



# NEWSLETTER

July  
2019

PO Box 100627; Anchorage, AK 99510-0264

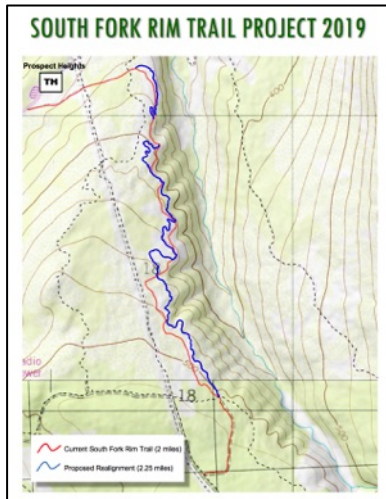
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[www.alaska-trails.org](http://www.alaska-trails.org)

## ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

### SOUTH FORK RIM PROJECT WILL IMPROVE TRAIL IN CHUGACH PARK

Alaska Trails is working with Chugach State Park to reconstruct a 2-mile portion of the popular South Fork Rim Trail. That section will be realigned to a more sustainable location near the current trail. Terrain in the same area has been identified for the new alignment with much better drainage options, which will fix



chronically muddy sections. Once the new alignment is constructed, the former trail will be rehabilitated to a natural setting.

This trail, one of the more popular multi-use trails in the entire Alaska State Park system, serves as a transition from the urban environment of Anchorage to the wilderness of the Chugach Mountains. As many as 50,000 people per year use the trail. The Prospect Heights Trailhead offers the closest access to the trail, which parallels and connects to the Powerline Trail.

The South Fork Rim trail is open to many uses, including year-round mountain biking. However, the current design is nowhere near the sustainable mountain bike trail design standards set by the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA). The current trail is also suffering from resource damage and failing infrastructure. This project seeks to fix those problems with sustainable design and

construction accomplished by a combination of a professional trail builder and volunteers. Volunteer days will be scheduled once the work schedule of the trail builder is determined. The volunteer days will be announced on our Facebook page and listed on our Alaska Trail Stewards page: [www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-trail-stewards.html](http://www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-trail-stewards.html)

Chugach State Park and Alaska Trails are committed to all trail users. This project is funded by the Recreational Trails Program and is consistent with the Chugach State Park Trails Management Plan.

### ALASKA TRAILS HAS TOOL TRAILERS READY FOR TRAIL PROJECTS

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).



## ALASKA TRAIL STEWARDS NEEDS PEOPLE WHO LOVE TRAILS

Come join the Alaska Trail Stewards on one of our several trail work projects this summer. Alaska Trail Stewards is an Alaska Trails program designed to help give volunteers opportunities to maintain and improve the trails that they and many others love. Below are the volunteer days we have scheduled so far. For more information on the program and to register for one or more of the work parties see:

<http://www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-trail-stewards.html>

- July 6: Whittier Trail Volunteer Day
- July 9: Government Hill: Brown's Point Park
- July 16: Government Hill: Brown's Point Park
- July 19: Volunteer Day in Hatcher Pass
- July 20: Independence Mine State Historical Park Work Day
- July 27: Middle Fork Trail Work Day
- Aug 3: Whittier Trail Work Day
- Aug 10: Middle Fork Trail Work Day
- Aug 13: Government Hill: Brown's Point Park
- Aug 20: Government Hill: Brown's Point Park



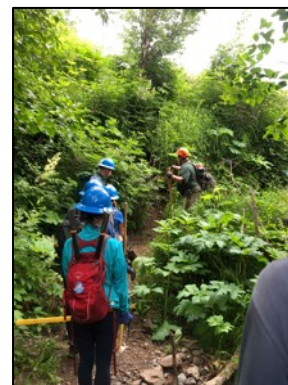
*(Mike Downs photo of volunteers working on the Middle Fork Trail in Chugach State Park.)*

## SEEN RECENTLY ON THE ALASKA TRAILS FACEBOOK PAGE

### MAT-SU VALLEY

June 23: Have you ever seen "social trails"? They're informal, non-designated and connect between two points of a designated trail system. As eager hikers and runners, we get that impulse to reduce the time to the top by taking shortcuts... but as trail stewards, we know that social trails threaten sensitive vegetation, destroy proper drainage, and harm the designated trail in the long run!

Recently, a group of volunteers headed up Lazy Mountain's Lazy Moose trail to move vegetation and establish physical barriers to remind hikers to stay on the main trails. Next time you notice a social trail, please with your friends why it's important to avoid the temptation and to stay on the trail!



### GIRDWOOD

June 15: Thanks to all of the folks who joined us in Girdwood for drainage work! Winner Creek Trail is a local and visitor favorite, and maintenance is critical to improving and keeping the trail in good shape for hikers and bikers, alike.

