



# NEWSLETTER

FEB  
2024

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[www.alaska-trails.org](http://www.alaska-trails.org)

## ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

### GRIZZLY WOOD MAKERS TO PARTICIPATE IN TRAILS CONFERENCE

**ATTEND** Mark your calendar for our annual Trails Conference to be held April 10-12 at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage.

Trails and outdoor recreation are a public health asset and an economic engine for the state and the Trails Conference seeks to raise the profile of trails and their importance to Alaska. 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](mailto:office@alaska-trails.org)



Alaska Plastic Recovery, makers of Grizzly Wood, will be one of the new companies participating at the conference. Grizzly Wood is an innovative recycled plastic lumber made entirely from 100% recycled plastics and sourced partly from Alaskan beaches. It presents a sustainable and scientifically advantageous alternative for trail rehabilitation. Its impermeability to moisture and resistance to environmental factors like

high humidity and temperature fluctuations address key issues inherent in natural wood, such as rot and structural deformation under load. These properties ensure enhanced durability and longevity of trail structures, making Grizzly Wood a practical and environmentally friendly choice for trail rehabilitation, especially in challenging or sensitive environments. Find out more at: <https://alaskaplasticrecovery.com/>

To view recorded sessions and presentation slides from past conferences see our archives at: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/conference-archive-links>.

### TRAIL TALES BRINGS YOU MORE FUN TRAIL STORIES

**ATTEND** The next edition of Trail Tales will be on February 20 and will benefit both Alaska Trails and Bike Anchorage.

Alaska Trails runs the Trail Tales storytelling series as a fundraiser for itself while also partnering with a different community organization for each event. In the spirit of Arctic Entries, storytellers share seven-minute stories about their trail experiences, adventures, and life in general. Our 2024 Trail Tales events will be held at the Anchorage Museum and tickets cost \$20.



**Trail Tales will start at 7 p.m.** Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now. Put the next two Trail Tales event on your calendar: March 19 and April 16. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: [www.alaska-trails.org/trail-tales](http://www.alaska-trails.org/trail-tales)

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

**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/](http://www.pickclickgive.org/)

Link to the Alaska Trails “PCG” page: [www.pickclickgive.org/index.cfm/pfdorgs.info/Alaska-Trails](http://www.pickclickgive.org/index.cfm/pfdorgs.info/Alaska-Trails)

## HALEY JOHNSTON ASSUMES ROLE AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Alaska Trails has named Haley Johnston as Deputy Director, a new position for the organization.

Haley will handle most of the financial accounting and management, in addition to her other duties. This will enable Alaska Trails to bring that in-house, providing more in-depth reporting and financial acuity as the organization grows.

Haley joined the staff of Alaska Trails in January 2021 as the Tongass National Forest Sustainable Trail Strategy Project Manager. When that project concluded, she transitioned into her role as Trails Initiative Manager. She will continue to do program work in addition to her new financial management duties. Prior to her work at Alaska Trails, Haley was the Business Specialist at the Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage and spent a decade working in Alaska’s adventure tourism industry. Haley passionately believes outdoor recreation is critical to the quality of life in Alaska, the health of our communities and the resilience of the Alaskan economy.



“This is a great step for Alaska Trails as we continue to grow our organization. Haley’s skills will help guide the organization to financial sustainability while making sure we accomplish our mission,” said Alaska Trails Executive Director Steve Cleary.

## ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS SUCCESSES MADE WITH YOUR HELP

This past year was an incredible one for our trails. Some big wins helped us ensure that our great Alaskan trails are well-maintained and that we can build more sustainable trails for all to enjoy.



Our 2023 Annual Report is out now, highlighting some exciting trail projects from last year and how community support can help us achieve our vision of Alaska connected by sustainable trails.

We could not have done this work without you. We hope you will take a moment to read about what we have accomplished in 2023 and how your support is making an impact on the trails we all love.

