



NEWSLETTER

NOV
2023

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www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

TRAIL TALES BRINGS YOU MORE FUN TRAIL STORIES

ATTEND Alaska Trails is excited to bring back the Trail Tales storytelling series, partnered 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 upcoming 2023 Trail Tales events will be held at the Anchorage Museum and tickets cost \$20.



Our next event will be on **Wednesday, November 15, at 7 p.m.** Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets will go on sale soon. The event will also benefit Challenge Alaska. Put the other Trail Tales event, happening Tuesday, December 5, on your calendar. For more information and to purchase tickets when they become available, visit:

www.alaska-trails.org/trail-tales

VIRTUAL RACE ACROSS ALASKA BENEFITS YOU AND ALASKA TRAILS

ENTER/DONATE The Race Across Alaska Winter Challenge, a multi-sport challenge, is a great way to get outside while challenging yourself to stay happy and healthy during winter. And you can also be helping our cause to help build and maintain some of the best trails in the world!



Here's how it works. You can run, walk, fatbike, indoor bike, XC ski, swim, or any activity you like. You can choose from eight different virtual distances – from 60 miles to 2,000 miles, which is a whopping 22.3 miles per day. Now that's a challenge. The goal is to log as many miles as you can over the three months of winter to get (virtually) from location A to B. You can also participate as a team (friends/family/school).

You will have the ability to log your miles, track your progress, collect virtual badges, and see how you rank up to others on the leader board daily. You can invite others to this challenge to help you to stay motivated all winter long.

Online registration has begun, and the virtual race starts on Winter Solstice – December 21. **See the website for more details:** www.raawc.com/Race/AK/Anchorage/AlaskaChallenge

RAAWC is a fundraiser for Alaska Trails and two other worthy nonprofits: Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage and Challenge Alaska. For every racer that participates, \$10 will be donated to the non-profit of your choice OR you can divide between all three PLUS racers can donate additional funds to support our non-profit donation goal. Last year more than \$55,000 was donated through participation and donations! Alaska Trails is very grateful for the financial support from the race, but also the boost it gives to the community by inspiring an active, healthy lifestyle.

The official race cannon will be fired at the Zoom Kickoff Party on December 21 at 6pm AKS (10pm EST). Join the Facebook group to hear about pop-up Zoom and/or Zwift FREE workouts along with facebook live videos: www.facebook.com/groups/824863588292365



FORUM BRINGS TOGETHER LAND MANAGERS IN NOVEMBER

ATTEND The annual Alaska Trails Land Manager Forum will happen on Wednesday, November 15, at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage.



More details including agenda, speakers and more can be found on our website. We hope you can join us to wrap up the trail season and begin planning for next year. You can find out more and view previous years' presentations here: www.alaska-trails.org/land-manager-forum

We are excited to bring land managers, trails groups, pro trail builders and trail enthusiasts together to highlight the many

successes we have had and share what's worked and what hasn't.

SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Oct 25: Alaska Trails is grateful to be a National Forest Foundation grantee in the Chugach National Forest!

These funds have been used to make essential improvements to the Johnson Pass Trail. The Alaska Trails crew greatly improved sections by adding drainage structures, widening the corridor through brushing, and re-establishing the grade, giving trail users a more enjoyable experience. This section of trail will be more fun for mountain bikers and hikers alike since the mucky, in-sloped sections of trail have been regraded and drainage structures added, giving the water someplace other than the trail surface to run to. Since the corridor was cleared of brush, debris, and hazard trees, trail users have better sightlines, allowing for a safer experience on the trail avoiding potential close-up wildlife encounters or fast-moving mountain bikes.



The Johnson Pass trail was built in 1907 as a wagon road linking Seward to the growing communities of Sunrise and Hope and it serves as a segment in the Iditarod National Historic Trail. By keeping this trail open, clear, dry, and sustainable to trail users, it preserves a part of Alaskan history.

Oct 19: On this #ThankfulThursday we would like to send a big thank you to the donors who selected Alaska Trails as a non-profit recipient through Pick Click Give! We appreciate your generosity and commitment to make Alaska more connected through sustainable trails.

For 20 years, Alaska Trails has worked to grow a system of sustainable and exceptional trails in Alaska for all Alaskans – helping build trail groups and advocacy across the state. With your help, we will continue our programs to plan, build, maintain, and advocate for trails statewide. Thank you!



