

Project Title: Crow Pass Trail Realignment - Priority 3 - Eagle River Crossing to Heidi's Knob

TPS Number: 69711

Priority: 6

Agency: Natural Resources

FY2026 State Funding Request: \$196,001

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

This project will address much-needed deferred maintenance along 1.1 miles of Crow Pass trail in Chugach State Park between the Eagle River Crossing and Heidi's Knob.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$196,001
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2026 State Funding Request:	(\$196,001)
Project Deficit:	\$0

Explanation of Other Funds:

The State of Alaska provided \$1.5 million in FY2023 to the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation to evaluate Crow Pass Trail and begin reroutes and repairs to the trail. That funding paid for a comprehensive trail prescription to evaluate the needs of Crow Pass Trail, produced in 2024. During the summer 2025 construction season, work will begin on the three most dire sections of the trail which will use up the previous funding.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Project Description:
The 23-mile Crow Pass Trail is beloved by hikers, runners, backpackers and river runners. The trail is in dire need of immediate reroutes and repairs, identified in the Crow Pass Redesign Recommendations produced in 2024. This project is the third highest priority reroute and repair, not already funded.

Planning and design for this project was completed with previous funding in 2024.

This project will address much needed deferred maintenance along the Eagle River Crossing to Heidi's Knob section of trail, including brushing, addressing fall-line sections of tread near the "S-turns" in the river, improving tread with small realignments and construction of steps and structures. Cairns will be built along the alluvial plain to the river crossing. Dedicated camping areas with proper food storage and an outhouse. This section is 1.1 miles long.

Project Justification:
Crow Pass Trail is a beloved and long-used trail in Chugach State Park and is a section of the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

From the bottom of Heidi's Knob to the ER crossing, the trail moves between lightly forested areas, the gravel bluff along the creek edge, and the alluvial floodplain. In some sections along the river's edge the trail is in danger of being washed out. There are many informal campsites throughout this area, with unsanitary conditions proliferating. Food storage and human waste need to be addressed, as this is the most heavily used area for overnight camping along the Crow Pass Trail.

The Crow Pass Trail is included in the Chugach State Park Trail Management Plan (trails 215a and 219a), which went through a thorough public process prior to its adoption. The results of the Crow Pass Redesign Recommendations were presented at the open-to-the-public Chugach State Park Citizen Advisory Board meeting on December 9, 2024.

Project Timeline:

Construction will be completed in summer 2026. A trail crew is already mobilized to work on the previously funded sections of the trail in summer 2025.

Eagle River Crossing - North Side

Total: \$29,612

Eagle River Crossing - South Side

Total: \$20,108

Heidi's Knob Area

Total: \$145,893

Project Total: \$195,613

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

DNR-DPOR

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Ricky Gease
Address: 18620 Seward Hwy
Anchorage, AK 99516
Phone Number: (907)345-5014
Email: ricky.gease@alaska.gov

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





Dear Alaska Legislators:

2/19/2025

Alaska Trails, the statewide non-profit, is writing on behalf of the Alaska Long Trail Coalition to request the inclusion of the Seward-to-Fairbanks [Alaska Long Trail](#) projects (submitted into CAPSIS) into FY2026 State's capital budget. The specific request is for **13 projects** to fill key shovel-ready and planning-ready gaps along the length of the planned route. Some of these projects have federal/local matching funds or complimentary funds already secured, and some projects build on the funding received through the state capital budget over the past three years (**thank you!**).

The Alaska Long Trail, when complete, will become a world-class trail system connecting 500+ miles of Alaska's iconic terrain and diverse communities from Seward to Fairbanks, embracing the many ways (motorized and non-motorized) Alaskans recreate outdoors and bolstering the Alaska economy by attracting visitors from all over the world.

Specific benefits include:

- **Economic Impact** – Outdoor recreation infrastructure *is essential* infrastructure, building on Alaska's global competitive advantage, and supporting local jobs, business opportunities, and a stronger, more durable AK economy. If typical year's out-of-state travelers had reasons to spend one more day in Alaska, the result would be an additional \$250M in annual spending in our state.
- **Health Benefits** – Long Trails have an ability to inspire use, even if for a single day. The Long Trail will make it inviting and easier for a larger portion of Alaskans to be active, healthy, and happy outside.
- **Projects are Action-Ready** – Funding these investments will create much needed construction jobs in the near term and build skills that will be in demand continuing into the future.
- **Multi-Use** – The Long Trail will be an *Alaska* long trail; a braided, four-season trail system designed for hikers, bikers, skiers, ATV's, snowmachines, for both day and multi-day use.