### ADOPT-A-DAY PROGRAM

June 12: Would your organization like to Adopt-A-Day through the Alaska Trail Stewards program this summer? We arrange private service events for employers who would like to provide their employees with the opportunity to volunteer for a work day, giving back to the places they love. Click to learn more: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/adopt-a-day-sponsorship.html>

To see more posts like these, see our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/alaskatrails/>

## ALASKA TRAILS LINKS

- Volunteers work to preserve paths during National Trail Day: <http://tinyurl.com/y5vcsnjj>
- Outdoor Explorer radio show: Volunteering in the outdoors: <http://tinyurl.com/y2e6shjj>

## STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### TRAIL PROGRAMS HANGING IN STATE BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS LIMBO

Nothing new has happened with the three state trails programs in regard to the state budget.

The Legislature has passed the state Operating Budget and sent it to Gov. Dunleavy, who is studying it and pondering whether to sign it or veto some or all of it. However, none of the three state trail programs (Recreational Trails Program, Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Snowmobile Trails Program) are in the operating budget. They are all in the FY20 Capital Budget, which has not yet been passed.

A conference committee must be appointed for the FY20 Capital Budget to be negotiated. While the capital budget is not included on the second special session call, legislators and staffers are hoping that it will come up and be passed this July in a special session.

### RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE IN JULY

*Gov. Mike Dunleavy's budget directed all Recreational Trail Program funding to state parks, but the Legislature has so far directed about half the funding to community organizations. (See Special State Budget Report, page 3.) If the Legislature's mandate survives the budget process, then community organizations will be able to apply for RTP funds. Therefore, the following notice is currently valid.*

It's time to get your Recreational Trails Program grant application started.

RTP grants provide reimbursable, matching funds to develop and repair recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. Grants are also available for trail-related environmental protection, safety, and educational projects. The grants are administered through the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. The timeline is below. Questions? Contact the State Trails Coordinator at (907) 269-8699.

- All application and informational documents will be available on or before July 15 at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm>;
- Applicants must begin public outreach on their proposed projects by September 15;
- Grant applications must be submitted by October 15.

### KEEP TRACK OF STATE LAND USE PLANS FOR IMPACT ON TRAILS



The state Department of Natural Resources has several plans and studies underway across the state that affect how the state deals with its lands. Often this includes land and water trails. These plans and studies have opportunities for public comment.

Take a look at the planning web page for the Division of Land, Water, and Mining (<http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/>). If you see a plan or study that affects trails important to you, please look into opportunities for public comment.

## FORAKER GROUP OFFERS CLASSES FOR NON-PROFITS STATEWIDE

The Foraker Group, which is dedicated to strengthening Alaska's non-profits, offers classes about the proper workings of non-profit groups, which include many and trail user groups. If you are a member or employee of a profit group consider taking one of the classes, which are offered in several communities and statewide by teleconference. For more information visit the Foraker Group website ([www.forakergroup.org/](http://www.forakergroup.org/)) or call 907/743-1200 or (toll free) 877/834-5003.



trail  
non-

### STATEWIDE LINKS

- Dipnetters should avoid unstable rockslide near Copper River, state says: <http://tinyurl.com/y2u9zyhs>
- Denali National Park officials ask for help finding trail vandals: <http://tinyurl.com/y4ppf2hy>

### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- A stretch of the Denali Park Road sits atop a creeping landslide. And it's picking up speed: <http://tinyurl.com/yxgow3p5>
- Luc Mehl trip report: Melozi Hot Springs: Tanana to Ruby, Yukon River: <http://tinyurl.com/y5fhusrf>
- Taking the plunge: Glacier skiing and camping in the shadow of the Moose's Tooth: <http://tinyurl.com/yxantbma>
- Trekking into the storm-battered, golden beauty of Adak Island: <http://tinyurl.com/yyrwhdzt>
- Going on a hike? A short glossary to get you from here to there: <http://tinyurl.com/yx9oqame>
- Wildfire Smoke Prediction for Alaska: <http://tinyurl.com/y4msevrr>
- 2018-2021 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Amendment 3 Approved: <http://notice.alaska.gov/194730>
- BLM lifts Alaska land withdrawals, opening 1.3 million acres: <http://tinyurl.com/y4b5j2rl>
- Alaska Mental Health Trust considers \$500 land-use fee for snowmachining: <http://tinyurl.com/y6xmb3c>
  - Winter SAD (Medred post on the issue): <https://craigmedred.news/2019/06/25/winter-sad/>
  - Trust Lands and Maps page: <http://tinyurl.com/y6kr5hvv>
- Outdoor Explorer radio show: Formidable women of Alaska: <http://tinyurl.com/y3crm6fk>

## SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

### SETTLERS BAY COASTAL PARK, WITH TRAILS, BEING BUILT

The list of partners on this project is long but for now we would like to share that two of our Grantees, the Mat-Su Borough Trail Crew & Land Management Department and the Student Conservation Association, are doing a lot of heavy lifting. The new parking area is in, bathrooms are going in, and new trails are in the process of being built and its all for YOU! If you are interested in a private tour of the new trails keep your eyes open for the invitation from us. Want more information about the new Park? Click here:

<https://www.matsugov.us/publicnotice/settlers-bay-coastal-park> (especially check out the plan PDF).

