



# NEWSLETTER

AUG  
2021

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

## ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

### ALASKA LONG TRAIL FUNDING VETOED BY GOVERNOR DUNLEAVY

Among other things with his vetoes, Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy axed \$13.2 million for the Alaska Long Trail when he issued his list of vetoed items in early July.

The Dunleavy administration had earlier supported funding for the trail, which has also had bipartisan support in the Alaska Legislature. The veto was mentioned by Fairbanks Sen. Scott Kawasaki in his legislative newsletter as well as in comments to the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner.

Unfortunately, it requires 45 of the 60 legislators to overturn any vetoes. Rep. Bart LeBon, also from Fairbanks, told the News-Miner he didn't think there was enough support to "undo any of (Gov. Dunleavy's) spending plan reductions."

Read the News-Miner story here: <https://tinyurl.com/a4vs3rk3>

### R&M CONSULTING HELPS TRAILS WITH BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

A big thank you to R&M Consulting for making Alaska Trails the beneficiary of their annual golf tournament this past weekend. We're grateful for all the support they provide to trails in Alaska!

R&M has held this annual golf tournament for many years. In 2010, the firm decided to have the event benefit a designated local non-profit. Over the past 10 years, the golf tournament has raised more than \$41,000 for numerous local charity organizations. In 2019, 80 golfers participated in the tournament, consisting of employees, partners, clients, friends and family of R&M, as well as volunteers from Skiku, the spotlighted organization for that year's tournament.

Other past organizations that have benefited from the tournament include the Anchorage Park Foundation, Healthy Futures, and Parks for All.



### GO BAG SOME PEAKS, WIN A PRIZE, HELP ALASKA TRAIL STEWARDS



**DONATE BY PLAYING** Playing outside in the mountains screams fun to begin with, but what if you could win prizes, too? And do it all to help a good cause?!

Welcome to Marmot Peak Bingo! Buy a BINGO card for \$20 at The Hoarding Marmot, tag five peaks in a row on the card and win a prize! Make sure to track your summits with Strava, Garmin, Gaia or some other activity tracking app to submit as proof. Not challenging enough? Be the first to cover the entire card and win one of the GRAND PRIZES!

This event runs from July 1 to August 31. Several local vendors have donated prizes and all proceeds from the event go to Alaska Trail Stewards who help keep our trails maintained. Check out the volunteer opportunities at: [www.alaska-trails.org/volunteer-opportunities](http://www.alaska-trails.org/volunteer-opportunities).

## WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH THE ANCHORAGE MAYOR'S CHARITY BALL

**DONATE ITEMS** Do you own a business or know one that would like to donate something to a silent auction as part of the Anchorage Mayor's Charity Ball?

All of the net proceeds from the ball – that's 100 percent – are distributed to the four local charities and this year we are one of them! The chosen charities receive an average of \$50,000 each from the ball.



We are excited to have this opportunity, as that is a significant amount of funding for our small organization.

Founded in 1994 by a group of dedicated volunteers, led by Robert Penney and then Mayor Rick Mystrom, the Anchorage Mayor's Charity Ball has raised more than \$3.5 million to support local

Anchorage charitable organizations. The ball will be held Saturday, October 9, at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage.

If you would like to donate something or know of a business that would, please contact Alaska Trails at 907-334-8049 or [office@alaska-trails.org](mailto:office@alaska-trails.org)

Find out more about the ball here: <https://mayorscharity.org/>

## ALASKA TRAILS HAS TOOL TRAILERS READY FOR TRAIL PROJECTS



**BORROW TOOLS** As you start planning trail building and maintenance projects, remember that Alaska Trails has mobile tool caches available to loan to organized trail groups in Southcentral and Interior Alaska. One cache is in the Fairbanks area and the other is in Anchorage/Mat-Su Valley area.

The trailers have a bunch of trail tools including McLeods, Pulaskis, rakes, gloves, and much, much more. If you would like to borrow one of the caches, please contact us (info on masthead).

## SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

July 26: This summer we got to host a group of students from Overland for a week. The students and group leaders came from all over the country, ranging from Massachusetts to Los Angeles. The group worked and camped in Chugach State Park, rerouting an unsustainable section of the Middle Fork Trail. Thank you for all the work you put in!