We ask that you support the inclusion of the Alaska Long Trail projects, submitted into CAPSIS, in the FY2026 state capital budget.

Please call or write if you have questions. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Steve Cleary, Alaska Trails Executive Director

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ALASKA LONG TRAIL - CAPSIS FY2026 PROJECTS

ID #	TPS #	Project	Amount	Match funds secured	Recipient	Land Manager/Area	Districts	Previously Submitted?	Planning, New construction, Repairs/Improvements	Mileage
1	68890	Glenn Highway to Far North Bicentennial Park	\$110,000		Anchorage Park Foundation	Municipality of Anchorage	21-K, 22-K	YES	Planning	5
2	68868	Connect Gruening Middle School to Chugach State Park - Lower Eagle River Trail	\$169,916		Chugach Mountain Bike Riders (CMBR)	Chugach State Park	23-L	YES	New construction	1
3	69711	Crow Pass Trail Realignment - Priority 3 - Eagle River Crossing to Heidi's Knob	\$196,001	Supported by FY23 Planning Funds	DNR DPOR	Chugach State Park	23-L/ 9-E	NO	Repairs/Improvements	1.1
4	68766	Alaska Long Trail - Talkeetna Mountains Planning	\$300,000	\$200,000	Alaska Trails	Mat-Su Borough & AK DMLW	30-O, 29-O	NO	Planning	85
5	68764	Little Coal Creek Trail Upgrades	\$450,000		DNR DPOR	Denali State Park	30-O	NO	Repairs/Improvements	5
6	68762	Ermine Hill Trail Upgrades	\$450,000		DNR DPOR	Denali State Park	30-O	NO	Repairs/Improvements	5
7	68012	Failed Boardwalk Replacement - Lower Eagle River Trail	\$500,000		DNR DPOR	Chugach State Park	23-L	YES	Repairs/Improvements	2
8	69712	Crow Pass Improvements Park Priority #2 - Raven Creek Gorge Bridge and Clear Creek Bridge	\$788,987	Supported by FY23 Planning Funds	DNR DPOR	Chugach State Park	23-L/ 9-E	NO	Repairs/Improvements	0.4
9	68845	Ram Valley Access Trail and Trailhead Parking Lot	\$1,000,000		Alaska Trails	Chugach State Park	23-L	YES	New construction	4
10	69713	Crow Pass Trail Realignment - Priority 1 - Icicle Creek Reroute & Bridge	\$1,115,000	Supported by FY23 Planning Funds	DNR DPOR	Chugach State Park	23-L/ 9-E	NO	Repairs/Improvements	2
11	69702	Iditarod Trail Construction Connecting Chugiak High School to Cook Inlet	\$1,500,000		Muni of Anchorage	Muni of Anchorage	23-L/ 9-E	NO	Repairs/Improvements	1.5
12	66755	GPRA Traverse and Little Susitna Loop	\$2,250,000	\$250,000	Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation	Mat-Su Borough & AK DNR DPOR	29-O	YES	New construction	12
13	68770	Ship Creek Trail "Arctic to Indian"	\$3,000,000		Alaska Trails	Chugach State Park	23-L	YES	New construction	13.5

TOTAL

\$11,829,904

TOTAL MILES 137.5

TOTAL NEW

CONSTRUCTION MILES 30.5

TOTAL REPAIRS MILES 17

TOTAL PLANNING MILES 90

Alaska Long Trail CAPSIS FY26

Alaska Long Trail Corridor*

-  Existing Trails
-  Identified Gaps
-  Water Route

Land Ownership**

-  Private
-  State
-  BLM
-  AK Native
-  Federal
-  DoD

CAPSIS Project

-  Project ID number

*Corridor shown is simplified and may not accurately reflect the alignment. Refer to the region maps in the AKLT workbook for detailed information.

Existing Trails: recommended trails and routes

Identified gaps: concepts, gaps, road connections, and work in progress.