*(From Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation newsletter)*

## APPLICATIONS FOR KENAI-TURNAGAIN AREA GRANTS DUE IN AUGUST

August 20 is the application deadline for Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm (KMTA) National Heritage Area grants. Applications will be reviewed at the September board meeting.

The KMTA area comprises the north-south road, rail, and trail corridors from Bird to Seward and includes the communities of Girdwood, Portage, Moose Pass, Cooper Landing, Sunrise, Hope, Portage, Whittier and Indian. KMTA awards grants to community projects that recognize, preserve, and interpret the historic, scenic, and natural recreational resources and cultural landscapes of the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm historic transportation corridor, including trails. Projects must be located within the KMTA Heritage Area, be sponsored by a community, non-profit or government organization, and commit a minimum match of funding for at least 50% of project costs. For more information and to apply for a grant see: <https://www.kmtacorridor.org/grants/>

## STATE PARKS FACEBOOK FULL OF SOUTHCENTRAL TRAIL NEWS

### KENAI PENINSULA

June 16: Good news and some other news: GOOD: Eagle Rock Boat launch is open as of June 15!

Other: Alpine Ridge Trail AND Lagoon Trail (north of Halibut Creek) are closed until further notice.

Most trails are getting brushy as the season progresses and some will become difficult to navigate. This could increase surprising bears in the area. Please be bear aware.

Please report all stress related and aggressive behaviors and/or encounters with bears in the K Bay Area to Alaska State Parks at 907-399-2054 or 907-435-7595. Emergency: 911

#akstateparks #alaskastateparks

### KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARK

June 25: Kachemak Bay Bear Alert: There have been multiple black bear encounters at Grewingk Valley in Kachemak Bay: This includes individuals and sows with cubs along the Glacier Lake, Grewingk Tram, and Saddle Trails, and at Grewingk Lake on the southern end where people camp.

BE BEAR AWARE: Keep food in bear-proof containers or with you. While hiking, give them their space if encountered. They are becoming more human habituated and large groups SHOULD NOT scare them off. Especially if cubs are involved.

WHAT TO DO: Back away the direction you came, til out of sight, and wait until they move off the trail and away. This could take 20-30 minutes and possibly longer if there are cubs involved and they show signs of stress with human activity. These signs are moaning, huffing/woofing, jaw popping, stomping, and following.

Report all stress-related and aggressive behaviors and/or encounters: 907-399-2054 or 907-435-7595. If contact from a charge and/or mauling occur, call 911. #alaskastateparks #akstateparks

June 24: Big thanks to staff and volunteers for time spent around the state putting in time on trails and around our parks this past weekend!

Volunteer Coordinator, Christina Whiting and a local volunteer spent four hours clearing an area and digging a new outhouse hole near Seastar Cove Cabin in Kachemak Bay.

Thanks to the Kachemak Bay Water Trail and Bay Excursions for providing transportation. The outhouse will be moved to the new location in early July.

We rely on our volunteers for projects around the state! For more



info on volunteering in the Kachemak Bay area, contact Christina at 907-435-7969. #akstateparks #alaskastateparks

June 4: Last Wednesday the Homer HS XC ski team invited the Soldotna and Kenai teams to run in Kachemak Bay SP. The run consisted of taking a water taxi from the Homer harbor to Humpy Creek, running to the Grewingk River, crossing the hand tram, continuing up the trail to Grewingk Lake, and then to the Saddle trailhead where the water taxi picked up the group and transported back to Homer. This video is courtesy of Hannah Delker. <http://tinyurl.com/y4746abv>

#### CHUGACH STATE PARK

June 22: An ATV access bridge at Penguin Creek in Chugach State Park down near Bird Creek was finished this week. The construction site has been active since April 15 and closed to all ATV recreational users until July. On June 18, 2019, Steppers Construction Inc. erected a 60 foot bridge for Penguin Creek.

They placed the bridge while managing a stream current in an excavator. Please be mindful of the area as continued construction will include building retaining walls and other items. Thank you to those working with us and using alternative routes in the area.