To read about trail projects our paid trail crews and volunteers completed in 2023, check out pages 3 and 4. For an update on the Alaska Long Trail progress, head to pages 5 and 6. To learn more about the Trails Initiative, visit page 7, and to see the amazing community support that makes our work possible, visit pages 9 through 11.

See the report here: <http://tinyurl.com/67tn98w2>

## SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

*January 29*

Glad to be in the ADN with the Alaska Outdoor Alliance and the Alaska Snowmachine Alliance highlighting the economic benefits of trails: <http://tinyurl.com/5622j3ya>

*January 11*

Alaska Trails met with Governor Dunleavy on January 10th to talk about the Alaska Long Trail and plans for future developments along the route. We took the opportunity to thank him for his role in securing \$5.65 million in funding for trail projects in the state capital budget over the past two years, including the following projects: Anchorage to Mat-Su Reconnaissance Study, Anchorage Moose Loop, Peters Creek Repairs, Arctic to Indian improvements, Turnagain Arm Trail Maintenance and Extension, Crow Pass Rehabilitation, Glacier Creek Bridge -replacement for hand tram, Eklutna Lakeside Trail Improvements, Indian Valley Trail Reroute and Reestablishing Access to Ram Valley.



*January 9*

Excellent article on the new huts and cabins coming our way in Alaska!

The Alaska Long Trail "would go right by six of the proposed cabin sites, including the Berry Pass, Turnagain Arm Area, Center Creek, Carter Lake, Trail River Campground and Meridian Lake cabins. Ultimately, developers hope to add a number of other huts along the long trail route, making it possible for hikers to link up portions of the ALT and the Alaska Cabins Project systems."



We are excited about the new hut-to-hut opportunities coming to our great state to make Alaskan wilderness more accessible! See the Smithsonian article here: <http://tinyurl.com/3ehatptk>

January 4

A big #ThankfulThursday shout out to R&M Consultants, Inc. for all the incredible support they provide to Alaska Trails! We are honored so many of their employees chose us for a year-end gift, and we're grateful for their ongoing commitment to trails.



January 3

Did you miss Trail Tales last month? You're in luck! Our amazing partner organization, Healthy Futures, recorded the stories and posted them on their youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@healthyfuturesalaska79/videos>

January 2

We are blown away by our community's support of trails! Thanks to your generous donations and matching donations from ConocoPhillips Alaska and Alaska Alpine Adventures, we exceeded our end of year fundraising goal, by a lot! Together, we raised \$47,000 in the month of December! Wow!



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 have accomplished in 2023 and how your donations are making an impact on the trails we all love:

<https://www.alaska-trails.org/2023-highlights>

## SEVERAL EASY WAYS TO HELP FUND ALASKA TRAILS

With the help of other organizations, you can help Alaska Trails continue advocating for trails.

**FASHIONPACT:** FashionPACT, an Anchorage resale boutique, seeks to strengthen the Anchorage



community by raising funds for local non-profits. You can help by donating gently used clothing, shoes, jewelry, etc. at FashionPACT and choose Alaska Trails. FashionPACT sells the items in their boutique and gives us payment for the things that sell. Learn more

at [www.FashionPact.com](http://www.FashionPact.com).

**FRED MEYER REWARDS:** Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer



Rewards Card to Alaska Trails at [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards). You can search for Alaska Trails or by our nonprofit number – KU871. Then, every time you shop and use your rewards card, you are helping Alaska Trails earn a donation! You still earn your

rewards points, fuel points, and rebates, just as you do today.

**GOODSEARCH:** GoodSearch.com is a search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per



search, to charities designated by the user. You use it just as you would any search engine, and, it's powered by Yahoo!. Just go to [www.goodsearch.org](http://www.goodsearch.org) and

be sure to enter Alaska Trails as the charity you want to support.