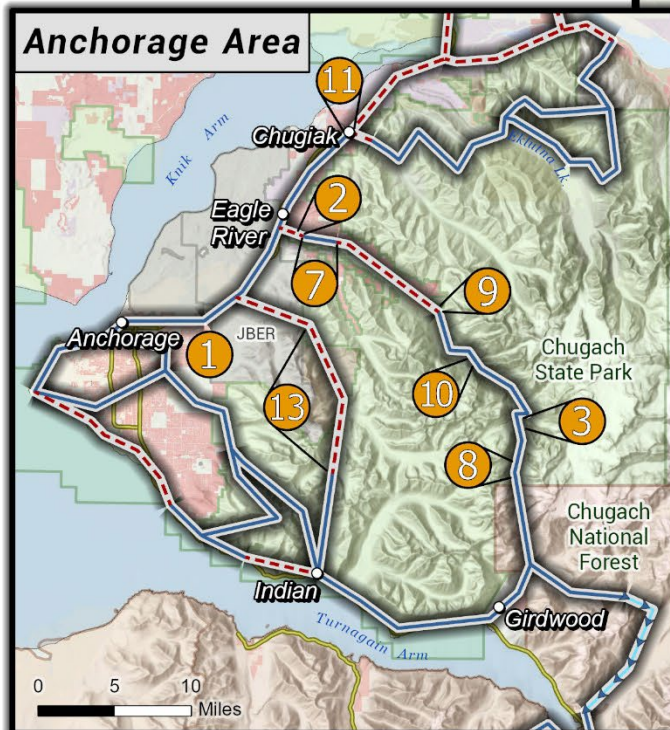
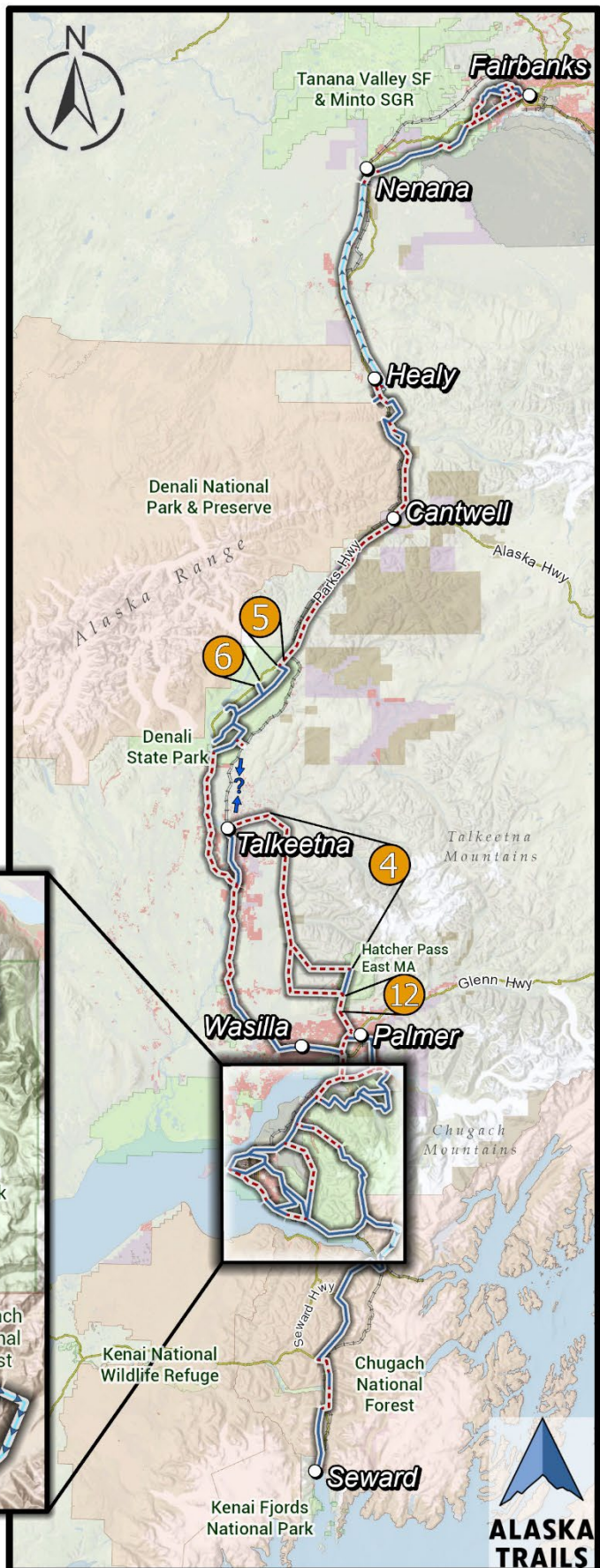
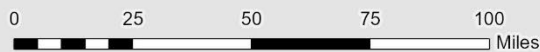
**Land ownership parcels within 25 miles of the AKLT corridor