**VOLUNTEER** July 13: Rain can't keep these volunteers down! We had a great event in Turnagain Pass this past weekend, despite the wet conditions. We've got more events coming up, from Arctic Valley to Johnson Pass. Check out our website to sign up: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities>

BIG THANKS to the National Forest Foundation for their support of our work in the Chugach National Forest!

## STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

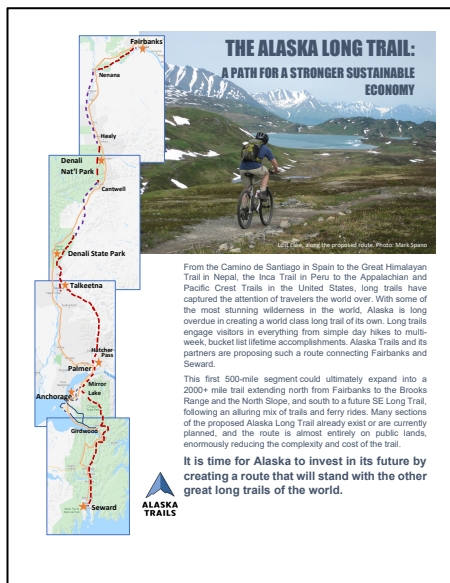
### HERE'S A CHALLENGE: GET DIRT ON A LEGISLATOR THIS SUMMER

**GET A LEGISLATOR DIRTY** During Great Outdoors Month, and all the way through July, trail enthusiasts should take time to invite local and state elected officials to get on the trail bandwagon.

In August, the legislature will be considering how to spend Alaska's \$1 billion in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Two proposals introduced during regular session would invest in outdoor recreation jobs that create economic opportunity. The proposals are complimentary. The statewide civilian conservation corps (aka Trails Build Alaska), will help train and create skilled trail workers. Those workers could be hired to help with the other proposal, the Alaska Long Trail, which, when complete, would connect Seward to Fairbanks with a 500-mile long trail.



Every vote in the legislature counts, so no matter where you live, invite legislators and/or their staff



to join you to walk a trail and talk about why trails are so important to you, your friends, family and community. We have not yet met an Alaska legislator that does not recreate outdoors in some way. Mountain bike advocates, be sure to provide a bike and helmet for your elected representatives and let them experience the fun of an easy, local bike trail - unless they are already a known shredder! Legislators might even be willing to get their hands dirty, in a publicity-friendly way, by joining with other volunteers to help maintain or build trails, or at classic shovel-wielding ground-breaking or grand opening ceremonies. Invite local newspaper and radio reporters to these occasions. If they can't come, ask if they would accept and publish your photos. If that sounds daunting at least post your images to websites and tag the legislator in social media posts.

Funding for the statewide Trails Build Alaska and Long Trail, combined with approval of a Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation budget that beefs up outdoor recreation grant

programs, would represent the single largest investment in outdoor recreation in Alaska in decades. You can bet legislators will be hearing from a multitude of constituents with ideas on how to spend the ARPA funds. Why not us? Together, by keeping our needs on legislators' radar in fun, meaningful and visible ways, we can make sure that the CCC, Long Trail and State Parks budget requests win approval.

*From Alaska Outdoor Alliance post*

## STATEWIDE LINKS

### SLIGHTLY OFF TRAIL

- Bike the Denali road? Yes. Bachelorette party in ANWR? Yes. This summer, it's hard for Alaskans to say no to anything (ADN): <https://tinyurl.com/nzwcse5j>

- Backpacking in the Arctic would be so much more delightful if it didn't involve packing(ADN): <https://tinyurl.com/p5sf6xyj>
- A hike gets tense when a dog runs out of sight — and ends with a sloppy kiss and a renewed respect for nature (ADN): <https://tinyurl.com/dnmwngps>

## SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

### EXPLORATION DAY PLANNED FOR SETTLERS DAY PARK IN WASILLA

Join Great Land Trust on Saturday, August 14, for a free, family-friendly day of exploring Settlers Bay Coastal Park in Wasilla. This almost 300-acre park offers miles of walking trails, some singletrack bike trails, coastal views, and access to the Palmer Hay Flats. We'll be at the north parking lot with information and a variety of activities for the whole family! The event will kick off at 11am with a short land recognition ceremony by a representative from the Chickaloon Tribe.



Some of the activities we'll have include:

- Arctic Orienteering will be there with orienteering courses set up in a range of difficulty levels.
- Local archeologists will have a table providing information about the cultural history of the land that the park is on.
- Activities for kids including a nature bingo game, animal tracks and furs, and more.
- King of the Mountain Food Truck!