Oct 13: A big thanks goes out to everyone who made our Fall Fundraiser and 20th Anniversary Celebration a success last night! Whether you simply bought tickets, bid on silent auction items, or donated, you helped us raise \$14,200 that will be put to good use on your Alaskan trails. With your help, we will continue our programs to plan, build, maintain, and advocate for trails statewide. For more info on our work, visit: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/>

Oct 4: Our Alaska Trail Stewards volunteer program has been a great success this season, due in part to the generous support of ConocoPhillips Alaska! Their considerable contribution ensured that our volunteers had everything they needed to complete successful trail events, and allows us to celebrate our volunteers' hard work and success with a Volunteer Appreciation Party at the end of the season!



Oct 3: FashionPact, our community thrift store that raises funds for local non-profits, including Alaska Trails, is opening a second location on October 13th and is collecting donations now to get stocked up for the Grand Opening. This second shop is on the corner of Lake Otis and 68th in Anchorage.

It's easy! Just collect your unwanted clothing, accessories, and household goods, drop your stuff off at FashionPact, and choose Alaska Trails to support our work! They are accepting men's, women's and children's clothing, shoes, accessories, and all kinds of home goods. They're especially in needs of MENS and KIDS clothes, because these sections will be much larger in their new location! They're open 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM Monday through Saturday

Oct 2: Our final volunteer event of the season was a success! 18 volunteers came out to work on the new mountain bike trails at Russian Jack Springs Park, completing 5000 feet of trail construction and maintenance. A big thanks to all our volunteers this season for your hard work and dedication! You made a difference on our trails, and we couldn't do the work that we do without you!



STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

NEW WEBSITE SET UP FOR SNOWMACHINE TRAILS PROGRAM

The Snowmachine Trails Program now has a new website and increased funding.

This summer the program transferred from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to the State of Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT&PF). You can see the new website here:

<https://dot.alaska.gov/snowtrails/program.shtml>

In early October, Adison Spafford, Community Resiliency Coordinator for DOT&PF, sent an email about the new website and program:

We continue to work on stabilizing the new program and understand there may be changes or questions regarding the new administration of the program. Please send any questions or comments you have directly to me. You can also send/copy emails to the snowtrails email inbox @ dot.snowtrails@alaska.gov for the record (several people check this inbox to help us ensure timely responses).

We will be working to establish the SnowTrac Advisory Council and process for evaluation of applications. Information regarding the SnowTrac Advisory Council will be added to the website when available.



According to an earlier press release from DOT&PF, transferring the program “will allow the DOT&PF to explore options to enhance the program funding and eligibility projects for the grantees through leveraging other potential funding sources and partnerships.”

In addition to the new transfer and new website, the program also has increased funding. According to Spafford, the funding will go up to about \$750,000 from the previous \$150,000 or so that it was under DNR. Base funding for the program comes from snowmachine registration fees.

For questions, contact Adison Spafford (adison.spafford@alaska.gov) or Andy Mills (andy.mills@alaska.gov).

Photo from the Snowmachine Trails Program website

COMMENTS DUE IN NOVEMBER ON STATE ATV/UTV PERMIT DECISION

The deadline is November 20 for comments on the amended decision to issue a statewide General Permit (GP) for All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) and Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTVs) with a curb weight between 1,500 and 2,500 pounds for use on DMLW managed lands.

DMLW determined that the public interest would be served by issuing a General Permit (GP) authorizing use of ATVs and UTVs that exceed the GAU limits. The amended decision eliminates the term Recreational Off-Road (ROV) vehicles and clarifies the criteria.

The permit authorizes the use of ATVs and UTVs on general state land provided they meet the following criteria: 80 inches or less in width; having a curb weight of 2,500 pounds or less; and designed to travel on four or more non-highway tires.

This GP authorizes ATVs and UTVs to travel upon general state land without requiring a separate authorization as long as the vehicle use adheres to the conditions set forth in the GP: (1) activities employing ATVs and UTVs must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface damage; (2) vehicles must use existing roads and trails whenever possible; (3) activities must be conducted in a manner that minimizes (A) disturbance of vegetation, soil stability, or drainage systems; (B) changing the character of, polluting, or introducing silt and sediment into streams, lakes, ponds, water holes, seeps, and marshes; and (C) disturbance of fish and wildlife resources.

