



NEWSLETTER

FEB
2023

PO Box 100627; Anchorage, AK 99510-0264

907/334-8049

www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

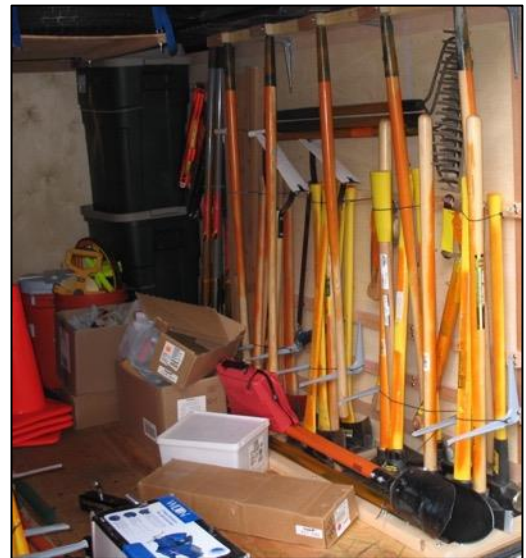
ALASKA TRAILS SEEKS BIGGER SHOP SPACE FOR TOOLS, MORE

FIND SPACE As Alaska Trails begins to prepare for three paid crews, continued collaboration with the Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) program, and our volunteer efforts, we find ourselves in need of a larger space to store, maintain, and dry gear, tools, and equipment. We are looking for a space that includes the following in the greater Anchorage area:

- 1200 square feet of warehouse / shop space with a large enough garage door to allow vehicles
- 200 – 400 square feet for office space – two offices and/or a meeting room
- Bathroom / Internet
- Kitchen area – not necessarily needed and we can make one
- Mezzanine or other set up to dry and store gear and equipment well

We are open to sharing a space with another organization. We are considering both rental and purchase options.

If you have ideas on such a space, please contact Alaska Trails at 907-334-8049 or office@alaska-trails.org.



TRAIL TALES SUPPORTS BIKE ANCHORAGE WITH TRAIL STORIES

ATTEND Hear outdoor enthusiasts and trail lovers as they share their stories at the Anchorage Museum. At each Trail Tales event, seven storytellers tell seven-minute-long stories about their trail experiences, adventures, and life in general. Net proceeds from ticket sales go to two nonprofits: Alaska Trails and a partner organization for each event. **Our next event will be on Tuesday, February 21, at 7 p.m., in partnership with Bike Anchorage as a part of Winter Bike Fest.** Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and tickets cost \$20. Bike Anchorage will be selling tickets for their annual raffle, with a main prize of a fat tire bike, with bikepacking bags set up, front and rear lights, a bike lock, a set of panniers, and a rack.



All our shows last year sold out, so don't wait. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/trail-tales>

ALASKA TRAILS HIRING FOR SEASONAL TRAIL CREW POSITIONS

APPLY Alaska Trails is hiring for several crews planned for seasonal trail work in 2023. Those include three



crews that will work in Chugach State Park and the Chugach National Forest (CNF). One of the CNF crews will spend the entire summer in Cordova. All three crews will be backcountry crews that will camp out at their various workplaces. In addition, Alaska Trails plans to hire a camp cook and manager for its project on the South Fork of Eagle River trail. The list of positions available includes: Trail Crew Leaders, Trail Crew Members, and Camp Manager.

Alaska Trails is also hiring for a YEP (Youth Employment in Parks) Field Supervisor for the 2023 season from May to August. Alaska Trails works in conjunction with the Anchorage Park Foundation and the City of Anchorage on the YEP program.

More information for all the positions and application instructions at: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/jobs>

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE STATEWIDE TRAILS CONFERENCE

SAVE DATE Please mark your calendar for our annual trails conference to be held **April 12-14**. It will be held at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage. This year we will have both in-person and virtual options for attendance. We hope you can join us, and we welcome your ideas and feedback on how to make the most of this gathering. Send your ideas and comments to: office@alaska-trails.org

See you in April!