Bring your friends, family, dogs, bikes, binoculars, snacks, and bug spray, and have a good time enjoying this new park!

For more information see: <https://tinyurl.com/hx4wz864>

*From Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation email*

### MAT-SU FOUNDATION GRANTS IMPROVE ACCESS TO TRAILS, PARKS

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation (MSTPF) created a special grant opportunity to maintain and increase trail and park maintenance and projects.



The expedited Rapid Response #ActiveMatSu Grant program was designed to support community partners with grants of \$5,000 to those who have been, and are currently facilitating and improving access to outdoor recreation during the COVID-19 crisis. The foundation has already approved 20 Rapid Response #ActiveMatSu

Grants, totaling \$100,000.

Check out some of the incredible projects our community partners have been working on in 2020 with Rapid Response Grant Funding!: <https://matsutrails.org/2021/07/26/2020-grantees/>

## SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

### ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION

July 15: Anchorage Park Foundation is proud to be a part of the Indigenous Place Names Project. It's a step towards recognizing and honoring the Dena'ina language, knowledge and innovations in Anchorage.

On behalf of Aaron Leggett, President and Chair of the Native Village of Eklutna, Alaska Native Heritage Center, Anchorage Parks and Recreation and many other partners please mark your calendar for an opening celebration of Dena'ina artistic place making in Anchorage parks and trails.

July 6: Trail users -- heads up that Parks and Recreation, Alaska Trails, and Singletrack Advocates are constructing a multi-use trail connection between the upper hillside trail system in Far North Bicentennial Park and the Prospect Heights trailhead in Chugach State Park.

Work begins this afternoon, so be on the lookout for crews and equipment!

### SINGLETRACK ADVOCATES

July 9: TRAIL UPDATE: The trail fairies were hard at work tonight. We have made some changes and modifications to Eh-Line.

Watch out for rebuilt jump lips and new reinforced berms on lower Eh-Line. Thanks to all the volunteers who came out to make it happen!!

### THE CONSERVATION FUND

July 14: Alaska's Portage Pass Trail has a rich history of use by Alaska Natives, Russian fur traders, and even gold rush prospectors in the 1890's. Today, thanks to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, this valuable recreational and economic asset to the small town of Whittier and surrounding communities is forever protected. To secure access to the trail in perpetuity, we recently worked with the U.S. Forest Service to protect a previously at-risk portion of the trail and add it to U.S. Forest Service - Chugach National Forest. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/3i7GHmE>.



### VALLEY MOUNTAIN BIKERS AND HIKERS



July 6: Check out The Red Shirt Lake Trail, located in Willow, the one-way trail is three miles and follows the tops of glacial moraines. The trail provides views of the area's lakes and the Chugach Mountains on the horizon.

[www.alltrails.com/trail/us/alaska/red-shirt-lake-trail](http://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/alaska/red-shirt-lake-trail)

photo and content from alltrails.com

### MAT-SU TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION

July 1: We're here to help you find your next outdoor adventure!

We compiled some of our favorite summer trails and parks around Palmer to share with you!

Request a Summer Trails and Parks Guide today by email at [info@matsutrails.org](mailto:info@matsutrails.org).

<https://matsutrails.org/2021/07/01/summer-trails-and-parks-guide/>

## MAT-SU BOROUGH RECREATION AND LIBRARY SERVICES

July 29: The Mat Su Borough Trail Crew is almost done laying the gravel on the Matanuska River Trail! This has been in the works for several years and will be a great addition to the trails around Palmer. Currently they are working from Eagle Ave, and Gulkana Ave, next to Sherrod Elementary School towards the ball fields behind Sherrod.

This 5 foot wide crushed gravel trail follows the river down into the Mat River Park and then to the Mat River bridge, and is designed to be accessible for people with mobility impairments. The lower grades of the trail, and added rest areas, make this a great trail for strollers, young kids, and anyone looking for a more mellow hike through a beautiful area. Once the gravel is down, it will be compacted and signs will be added to the trail. Enjoy!



July 21: It's that time of the year....time for the Mat Su Borough Trail Crew to take our gas powered brushers out for a walk in the woods! So far we have brushed the West Butte Trail, the Jim Creek Equestrian and Learn to Ride ATV trails, the Morgan Equestrian trail, the Palmer to Moose Creek Railroad trail, the trails at the Mat River Park, and the trails at Settlers Bay Coastal Park.