Use of any motorized vehicle outside of the above criteria on state land requires an authorization from DNR. The GP is not valid for ATV and UTV use on private land, state parks, legislatively designated areas, or land owned or managed by other state agencies such as the University of Alaska, Alaska Mental Health Trust, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, or the Alaska Railroad. Some special use areas may also restrict off-road vehicle use.



Issuance of the GP does not alleviate users from obtaining a Fish Habitat Permit from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Habitat Section for crossing waterbodies if needed.

Nothing in the decision restricts DNR-DMLW authority to require a land use authorization for any ATV or UTV use if deemed necessary for the protection of state land and resources. Based on feedback received from the public on the original decision, DMLW is providing an opportunity for the public to comment on the issuance of the amended decision and GP.

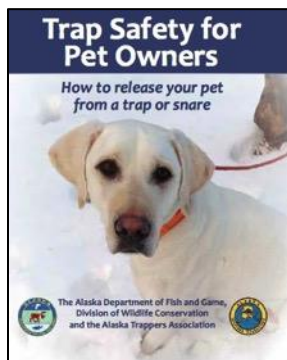
For more information, go to <https://tinyurl.com/veska5k2> and <https://tinyurl.com/yywmswwe>.

Comments or questions may be directed to Dianna Leinberger at dianna.leinberger@alaska.gov or 907-451-2728, or Candy Snow at candice.snow@alaska.gov or 907-269-8568.

From What's Up? by Peg Tileston; Photo by Craig McCaa, BLM Alaska, of OHV on Quartz Creek Trail

RESOURCES HELP REDUCE PET/TRAPPING CONFLICTS

Trapping season opens November 1, so trail users who let their dogs run loose should make sure they know some basic information about traps and trap lines. A pamphlet and videos are available.



PAMPHLET: A pocket-sized pamphlet titled "Trap Safety for Pet Owners" describes the types of traps and snares that may be encountered and provides illustrated instructions on how to free pets swiftly and safely. It is produced by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Alaska Trappers Association (ATA). Copies are available free of charge at department offices or may be viewed on the website at: <http://tinyurl.com/m6oulhk>. More information, including video footage featuring trap removal instructions, is found on the department's website at www.adfg.alaska.gov (see "Sharing the Trails" under the

"Hunting > Trapping" dropdown menu).

VIDEO: The ATA also sells a 30-minute video, "Sharing Alaska's Trails," that includes information such as how to know if you are on a trap line, trap line safety, the physics of handling and opening traps and snares, and tips for first-aid for pets accidentally caught in traps. The video doesn't promote trapping but deals with the practicalities of sharing the trails. A three-minute excerpt of the DVD can be found on YouTube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jk242jZwEAQ). To order a copy of the DVD check the ATA store (www.alaskatrappers.org).



Most trapping seasons run from November 1 to the end of February, but the season for a few species lasts longer. Wolf traps could be active well into April.

WINTER TRAIL GROOMING PROGRAMS NEED YOUR HELP

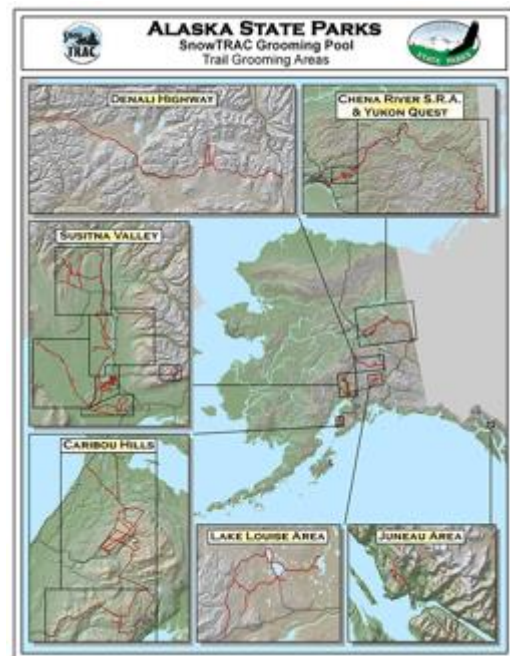
DONATE/SERVE Winter is upon us and if there is no snow on the ground in your area, there soon will be.

