

2022 Alaska Trails Statewide Conference Presenters (in order of appearance)

Wednesday Presenters



Lee Bolling, Singletrack Advocates

Lee is a major driving force in the development of mountain bike trails in Anchorage, Alaska. Since 2010, Lee has led the development of over 26 miles of singletrack trails at Kincaid, Hillside and Chugach State Parks. His volunteer efforts through Singletrack Advocates have been a huge part of making Anchorage one of the best places to live, work and PLAY! The trails that Lee has conceived are some of the most popular bike trails in the area, such as Lee's Train and Bolling Alley (which are named after him), Middle Earth, Jeff's Whoop Whoop, Eh-Line, Hemlock Burn Trail and many, many more. All in all, Lee has led the creation of 27 different trails in Anchorage, with the help of amazing STA board members, volunteers, sponsors and trail builders. Lee is the president of STA and volunteers his time with ongoing trail maintenance, fundraising, or tackling the next new trail project. If you have ideas for trails, give Lee a ring. He loves to help others see the vision for great bike trails in their community.



Holly Spoth-Torres, Huddle AK

Holly Spoth-Torres has spent her 20-year career in Alaska focused on developing innovative and doable strategies to get things accomplished. She served as the Anchorage Park & Recreation's Park Superintendent – overseeing planning, design, construction, maintenance, and management of 11,000 acres of parkland, 250 miles of trails, 110 athletic fields, and 83 playgrounds – before founding her firm Huddle AK in 2014. At Huddle, Holly leads a team of landscape architects and public engagement specialists working extensively throughout Alaska

on a variety of public projects including many parks and trails projects. She is passionate about strong communities and finding creative solutions to achieve complex goals. When not working you'll find her walking her pup or riding her bike.



Dr. W. Hunter Holland, Parks and People Lab

Dr. W. Hunter Holland is co-owner of the Parks and People Lab and a faculty member in the College of Health and Applied Human Services at UNC Wilmington. Following 10+ years as a wilderness expedition guide in AK and throughout the lower 48, Hunter pursued his terminal degree at Clemson University in Parks and Conservation Area Management. During his career, he has managed strategic efforts to advance community health through the development, implementation, and evaluation of recreation, education, and tourism experiences domestically and internationally. Contact Dr. Hunter Holland and hollandw@uncw.edu .



Dr. Kathleen K. Holland, Parks and People Lab

Dr. Kathleen K. Holland is co-owner of the Parks and People Lab and a faculty member in the Environmental Sciences Department at UNC Wilmington. Kathleen specializes in human dimensions of wildlife management and protected area conservation. Her career as a social scientist has engaged her strategic management and planning efforts in Kenya, Vietnam, and throughout the United States. Contact Dr. Kathleen Holland at hollandk@uncw.edu .



Christine Byl, Interior Trails

Christine Byl, co-owner of Interior Trails, is a writer and a trail builder of 25 years. After 12 seasons working on federal trail crews in Glacier NP, Chugach NF and Denali NP, Christine and her husband Gabe Travis founded Interior Trails in 2008, specializing in sustainable trail design, layout, construction, consulting and training in Alaska and beyond. Christine's first book, *Dirt Work: An Education in the Woods* is about trail crews, tools, wilderness, and labor, and was selected by Backpacker Magazine as one of 20 Great Books for the Trail. She lives on a few acres of tundra north of Denali National Park on lands of the Dene people where she spends as much time as possible in wild places by foot, bike, ski, boat and dog. For more information on Interior Trails, visit www.interior-trails.com.



Gabe Travis, Interior Trails

Gabe Travis, co-owner of Interior Trails, has been a professional trail builder since 1996. Gabe has led trail crews in Glacier National Park, Chugach National Forest, and Denali NP; in 2008 Gabe and his wife, Christine Byl, began Interior Trails to address the need for specialized trail expertise in Alaska. In addition to design and layout, assessment and prescription, and hand and mechanized construction for clients statewide, Gabe has taught introductory and technical trails courses in the Lower 48, Canada & Argentina. An avid skier, biker, and runner, Gabe is also a visual artist who brings his eye for design and detail to the trail layout and construction process. He lives in a yurt north of Denali National Park on the lands of the Dene. For more information on Interior Trails, visit www.interior-trails.com.



