

# Project Title: Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation - Alaska Long Trail - GPRA Traverse and Little Susitna Loop

**TPS Number:** 66755

**Priority:** 5

**Agency:** Commerce, Community and Economic Development  
Grants to Named Recipient (AS 37.05.316)

**Federal Tax ID:** 90-0699180

**Grant Recipient:** Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation

**FY2025 State Funding Request:** \$2,500,000

One-Time Need

## Brief Project Description:

The project will construct approximately 12 miles of new trails to connect two popular existing non-motorized trail systems and increase access to the alpine country east of Government Peak.

## Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$2,500,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2025 State Funding Request:	(\$2,500,000)
Project Deficit:	\$0

## Detailed Project Description and Justification:

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will construct approximately 12 miles of new trails to connect two popular existing non-motorized trail systems and increase access to the alpine country east of Government Peak. At the south end, this new trail would connect to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's Government Peak Recreation Area (GPRA) which currently boasts 22 miles of hiker, biker, skier, and equestrian trails. To the north, extending into the Hatcher Pass area would be connections to the Skeetawk Ski Area and the 16 Mile downhill mountain bike trail.

### BENEFITS AND NEED

This highly used area will greatly benefit from increased trail connectivity. In addition to the four developed trailheads that will be connected by this project (GPRA, Skeetawk, Fishhook Creek and 16 Mile) the trail will link to the campground at Government Peak along the Little Susitna River. An additional benefit for safety and user experience will be a route for mountain bikers and hikers to return to the top of the 16 Mile trail without needing a vehicle shuttle. Visitation to this region is heavy throughout the year, especially in the summer months when this trail will be used the most. Providing this infrastructure will give users a dramatic increase in connectivity between the four trailheads that does not exist and will open up many more possibilities for outdoor recreation. Beyond the connection of Hatcher Pass and GPRA, two destination recreation areas, the Government Peak Traverse Trail linking Skeetawk with the Little Susitna Loop will create a world-class option for bikers to use Skeetawk in the summer.

### LAND OWNERSHIP

Portions of the trail will be on land managed by Alaska State Parks, the Mat-Su Borough, and Skeetawk which leases land from the Mat-Su Borough.

### PROJECT LEAD AND PARTNERS

Project Lead: Land and Resource Management Division, Mat-Su Borough

Partners: Alaska State Parks; Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation; Hatcher Alpine Xperience (Skeetawk).

USE: The trail will most likely be 4-to-6-foot bench cut tread built for hiking and mountain biking. There may be an option in the future to connect the Carle Wagon Road Trail with the southern most section of the Government Peak Traverse.

**ESTIMATED COST**

Cost for the trail construction, trail easement survey, along with limited upgrades at the four trailheads is estimated at \$2.5 million.

**Project Timeline:**

2024-2025: trail construction and trail easement survey as-built will start in 2024, followed by limited upgrades at the four trailheads.

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

MSB, AK State Parks, Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation; Hatcher Alpine Xperience (Skeetawk)

**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.**

# GPRA Traverse and Little Susitna Loop