Many winter trail activities require (or at least are much improved by) grooming, such as snowmachining, skiing, mushing, and fatbiking. If you engage in an activity that is improved by grooming, please remember to support those efforts. There are several ways you can help.

If you use an area that is clearly groomed and has a grooming fund, make sure to donate. Not all trails that are groomed have a specific grooming fund, but you can also join or donate to the group that is doing the grooming. Look for signs that tell you how you can help.

You can also support the Alaska Snowtrail Grant Program, which provides funds for grooming in several areas of the state. The grooming this program provides benefits more than snowmachiners. Anyone who uses the groomed trails benefits, including fatbikers, skiers, mushers, and hikers. You can't donate to the Snowmachine Trails Program, but you can help it by making sure to register your snowmachine, which is what funds the program. You can also serve on the SnowTRAC board, which advises the state administration on how the funds are spent. Finally, you can advocate for the program. In years past, administrations have tried to cut the program as part of budget cutting measures. However, strong advocacy has kept the program alive.

To find out more about the program see: <https://dot.alaska.gov/snowtrails/program.shtml>
Most importantly, get out there and enjoy all the great winter trails we have in Alaska!



OUTDOOR ALLIANCE OFFERS NEW LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES

The Alaska Outdoor Alliance has a new Lunch and Learn series focused on regenerative economic development at the crossroads of outdoors, tourism, and culture.

They will be held the second Wednesday of the month from noon to 1 p.m. starting November 8. Topics include Capacity Building, Outdoor Funding/Access/Equity, Workforce & Entrepreneur Development, Active Transportation, Cross-Border Collaboration, and Community-Driven Regenerative Tourism.

Find out more here: <https://tinyurl.com/3taspwbn>

ACTION NEEDED TO HELP SLOW CLIMATE CHANGE

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

A warming climate can mean shorter winter 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.

But can the actions of one or two people make a difference? They sure can. Especially if more people are doing the same. Here are two things you can do right now to help make a difference.

Join “Stop the Money Pipeline”

<https://stopthemoneypipeline.com/>

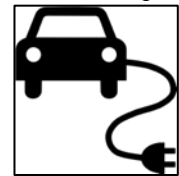


Stop the Money Pipeline is a network of over 200 organizations and tens of thousands of everyday people who are working to hold the financial sector accountable for its role in the climate crisis.

Includes the Alaska Wilderness League

Take a personal action

When buying a car, consider a hybrid or electric vehicle. Technologies for both have come a long way. All the major manufacturers are making models, including sedans, wagons, SUVs, and trucks. Many come in AWD versions. More and more are being sold and prices have been coming down. Alaska organizations are working hard to install fast-charging stations for electric vehicles in high-use areas. Consumer Reports has an excellent guide (www.consumerreports.org/cars/hybrids-evs/buying-guide/), but there are many others. Just let your Google fingers do the walking.



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.

STATEWIDE LINKS

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Alaska ski guide's new book aims to improve education on snow slides: <https://tinyurl.com/czpzrnu7>
- Confluence Summit '23 Big Ideas Recap: <https://tinyurl.com/44me6smz>
- How to Survive a Fall Through Ice: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PA-GzpcglA>
- Skater's mishap shows the best rescue might be one you can do yourself: <https://tinyurl.com/mr26beyh>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

MOOSE RANGE, JONESVILLE COMMENTS DUE BY NOVEMBER 9

The Public Review Draft (PRD) of the Matanuska Valley Moose Range and Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan is available now. We encourage you to review the plan (below) and submit comments. For comments to be considered they must be received by November 9, 2023.

<https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/mgtplans/jonesville-mooserange/>

MAT-SU FOUNDATION GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE IN JANUARY

The Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation wants to fund your next trail, park, or outdoor recreation project.

The Mat-Su Trails & Parks Foundation partners with organizations and local governments on projects and efforts that expand and enhance the valley's network of trails and parks.

Submit your grant application by January 3 for their next review of grant applications. Contact info@matsutrails.org for any questions or to discuss your next project.

- Learn More About MSF Grants: <https://matsutrails.org/ourgrants/>
- MSF Grant Guidelines: <https://tinyurl.com/bdh7j692>

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

Oct 23: BLM Campbell Tract is having some work done to remove hazardous trees over the next couple of years. There will be trail and road closures where work is occurring. The first phase of work starts tomorrow, which will primarily impact the Campbell Tract around the northern and eastern ends of the airstrip.