**BAGOY'S:** Anchorage-based Bagoy's Florist and Home helps through its Helping Hands web fundraising



program (<https://www.bagoys.com/programs/charitable-giving/>). When you order online from Bagoy's ([www.bagoys.com](http://www.bagoys.com)) there is a check box at the bottom of the payment page that says "This is a Helping Hands order." When you check that box, the list of enrolled organizations are shown and you can choose Alaska Trails from the list.

## STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### GOV. DUNLEAVY ISSUES ORDERS TO ELIMINATE BOARDS

**COMMENT** Gov. Mike Dunleavy recently issued 12 executive orders, eliminating or reorganizing a wide range of boards and commissions. One of those being eliminated is the Recreation Rivers Advisory Board. Also included for elimination is the Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council.

Alaska Public Media has a story on the orders, which are causing concern amongst some lawmakers.

From the story: Through his communications staff, Dunleavy declined an interview for this story. But in a prepared statement, spokesperson Jessica Bowers said the purpose of the orders was to “make state government as efficient and effective as possible.”

The Alaska Legislature can prevent them from becoming law. If you feel strongly about the executive orders, whether you support or oppose them, you should let your legislators know. **Find out who your legislators are and how to contact them here:** <https://akleg.gov/faq.php#1>. **You can also contact the governor here:** <https://gov.alaska.gov/contact/>

See the Alaska Public Media story here: <http://tinyurl.com/ykp2tt8u>

The orders eliminating the rivers board (number 134) and the Wood-Tikchik board (number 126) and be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/dawvmzaa>



*Photo of Gulkana River by Bob Wick, BLM.*

### JOIN GROUP, IMPROVE HOME EFFICIENCY, SLOW CLIMATE CHANGE

**JOIN, ACT** Climate changes affect 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>

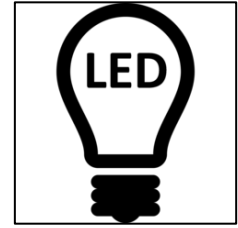
Climate change is just one of the issues the group fights for, but it’s a big one. Climate change affects everyone, especially cross-country skiers. A warming climate can mean shorter snow seasons, and more extreme events like snow droughts and

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 abound 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

### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

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*January 14*

This photo was taken at noon this week in the northernmost United States community of Utqiagvik.

The BLM and its partners help maintain a community access trail, allowing the community and industry freight supplies overland during winter.

Read more about the trail system here: <https://ow.ly/gGBa50QqtNb>



### FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

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*January 22*



KUAC story on the grooming situation along the Denali Highway. A bigger grant means more frequent grooming. <https://fm.kuac.org/Local%20News/2024-01-22/denali-highway-grooming-steps-up>

*January 15*

If you like to use GaiaGPS for navigation, know that Trail Forks trails can now be seen on the GaiaGPS as a layer. Nice integration. While Trail Forks has mainly been known as a mountain biking app, it includes many other activities. Many Alaska trails are on Trail Forks. Here's an article about the integration of GaiaGPS and Trail Forks. <https://blog.gaiagps.com/trailforks-mtb/>



*January 8*

For those who like to use online resources to find trails, here's another one.

OpenStreetMap is a free, editable map of the whole world built by volunteers and with an open-content license. Not specifically a trails map, but it has a lot of trails. However, the content is not necessarily ground-truthed and may include private and/or bandit trails.

<https://www.openstreetmap.org/#map=8/64.760/-149.293>

January 3

Alaska State Parks had been planning to raise fees in 2024 for park passes, some daily parking fees, and some cabin rental fees. However, those fee increases have been rescinded. The increase had been announced in November. According to the Anchorage Daily News: "the new fee schedule was published online before a 'proper review and approval process' could be completed." <http://tinyurl.com/422863xx>



LUC MEHL

January 26

I created this chart for my **Start & End at Home** course to show participants how well it works for me to cherry-pick the best features from multiple apps.