This week we should have the Lazy Moose trail on Lazy Mountain done as well. We will continue to brush until all of the trails that we manage in the core area are completed. This is a long process and we cannot do all of the trails at once. Please be patient and feel free to check if a trail has been brushed at <https://www.matsugov.us/trails> Thank you and we hope you enjoy the trails!

June 29: It was brought to our attention that a tree had fallen on the West Butte Trail. The MSB Trail Crew took care of this problem today.

If anyone sees issues on the trails that needs our attention, please call 907-861-7662 or DM us on Facebook. We rely a lot on trail users to help keep an eye on things! Your help is greatly appreciated!

## ALASKA STATE PARKS

July 25 Reed Lakes up-do. 🤔☀️

We've seen quite an uptick in usage to this area. (We get it- It's beautiful! 😍)

So we applied for an RTP Grant and now our awesome Mat-Su Trail Crew is installing gravel tent platforms and latrines at both lakes and repairing the trail in areas where it has braided, become muddy, or is hard to follow.

Help us keep it nice by staying on trails, packing out what you pack in and using the provided latrines. 🙌🙌🙌 THANKS!

📷 Hobbes



July 19: Looking for an adventure? 🚣

Nancy Lake SRA Lynx Loop Canoe Trail:

Five to six hours of paddling and portaging, depending on what you are paddling- and portaging. 😊 Starts and ends at Tanaina Lake.

Find the map and more details here:

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/aspunits/matsu/nancylksra.htm>

## ISLAND TRAILS NETWORK IS IN KODIAK, ALASKA.

July 29: Thank you @epicapumcyouth for helping clean up Kodiak! They did three days of service projects including trail and beach cleanups. The geoblock on Three Pillar Point trail works well in some spots for ATV use, but in other places it has broken up into pieces which was cleaned up. After the trail cleanup, they helped get nets and marine debris off of local Kodiak beaches.



## SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Winner Creek Trail hand tram in Girdwood unlikely to be reopened, officials say (ADN): <https://tinyurl.com/db2k4whp>
- Giant magpie sculptures rise along trail at Alaska Botanical Garden: <https://tinyurl.com/uh9yd4ax>
- Construction at Anchorage's Hilltop bike park is in full swing ahead of August opening: <https://tinyurl.com/4yfw7v6>

## INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### BLM SEEKS COMMENT ON WHITE MOUNTAINS TRANSPORTATION PLAN

**COMMENT** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is holding virtual public meetings Aug. 4 and 5 and seeks public comment by Aug. 20 on its proposals and associated environmental assessment to manage travel and transportation in the White Mountains National Recreation Area and Steese National Conservation Area.



“These new plans seek to increase and improve access to public lands while protecting resources and minimizing conflicts among various users,” said acting Eastern Interior Field Manager Tim Hammond. “Public input has been essential throughout development of

these plans, and it remains so now during our 30-day public comment period.”

The BLM’s travel and transportation management involves coordination with the public and local partners to evaluate public access and travel activities on BLM-managed public lands. Travel management planning addresses all forms of transportation, including travel by foot, skis, dogsled and bicycle, as well as the numerous forms of motorized vehicles.

In developing the proposed plans, the BLM held a series of public open houses in 2019 and evaluated natural resource management needs, road and trail design and conditions, and recreation and non-recreation uses of roads and trails.

A virtual public meeting is scheduled for each of the two draft plans, and registration is required. Direct meeting links are below and on the project web page.

- Aug. 4, 5:30-7:30p | White Mountains NRA | Register at <http://ow.ly/XjKQ50FA5qh>
- Aug. 5, 5:30-7:30p Steese NCA | Register at <http://ow.ly/AphC50FzihB>

Each meeting will be followed by an Alaska National Interest Conservation Lands Act (ANILCA) Section 810 subsistence hearing. Although each meeting focuses on a particular plan, questions are welcome concerning both plans at either meeting.

The BLM encourages the public to provide comments, particularly concerning the adequacy and accuracy of the proposed alternatives, the analysis of its respective management decisions, and any new information that would help develop the final plan.