Be mindful of the wildlife – Bears have been spotted in the area!

#### KENAI RIVER SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

June 19: Kenai Peninsula dock update: The landing docks at The Pillars, Bing's Landing, Ciechanski and Big Eddy were all installed early this week. It's a good weekend to visit to the Kenai! If you are planning to fish, stay up to date on the Department of Fish & Game website: <http://tinyurl.com/yyslmq2l>

See more posts like this on the Alaska State Parks FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/AlaskaStateParks>

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR GOVERNMENT PEAK AREA TRAIL WORK**

Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers volunteers will be out on the Government Peak Recreation Area (GPRA) trails every Tuesday night in July and August hand finishing and fixing trails for all of us to enjoy. Please come and lend a hand. We need all able-bodied hikers and bikers to get the trails in shape. No experience is necessary. We supply the tools and training, you supply the muscle and good energy.

We meet at 6 p.m. in the GPRA parking area. Bring work gloves, water, and bug spray.

FYI - If you put in 8 hours of volunteer time on the trails you are eligible for a MSB Parking Pass that can be used at all Borough-owned trailheads and parks.

For questions contact Mike Danz ([akdanz@gmail.com](mailto:akdanz@gmail.com)) or Rene' Dervaes ([rene.dervaes@gmail.com](mailto:rene.dervaes@gmail.com)).

*(From Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers email)*

### **SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES HAVE TONS OF TRAILS NEWS**

#### ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION

June 26: Last week, Youth Employment in Parks crews were building trail in Government Hill and this week they are restoring stream banks with Alaska Department of Fish & Game. We love seeing the progress on their projects!

June 13: Kincaid Park won the 2019 Channel 2 Viewer's Choice Award for Best Place for Winter Recreation. Thanks, Anchorage!

It's an amazing partnership we have with Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage and Singletrack Advocates for winter maintenance and opportunities. The teamwork and support we all have for each other shines at Kincaid and our leaders and members keep it going. Help us celebrate by getting yourself out to Kincaid Park this week and give a fellow user a high-five!

May 31: Good reminders from Anchorage Animal Care and Control to be considerate trail users by keeping dogs leashed on trails, scooping poop, and making sure to keep them away from wildlife. Looking for an off-leash doggone good time? ☐ Anchorage has seven off-leash dog parks: <http://bit.ly/2Z7dhtN>

#### MAT-SU TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION

June 26: Huge thanks to the volunteers who came out to take care of the Lazy Moose Trail during Alaska Trails' work event this past weekend. Our trails in the Valley are world class because of the selfless people who help maintain them year-round. Next volunteer event is in Hatcher Pass July 19! Sign up here: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-events.html>

#### ISLAND TRAILS NETWORK (Kodiak)

June 7: New Sign! Be on the look out for new or restored signs out on the trails and at the trail heads. We are currently moving our sign making equipment to the State Parks and will have it up and running soon. Please let me know if you see any signs that need attention or if you notice any that are missing. Thanks, [travis@islandtrails.org](mailto:travis@islandtrails.org)

#### SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

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- Anchorage mayor defends trail safety, city efforts on homeless camps: <http://tinyurl.com/yxsqovvt>
- Municipal trapping restrictions expand in Anchorage: <http://tinyurl.com/y2ubdhck>
- Best Hiking Trails in Every State (incl. Winner Creek Trail near Girdwood): <http://tinyurl.com/y3mp6v5d>
- Point Woronzof bluff is eroding an average of 2 feet a year, UAA researchers find: <http://tinyurl.com/y5e93el7>
- Volunteers clear brush to help make Chester Creek Trail safer: <http://tinyurl.com/y2wqs7mk>
- The Glacier Discovery Hut-to-Hut System: <http://tinyurl.com/yy6mzlhk>
- Incredible new singletrack on the Hillside: <http://tinyurl.com/y6yymzj6>
- Grant Series: Fat Biking In Valdez (grant used for a fatbike trail groomer): <http://tinyurl.com/y4e2ztfn>
- Kachemak Bay State Park trails report (June 19): <http://tinyurl.com/y38ge58j>
- Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Announces Closures Of Campgrounds, Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y66zelwo>
- Residents are asking DOT to improve safety along the Girdwood bike path: <http://tinyurl.com/y27nob6g>
- Volunteers hit the trails (editorial): <http://tinyurl.com/y644mxps>

#### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Can Chugach State Park be a music venue? Backcountry concert prompts officials to rethink event permitting: <http://tinyurl.com/yxt85wjc>
- Wolverine Walks By Biker, Carrying Goat Head (30 sec Anchorage-area video): <http://tinyurl.com/y2mc8yaz>

## INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### FAIRBANKS BOROUGH TRAILS CHALLENGE RUNS THROUGH SEPT 30

How many trails can you explore this summer? Take the Fairbanks Trails Challenge!