Attached is a map with more details.



ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION IS AT KINCAID PARK.

October 18: #APFChallengeGrants - It's time to celebrate volunteers! Alaska Disc Golf Association president Chad Rutledge organized 8 events with 46 volunteers to repair and maintain soil erosion around 15 tee-pads at Kincaid Park. In all, their \$10k grant award leveraged more than \$16k of volunteer time and products. Thank you to all the disc golf volunteers, Nordic Skiing Association and volunteers from AK NEXT program at the Alaska Humanities Forum.



Thanks also to Rasmuson Foundation, Alaska Chapter ASLA and Anchorage Parks and Recreation for supporting this program.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Sept 30: Government Peak Recreation Area (GPRA) had another ribbon cutting for three new improvements that include an expanded parking lot, an expanded and improved start and finish area for competitive cross country ski events and even a safer sledding hill for the kids. Warm sunshine chased away the morning rain and added to the happy occasion. GPRA's impact on local outdoor recreation has been massive and is drawing people from all over Alaska to experience the first rate trails, so meticulously groomed by the Mat-Su Ski Club. Over the years, miles of ski trails have been added to meet the demands of elite skiers, making GPRA a destination and not just an alternative. The Alaska Mountain Bikers and Hikers have also been active with the expanded miles of scenic mountain biking trails that carve through the area, coexisting with the ski and hiking trails. When you throw the upcoming 2024 Arctic Winter games into the mix, the expanded parking and improved arena will be welcome additions to that event.



SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Assembly preparing ballot to improve access to Chugach State Park: <https://tinyurl.com/yuw8mtpk>
- Guide to Mountain Biking Around Anchorage: <https://tinyurl.com/4we3rc8m>
- (Kodiak) Island Trails Network Fall Newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/31d74c072e6a/fall-2023-newsletter>

SLIGHTLY OFF TRAIL

- Outdoor Explorer: The Chugach Park Fund: <https://tinyurl.com/45zbx2ch>
- Anchorage Park Foundation Fall 2023 newsletter: <https://tinyurl.com/4e8rx5ta>
- Pretty Rocks Bridge Project Advancing: <https://tinyurl.com/yck9ykdd>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

INTERIOR TRAILS AND PARK FOUNDATION NOW OFFERING GRANTS

The Interior Alaska Trails and Parks Foundation is now offering grants up to \$10,000 for trail and/or park projects in Interior Alaska! Deadline is March 30.

Previous IATPF funded projects have included trailhead kiosks and improvements, supporting volunteer trail projects, brushing the Alaska Dog Mushing Association race trails, and organizing volunteer crews for trail projects.

Project proposals will need to meet a number of criteria. Find out more here:

<https://www.iatpfoundation.org/project-grants>

SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

Oct 16: Snowshoeing is a great way to experience trails in winter. It also leaves soft snow trails in better shape for other users.



Shared from Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks & Rec

Oct 15: Join FNSB Parks and Recreation, the National Parks Service (NPS), and REI at Griffin Park! Learn how to snowshoe, find the right fit and the best places to Snowshoe Adventure! FREE rentals provided by REI. (Limited availability) Curious about the properties of snow? Head inside the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center for a warm up, the science behind snow, and a craft! ❄️

Oct 7: The Tanana River Challenge is a great local multi-sport race that uses the trails of the Tanana River and in the Rosie Creek area of the Tanana Valley State Forest. Among other things, having this race has helped with the grooming and brushing of many of these trails. If you love this race, consider being director or co-director.



Tanana River Challenge (TRC) is looking for a new director to take over starting the 2024 season. The ideal candidate(s) will be an individual or pair of individuals that are organized, accountable, and amped for ski/bike/run/skijor racing on the frozen Tanana. While experience with race organizing is desirable, it's not mandatory given the TRC director is supported by an experienced

crew of co-directors that have volunteered multiple years with the race. This is an excellent opportunity to give back to the events that we all love and that make this community special.

Contact Tracie (traciecurry@gmail.com) if you're interested or want to know more, and feel free to forward along to friends that might be up for it.

Oct 12: After all the meetings and testimony and compromises, the Fairbanks Trails Plan update was adopted a while back. The website has been cleaned up and the official version of the updated plan is now available. Look at it here.