You can download the sharper PDF version here:

<https://courses.thingstolucat.com/mailling-list>

Map Applications Comparison Chart	GAIA APP	CALTOPO	ON X	FEATMAP	GAIA GEAR	GAIA
<b>ROUTE DRAWING AND EDITING</b>	**	**	**	**	**	**
3D EXPLORATION	*	-	*	**	**	-
USER FRIENDLY	**	**	**	**	**	*
<b>ROUTE PLANNING</b>	**	**	**	**	**	**
TRACING TRAILS, RIVERS, ETC.	**	**	**	**	**	**
PUBLIC TRAILS	**	**	**	**	**	**
FEATURE ORGANIZATION	**	**	**	**	**	**
IMPORT EXPORT	**	**	**	**	**	**
SHARING	**	**	**	**	**	**
SHARING	**	**	**	**	**	**
NAVIGATION APP	**	**	**	**	**	**
3D EXPLORATION IN APP	**	**	**	**	**	**
NUMBER OF LAYERS	**	**	**	**	**	**
NET GATE TO WAGDERY	**	**	**	**	**	**
SLOPE SHADING	**	**	**	**	**	**
SLOPE ANGLE SHADING	**	**	**	**	**	**
LAND OWNERSHIP	**	**	**	**	**	**
WINTER MANAGEMENT FEATURES	**	**	**	**	**	**
INTERNATIONAL TOPO	**	**	**	**	**	**

**Start & End at Home** is a wilderness risk management and trip planning course—we'll review all of these tools. The course includes free trials of Gaia, CalTopo, and On X. **We start Feb 1!**

<https://courses.thingstolucat.com/>

Disclaimer: This chart is based on my personal experience, with biases and gaps in knowledge. I haven't tried every feature in every app. I will update the chart as I gain experience. I'm not trying

to convince anyone of anything other than that planning and preparation is a good thing.

## STATEWIDE LINKS

- Alps-Style Hut-to-Hut Travel Is on Its Way to Alaska: <http://tinyurl.com/3ehatptk>

## SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Mathews River and Wiehl Mountain: an Alaskan Brooks Range Traverse: <http://tinyurl.com/2ae4ze2b>
- OPINION: State investment in outdoor recreation helps Alaska's economy: <http://tinyurl.com/5622j3ya>

## SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

### APPLICATION PERIOD OPEN FOR TWO ANCHORAGE PARK GRANTS

**APPLY** The Anchorage Park Foundation is seeking proposals for two programs: The Community Challenge Grant and the Neighborhood Forest Grant.

The deadline for both is 5 pm on March 20, but there are two grant writing assistance workshops before that.

- The Community Challenge Grant provides funding on a competitive basis for projects that improve Anchorage parks, trails, greenbelts, and recreation centers. Projects must benefit municipal park land and have meaningful community involvement.
- The Neighborhood Forest Grant provides funding on a competitive basis for projects that restore, reforest,



and sustain urban forests on public or private land. Projects must benefit underserved areas in north Anchorage and have meaningful community involvement.

For more information visit this web page: <https://anchorageparkfoundation.org/grants/>

## KENAI-ANCHORAGE FOREST COMMITTEE SEEKS APPLICANTS

**APPLY** The Chugach National Forest is recruiting to fill 15 committee member positions on the Kenai Peninsula-Anchorage Borough Resource Advisory Committees (RAC).

Committee members serve a four-year appointment and meet one to two times a year to review and recommend submitted projects that benefit national forest system lands, monitor ongoing projects, and provide advice to the Forest Service. Past projects funded by RAC committees include cabin improvements, streambank stability, and trail and road reconstruction and maintenance.

Those who would like to apply to member positions must reside within the region of Alaska in which the committee has jurisdiction. By law, members are divided into three groups, and each member represents a particular set of interests. Individuals may nominate themselves or others who may meet the criteria.