Scattered around the Fairbanks North Star Borough Trails System are 12 Fairbanks Trails

Challenge signs. Challenge yourself, your friends and family to find as many as you can.

This year's Summer Challenge will take place from June 20 to September 30 and is free for anyone who wants to participate. Just find each sign, and photograph yourself with the sign in the background. Then share your "selfie" photo on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram by typing

"#FNSBtrails" in your post, OR post your picture on our FNSB Parks & Rec Facebook page, OR email [parks@fnsb.us](mailto:parks@fnsb.us) your photos.

To help you find the signs, download the Fairbanks Trail Challenge booklet at:

<http://tinyurl.com/yx9buqnm>

If you can prove you made it to at least 10 Summer Challenge Trails you will earn the elusive "Trailblazer Award" and be placed in a drawing for awesome prizes from our sponsors! Questions? Contact Bryant Wright at [bwright@fnsb.us](mailto:bwright@fnsb.us) or 907-459-7401.

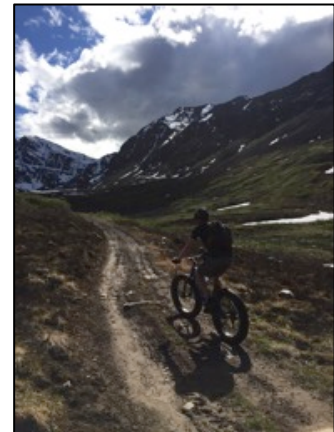
For more info and how to register see:

- Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/334369447465250/>
- Trails Challenge webpage: <http://tinyurl.com/y3lq8rdn>

### NEW DENALI HIGHWAY TRAIL CREATES MOUNTAIN BIKING LOOP

Fairbanks Fat Bikers! You should check out this trail!

Last fall a new connector trail was put in on the Denali Highway, linking the MacLaren Summit Trail and the Glacier Gap Trail. The new trail runs along Seven Mile Lake making it possible to bike one large loop (~37 miles). Just under 7 miles are on the Denali Hwy, and the other 30 miles are all on trail! My husband and I biked it this week and it was a blast! The trails are built for ATV's so they are wide. Not super challenging as far as elevation gain but lots of rocky terrain (a few places we had to push our bikes) tons of little creek crossings, and 1 legitimate river crossing. The loop took us about 5 hours, but we took a long lunch break and lots of snack and photo breaks. We felt it was perfect terrain for fat bikes or a burly full suspension bike, as the trail has many sections of head-sized cobbles, and some really soft spots/snow that would be a bit much for a hardtail. Highly recommended if you are looking for a new summer adventure ride! We recommend starting at Glacier Gap trailhead and biking the Denali why portion first, this way the river crossing is right at the end of your ride.



*(From Beaver Sports Facebook post by Christina Turman)*

MORE BIKING DETAILS ON THIS BIKE/HIKE/ATV ROUTE FROM A SUBSEQUENT FACEBOOK POST  
The whole loop, including the highway portion, is actually about 27 miles.



The trail from McLaren Summit to the edge of the Sevenmile Lake is the easiest, a mostly bikeable trail over rolling hills with a few rough sections. This is a hoot! Gorgeous scenery and easily bikeable for anyone with moderate offroad skills. No major stream crossings. Do this section as an out-and-back if you don't want to take on the whole thing.



The most challenging section is along the south shore of Sevenmile Lake and through Glacier Gap toward Glacier Lake (aka Glacier Gap Lake). Quite a few rocky sections, some short, steep climbs, and some deeper stream crossings (the kind where you get wet feet even if you stay on your bike). We walked our bikes several places along here.

The second most challenging section is between the turnoff to Glacier Lake and Glacier Gap Trailhead. One long (but not too deep) water crossing and some rocky but bikeable trail.

Be aware: The loop has three side trails. One at the western end of Sevenmile Lake takes you down to the lake. It looks to be about a half-mile long or so with a bit of elevation loss. A much shorter one takes you to Sevenmile Lake right where you turn into the valley toward Glacier Gap. The third is toward the southern end of Glacier Lake and takes you to the lake. This is about a half-mile long. Almost no signage along the trail.



Finding information about all these trails isn't easy. There's a webpage about them, but it has no links to maps. There are maps, but they are hard to find and none that show the connector on the shore of Sevenmile Lake. Well, no official ones. The map included with this post is courtesy of Christina Turman. Thanks, Christina!