<https://www.fnsbtrailsplan.com/>

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH PARKS & REC

Oct 14: And that is a wrap on the 2023 Summer Trails Challenge! We're so glad you had fun hitting the trails and exploring new places! 🏔️ The Trails Challenge awards can be picked up from the Parks and Recreation office located on the 2nd floor of the Big Dipper, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm. The Winter Trails Challenge will kick off in December so stay tuned for more information! Thank you to everyone who got out and found a sign! You're awesome! 😄

ALASKA DOG MUSHERS ASSOCIATION

Oct 25: ❄️ We've been getting some calls and questions about trail grooming. Just a friendly reminder that per our permits and regulations, we cannot begin grooming until there is at least 9" of snow on the ground, and realistically need about 18" before the grooming is effective in filling in the holes and tussocks on the trail.

The earliest we usually start to groom is early November, so with some more snow and cold weather Carl should hopefully be back at it soon! The snowmachines are all serviced up and ready to go, just waiting on the ground to freeze solid (it wasn't yet when we plowed the other day) and a little more of the white stuff.



Don't worry, we are as excited as you to get back on the trails but want to make sure it's done in the best way possible and sometimes that means waiting a bit! ❄️

TWO RIVERS ALASKA SKI TRAILS

Kay L. Kindt

Oct 24: The Two Rivers Ski Trails group are few in number. We own a 2010 Skandik and some grooming equipment that we are responsible for maintaining. We do this with donations. We donate our time on the machine.

During the winter of 2022 to 2023 we received donations for fuel from Two Rivers School, and from one other donor. It totaled less than \$150.00.

This year the Skandic is in need of a new Voltage regulator, oil sensing unit, and some put off maintenance (track adjustments for one). The tab is approaching \$1,000 and we do not have the funds.

I am reaching out to the community of users and people who believe the Two Rivers Ski trails fill a role in this community. I see people on the trails, I know some of the users have never donated for trail maintenance. It is time to for you to step up.

Can we get the users of these ski trails to help us out in a big way? We need the machine in order to have groomed trails. Without the machine, there is no grooming.

We also need volunteers to run the machine around the trails, after each snow and in between snowfalls as needed. The job involves lifting heavy equipment and being able to stay outside and warm for three to four hours.

Without your donations, there will be no groomed trails.

The account for the Two Rivers Ski Club is with Spirit of Alaska, Johansen Expressway branch. you may also mail your check to

Two Rivers Ski Club
331 Breeze Road
Fairbanks, Ak. 99712

The machine is at Darby's Performance Machine.
Thank you for your support.

ALASKA STATE PARKS

Oct 30: **Northern Region Update**

Yes, we have snow, but the creeks and rivers are not completely frozen yet! Ice has covered most of the ponds, but they are still unsafe for human travel. 🌞🕶️

The snow depth varies from 3-6 inches depending on where you are. The trailheads and cabin driveways are accessible and in good condition.

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



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

Oct 16: The Bureau of Land Management is seeking public review and input on a draft comprehensive river management plan and environmental analysis for the Birch Creek Wild and Scenic River near Central, Alaska.



The BLM requests comments, including additional information and science that should be considered, by November 8, 2023. Read the news release to learn more about the plan: <https://tinyurl.com/4r7nwedm>

Visit the project webpage to review the draft and provide input: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2019528/510>

🇺🇸 Birch Creek Wild and Scenic River winds through the Steese National Conservation Area, Alaska., BLM photo by Bob Wick, BLM Alaska.

Oct 14: Winter is coming! ❄️ On Sunday, October 15, the travel and transportation limitations in the White Mountains National Recreation Area and Steese National Conservation Area switch from summer to winter. The area has already received 3-6 inches of snow this month, with more falling this weekend.

During winter, October 15 - April 30, both areas are open to the use of snowmobiles weighing up to 1000 pounds curb weight and up to 50 inches wide.

📖 Check out the new Winter Recreation Georeferenced PDF Map to learn more about winter access and BLM recreation facilities: <https://ow.ly/BShL50PWImA>

👁️ Keep an eye out on Fridays for updates to the White Mountains trail conditions report: <https://ow.ly/Xywi50PWImz>



DENALI HIGHWAY TRAIL CLUB

Oct 11: Hello Denali Highway Trail Club Group! As we wake up to nearly a fresh foot of snow this morning, we have an update about the club. We are now a 501c3 organization so we can accept donations. We also have started a membership page. Please go to www.denalihwytrailclub.com to become a member of the club. Our goal is to increase our grooming out here and keep the trails in



even better shape for your safety and comfort! We appreciate your support, and we look forward to seeing you out here this winter! DHTC.