These are not paid positions, however, travel and per diem expenses to the meeting location may be reimbursed. **Click here to apply:** <http://tinyurl.com/5n6s3jud>. For more information, contact [Carlos.DeLaTorre@USDA.Gov](mailto:Carlos.DeLaTorre@USDA.Gov).



*From What's Up? by Peg Tileston; map from USDA Forest Service*

## SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

### ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION

January 26



**APPLY** 📌 Calling all Anchorage teens! Do you want to make your summer job a YEP-ic adventure? Consider applying to the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) crew! We're not just building trails; we're crafting futures for Anchorage teens. So, if you are 16-19, love the outdoors, and want to make a lasting impact on Anchorage parks and trails, this is your chance! 🌱

**Learn more and apply at** [www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/YEP.aspx](http://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/YEP.aspx)

### CHUGACH MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDERS

January 24

CMBR is spearheading the effort to develop a regional strategic MTB trails plan.

<https://mailchi.mp/6831c504ddf9/amba-southcentral-alaska-strategic-mtb-trails-planning>

January 17

Chugach Mountain Bike Riders requests proposals from qualified contractors to design and construct approximately 1.5 miles of hardened gravel trail at Beach Lake Park in Chugiak, Alaska. Request for Proposals open Jan 17 – Feb 16, 2024.

<https://cmbralaska.org/2024/01/17/rfp-beach-lake-gravel-multiuse-trail/>



## EAGLE RIVER FAT TIRE RIDES

January 14

Here's a link to the fat bike river access map from the Friends of Eagle River Nature Center.

<https://www.ernc.org/uploads/1/3/4/2/134277047/bikeaccessfullmap2021.pdf>

## SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- 20 Best Hikes in Anchorage: <https://andreakuipoabroad.com/best-hikes-anchorage-alaska/>

### SLIGHTLY OFF TRAIL

- Anchorage Winter Ice and Trail Status: [www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/IceTrailStatus.aspx](http://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/IceTrailStatus.aspx)

## INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### FAIRBANKS BOROUGH HIRES NEW PARKS AND REC DIRECTOR

The Fairbanks Borough Parks and Recreation Department has a new director. See the following from a press release. (To see the entire press release go to: <https://www.fnsb.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=958>)

The Fairbanks North Star Borough is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Matthew "Matt" Boyer as the new Parks and Recreation Director. Mr. Boyer brings a wealth of experience and a passion for community engagement to this important role.

Mr. Boyer holds a Bachelor of Science in Health, Leisure, and Sports from the University of West Florida and a Master of Arts in Recreation Administration from the University of Florida. He is a Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP) with the National Recreation and Park Association, an ACE Personal Trainer, and a Wilderness First Responder.

With an impressive professional background, Mr. Boyer has worked at various universities, including Louisiana State University and Central Washington University. His recreation administration expertise and commitment to fostering healthy and vibrant communities make him an ideal fit for the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

As the Parks and Recreation Director, Mr. Boyer will oversee all parks and recreation programs and facilities operated by the borough. This includes managing a dedicated team of over fifty permanent staff members and a large seasonal workforce. In addition, he will provide valuable support to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and the Trails Advisory Commission.



### FAIRBANKS PARKS AND REC WINTER TRAILS CHALLENGE IS LIVE

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. Participants need to be registered to be eligible for prizes and awards. See "Trails Office page" link below to register.

The Fairbanks Trails Challenge is an all-ages, all-abilities, outdoor scavenger hunt designed to get you out with your friends and family to explore our wonderful local trails, both new and familiar. Each summer and winter season, Parks Department staff temporarily installs special signs in secret locations along a dozen or so local trails. While the signs are up, we invite everyone to visit the trails and try and find the signs. Along the way we hope you have a chance to learn new skills, see new places, and make positive memories.



Participants who find at least ten signs during the event can win prizes from local sponsors and the coveted Trailblazer Award. Participants under the age of 10 can find at least five signs to win the Junior

Trailblazer Award, and seniors aged 60+ can find 5 to get win the Sourdough Trailblazer Award!

- Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/313549044989446/313549048322779/>
- Trails Office page: <http://tinyurl.com/mr4zr7ec>

*Photo from Evangeline Orr from the Facebook Event*

## SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

### FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH PARKS & REC

*January 22*

**APPLY** Interested in outdoor recreation and passionate about the trails in our community? Consider serving on the Trails Advisory Commission! There are several vacant seats needing to be filled. Members of the board and commissions must be qualified voters of the borough and remain residents of the borough while in office. Visit the **FNSB webpage for more info:** <https://fnsb.gov/430/Trails-Advisory-Commission>

### INTERIOR ALASKA TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION

*January 6*

**DONATE** Welcome 2024!

2023 saw another major cash project on the ADMA trails. We financed more smoothing of the tussocks to create an awesome base for sprint dogs, skijoring folks, and fat bikes!

IATPF also participated in volunteer work on trails around our great city of Fairbanks!

Now that we FORMALLY have our trail project funding application on line (see pinned post at the top of our Facebook page or at IATPF.ORG) we are looking for trail supporters to donate in support of REAL trail maintenance!

See our profile on:

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

**Go apply for your PFD before March 31 and select us for a donation! Let's start maintaining trails in the Interior!** <https://pfd.alaska.gov/>



## FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

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January 28

**DONATE** There is a new way to pay for grooming and trail maintenance for the Skarland Trail and Pearl Creek Park trails, including the Fairbanks Golf Course trails.

Shared from

Skarland & Pearl Creek Park Trail Users > Stan Justice

January 28

There is now a PayPal way to make donations for trail maintenance. Please let us know if below instructions need editing. You can still mail a check to Tako Reynolds, 1819 Musko Trail, Fairbanks, AK 99709-6626 if you prefer.

To Make a Donation to Support Maintenance & Groom of Pearl Creek & Skarland Area XC-Ski Trails, follow these directions:

- 1) Log into PayPal by your preferred method, or Scan the QR CODE given below with your mobile phone camera
- 2) Click "SEND" button
- 3) Enter "Pearl Creektrails" (yep it is spelled & spaced just like that).
- 4) Enter amount you want to donate
- 5) Enter how you want to pay
- 6) Select "Friends and Family" (do not select goods & services - that incurs a fee to Pearl Creek Fund)
- 7) Click "send" and you are done.



Enjoy our great neighborhood ski-trails! Thank you for your donation to help with trail maintenance costs! (Thanks heaps to our Volunteer Trail Groomers who give their time, their equipment, and fuel ! )

And thanks to those from the before times, who cleared these trails, who spawned the idea of a community supported ski-trail network and who later conceived & created the public park. Without their foresight and action to buy these woodlands from Alaska Airlines these trails would now be covered by houses & garages and driveways. And, thank you to the private property owners adjacent to the Skarland & Pearl Creek Trails who allow access to the ski trails by allowing limited public passage across their lands.

*Photo of Skarland & Pearl Creek grooming machine by Stan Justice*

January 25

Presentation coming up Wednesday, February 28, about winter biking in the Whites coming up by long-time adventurer Jay Cable: <http://tinyurl.com/3dv49zwd>

January 24

Fairbanks Boro Trails Commission had a meeting about the proposed wind farm in the Murphy Dome area.

>Shared from

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

The project calls for up to 50 turbines spaced approximately a half mile apart, along with new transmission lines, a substation and maintenance facility. During construction, gravel pits and a maintenance yard would be required. <http://tinyurl.com/5z7h7w5m>

January 20

**COMMENT** The final version of the Fairbanks Comprehensive Roads Plan is out and open for comment. Anyone who uses area roads and trails should be aware of the plan and should comment if they feel a need.