Nick Farline, City of Valdez

Nicholas Farline, M.S., CPRE, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Director City of Valdez. Nicholas Farline earned his B.A. in Economics from Eastern Washington University, and M.S. in Recreation and Sport Pedagogy from Ohio University. Mr. Farline has over 20 years of experience in the recreation field. He currently is President Elect of ARPA, and holds a NRPA Certified Park and Recreation Executive certification. Mr. Farline has directed outdoor recreation programs internationally as well as for multiple municipal and state agencies. Mr. Farline has presented NRPA 2017, 2019 ARPA, NRPA 2021, and North American Environmental Education Conference 2021 and Alaska Municipal League 2021.

Thursday Presenters



Teresa Martinez, Continental Divide Trail Coalition, Executive Director

For over 30 years, Teresa has worked professionally to increase awareness, engagement, access, and stewardship of our entire National Trails System. A graduate of Virginia Tech, Teresa holds a B.S. and M.S from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife in the College of Natural Resources. Teresa is a lifelong outdoor recreationist and from 1987-2007 she worked for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, from 2007 to 2012 she worked for the Continental Divide Trail Alliance and since 2012 she has been the Executive Director (and co-founder) of the Continental Divide Trail Coalition. She serves on the Trail Leadership Council of the Partnership for the National Trails System and has served as the Chair of the Federal Advisory Committee to aid the USFS in the development of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail. Teresa is actively involved in the creation of equitable spaces for all people in the outdoors and currently

serves as the acting chair of the Board for the Next100 Coalition. In 2019, Teresa was honored by the Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources as the recipient of the Gerald Cross Alumni Leadership Award. When not working on behalf of one of our National Trails, Teresa may be found exploring trails in and around Santa Fe, NM, by bike, horse, and foot and is always up for a discada with friends in cool outdoor places!

Alaska Long Trail Work Session



Mariyam Medovaya, Alaska Trails

Mariyam Medovaya joined on as the staff person for the Alaska Trails Initiative in 2019. Mariyam brings diverse experience and skills needed for our ambitious initiative. This includes guiding hikes for local ecotourism business Ascending Path and developing interpretive programs on natural and cultural history of Prince William Sound for the US Forest Service. She has worked in the nonprofit world, including positions with the World Wildlife Fund, Center for Sustainable and Cooperative Culture, and the Girdwood Art Institute. Mariyam grew up in Russia, and holds MS in Marine Environmental Sciences from Stony Brook University, as well as MA in Cultural Geography from U of Colorado, Boulder.



Chris Beck, Alaska Trails

Chris is a land use planner with more than 30 years of experience, specializing in tourism and recreation, land use, economic development, strategic planning, site planning and public participation. He first came to Alaska in 1979 where he worked with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and helped craft the agency's regional land planning process. After running

his own independent consulting business and earning master's degrees in City Planning and in Landscape Architecture from UC Berkeley, he cofounded Agnew::Beck in 2002. Chris has worked on tourism, recreation and community planning issues around Alaska and the western U.S., developing successful projects ranging from resorts in the High Sierras, to trails and park plans in communities around Alaska. Chris's overarching skill is the ability to forge shared goals and actions from diverse viewpoints, for example, finding the balance point between what a community wants and what it can afford, or between the desire to grow and the desire to protect what is special about a particular town or trail or bay. When not at work, Chris often persuades himself to get off the couch, and is an enthusiastic cross country and backcountry skier, hiker and mountain biker.

Alaska Long Trail Coalition

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan - update



Ricky Gease, Alaska State Parks Director

Ricky Gease is the Director of the AK DNR Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. Prior to this position, he served in various non-profit executive management positions for twenty years, including as the Executive Director of the Kenai River Sportfishing Association and the Kenai Convention and Visitors Bureau, as well as the museum manager of the Kenai Visitors and Cultural Center. He also served as a Park Ranger at Kenai Fjords National Park for six years. He holds Master's and Bachelor's Degrees from Stanford University in Biology, and a Certificate in Non-profit Executive Management from The Foraker Group. He has extensive service on various boards and commissions relating to natural and cultural resource management. He and his wife Bunny Swan reside in Kenai.