USE “PICK. CLICK. GIVE.” TO DONATE TO ALASKA TRAILS DONATE

DONATE Giving back to the trails you love is easy! Help maintain, improve, and build new trails for you and your fellow Alaskans by choosing Alaska Trails for your annual Pick. Click. Give. Donations. When you file for your PFD, choose Alaska Trails to ensure the trails in our backyards are safe, sustainable, and fun for all and that we can complete the Alaska Long Trail, a world-class trail system connecting Seward to Fairbanks!

Giving through your PFD is a secure and easy way to make a donation. **When you file for your PFD online, you will be given the opportunity to select a non-profit to receive a portion of your PFD. If you do, please remember Alaska Trails.** If you use “Pick. Click. Give” you will be able to check a box that authorizes the state to send your name, contact information, and the amount you give when it sends contributions to an organization. We want to acknowledge and recognize your generous support, and this is the only way we will know it’s you making the gift. For more information on “Pick. Click. Give.” visit: www.pickclickgive.org/



To go directly to the Alaska Trails “Pick. Click. Give.” page click here: www.pickclickgive.org/index.cfm/pfdorgs.info/Alaska-Trails

SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Jan 26: Know any teens looking for a great job this summer? The Youth Employment in Parks program for Anchorage teens is a fabulous way to get paid to work on building and maintaining our trails and park spaces and we are happy to be a part of it! Please spread the word!

Shared from
ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION

Jan 26: Hey, Anchorage teens! What are your summer plans? If you are searching for a fabulous first summer job, consider checking out the Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) program! This summer program hires local youth between the ages of 16-19 to work on park and trail improvement projects. It is a great way to work outside and GET PAID, and it is an opportunity to give back to your community and make lifelong friends!

Learn more and apply at www.muni.org/Departments/parks/pages/yep.aspx



Jan 18: Do you enjoy working with people, especially youth? Do you have a background in natural resource management or trail work? Then the [Youth Employment in Parks \(YEP\) Field Supervisor](#) position might be perfect for you! In partnership with [Anchorage Park Foundation](#) and the Municipality of Anchorage, the YEP Field Supervisor will lead Anchorage teens in building trails and restoring stream banks while increasing civic engagement, environmental awareness, and leadership skills. YEP is designed to positively engage a new generation of diverse young leaders as conservation stewards of public lands through meaningful job training, employment, and education.



Learn more about the job and apply at: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/jobs>

Jan 13: A BIG thanks to Brown Jug and the Odom Corporation for their generous and ongoing support of Alaska Trails!

We are grateful for their generosity and are looking forward to a bright 2023 with many trail projects that this support will help us complete.



Jan 12: We are grateful to ConocoPhillips Alaska this #ThankfulThursday for their generous donations to Alaska Trails over many years. In 2022, their generosity included a \$10,000 match for our End of Year appeal. And we are grateful to all the many donors who helped us raise over \$28,000 in the month of December! Wow!



This amazing kindness – from both ConocoPhillips Alaska and our donors – will enable us to fulfill our mission in a variety of ways:

- The Alaska Long Trail project has great momentum and we are working hard to sustain that by pursuing funding from a variety of sources. The funding will help us to continue to connect the dots on many projects from Seward to Fairbanks. In addition, we will continue to plan, map, and organize

support for the Long Trail.

- The funding will also bolster our work to plan for three trail crews this summer. Our crews will fan out to many parts of Southcentral Alaska. We will be working on a reroute in Chugach State Park on the

South Fork Eagle River trail. We are teaming up with Chugach National Forest for work in all three of their ranger districts including Cordova.

- The support will also enable us to continue to be a gathering place and a clearinghouse for trail information and advocacy through our events including: the Land Manager Forum, the Statewide Trails Conference, and fun events like Trail Tales.