**Comments must be received by Aug 20, 2021 and can be submitted:**

- Online: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/120326/510>
- By email: [BLM\\_AK\\_FD\\_TMP@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_AK_FD_TMP@blm.gov)
- By fax: 907-474-2281
- By mail: BLM Eastern Interior Field Office; Attn: Eric Yeager; 222 University Avenue; Fairbanks, AK 99709

*From BLM press release and Facebook page*

## NEW ROSIE CREEK FORESTRY AREA TRAILHEAD CAUSES CONCERNS

A new trailhead for Rosie Creek forestry area trails is causing some concerns because the area for the



trailhead has been used as an informal shooting area.

As part of an effort to develop the Rosie Creek area of the Tanana Valley State Forest into a recreational trails area, a wide flat area under a powerline is being turned into a parking area and trailhead. The area, just off the Parks Highway across from its upper intersection with the Old Nenana Highway, has been used for years as an informal shooting area. However, that was chosen as the best

spot for a trailhead.

The Alaska Division of Forestry is working with the Interior Alaska Trails and Parks Foundation to create the trailhead, as well as installing directional signs so that people can better use the area. No new trails are currently being built, but no forest harvesting is planned for at least three decades, so forestry roads in the area are being used as trails. A trailhead is needed and the area selected was determined to be the best spot because it is high (not swampy), has easy access (just off the Parks Highway), and was already cleared (reducing construction costs).

However, that area has been used for years as an informal shooting area. Some people believe the area is a poor area for shooting because of its high elevation, lack of sufficient backstops, and proximity to the Parks Highway, but informal shooting areas arise out of convenience not safety standards.

"No Shooting" and "No Dumping" signs have been posted in the area. A new trailhead sign will be installed. The project also includes the removal of abandoned vehicles and regrading of the parking area.

Despite the efforts, patterns of behavior take some time to change. Please feel free to use the new trailhead, but also take precautions. If you see people shooting in the area, please let them know politely



that things have changed. Also, if you are returning from a trail outing and hear shooting, please consider taking Rosie Creek forestry road all the way out to the Parks Highway and then using the highway to access the parking area. This should avoid any dangerous conflicts with shooters.

This Google Maps marker shows where the Rosie Creek forestry road intersects the Parks Highway: <https://goo.gl/maps/8nGU3LVEnpiYUKzDA>

Also, Trail Forks has the parking area marked as well as the trail/roads in the area. You can refer to the maps on the Trail Forks website or get the Trail Forks app: <https://www.trailforks.com/>

*Geoffrey Orth photo: "No Shooting" signs at new Rosie Creek trailhead.*

## ESTER DOME MINE PROPOSAL WORRIES TRAIL ADVOCATES, OTHERS

A proposal that might lead to large-scale mining on Ester Dome has been getting a lot of attention.

Among other things, a large-scale mine could have a large impact on Ester Dome trails, including the Equinox Marathon Trail.

Blogger Dermot Cole first reported that the "Alaska Mental Health Lands Trust plans to lease more than 10,000 acres near Fairbanks at Ester Dome and Cleary Summit for hardrock mining exploration by an Australian company."

Citizens had until July 30 to send comments the trust at [mhtlo@alaska.gov](mailto:mhtlo@alaska.gov). Many people reported sending in comments. An informal poll shows that a vast majority were opposed to the proposed lease. A few were in support. And some wanted more information. A unscientific poll by the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner on the proposed lease (<https://tinyurl.com/4rypkjif>) recently showed 79.5% opposed, 14.1% in support, and 6.4% needing more information.

As of this time, there are no other known formal opportunities to comment. More will be reported as this develops.

The trust is a state corporation created to fund mental health programs. The main way it serves its mission is through administration of one million acres of land given to it in 1994. To find out more about the trust see: <https://alaskamentalhealthtrust.org/about/>

Mining and trail use have a long history on Ester Dome, often intertwined. The largest mine on the dome, Ryan Lode, lies just off Henderson Road. It has not been operated in for many years.

To find out more about the proposal, see these stories:

- KUAC: <https://tinyurl.com/bf8nfbf6>
- Dermot Cole first blog post: <https://tinyurl.com/x8npfffc>
- Dermot Cole second blog post: <https://tinyurl.com/d9jthefr>

## CHALLENGE OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO FIND TRAILS IN INTERIOR

The Fairbanks Summer Trails Challenge is live with most of the 20 signs up and ready to find all over the borough!

As of July 30 the Facebook event still had this notice: "Signs 17, 18, 20 have not yet been installed. Wait for updates if you want to go when there is a sign to find!"