Please read the details about the plan. Many people seem to jump to conclusions about what will happen if the plan is passed. Know that just because a road is on the plan doesn't mean it will necessarily be built. And this is NOT a call to action for the borough government to build these roads. It's just a plan to prepare for future possibilities. Please be knowledgeable before drawing any conclusions.

You can find out more here. <http://tinyurl.com/36zrske2>



January 1

There's a new multi-sport trail race on the Fairbanks trail-racing calendar headed up by Tekla Butcher-Monson, daughter of Dave Monson and the late, great Susan Butcher. This race includes mushing. And the organizers need help to open up some trails.



--The T-Dog 200 route relies on disused and "brushed in" historic trails. The "T-Dog Trail Breakers" need your help cleaning up the trails between Fairbanks, Nenana, Minto, Eureka and Manley Hot Springs. We are eager to put on a longer race in the Tanana Valley, but it will only be possible if we get the trails cleared. Contact us today to see how you can become involved!—

If you want to race or help clear trail, find out more here: <https://trailbreakerkennel.com/home/t-dog/>

December 29

Trying to decide where to recreate outside in winter can sometimes be a challenge. Getting good information about weather, especially temperatures and wind, can help make that decision easier. Fortunately, the internet has a variety of resources. This page has collected several that are useful for Fairbanks and Interior Alaska. [www.interioralaskatrails.org/interior-alaska-temperature-weather/](http://www.interioralaskatrails.org/interior-alaska-temperature-weather/)



## SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

### SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

TRAIL MIX, INC.

January 26

It ain't easy...but it's worth it 🙌

Each season, crew members brush over 30 trails, which is typically around 150 miles of trail brushed and cleared in 6 weeks. Yeah, we think our crew members are rock stars. 🙌



January 24

**PARTICIPATE** Have you purchased your passport yet? 🇺🇸 We're so excited for another adventurous round of Hike for Pint. ❄️ Just like the past few rounds, you'll **purchase your passport online** at <https://trailmixinc.org/h4p>, pick it up at the brewery, and then head out to hike 5 trails! 🥾



But... we've added a new twist this year! Say hello to our new partner: The Rookery Cafe! ☕ When redeeming your passport with The Rookery, you can snag a 16 oz hot drink and warm up! But never fear, a tasty pint of beer is still an option. 🍺

Our good friends at Barnaby Brewing will be serving up the pints (21+) for those who choose the cold, refreshing redemption route.

January 23

**APPLY** Do you like to spend your days outside, enjoy the satisfaction of completing a project, and want to do work that benefits the community? Apply to be a trail crew member or crew leader! 🌲

What's great about Juneau's trail system is that you can show up to the Trail Mix shop each morning, get your fill of nature out on trail, work with an amazing team of humans, and go home to sleep in your own bed. Best of both worlds! 🥾 🚗

We'll train you in trail building and maintenance techniques, so no prior experience is necessary for crew members. Here's what we're looking for in candidates:

- ✂️ Enjoy working outdoors all day, no matter the weather conditions
- ✂️ Work effectively as a member of a team to overcome challenges
- ✂️ Contribute to a welcoming and inclusive environment for all crew members.

**The application deadline is February 11th.** ✨ We strongly encourage applications from BIPOC, LGBTQ2S+, women, and others with underrepresented identities in trail building and maintenance. ✨ **For full job description and how to apply, go to** [trailmixinc.org/employment](https://trailmixinc.org/employment). Help us spread the word and tag a friend who you think might be interested!



January 19



The cold never bothered us anyway 🧤 ❄️

Right before the snowstorm, our Trail Management Team (Mark, Nick, and Meghan) headed out to the site of the Mount Jumbo Reroute. 🏠 This upcoming summer, Trail Mix Crews and the Volunteer Trail Maintenance Team will make some big improvements to the start of the Mt. Jumbo trail by relocating it off the Treadwell Mine Ruins trail system.

Last week, Nick, Meghan, and Mark began plotting out the line of the trail, logging which hazard trees would need to be cut, and developing a trail log. We can't wait to start breaking ground in the spring!

## SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

January 24



**APPLY** Sitka Trail Works is hiring a Youth Program Coordinator to assist in planning and implementing our second full summer of Youth Programs! If you like being outside, working with kids, and tapping into your creative side, this might be the job for you! [Click the link below to learn more](#) and send a cover letter and resume to [youth@sitkatrailworks.org](mailto:youth@sitkatrailworks.org) to apply. Thank you!

<https://sitkatrailworks.org/we-are-hiring-a-youth-program-coordinator/>

## U.S. FOREST SERVICE - TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

January 13

The 2023 Alaska Youth Stewards in Prince of Wales (Heenya Kwáan & Sháan Séet) serviced 18 miles of trails, participated in beach seining for cultural harvest of salmon, worked on a stream restoration project with the Klawock Indigenous Stewards Forest Partnership, helped The College of Wooster by collecting tree core samples for a Yellow-Cedar decline study, and went on a four-day trip to help identify trees for cultural use.

## HAINES HUTS AND TRAILS

January 14

Fresh groom at Donny Mountain sledding hill, fairgrounds trails and Wellfield RD-TWC trail. Thanks volunteer groomers! Get it before the moose do!

Please be aware that the golf course is currently closed to public access in winter. The people involved with Valley of the Eagles Golf Links are investing time and money to keep golf available in Haines and in the past some skiers have been less than understanding. Trespassing on the golf course, especially the slough bridges which are not insured for winter public use will ensure this property stays closed in winter. Groomed trails are on land with allowed access, if leaving these trails be sure you know who's land you are on to maintain good relations between all the groups working to help people spend time outside in Haines.



## SOUTHEAST LINK

- The Dirt, January: (Juneau) Trail Mix newsletter: <http://tinyurl.com/48ydpdbn>

## NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### AMERICAN TRAILS CALLS FOR WEBINAR PRESENTERS

From American Trails: We are currently working on scheduling webinars for 2024 and beyond in our Advancing Trails Webinar Series. We have held over 220 webinars over the last 12 years and we aren't stopping any time soon! We will continue to offer weekly webinars (when applicable) and are slated to hold 35+ webinars every year!

If you are interested in presenting a webinar, please submit a topic via our online form, noting our topics of interest: <https://form.jotform.com/223625134367152>

## NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS

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*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](http://www.americantrails.org/training/calendar)

*TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS*

- American Trails “Trail Tracks”: [www.americantrails.org/newsletter](http://www.americantrails.org/newsletter)

### **VOLUNTEER**

- Am. Hiking Society’s 2024 Volunteer Vacations: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacation-trips/>
  - Alternative (to Spring) Break: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacations/alternative-break/>
- Conservation International VIP newsletter (Jan 2024): <http://tinyurl.com/3brpasuh>

### **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 (for groups; ddlines March 1, August 1): <https://tinyurl.com/5bku286n>
- Polaris T.R.A.I.L.S. grants (ATV trail projects; due March 1, Sept 1): <https://tinyurl.com/y49dxbhe>

*OTHER LINKS:*

- Parks, Trails, Health Workbook: [www.americantrails.org/resources/parks-trails-and-health-workbook](http://www.americantrails.org/resources/parks-trails-and-health-workbook)
- Winter Placemaking Guide: [www.americantrails.org/resources/winter-placemaking-guide](http://www.americantrails.org/resources/winter-placemaking-guide)
- How to Map Trails in OpenStreetMap: <https://openstreetmap.us/our-work/trails/how-to-map/>
- Why Trails Matter: Trails are Inclusive: [www.americantrails.org/resources/trails-are-inclusive](http://www.americantrails.org/resources/trails-are-inclusive)
- 2023 NRT Photo Contest Winners Announced: <http://tinyurl.com/y68jzmnb>

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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](mailto:fbxtrails@gmail.com)