Mariyam Medovaya - see above

Chris Beck - see above

Updates from around the State



Tyler Glenn

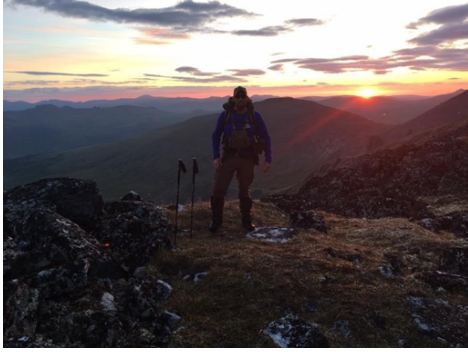
Tyler is the Recreation, Lands, Minerals, and Heritage (RLMH) Staff Officer for the Chugach National Forest. Tyler is currently serving as the RLMH Staff Officer on the Chugach National Forest based out of the Anchorage Forest Supervisor's Office. Recently he served as the Recreation Program Manager also on the Chugach National Forest. Prior to joining the USDA ranks, he worked 15 years on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson overseeing Outdoor Recreation and Community Services Programs with our local Service Members.

He resides in Wasilla, AK with his Wife - Amy, daughter – Ellie, and a new Glenn household addition on the way due August! They enjoy camping, hiking, fishing, and most things that this wonderful state has to offer.



Jared Zimmerman

Jared has worked on the trail crew at Denali National Park since 2005. During that time he has learned a lot from some amazing crew leaders and challenging working conditions. Since 2009, he's planned and designed many of the park's trail improvements, both in designated wilderness and in accessible areas around the frontcountry. When he's not working on trails, he enjoys hiking, biking, skiing and mushing on them with his young family.



Levi Lewellyn, BLM Alaska

Levi developed a passion for the outdoors and public lands at a young age while living in the mountains of Central Idaho. The passion grew so much that he pursued a bachelors degrees in fields that would help him be involved with the management of these lands. Since retiring from the Army, he has held positions in land management agencies including Fort Wainwright, Chena River Lakes Flood Control Project (USACE), and the Bureau of Land Management. Levi is currently the Assistant Field Manager for Visitor Services in the Eastern Interior Field Office.

Ian Johnson

Ian Johnson is the Community Catalyst in Hoonah, Alaska. He also serves as the Hoonah Indian Association (HIA) Environmental Coordinator. Ian was born and raised in small town Minnesota, completed his undergrad in Biology along the shores of Lake Superior in Wisconsin, and then took a job working for a non-profit wildlife research organization, Biodiversity Research Institute, in Maine. In 2015, Ian graduated with his masters in Wildlife Biology and Conservation from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. In Hoonah, Ian is coordinating crews, data, and the diverse partners for the Hoonah Native Forest Partnership. He will also be developing the HIA environmental program to enhance capacity in the community and improve on energy and food issues.



Teresa Floberg

Teresa Floberg moved to Alaska 10 years ago and has made her home in Denali. She joined the Denali Borough team this past fall in the newly created position focusing on community development and outdoor recreation. She is excited to work with the Denali Borough as it begins the process of developing its first comprehensive trails and outdoor recreation plan. You can find Teresa in her free time roaming the tundra with skis, boots, or bike and one to five dogs in tow.



Haley Johnston

Haley Johnston joined the staff of Alaska Trails in January 2021 as the Tongass National Forest Sustainable Trail Strategy Project Manager. Haley comes to Alaska Trails with extensive experience in outdoor recreation as a long-time wilderness guide and outdoor educator. She also brings significant nonprofit expertise having served on several nonprofit and citizen advisory boards and working as the Business Specialist at the Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage. Haley passionately believes recreation is critical to the quality of life in Alaska, the mental health of our communities and the resilience of the Alaskan economy. Haley spends her non-working hours trail running, backpacking, Nordic skiing, packrafting and backcountry skiing with her partner, friends and dog.



Will Taygan

Raised in Minnesota, Will Taygan spent a decade teaching environmental education during winters and leading wilderness trips in the summers. For the past 15 years he

has been in Alaska with his wife Sarah, raising two daughters, coaching Eagle River Junior Nordic, building mountain bike trails at Mirror Lake, and introducing new folks to packrafting. Will is one of the driving forces behind the Chugach Mountain Bike Riders.