<https://www.denalihwytrailclub.com/>

INTERIOR LINK

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Effort to Rezone Property to Improve Birch Hill Recreation Area Delayed: <https://tinyurl.com/sk8cb6pe>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

TRAIL MIX, INC.

Oct 23: 🌲 🛖 Join us in Celebrating 30 Years of Trail Mix! The Trail Mix Annual Auction & Dinner is BACK! 🛖 🌲

📅 Date: Saturday, November 18th

📍 Location: Centennial Hall, Juneau

🌱 It's time to come together and celebrate three decades of remarkable trails in Juneau! We are absolutely thrilled to announce the return of our much-anticipated Trail Mix Annual Auction & Dinner, and this time, it's both in person and online!

🎁 Get ready to be dazzled by the incredible donations from local businesses, talented artists, bakers, makers, and more! You won't want to miss the chance to bid on fantastic items while enjoying a delicious dinner.

🎫 Tickets are your golden pass to this unforgettable event. Make sure to secure yours ahead of time, as we anticipate a sold-out evening!

👤 Individual Tickets: \$75

👥 Tables (Seats up to 10 guests): \$750

👉 Your support means the world to us, and we can't wait to see you in person on November 18th. Our trails are a testament to what we can achieve when we come together, and it's all thanks to you! 📅 Purchase your tickets today at trailmixinc.org/auction and let's celebrate 30 incredible years of Trail Mix! See you there! 🌟



Oct 19: Today marks the final day of the 2023 Field Season! Thank you so much to our incredible crew members, leads, and coordinators for making this amazing season happen! 🥳

SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

Oct 27: Yesterday USFS staff from the Sitka Ranger District joined Sitka Trail Works staff on a site scoping hike up the Indian River Trail. The team was exploring potential projects for our new volunteer program offered in partnership with the forest service. Are you interested in volunteering with us? Click the link below to fill out our signup form and learn about upcoming events. Stay tuned for our November event tackling trail work on the Indian River Trail!



<https://forms.gle/iG2PB9m5RCYgGMKF9>

Oct 23: Sitka Trail Works is grateful to be a National Forest Foundation grantee in the Tongass National Forest! These funds have been used to make essential improvements to the Salmon Lake Trail. In 2022, STW coordinated with the local Coast Guard base who helicoptered out the necessary lumber and gravel to work on the trail. This summer, we had two incredible volunteer groups, 56 people, distribute over 30,000 lbs of gravel. This popular trail had been experiencing extreme erosion from flooding over the last few years, and these improvements have greatly increased its' accessibility. We hope everyone can get out and experience the new trail for themselves sometime soon! Thank you to all the volunteers and the National Forest Foundation for making this maintenance possible.



👤 : Peter White

Oct 17: Thank you to the Sitka Rotary Club for supporting our youth programming! Thanks to your support, we'll be able to help more young Sitkans enjoy the outdoors throughout the year!

SITKA CONSERVATION SOCIETY

September 28: This summer, the sounds of tires, shovels, and laughter could be heard echoing on the Cross Trail during the @sitkascience Revolution Camp. We at Sitka Conservation Society and Salty



Spoke were delighted to partner up with the Sitka Sound Science Center to support camp implementation and activities, which weaved together science and engineering with bike skills and trail building! For two weeks, campers covered everything from bike safety and mechanics to geomorphology modeling and trail design. Students were able to get out on the trails and conduct repair work – and, of course, practice their new bike riding skills on all kinds of terrain and in all types of weather!

A huge thank you to all who made this camp possible, including Science Center staff, Charlie Lowell and the Susitna Bicycle Institute @School.Bike, Ben Hughey and Sitka Trail Works @SitkaTrailWorks, US Forest Service District Sitka District Ranger Eric Garner, and last but not least Salty Spoke's Laura Tirman! It was an absolute pleasure to work with so many incredible community partners to get kids out enjoying Sitka's recreation opportunities, learning how to build and maintain trails, and be safe and responsible recreationists!