- Trails webpage: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/tlad/#trails>
- McLaren Summit to Sevenmile Lake: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/tlad/pdf/tlad9.pdf>
- Glacier Gap Lake to Sevenmile Lake: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/tlad/pdf/gg27.pdf>
- Fairbanks Cycle Club Facebook photo album of route: <http://tinyurl.com/yy23y7nk>

(From Fairbanks Cycle Club Facebook post: <http://tinyurl.com/y36w8ob5>)

## PLAN THAT WOULD AFFECT NORTH POLE TRAILS MOVING FORWARD

The tentative adoption schedule for the Salcha-Badger Road Area Plan has been released. While this plan is not trails-specific, it would affect land that has trails north of Peede Road that have no legal protections.

A group is trying to save some of that land from being sold. The lots nominated for sale are part of

a larger area that is laced with trails and is used by a variety of motorized and non-motorized trail users. There are several actions you can take, so if you use trails in that area, please check out the website: <http://peedetrails4all.org/>

The schedule for adoption of the Salcha-Badger Road Area Plan is:

- July 9th – FNSB Planning Commission work session (confirmed)
- July 23rd – FNSB Planning Commission public hearing (confirmed)
- August 22nd – FNSB Assembly first reading of resolution to adopt the plan (tentative)
- September 5th – FNSB Assembly work session (tentative)
- September 12th – FNSB Assembly public hearing (tentative)

To learn more about the plan see: <http://salchabadgerplan.com/>

## FACEBOOK POSTS FULL OF INTERIOR TRAIL NEWS

### BLM-WHITE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA



June 27: The White Mountains trail crew has been busy this week repairing eroded sections of the Quartz Creek Trail. Most of the trail work is happening on the first half-mile of the trail, where it climbs steeply from the Nome Creek Road. Please watch out for our equipment and workers if you ride the Quartz Creek Trail. In coming weeks the crew will move to the Summit Trail for additional repair work.

### FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH PARKS & RECREATION

June 14: Check out the improved Eagle Trail! Newly resurfaced with recycled asphalt product (RAP) which is great for biking, strollers, and is ADA accessible! Weekend plans anybody?

### ALASKA STATE PARKS FACEBOOK

June 24: Fire alert in Northern Region (near Fairbanks): Nugget Creek Cabin will be closed through July 3 and Mastadon Trail and Trailhead is closed until further notice due to the Nugget Creek fire.

The video was taken at mile 36 Chena Hot springs Road within the Chena River State Recreation Area. The fire is approximately 2 miles south of the highway and a mile from the Nugget Creek Public use Cabin. Stay posted here or check our website for updates: [www.alaskastateparks.org](http://www.alaskastateparks.org)

June 5: Design & Construction, DPOR is hard at work in the Northern Region. Construction was completed at the Compeau Trailhead, Upper Chena Dome Trailhead, and the Mastodon Trailhead located in the Chena River State Recreation Area. The before, during and after photos are of the Mastadon Trailhead.

The intent of the project was to expand existing trailheads (Compeau, Upper Chena Dome) and develop one new trailhead area (Mastodon). The project was completed in conjunction with the Department of Fish and Game, specifically the Pittman Robertson Hunter Access Program.

### INTERIOR ALASKA LAND TRUST FACEBOOK

June 3: 2019 Trails Day was a huge success! Thanks to REI and a group of dedicated volunteers, we were able to make some serious headway on the new Chinook Conservation Park trail. It is our goal to continue improving this trail for future use and enjoyment within our Cripple Creek parcel. A huge thank you to everyone who participated and didn't mind getting a bit wet in the process!

## ALASKA ENDURANCE TRAIL RUN

I'm very happy to report that the AETR is making a \$572 donation to the UAF trails fund! That includes the \$109 you donated (we received another \$23 in donations since I made the last post).

Thank you, everyone!

## FAIRBANKS AREA HIKING CLUB FAN PAGE

June 22: A new guidebook is available at Beaver Sports for \$10.95. It covers access routes suitable for hiking in the Delta Mountains. This is the 3rd edition. It is a volunteer project of the Alaska Alpine Club. (Book title: Delta Range: A Mountaineering Playground)

## INTERIORWIDE LINKS

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- Lots of planning creates enjoyable trip down Beaver Creek: <http://tinyurl.com/y63z4442>

## SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- NSCF Gets REI Grant to Improve Terrain Park: <http://tinyurl.com/y4ekx88j>

## SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

### SOUTHEAST GROUPS SHARE TRAILS SUCCESS ON FACEBOOK

#### TRAIL MIX, INC (Juneau)

June 26: One of our crews just finished a 3 week project in Sitka! The crew was working on the Indian River Trail with another crew from the US Forest Service to help build new sections of trail as well as pouring new gravel on sections that had washed out. And to help get through the mucky and ecologically-sensitive muskegs; they built a few sections of turnpike as well. Thanks to Sitka Trail Works, Inc. for helping to get us involved!!

