

# Project Title: Alaska Long Trail - Flattop Safety Realignment

**TPS Number:** 67983

**Priority:** 2

**Agency:** Natural Resources

**FY2025 State Funding Request:** \$2,700,000

One-Time Need

## Brief Project Description:

Flattop Mountain Trail is one of the most popular hiking destinations in all of Alaska, for both residents and visitors. This realignment is necessary because the condition of the trail has deteriorated to the point that it poses a significant safety hazard for hikers and a search and rescue burden for Chugach State Park and other emergency responders.

## Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$2,700,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2025 State Funding Request:	(\$2,700,000)
Project Deficit:	\$0

## Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Flattop Mountain (accessed via the Flattop Mountain Trail) is the most climbed and hiked peak in all of Alaska. The trail provides quick access to the alpine environment and sweeping views of the Anchorage Bowl, the Kenai Peninsula, Cook Inlet and the Alaska Range. The trail is featured prominently in hiking guides, tourism and travel information, blogs, websites and articles.

In recent years, the trail has deteriorated to the point of danger in several sections. Likely due to a combination of this deterioration and the trail's popularity, Flattop Mountain is the number one location of emergency response for Chugach State Park (CSP) rangers. In 2022 CSP responded to numerous safety incidents on this trail.

Trail condition hazards along the route include exposed rebar, damaged stairs, eroding tread, loose and falling rocks, general steepness and slippery footing. The existing trail was never designed - sustainably or otherwise. Instead, it is a social trail which follows the most direct line - often straight up loose rock - to achieve the summit.

This Flattop Safety Realignment will create a safer trail alignment through some or all of the following: design and construction of a switchbacking trail through steep sections, clear markers of trail routing, a rebuild of wooden and stone stairs and leveling of the grade in eroded sections of trail.

The existing Flattop Mountain Trail is included in the Chugach State Park Trail Management Plan (as trail ID #434) and thus was a part of the public review process associated with the crafting of that document prior to its adoption.

## Project Timeline:

This project will be completed in two to three field seasons. With the requested funding, Chugach State Park will first complete initial reconnaissance and assessment of the trail corridor, followed by design and layout. These activities will be completed in one field season. Construction will occur the following season.

### BUDGET

Reconnaissance - \$30,000

Layout and Design - \$50,000

Construction Costs (trail) - \$2,620,000

Total Budget: \$2,700,000

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

DPOR - Alaska State Parks, Chugach State Park

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

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**This project has been through a public review process at the local level and it is a community priority.**

# Flattop Safety Realignment - Maps