Borough staff is working to get these posted and the borough will update once all signs are up.

Also, these notes were included in a July 12 Facebook post:

- The "Peninsula Loop" is actually the "River Loop" in the River Park.



- We will replace the Circle Fairbanks Trail with the Wickersham Creek Trail. It has not been installed.

New for this year, the borough has added a "Sourdough Trailblazer" category. To join that category you need to be 60 and older and find at least five signs.

This event, put on by the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department, is an all-ages, all-abilities, outdoor scavenger hunt. The challenge is designed to get you out with your friends and family to explore our wonderful local trails, both new and familiar.

Anyone is allowed to participate in the search. When you find a sign, prove you made it by taking a "selfie" photo with the sign and posting it on social media with the hashtag "#FNSBTrails" or email your photo to [trails@fnsb.us](mailto:trails@fnsb.us). And of course, leave the sign to be found by the next trail challenge participant.

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 ten can find at least five signs to win the Junior Trailblazer Award! Whether you find one or find them all, challenge yourself to get outside and enjoy nature!

To find a list of signs and more about the event see: <https://tinyurl.com/2fszb8xu>

Find the Trails Guide here: <https://tinyurl.com/4dxdp7y6a>

## SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

### BLM-WHITE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

July 29: The first miles of the Summit Trail, sometimes a muddy affair, will soon be easier walking for hikers, thanks to boardwalk that a Student Conservation Association trail crew is constructing this week. Thank you crew for your hard work!

BLM Alaska photo by Sophie Hamann.



### ALASKA STATE PARKS



July 6: Sadly, we are seeing a rise in vandalism to our parks statewide over the course of the year, beginning last summer.

This past week, at the beginning of the holiday weekend, Compeau's trailhead in the Northern Region was completely destroyed and the gate post pulled out.

If you have any information regarding this act, please contact the Northern Region Office in Fairbanks at 907-451-2695. Thank you.

(Webcenter Fairbanks did a story on the vandalism: <https://tinyurl.com/zaexszbk>)

### BLM ALASKA FIRE SERVICE

July 9: We included one of these photos of the Alaska State Parks trail shelter cabin on the Angel Rocks to Chena Hot Springs Trail in today's #MunsonCreekFire update on [www.akfireinfo.com](http://www.akfireinfo.com) but we liked it so much we thought we would share these on Facebook, as well.

The shelter cabin survived the passing fire and is still standing in an island of green surrounded by burned areas on all sides. Firefighters cleared brush around the cabin prior to the fire's approach and this is a testament to the Firewise work that was completed before the fire arrived.

While there also may have been some luck involved, this photo clearly demonstrates the value of



clearing brush and trees 🌲🌲🌲 from around your home and other structures to make them more resistant to an encroaching wildfire 🔥.

We encourage home and cabin owners to do similar work around their homes, cabins and other structures 🏠🏠🏠. Clear trees and brush for 30 feet around structures and move all flammable items away from structures to prevent ember showers from sparking a fire that could spread to a structure. Don't wait until a wildfire threatens your home or cabin; do it now while you have the time.

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

July 21: Try a #BLMAKGetAway to the Delta Wild and Scenic River for a #backyardtobackcountry Alaska trip with nearly everything your outdoors heart could desire.

✓ Year-round access from Denali Highway.

✓ 62 miles long ✓ Watershed includes 150,000 acres of land, 160 miles of streams, and 21 lakes.

Whether you fish, hike, hunt, or boat these lands represent our way of life, a living link to the past and our pledge to tomorrow. Oh – you can also ski, snowmachine and more.

👉 Info, other ideas & resources at <https://www.blm.gov/alaska/recreation>

## DELTA JUNCTION TRAILS ASSOCIATION

July 16: The Yukon Fire crew of 20 was busy hauling out brush and wood at the Liewer Community Trail today. We thank you. Plus big thank you to Forestry for all you do to help keep Alaskans safe.

June 28: Bluff Cabin Trail parking improvements thanks to our membership, donations and generous volunteer time and equipment. Thank you everyone!

## INTERIORWIDE LINKS

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### SLIGHTLY OFF TRAIL

- Denali Delivers: <https://tinyurl.com/4dhpra9t>

## SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

### SURVEY BEING HELD FOR MONTANA CREEK VALLEY NEAR JUNEAU

**TAKE SURVEY** The Juneau community values the Montana Creek valley, watershed and surrounding areas for recreation and abundant natural resources. Fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, shooting sports, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, four wheeling, camping, and subsistence harvesting are some of the recreational activities occurring in this area.