With extreme gratitude, we sincerely thank you from all of us at Alaska Trails. We hope you will visit our website to see what we accomplished in 2022 and how your donations are making an impact on the trails we love: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/2022-highlights>

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SEEKS APPLICANTS

APPLY Applications for the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program are **due on March 1**.

NPS-RTCA welcomes applications from community groups, nonprofit organizations, tribal governments, national parks, and local, state and federal agencies. NPS-RTCA does not provide financial assistance or monetary grants. As a collaborative partner, the program provides professional services to help others achieve their conservation and outdoor recreation project vision.

NPS-RTCA staff pair their professional planning, design and technical expertise with the partner team and knowledge experts from the community. Based on the complexity of the project, RTCA staff tailor their assistance to meet the needs of the partner and help them navigate a path to success. Although NPS-RTCA is not a grant-funding program, it can help identify potential funding sources for projects.

Find out more at: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm>

Photo: Haines Community Trails Plan from RTCA website



STATE HUNTER ACCESS PROGRAM APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

APPLY Applications for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Hunter Access Program are available online.

The 2023 program schedule is now posted on the website (<https://tinyurl.com/3hecsny>). **Anyone interested in applying should review the updated FAQ's and criteria as you think about project ideas.** Please contact ADF&G with questions. Contact information is on the website.



2023 Program Schedule

- December 1, 2022: Applications available online, application period opens

- February 8, 2023: Proposals received prior to midnight ADT will receive a courtesy administrative review
- **March 1, 2023: Application due date, application period closes**
- September 2023: Applicants that have been selected for award are notified
- January 2024: Award and grant agreements are finalized, signed, and implemented

Grants from this program do not necessarily go toward trails, but they often do. Trail projects from this project benefit all trail users. To see example projects, use the “Completed Projects” or “Project Map” on the main page (<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=hunteraccess.main>).

Photos of Byers Lake bridge from Hunter Access Grant Program webpage

JOIN GROUP, IMPROVE HOME EFFICIENCY, SLOW CLIMATE CHANGE

JOIN, ACT Climate changes affects everyone, especially winter sports enthusiasts like snowmachiners, mushers, cross-country skiers, and fatbikers.

A warming climate can mean shorter snow seasons, and more extreme events like snow droughts and rain-on-snow events. These will just get worse unless we slow climate change, which means we need to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Here is something you can do right now to help make a difference.

Join Winter Wildlands Alliance

<https://winterwildlands.org/>

Winter Wildlands Alliance is a national nonprofit organization working to fight to protect America’s snowscapes.



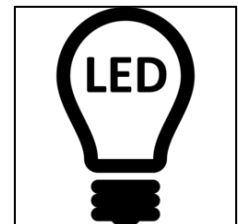
One of the group’s ambassadors is Luc Mehl, an Alaskan cross-country skier and all-around outdoors adventurer. Mehl is just one of many skiers who are ambassadors for the group. See Mehl’s profile and all the other Winter Wildlands Alliance (WWA) ambassadors here: <https://winterwildlands.org/ambassadors>

Climate change is just one of the issues the group fights for, but it’s a big one. Climate change affects everyone, especially cross-country skiers. A warming climate can mean shorter snow seasons, and more extreme events like snow droughts and rain-on-snow events. These will just get worse unless we slow climate change, which means we need to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Take a personal action

Improve energy efficiency of your house. There are many steps you can take to improve your home’s energy efficiency. Some are as easy as screwing in a light bulb, while others are more complicated, such as adding insulation. Ideas about on the internet. Here are two articles with some good ideas from:

- Earthwatch: <https://tinyurl.com/yb4ysb6y>
- This Old House: <https://tinyurl.com/5xdxfuty>



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.

Photo courtesy of Luc Mehl: Mehl shows off a field repair he did on a ski binding while out on a long ski.

SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA STATE PARKS

Jan 27: Check your trail conditions report before heading out this weekend! ☀️

<https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/curevnts.htm>

Hatcher Pass is enjoying some spectacular weather today! Thanks to DOT, Mat-Su Ski Club and Hatcher Pass Snow Riders for cleaning up Hatcher after the warm spell and snow dump.

Thanks to Ranger Walters, who took this photo of rider, Sergey Neferdove, while checking snow machine registrations in the area. Sergey was out happily enjoying the fresh grooming at Fishhook.

#DYK that snow machine registrations help fund the grooming of snow machine trails? YUP. 😊



STATEWIDE LINKS

- The Chilkoot Trail has been designated a national historic trail: <https://tinyurl.com/yuzs6dj9>
- Statewide Trail System Proposed By Alaska Trail Stewards: <https://tinyurl.com/94cvkfdy>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Construction to start on bridge over landslide site in Denali National Park: <https://tinyurl.com/krbrtuwb>
- I Heart Alaska: Best of 2022 (Luc Mehl video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EmCrqu4uvKI>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION SEEKS YEP APPLICANTS, ADVOCACY

In its recent newsletter the Anchorage Park Foundation had a couple of notices that will be of interest to trail users and advocates:

TAKE ACTION (AGAIN) TO SUPPORT PARK & TRAIL FUNDING

Thanks to all who responded to our previous action alert in support of increased funding for the park bond. Your voices were heard! The Assembly held a study session last week, listened, and prepared a new \$3.95 million park bond to be voted on February 7th.

Please send another email to all Assembly members at wwmas@anchorageak.gov urging them to vote YES for the \$3.95 million park bond package.

Bond projects include inclusive playgrounds, sports fields, recreation centers and trails. They are spread out across the city and have been vetted with parks and recreation leaders and reflect community council priorities. The Assembly already passed the road bond and other items to appear on the April 4 ballot – only the park bond items remain. View more information: <https://tinyurl.com/mpkb8c3x>



APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT



Know an Anchorage teenager that needs a summer job? The 2023 Youth Employment in Parks summer positions are now open! Anchorage teens ages 16-19 years old can get paid to work outside, make lifelong friends, and learn how to improve our public parks and trails. Apply for a position!

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/pages/yep.aspx>

FRIENDS OF STEWART PUBLIC TRAIL STILL FIGHTING FOR ACCESS

Friends of Stewart Public Trail in Anchorage are still trying to secure permanent public access to the Stewart Trail. Below is an excerpt from a recent email from the group with an update followed by an even more recent update:

Dear Friends of the Stewart Public Trail:

On January 20 we received from a defendant an opposition to our motion for entry of final judgment, attached. (We have also attached our motion, submitted in September.) We will respond to this shortly and this will set the stage for the judge to issue the final entry of judgement, establishing the terms of the easement, including:

- Terms for the removal of the barricade to provide for non-motorized access.
- Define the location and scope of the easement.
- Be a notice to the public regarding the availability of the trail.
- Preclude current and future landowners from doing anything to prevent the non-motorized public from using the trail, including prohibiting intimidation of trail users.
- Be the vehicle for securing an award of costs and fees.



We also received from the defendant a motion to stay enforcement of the judgment pending an appeal (also attached). In other words, they want to maintain the status quo (i.e. no access through the gate) until the Supreme Court has ruled on his appeal. As we have discussed, our attorney believes it is unlikely they will prevail on this motion.

Because it now appears that they will appeal, we may need to seek additional donations down the road. We will keep you updated.

Also, although the trail is open, the barricade is still up, and we encourage you to hold off using the trail until it is removed. Should you use the trail, be aware that there is a new residence in the vicinity of the trail, and the trail is an active driveway. So be cautious, and respectful in regard to trash, dog waste, noise, and please stay on the trail. Please park where you do not inhibit the flow of traffic, and do not block the gate or other driveways. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Friends of the Stewart Public Trail, friendsofthestewarttrail@gmail.com

Photo: Stewart Trail blockage from the Alaska Landmine (<https://alaskalandmine.com/>)

Update from Jan 30:

Last week we filed our response to the defendant's opposition to our motion for entry of judgment, and our opposition to the defendant's motion for a stay, which were forwarded to you last week. The new

filings are attached. The judge has indicated she will rule on these soon. We are expecting positive decisions. We hope this will set the stage for the barrier at the trailhead to come down shortly.