#### SITKA TRAIL WORKS

June 3: Awesome volunteers brushing the Thimbleberry Lake to Heart Lake Trail for National Trails Day.

## SOUTHEAST LINKS

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- Juneau scores \$1.8 million grant for Brotherhood Bridge Trail: <http://tinyurl.com/yxolwxbh>
- Work helps volunteers develop connection to trails (Juneau): <http://tinyurl.com/yvkvbafh>
- Trail Mix, Inc. (Juneau) 2019 Spring Newsletter: <https://trailmixinc.org/2019/06/2019-spring-newsletter/>

## NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### **CRT ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS FOR 2019 ANNOUNCED**

The awards ceremony hosted by CRT member organizations was held in Washington, DC on Tuesday - June 11 at the U.S. House of Representatives Rayburn Office Building.

The Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) is pleased to announce the winners for the 2019 Tom Petri Annual Achievement Awards in recognition of outstanding use of Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds. The awards ceremony hosted by CRT member organizations was held in Washington, DC on Tuesday - June 11, 2019 at the U.S. House of Representatives Rayburn Office Building.

The awards are part of annual efforts by national trails and outdoor recreation organizations to promote the importance of RTP funding to States across America.

See the awards here: [www.americantrails.org/communications/awards/crt-annual-achievement-awards-2019](http://www.americantrails.org/communications/awards/crt-annual-achievement-awards-2019)

*(From American Trails website)*

### **SENATE BILL REQUESTS UPDATED INFO FOR REC TRAILS PROGRAM**

The Recreational Trails Program received a boost with the introduction of legislation by Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) who has been a long time advocate of RTP. This was discussed at the ACSA Fly-In in April and was a topic of discussion at our legislative meetings.

Senate Bill 1527 requests the Federal Highway Administration to conduct an updated fuel use study on non-highway vehicles. The RTP program is funded by federal gas taxes paid each time a non-highway vehicle is filled with gas. Currently it is estimated that 1/3 of the monies (\$84 M) are captured by the RTP program and reinvested in the trails programs across the U.S. Even with this new legislation, Congress will still have to determine how much money will be dedicated to the RTP fund.

Co-sponsoring this legislation are long time supporters and former sponsors of RTP legislation, Jim Risch (R-ID), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Richard Burr (R-NC) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD). S.1527 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

This is a good time for advocates of the RTP program to contact their Senators and request their co-sponsorship of S 1527. If your Senator is one of the current sponsors -- send them a thank you!

*(From the American Council of Snowmobile Associations newsletter)*

### **TRAILSNEXT™ SERIES PRESENTED BY AMERICAN TRAILS**

In the style of TEDx, the TRAILSNext™ Series brings you cutting edge information from leading experts in the trails world on today's hottest trail topics. These high-energy 18-minute presentations were recorded to be made available to folks who were unable to attend this year's International Trails Symposium.

Each month we will be featuring one of these talks in our monthly eNews, and you can purchase the entire series on our website at this link. Please enjoy this presentation, "Programming Trail Experiences for All: Our One Shot at Building a Trail Culture" by Amy Camp: <https://vimeo.com/335228688>

About this presentation: "Trail communities around North America have come to appreciate (and clamor for) the economic benefits of trails. In fact, a model for community development—"trail towns"—has emerged to aid struggling communities in leveraging their trails. But we've got it mostly wrong. While economic gain contributes to community vitality, too heavy of a focus on any one trail benefit lacks balance...and heart. Those places that value trails simply for the dollars brought into town miss out on the

“trail magic” that can touch communities. If we flip our focus from visitor transactions to truly engaging both visitors and locals, culture shift is possible. One concrete way of doing so is through programming immersive, memorable, joyful trail experiences. This talk will share programming examples and make a case for how these connections can transform communities from a culture of indifference to a culture of “yes,” of hospitality, of inclusion, and stewardship.”

*(From American Trails email)*

## **BILL WOULD STREAMLINE FEDERAL RECREATION PERMIT PROCESS**

June is Great Outdoors Month, so we're calling attention to legislation that makes it easier for people to enjoy our beautiful public lands.

The Simplifying Outdoor Access for Recreation Act (SOAR, S. 1665), introduced in May by Sens. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and Martin Heinrich (D-NM), is the answer to streamlining convoluted federal permitting processes for recreation on our public lands.

This Great Outdoors Month, we're asking you to help move this important, bipartisan legislation by urging your U.S. senators to add their name as cosponsors. We've made things easy by drafting a letter for you. Click the link below, complete the form on this page and hit send — your letter will be delivered directly to your senator's office.