Funding updates: Infrastructure bill, ARPA, EDA, state capital budget



Nils Andreassen

Nils has a degree in Peace and Development from the University of Bradford in England and his background in rural and international development, Alaska and Arctic policy issues fit well within AML's mission to support and strengthen local governments. Nils is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Governance and Entrepreneurship in Northern and Indigenous Areas through the University of Saskatchewan and University of Tromso. Nils lives in Juneau with his family.

Lee Hart, Alaska Outdoor Alliance

Aaron Thiele, staff to Senator Lisa Murkowski



Senator Tom Begich

Senate Minority Leader Tom Begich currently represents Senate District J in Anchorage. He has held the Senate seat since his first election in 2016 and has served as Minority

Leader since 2019. In Alaska's 32nd Legislature, he serves on the Education, Ethics, Health and Social Services, World Trade, and Rules Committees.

Senator Begich is passionate about advancing early childhood education, alternative energy, and economic equity. Outside of his public service duties, Senator Begich owns and operates CW Communications, a firm devoted to strategic planning, facilitation, and communications. He is an alum of Bard College, The University of Alaska, and attended Oxford University. Over the past 40 years he has served on numerous boards and commissions in Alaska. Senator Begich is also a professional musician and writer with seven released albums, several published nonfiction articles, and one published book of poetry.



Mercedes Colbert

Mercedes Colbert is Chief of Staff to Alaska Senate Minority Leader Tom Begich, whose main duties include coordinating policy and budget strategies between legislative leaders and the Governor on behalf of the Senate Minority caucus. Since graduating from Seattle University in 2008, Mercedes has worked or studied Alaska politics and policy. She has spent 9 total years in the Alaska Legislature, 3 years in the U.S. Senate, 1 year in an Alaska policy consulting firm in DC, and, in 2012, earned a Master's of Public Policy at American University. Originally from Fairbanks, Mercedes is also seen in Anchorage when the Legislature is not in session in Juneau.

James King, USFS



Shirley Kelley

Shirley Kelly, born and raised in the Bristol Bay village of Egegik. My parents are Nick and Virginia Abalama. I return annually to Bristol Bay to participate in the Salmon fishery. My husband and I enjoy hiking the Chugach. Shirely has been employed at EDA since April 2003. Besides assisting distressed areas of the State with economic development activities, project development and implementation, Shirley represents the agency on several Interagency working groups: WH Arctic Executive Steering Committee's Community Resilience working group, Northwest Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities, and the Pacific Northwest Disaster Recovery working group. Prior to relocating to Anchorage, Shirley worked as a Tribal Administrator, City Manager and Village Corporation Manager for twenty years - including as a fisheries advisor to the Lake and Peninsula Borough and a voting member on the State Fish and Game Advisory Board.

Friday Presenters



Emily Olsen, National Forest Foundation

Emily Olsen joined the NFF in 2014 and has over 10 years of experience in natural resources and nonprofit management in the Western U.S. As Rocky Mountain Region Director, Emily leads programs and works alongside an exceptional team to enhance forest health, support sustainable recreation, and connect communities to their public lands. In Colorado and surrounding states, Emily's work is possible because of durable partnerships with local, state, and federal governments, nonprofits, communities, and businesses.

Previously, Emily worked at the University of Montana Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and at the U.S. Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station-Fire Science Lab. Emily received a M.S. (Resource Conservation, College of Forestry and Conservation), graduate certificate in Natural Resource Conflict Resolution, and B.A. (dual degrees in Political Science and Environmental Studies) from the University of Montana. She's honored to live in Colorado and takes time whenever she can to enjoy the outdoors with her husband and two young daughters.

Building a sustainable volunteer crew leader program



Janée Romesberg, Trail Program Senior Manager Washington Trails Association

Janée Romesberg (she/her) is the Trail Programs Senior Manager at Washington Trails Association (WTA). In this role she oversees the organization's trail maintenance volunteer program across Washington state and supports leadership development for both staff and volunteers. She is constantly in awe of the amazing people who donate their time to make trails safe, welcoming and accessible to everyone. When she isn't stuck behind a computer screen, you'll find her biking, hiking, skiing, or trying to convince herself that she likes running.