The next step will be to recover 30% of our attorney fees from the defendants.

We will continue to update you as things progress. Thank you for your patience and support in this process. We look forward to being back on the trail soon.

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

Jan 25: Please join us in thanking Assembly Vice Chair Christopher Constant for his work to champion the 2023 park and trail bonds!



“Anchorage loves our parks, and we have some of the best in the world,” said Assembly Vice Chair Christopher Constant. “The projects the Assembly added to the park bond this year will make parks, trails and facilities across the city even more enjoyable and accessible. I thank my fellow Assembly Members for your work to move this year’s park bond forward, especially Member Pete Petersen for his tireless dedication to the Mulcahy Stadium improvements. This is the good governance Anchorage deserves.”

Jan 21: Planning your outdoor adventure today? You can check the ice and trail status at all the parks by visiting the Muni’s website here: <https://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/IceTrailStatus.aspx>

EAGLE RIVER FAT TIRE RIDES

Jan 16: Tossing this out there as a friendly reminder.. Eagle River Nature Center trails are NOT BIKE TRAILS. They do allow a winter only fat bike access route to the river though and you are permitted to ride as much of the river as you can safely navigate. The rest of the trails are hike/ ski only.

If you haven’t checked out their website, link below leads to trail maps, including this fat bike winter access map. They post trail reports weekly (Thursdays usually) for current conditions, year round. <https://www.ernc.org/nature-center-trails.html>



SINGLETRACK ADVOCATES



Jan 25: We’re excited to announce the new proposed Service Singletrack Project!!! We’ve already received letters of support from NSAA and Hilltop. We need your support for this project as we go through the public process. Stay tuned for meeting dates coming up. Check out our website for all the details!

<https://www.singletrackadvocates.org/service>

January 1: Please be respectful of other trail users and avoid the Alaska Sled Dog and Racing Assoc. trails for everyone’s safety and enjoyment. Visit ASDRA.org for more information. Thanks!

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Alaska Long Trail could bring tourists, opportunity to Kenai Peninsula: <https://tinyurl.com/bde3z3pe>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Homer woman saved by dead snowshoe hare after falling through ice: <https://tinyurl.com/27y6e7b3>
- Our Days in Chititu (a McCarthy area adventure): <https://tinyurl.com/k2afhve6>

- Bond package set for Anchorage voters after flub nearly omitted millions: <https://tinyurl.com/2s3b6red>
- 2022 Impact Report (Mat-Su Trails & Parks Fnd.): <https://matsutrails.org/2023/01/25/2022impact/>
- Officials warn against moose-pet encounters on Kenai Peninsula: <https://tinyurl.com/5rrwucp9>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

PROPOSED BORO ORDINANCE THAT WOULD HURT TRAILS FAILS

An ordinance that would harm public access to trails in the Fairbanks North Star Borough was defeated at recent Assembly meeting.

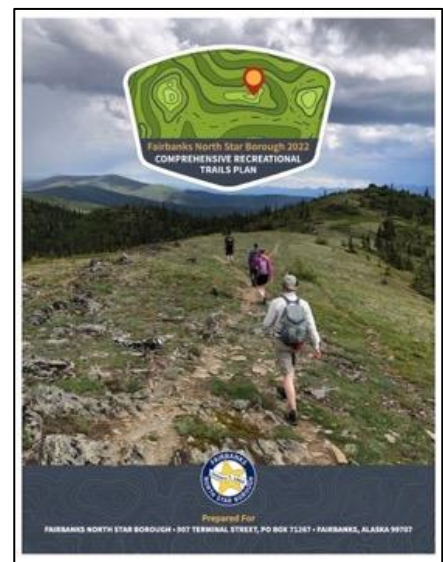
Ordinance No. 2022-65, submitted by Assemblymembers Jimi Cash and Tammie Wilson, would have changed an existing borough law that requires Category A and B trails on the borough’s trails plan to be given an easement when subdividing land. At the meeting, it was replaced with a substitute ordinance crafted by Assemblyman Aaron Lojewski that kept the original ordinance wording and added a small financial incentive to anyone who voluntarily gives a trail easement. (The \$400 final plat fee would have been waived.)