State: parks, preserves, recreation, and special management areas

Federal: parks, preserves, and forests

Data Sources: ADNRR, ADFG, Alaska Trails, AKLT Coalition, AKDOT, BLM, Denali Borough, Esri, FNSB, KPB, MOA, NPS, USFS, USFWS

Created: 2/21/2025



RESOLUTIONS AND LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Numerous organizations, agencies, local governments, and individuals expressed support for the Alaska Long Trail over 2021 - 2025. Below is the list of organizations, agencies, and local governments that have sent letters of support and passed resolutions in support of the project.



Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA)	statewide
National Park Service	statewide
Alaska Huts Association (AHA)	statewide
Alaska Trails	statewide
Alaska Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects	statewide
Alaska Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers	statewide
Mountaineering Club of Alaska	statewide
Mat-Su Borough Assembly	Mat-Su
City of Palmer	Mat-Su
Mat-Su Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB)	Mat-Su
Mat-Su Health Foundation	Mat-Su
Skeetawk, Hatcher Alpine Xperience	Mat-Su
Alaska State Parks - Mat-Su/Copper Basin Regional Office	Mat-Su
City of Seward	Kenai
Kenai Mountains – Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area (KMTA)	Kenai
Kenai Backcountry Horsemen	Kenai
Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly	Interior
Denali Borough Assembly	Interior
Explore Fairbanks	Interior
Interior Trails Quarterly	Interior
Fairbanks Cycle Club	Interior
Nordic Ski Club Fairbanks	Interior
Interior Trails Preservation Coalition	Interior
Anchorage Assembly	Anchorage
Chugach State Park Citizens Advisory Board	Anchorage
Chugach Mountain Bike Riders	Anchorage
Eklutna Valley Community Council	Anchorage
Eagle River Valley Community Council	Anchorage
Anchorage Ski Club	Anchorage
Girdwood Board of Supervisors	Anchorage
Girdwood Trails Committee	Anchorage
Latitude 61 Girdwood	Anchorage
Anchorage Park Foundation	Anchorage
Single Track Advocates, Anchorage	Anchorage
Roadmap to a Vital and Safe Anchorage	Anchorage
Anchorage Trails	Anchorage



February 18, 2025

Honorable Alaska State Legislators:

Re: Support for Alaska Long Trail Capital Improvement Projects

Thank you for supporting the Alaska Long Trail (AKLT). Investing in outdoor recreation infrastructure keeps Alaskans healthy and connected and will put Alaska on the map as the outdoor epicenter of the world.

The 13 AKLT projects submitted to CAPSIS would invest approximately \$12 million to build or improve 138 miles. These investments leverage local and federal funding and will have a resounding positive impact on Alaska communities. They create jobs, they support the stories that bind us together, and they help facilitate a wide variety of quality-of-life activities from hiking, biking, snowmachining, hunting and fishing to travel and tourism. They are supported by a growing coalition of business leaders, public land agencies, local governments, neighborhoods, and Alaska Native leaders.

We support all of the AKLT projects from our coalition partners across the state, including seven projects in Chugach State Park, two projects in Chugiak Eagle River, two in the Mat-Su Borough and two in Denali State Park. In addition, we want to highlight the Anchorage project we submitted to CAPSIS, to build a safe non-motorized connection from the Glenn Highway Trail to the newly completed Chugach Foothills trail in Far North Bicentennial Park.

Thanks for your past support for the AKLT. Your investments in new trail segments and wayfinding will help more than 1.5 million visitors to Anchorage learn about the Alaska Long Trail and want to come back to Alaska communities again and again to complete new segments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth Nordlund". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Beth" and last name "Nordlund" clearly distinguishable.

Beth Nordlund, Executive Director
Anchorage Park Foundation