👤 : Ryan Morse

SOUTHEAST LINK

- Sitka Trail Works: Fall Newsletter: <https://tinyurl.com/3x2f8ca9>
- Sitka Trail Works: Check out what we did this summer! <https://tinyurl.com/b2bhb8hh>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Agreements signed for co-stewardship of Mendenhall Glacier Rec Area: <https://tinyurl.com/msw4kxk2>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

HELP ADVOCATE FOR TRAIL FUNDING ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The American Hiking Society has created an easy way for you to advocate for more trail funding across the nation.

Your Voice Needed Now to Fund Trails!

Due to your advocacy efforts Congress has proposed increases in funding for our nation's trails!

It's now up to us to ensure that these funding increases are realized when the House and Senate work to pass a final funding package!

See the sign-on letter here: <https://americanhiking.org/advocacy/take-action/>

LEGACY TRAILS GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION PORTAL NOW OPEN

APPLY American Trails is pleased to partner with the U.S. Forest Service in continuing the Legacy Trails Grant Program. This program is funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and supports partner trail projects that further the Legacy Roads and Trails criteria on National Forest System trails throughout the nine Forest Service Regions. The goal of the program is to support projects that restore, protect, and maintain watersheds on our national forests and grasslands. American Trails is administering this grant program, and is soliciting applications for funding, with awards up to \$100K per project. The application portal is now open! **The deadline for applications is December 1 at 11:59 pm Pacific.**

Project applicants may include nonprofit organizations, businesses, or agencies at the state or local level. The Forest Service identifies and prioritizes watershed acres or areas where Forest Service roads and trails may impact water quality in streams and water bodies. Protecting threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, and community water sources are among the top priorities for projects that improve and maintain trail access. Emergency operations, such as evacuation routes during wildfires, floods, or other natural disasters also benefit from this program.

<https://www.americantrails.org/resources/apply-for-the-legacy-trails-program>

From American Trails email

NATIONAL RECREATIONAL PHOTO CONTEST OPEN NOW

ENTER American Trails sponsors the annual contest for photographs of designated National Recreation Trails across the country. The annual contest provides awards in several categories and shows off entries (and previous winners) on the NRT website. Winners receive a certificate, Trail Boss mug, coaster, and stickers, as well as recognition on our website and in one eNewsletter!

Deadline is December 15 of each year. Learn more: <https://buff.ly/3ZkVBLn>

COALITION FOR REC TRAILS ANNOUNCES RTP ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

NOMINATE The Coalition for Recreational Trails is excited to announce its 2023 achievement awards to recognize outstanding trail projects funded by the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). CRT will host an awards ceremony honoring the winners on January 24, 2024. Special guests, including Members of Congress, will be invited to participate.

Award winners will be selected from projects nominated by public agencies, trail administrators or other project sponsors. Projects must be completed in order to receive an award. In addition, projects completed before 2018 are ineligible.

Consider nominating an outstanding project and/or encourage the sponsor(s) of an excellent project in your state to submit a nomination. And encourage those making nominations to solicit support from their members of Congress to grow awareness of excellent RTP-funded projects and the program itself. **Deadline for nominations is November 17, 2023.**

Find out more here: <https://www.americantrails.org/crt>

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

- Am. Hiking Society's 2023 Volunteer Vacations: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacation-trips/>
 - Alternative (to Spring) Break: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacations/alternative-break/>
- Conservation International VIP newsletter (autumn 2023): <https://tinyurl.com/2p8f6ajm>

FUNDING

- FOX Factory Trail Trust (**applications reviewed quarterly**): <https://trailtrust.com/>
- Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative (OHVs, **quarterly deadlines**): <https://yamahaoai.com/>

OTHER LINKS:

- Report of the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission: <https://tinyurl.com/5xv8nr2n>
- Age, Dementia Friendly Design Considerations for Physical Infrastructure: <https://tinyurl.com/5n8ta8cw>
- Using technology to open wilderness trails to people with disabilities: <https://tinyurl.com/ty9w7ebv>
- The Jobs Case for Conservation: www.americantrails.org/resources/the-jobs-case-for-conservation
- Finding Your Path: A Guide to Careers in Trails: <https://tinyurl.com/26eh9473>
- Advancing Trails to Support Multimodal Networks: <https://tinyurl.com/mp8wcvcn>
- What Is SCORP and Why Is It Important to Me As An Advocate?: <https://tinyurl.com/2rj3pp9p>

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