During the debate on the ordinance, Mayor Bryce Ward said he would veto the ordinance if it passed. That raised some eyebrows. It is rare for a Fairbanks Borough Mayor to veto a significant piece of legislation passed by the Assembly. Also, it requires two-thirds of the Assembly to override the veto. That would be six of the Assemblymembers, but only five supported the ordinance.

Assemblyman Lojewski voted for his ordinance to replace the original, as did the other supporters – Cash and Wilson along with Assemblymembers Barbara Haney and Brett Rotermund. But when a vote was taken on the substitute, Lojewski voted no, which killed the ordinance. (Also voting no were Assemblymembers Kristan Kelly, Savannah Fletcher, Mindy O’Neill, and David Guttenberg.) Lojewski’s no vote clearly surprised a lot of people.

For more details read this blog post: <https://tinyurl.com/y5siw8sb>

Also, here is a KUAC story on the meeting: <https://fm.kuac.org/2023-01-13/trail-easement-change-rejected-for-fnsb>



FAIRBANKS PARKS AND REC AGAIN HOLDING TRAILS CHALLENGE

The Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department is hosting another Winter Trails Challenge.



The sign list was revealed in late December for this popular ongoing event, which is free and open to anyone. Not all trail signs were installed at first, but they are all up now! And the Winter Trails Guide is online to help you find the trails. Remember you can go to the Trails Office Webpage to find several downloadable maps to help you on your trip. A link to the guide is below. Participants need to be registered to be eligible for prizes and awards.

- Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/814319782989022/>

- Trails Office page: <https://fairbanksak.myrec.com/info/facilities/details.aspx?FacilityID=14955>
- Winter Trails Guide: https://issuu.com/fnsbparksandrec/docs/fairbanks_winter_trails_guide_22-23

Photo from the Trails Challenge Facebook Event

SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA STATE PARKS

Jan 30: Aaaahhh, Alaska! ❄️ ❄️ ❄️

Our Northern Region has some great trail conditions right now, check it out here: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/curevnts.htm>



FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

Jan 21: Hi all, while us Old Murphy Dome Road residents love sharing our historic multi use trails, please be observant and do not block trail crossings! Today I observed three cars parked on the south side of OMDR (Elliott Hwy side) to access the firebreak/powerline trail on the north side, about 5 miles in (Torsten's Crossing). One of the cars was partially blocking the trail. While a skier or biker can scooch around cars, most dog teams cannot, and may potentially take the road or get dragged into the parked car. This trail is used daily by area dog mushers and blocking the trail is a serious hazard. Please give the trails a bit more of a buffer when parking. Thank you for your consideration! 🙏



PS - we've been seeing this trail get increased use, which is great. We will ask our road commission to see if they could plow out the shoulder a bit better there. That being said, [redacted] in this instance it wasn't lack of shoulder, it was someone unaware their parking was problematic for dog teams 😊

(Note: The car owner was found and notified. He was apologetic and vowed not to make the same mistake in the future. He found the graphic very instructive.)

Jan 5: BLM is inviting the public to comment on a new river management plan for the Birch Creek Wild and Scenic River. News-Miner has a story on it (<https://tinyurl.com/ya4antv6>). BLM will host a public Zoom meeting about the plan from 5-7 p.m. Jan. 17. Public comments can be submitted until Feb. 4.