The Montana Creek Master Plan process is seeking participation from land owners, user groups and the general public to understand current use of the area, existing plans and projects, proposed projects, ideas and concerns for recreational use of the area, impacts to natural resources, and current recreational uses. The goal is to create a master planning document through a public process that identifies recreational facilities in the Montana Creek Recreation Area with a planning horizon of ten years. The project will begin in the summer of 2021 with this survey to understand community values and use of the

area. Stakeholder and general public meetings will follow in the fall with a goal to complete the plan by December 2021.

The survey is open now and available until 5 p.m. on August 19, 2021. Take the survey now: <https://tinyurl.com/3tnhs9bm>

*From a Juneau Parks & Recreation Facebook Event*

## SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

### TRAIL MIX, INC.

July 29: West Peak is a popular destination for backcountry skiers, but it also delivers in the summer. With spectacular views of Gastineau Channel, Taku Inlet, and nearby mountains, this strenuous hike follows an unmaintained trail up to 'Marmot Meadows' and then requires some wayfinding to reach the summit at 3520 ft.



Abundant wildflowers and berries make this a journey that's not just about the big views and is an excellent candidate for a campout. This photo shows the backside of West Peak from nearby Middle Peak.

Find the trailhead across the street from the parking lot for the Sheep Creek beach and fishing area on Thane Road.

July 27: Get ready to reach the alpine as Blackerby Ridge is this week's #transformationtuesday! This



repair is extra special as it was achieved with the help of Youth Employment in Parks (YEP), a 9-week work program for youth focused on developing job skills and employment education in a supportive environment. YEP is a partnership between Zach Gordon Youth Center, Juneau Parks & Recreation, and SAIL.

During last December's rain event, parts of the Blackerby Ridge trail were hit by a mudslide. Our crew rebuilt and improved the first quarter mile of the trail including clearing a ton of debris and fixing a huge washout. Crew members also rerouted the trailhead, which was collapsing into a stream.

YEP put on the finishing touches by revegetating the washout, which added stability to the slope, and lining the new trail with rocks. The YEP crew also worked with Trail Mix to place a few steps at the beginning of the trail.

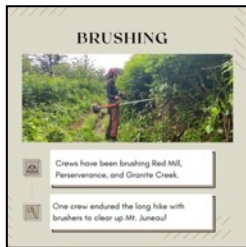
It's been rewarding and fun to collaborate with groups like YEP this season. With the help of others, we're able to have an even greater impact on the Juneau trail system.

July 26: 🛠️ Trail Report Week 10 🛠️

The season is flying by but our crews are working harder than ever. Last week, crews completed brushing Perseverance and all the surrounding trails. Our Treadwell crew continued their work on installing the Nielson Creek Bridge.

One crew flew down to Prince of Wales to continue work at Balls Lake. There, the crew members stapled netting to boardwalk. This provides traction on slippery boardwalk.

## July 19: 🪓 Trail Report Week 9 🪓



Last week our battle with the brush continued! Crews headed out to Perseverance to brush Granite Creek, Red Mill, the Mine Camp Ruins, and Mt. Juneau. This is a massive task; but, it is so satisfying to watch the trails become clear again. 🌿☀️

Our Treadwell crew is settling into the routine of bridge making. Last week, they began excavating rocks 🪨 and clearing ground to install the Nielson Creek Bridge. This will be the largest bridge they install this season. 🙌

## July 16: End o' the week equipment maintenance.

Here the crew is cleaning and greasing our excavator. Tool care is an important part of trail work, and while sometimes it's the last thing anyone wants to do at the end of a long day, it's vital to the performance and longevity of our equipment.

July 13: Lena Point just underwent an incredible transformation at the hands of the Conservation Volunteers International Program. A 12-person volunteer crew spent a week working alongside a Trail Mix crew to give the first quarter mile of this trail a major upgrade.

Lena Point has many rooty, muddy sections as well as slippery planks on an incline. First, volunteers wheelbarrowed in gravel from the parking lot to give a fresh tread to the start of the trail. They then worked on removing roots and planks and evening out the surface of the ground leading up to the first staircase. After that, support structures were added and more gravel was used as fill.