Cody Olsen, Statewide Trail Maintenance Manager, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance

Cody has worked for the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance (EMBA) since 2015. Starting out in new trail construction, Cody took a liking to backcountry trail work and volunteer work parties after 2 years of trail building experience. His passion for Backcountry Trail Maintenance led to taking on the role of Statewide Trail Maintenance Manager for EMBA. His current role consists of coordinating trail maintenance funding and volunteer hour tracking across the state while also planning and leading weekend-long backcountry trail work parties and events. Cody has experience in volunteer coordination, grant writing, event planning, staff management, trail design, construction, and maintenance.



Michael DeCramer *North Cascades Regional Representative, Pacific Crest Trail Association*

Michael DeCramer has served as the North Cascades Regional Representative for the Pacific Crest Trail Association since 2017. Michael runs PCTA's northernmost regional office. He is responsible for the association's collaboration management of the northern 400 miles of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. He works on a daily basis with agency staff from three national forests and two national parks on shared priorities including visitor use management, land conservation, and infrastructure improvements. As part of his position, Michael manages a large volunteer trail maintenance program. In 2021, volunteers contributed over 14,000 hours of their time to maintaining the PCT in the Washington Cascades. Before joining PCTA, Michael was a professional trail builder and thru-hiked long trails.

Expanding Capacity to Design, Approve, Build and Maintain Trails in Alaska - Workforce Challenges and Solutions



Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Executive Director Trail Mix

Originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, Ryan (he/him) moved to Juneau in 2015. He also began working for Trail Mix in 2015. Ryan enjoys hiking and kayaking in and around Juneau. Blackerby Ridge Trail, with its steep climbs and breathtaking views, is one of his favorite trails. He began working for Trail Mix as the Trail Program Coordinator from 2015 to 2019. He began his role as our executive director in 2020. Prior to joining Trail Mix, Ryan attended Hocking College and worked for the USFS in Northwest Montana.



Ben Hughey, Executive Director Sitka Trail Works

Ben launched his career in natural resources right here at Sitka Trail Works as a crew member in 2006. The vocation suited him and he spent college summers working for the local US Forest Service, before joining the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust to build trail in the Cascades. Ben traded the Pulaski for the pen at the Greenway Trust, supporting regional land management planning and public lands advocacy at the local, state, and federal level for six years. A post-Master's degree environmental policy fellowship took Ben to the other Washington in 2019, where he served as legislative staff for Senator Cory Booker. In 2020, Ben returned home to Sitka and directed the

Sitka Conservation Society's CARES Act funded transitional employment program, leading out-of-work Sitkans on recreation and restoration projects with lasting community benefit.

Ben joined Sitka Trail Works as staff in December of 2020 and was hired as the Executive Director in November 2021.



Elizabeth Thomas - Natural Resource Coordinator, Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

Elizabeth returned from living in Southwest Colorado to her hometown of Juneau, Alaska in 2017. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Policy, Minor in Pre-Law, and Certificate in Non-Profit Management through Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. After a lifetime of working in various industries speckling in tourism, multimedia design, ski industry, commercial fishing, and service industry; Elizabeth was hired on as the Natural Resource Coordinator at CCHITA in beginning of 2022 and is elated to be finally working in a position that enables her to promote environmental stewardship in one of the places she loves most, Alaska. When not working, Elizabeth seeks adventure with her dog, friends and family on beaches, mountains, and the trails in between.

Panel Lead: Chris Beck, Alaska Trails

Trail Building in SE: Lessons learned

Adaptive Mountain Bikes and Associated Trail Construction Standards



Jim Beck

Jim Beck has been involved in nonprofit human services and state government in Alaska since 1985. Paralyzed since the age of 21, Jim is an avid adaptive mountain bike (aMTB) rider and uses an offroad handcycle to access Alaska's bountiful trails and recreation areas year-round. Jim is passionate about developing inclusive mountain biking and advocating for adaptive trails that bring the stoke to all cyclists.

Ira Edwards