Here's a direct link to the BLM page: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2019528/510>

Jan 17: The Fairbanks North Star Borough is updating its roads plan. It's already been out for comment once and now they have revised maps. These plans are for where roads would go IF they were developed. This is NOT a plan to start building roads. And while new roads could affect trails, this planning has been done in conjunction with the FNSB trails plan update to reduce conflicts. Still, it doesn't hurt to check.

There will be an open house about the plan on January 21 at Ken Kunkel Community Center out in Goldstream. If you can't make the meeting, you can still view the plans and comment online.

<https://fnsbroadsplan.com/>

INTERIOR ALASKA TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION

Jan 23: IATPF financed trail work along the Alaska Dog Mushers Association trails this year. We are very excited about this project as it is our single largest use of TRAIL MAINTENANCE MONEY not provided by government agencies.

As with all of our projects, finances come through donations. This project was funded by an Endowment by well-known Fairbanks trails advocate Stan Justice.

The work involved 3.3 miles of rough, tussock terrain that is difficult to groom smooth for sprint mushing.

Greenstone Station, of Fairbanks, used a track mulcher after freeze up this winter. Our goal was to shave tussocks and ruts off the top while not disturbing the root mat or underlying permafrost.

Details: 3.3 miles of work; \$6,180 total cost (came in under budget); Organizations involved: IATPF, ADMA, Interior Alaska Land Trust (private property access point to the trail), ADF&G, Creamers Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge.




BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

Jan 24: The BLM welcomes comments on proposed fee increases for cabins and campgrounds in the White Mountains National Recreation Area and the Taylor Highway service regions. Draft business plans for each area outlining fee increases that are needed to keep up with maintenance needs and inflation.



Public comments on the proposed recreation use fee changes will be accepted through Feb 23 and may be submitted using the following methods:

 E-mail: blm_ak_fdo_eifo_generaldelivery@blm.gov

 Mail: BLM Eastern Interior Field Office, 222 University Ave, Fairbanks, AK 99709

Read the full news release here: <http://ow.ly/PObz50Mzbb9>

DELTA JUNCTION TRAILS ASSOCIATION

January 15: Join us Saturday February 11th at 6:00 PM on the Liewer Trail for our Annual Walk of Lights. See you there!

Bundle up and decorate yourself with lights! Join us Saturday, February 11th at 6:00 pm for a community candle-light walk on the Liewer Trail. Show off your creative side and maybe use a Valentine's Day theme and bring a sweetheart or partner. Let's see who can come up with the best decorations! If you want to contribute by making ice candles, there are instructions on our Facebook page. Bring them to the Liewer Trail Kiosk by noon on the 11th.



INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Getting Newcomers Hooked on the Whites – A Fun Wolf Run Trip: <https://tinyurl.com/yc436hsf>
- Fighting Senior-itis with the Fairbanks Winter Trails Challenge: <https://tinyurl.com/2p86a2su>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.



Jan 24: Do you think the user established route up Bear Mountain should be formalized and constructed as a real trail? Why or why not? We want your input to shape the future of Sitka's trail system.

There's one week left to give your feedback on a slate of proposals in the online survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NBM9NJL>

Jan 16: If you're interested in a career in public lands, our partners are hiring for several positions right now!

Student Conservation Association summer internships:

-->Recreation Internship to assist with front and backcountry trail maintenance, backcountry cabin maintenance, and visitor use monitoring.

<https://www.thesca.org/position/recreation-technician-placement-po-00734285/>



National Forest Foundation permanent position:

-->Tongass Stewardship Coordinator

The Coordinator will conduct community engagement, fundraising and project management for recreation improvements and watershed restoration activities on the Tongass National Forest. This work requires close coordination with the U.S. Forest Service, community organizations and implementation partners to accomplish identified goals and activities across the Tongass National Forest.

