com/yrbsyjm3>

The Alaska Trails board meets via teleconference the first Tuesday of every other month from 5-7pm. If you want to hear more about Alaska trail topics, share trail information, or propose a trail project, join us. 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 seven days before the first of the month. Send stories to Editor Eric Troyer at fbxtrails@gmail.com