It was an amazing experience working with Conservation VIP whose volunteers are from all over the USA. Our crew had a great time hearing their stories of home and where they've traveled, and we hope to welcome them back in the future.

Stay tuned for more improvements to Lena Point later this year.



## JUNEAU PARKS & RECREATION

**TAKE SURVEY** July 21: Don't forget to take the Fish Creek Recreation Use Survey to tell us how you use the area and give ideas for improvements. [bit.ly/fishcreekjuneau](https://bit.ly/fishcreekjuneau)

July 28: Check out what the hard working YEP crew accomplished this week!



Shared from  
SAIL

Our YEP crew in Juneau was hard at work repairing a washed out section of trail out at Sayéik (Sandy Beach) Monday. Check out these before, during, and after pics. Gunalcheesh to these industrious teens for their hard work!

## NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### ENCOURAGE SENATORS TO PASS ACT THAT WOULD SUPPORT TRAILS

**LOBBY** Earlier this month, the House of Representatives passed a transportation infrastructure bill (the INVEST Act, HR 3684) that included priorities for the hiking community including the Transit to Trails Act, the Outdoors for All Act, and reauthorizing and increasing support for the Recreational Trails Program. It's now up to the Senate to include these bills in their transportation infrastructure legislation. Read AHS' letter of support for these provisions and ask your Senator to co-sponsor and pass the Transit to Trails Act.

You can take action by lobbying Sens Murkowski and Sullivan to support the bill:

<https://americanhiking.org/advocacy/take-action/>

*From Paperless Trail, the American Hiking Society newsletter*

### TRAIL BUILDING RESEARCH SURVEY SEEKS PARTICIPANTS

**TAKE SURVEY** You are invited to participate in a research study on trail use and trail building practices as they relate to stewardship ideology, sense of place, and community identity. Researchers from the University of Maryland are reaching out to folks with interest in trails—which is you of course. Your participation will help them develop a more participatory and nuanced understanding of trails and trail work in the United States and elsewhere. Participation involves completing a 15-minute long, anonymous survey.

Take the survey here: <https://tinyurl.com/48nx79s6>

*From Paperless Trail, the American Hiking Society newsletter*

### FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITIES THAT RELY ON OUTDOOR REC

**APPLY FOR GRANTS** Through the Travel, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation program, the U.S. Economic Development Administration is focused on accelerating the recovery of communities that rely on the travel, tourism and outdoor recreation sectors. \$750 million of EDA's American Rescue Plan funds are allocated to support the following efforts:

- State Tourism Grants: \$510 million in non-competitive awards to help states quickly invest in marketing, infrastructure, workforce and other projects to rejuvenate safe leisure, business and international travel.
- Competitive Grants: \$240 million to help communities that have been hardest hit by challenges facing the travel, tourism and outdoor recreation sectors to invest in infrastructure, workforce or other projects to support the recovery of the industry and economic resilience of the community in the future.

To find out more see: <https://eda.gov/arpa/travel-tourism/>

### PAST TRAILS WEBINARS NOW BEING OFFERED FOR FREE

American Trails is now offering all of its archived webinars (and any learning credits) in its Advancing Trails Webinar Series for free and can be downloaded via its online store.

American Trails records all of its webinars, offers an unedited closed caption transcript, and includes the resources slide with links provided by the presenter(s) relevant to the webinar topic. The webinars also include learning credits, which are now also free, where offered.

There are 120+ webinars on a variety of trail-related topics including advocacy, planning, building, design, maintenance, management, funding, and more. Browse all of the webinars on the American Trails website, where you can filter by date, title, category, and most viewed.

Webinar archives: <https://www.americantrails.org/training/webinarArchive>

*From American Trails email*

## 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

- American Hiking Society: 2021 Volunteer Vacations: [americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacation-trips/](http://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacation-trips/)
- Donate to support Volunteer Vacations: <https://tinyurl.com/4ppamw38>

### OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- 2020 Recreational Trails Program Annual Report: <https://tinyurl.com/5f25hu9v>
- Trail Riders Of Southern Arizona Put Trails On The Ground: <https://tinyurl.com/ms6ezczw>
- September 11th National Memorial Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/ywvz7wje>
- National Park Service: Hike Smart: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/hiking-safety.htm>

### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- The Future of the Outdoor Recreation Economy - Headwaters Economics: <https://tinyurl.com/3j7dst8s>

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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)