<https://nationalforestfoundation.applytojob.com/apply/6A7atViXb/Tongass-Stewardship-Coordinator>

Jan 6: Have you ever walked along the rapids and pools of Kaasda Héen (Indian River) between



Flume Circle and Sawmill Creek Road? It's one of the most beautiful stretches of the river, but public access isn't very straightforward. Do you wish the Totem Park Riverview Trail continued upstream with a pedestrian underpass under the SMC bridge?

Rank this and over two dozen other trail proposals in our survey!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NBM9NJL>

Jan 3: The Russian Orthodox Cemetery has preserved a spectacular old growth forest in the middle of our town, but only one muddy and inaccessible trail passes through the middle. Do you think improving access to this beautiful space would be beneficial?



Rank this concept and others on our trail proposal survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NBM9NJL>

January 1: If you're curious about the history and design of Sitka's trails, I'd highly recommend listening to this conversation between Matt Goff and Barth Hamberg, both exceptionally experienced local outdoor professionals. It's a delight to see the forests through the eyes of individuals who notice such rich history, ecological dynamics, and design details. Thanks to Sitka Nature and Barth Hamberg for sharing!



<https://www.sitkanature.org/photojournal/2022/12/18/sitka-nature-show-278-barth-hamburg/>

TRAIL MIX, INC.

Jan 25: Trail Mix doesn't just build trails; we build community. We're searching for someone to join our board of directors who will help guide the organization in stewarding Juneau's trail system while respecting the land and everyone's relationship to it.

Here's what we're looking for in candidates:

- 👤: Have strong connections to the land and community of Juneau
- 👤: Can commit to 6-10 hours per month through March 2025
- 👤: Will participate in fundraising and governance projects

For application and full position description, see bit.ly/trailmixboard23. Deadline is February 6, 2023 at 5pm.

Trail Mix recognizes that organizations are strengthened by diverse perspectives, especially in our leadership team. ✨ We strongly encourage letters of interest from BIPOC, LGBTQ2S+, women, young people, and other underrepresented identities in trail maintenance organizations and nonprofit boards. ✨



January 12: Apply to intern with Trail Mix! 🧑🏻



This summer, we're participating in Alaska Conservation Foundation's Ted Smith Conservation Internship Program.

The Engagement Intern will support our work engaging volunteers, members, and the public in stewarding a safe and enjoyable Juneau trail system. For more information and to apply, head to bit.ly/3GCpTAq. Applications are due February 13.

✨ We strongly encourage applications from BIPOC, LGBTQ2S+, women, and others with underrepresented identities in trail building and maintenance. ✨

SOUTHEAST LINKS

SLIGHTLY OFF TRAIL

- Hiking Arrowhead Peak (not Verstovia) – Sitka: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdbGt6uX8Aw>
- Forest Service wants more input on Mendenhall Glacier area changes: <https://tinyurl.com/y83a2bt3>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

OMNIBUS BILL HAS FUNDS FOR TRAILS, TRAIL-RELATED PROGRAMS

Recently, Congress passed and the president signed into law the Fiscal Year 23 omnibus appropriations bill that funds the government until September 30, 2023.

This bill provides much needed funding for trails and trail-related programs and includes long fought victories for the hiking community!

For more information, including some highlights of what's in the new law, see this page:

<https://tinyurl.com/3z2wkw3c>

From the American Hiking Society

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 (Jan): <https://tinyurl.com/3x3phcpf>
- 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/>
- Polaris T.R.A.I.L.S. grants (ATV trail projects; due March 1): <https://tinyurl.com/y49dxbhe>

OTHER LINKS:

- Book Review of "From Rails to Trails": <https://tinyurl.com/3u3p7bzt>
- NOHVCC Great Trails Field Guide Now Available Online: <https://tinyurl.com/k7mx8bw9>
- Trail Etiquette When Mud is Present: <https://tinyurl.com/3wud4x5v>
- 10 Of The Most Beautiful Hiking Trails In The World: <https://tinyurl.com/2ppz6n23>

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