Link for letter: <https://peopleforbikes.org/take-action-great-outdoors/>

*(From People for Bikes email)*

## **DEBATE BREWS OVER WHETHER TO HAVE A BACKPACK TAX**

The “Backpack Tax” debate has been brewing for some time. The debate focuses on whether there should be a tax on outdoor gear, such as backpacks, hiking boots, and tents that would then go to protecting natural lands and improving outdoor recreation. Here are a few articles covering the debate:

- The Backpack Tax Debate: [www.blueridgeoutdoors.com/politics/the-backpack-tax-debate/](http://www.blueridgeoutdoors.com/politics/the-backpack-tax-debate/)
- Outdoor Industry Association's position on an excise tax on outdoor products: <http://tinyurl.com/y22pfw8l>
- Put Your Money Where Your Fun Is: [www.outsideonline.com/2156701/put-your-money-where-your-fun](http://www.outsideonline.com/2156701/put-your-money-where-your-fun)

## **SCHOLARSHIP OFFERED FOR OUTDOOR PROFESSIONALS**

The application period for the Christopher K. Jarvi Scholarship to Advance Partnerships will open May 1 and close on July 31.

This scholarship was created to help dedicated professionals explore ways to enrich existing and integrate more partnerships into their work to benefit and bring value to parks, public lands and the communities that host them.

Learning about partnerships and developing skills is an iterative process. The more one learns and practices, the greater the innovation and partner engagement in all aspects of recreation and parks.

The concept and practice of partnering will change as the needs of parks and recreation professionals evolve. This scholarship encourages applications to take the practice of partnerships to the next level.

To learn more about the scholarship, including eligibility and expectations of the applicants, see: <https://www.recpro.org/christopher-k-jarvi-scholarship>

*(From the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals website)*

## 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/Calendar.html](http://www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html)

### TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- American Trails news publications: <http://www.americantrails.org/trailtracks/index.html>

### TRAIL GUIDES

- The Best Long-Distance Bike Trails Across America: <http://tinyurl.com/y6lmmnay>
- 5 Family-Friendly Trails to Explore Hawaii's Natural Beauty: <http://tinyurl.com/y389ytwn>

### FUNDING

- Horseback riding trails grant (application due August 1): <https://www.aqha.com/step>

### VOLUNTEERING

- American Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacations: <http://tinyurl.com/ydh95kp8>
- Conservation Volunteers International (June newsletter): <http://tinyurl.com/yx9t9j25>
- Volunteer Stewardship Tools: [www.americantrails.org/resources/volunteer-stewardship-tools](http://www.americantrails.org/resources/volunteer-stewardship-tools)
- American Trails
  - Trail Ambassadors program for National Recreation Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y5sgnukn>
  - Volunteer Portal: [www.americantrails.org/connect/volunteer](http://www.americantrails.org/connect/volunteer)

### ADVOCACY

- American Hiking Society sign-on letter: <http://tinyurl.com/y5lc3wq6>

### STUDIES

- How Exercise Affects Our Memory: <http://tinyurl.com/yyf5yzo9>
- A two-hour dose of nature each week could make you happier and healthier: <http://tinyurl.com/y6yc3c2l>

### OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- Eight Ways To Practice Mindfulness On The Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y56mo2ht>
- Longest hiking trail in the nation connects Minnesota, Wisconsin trails: Path across North Dakota still being planned: <http://tinyurl.com/y2y6kkwo>
- Learning by Doing: Teaching my Son to Bikepack: <http://tinyurl.com/y4h5aouf>
- What Should Runners and Cyclists Do About People Who Use Trails as Photo Backdrops? <http://tinyurl.com/yxud76s5>
- Why Coos Bay, Oregon, Is Building Trails (3-min video): <http://tinyurl.com/y6ma2abs>

### INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- Hiking Trails Unite the World: 'One Trail' Video: <https://gearjunkie.com/merrell-one-trail-hiking>
- New hiking trails in Korean DMZ offer rare access to forbidden areas: <http://tinyurl.com/yxl7kf73>
- Documenting Hiking Trails Around The World 2019 (Kickstarter): <http://tinyurl.com/y35rglkd>

### *SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL*

- US House bill seeks to standardize outdoor recreation as a treatment for veteran PTSD: <http://tinyurl.com/y3estru6>
- Trump Tariffs Could 'Devastate' Outdoor Gear Companies, Warns Industry Group: <http://tinyurl.com/y2qnmcp>
- Parks of the Future May Include Elevated Walkways Through Trees: <http://tinyurl.com/y2orpjnh>
- Group questions USFS permits for long-distance trail runs in grizzly country: <http://tinyurl.com/y3hzb3g5>

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The Alaska Trails board meets via teleconference on the first Tuesday of each month from noon to 1:00 pm. If you want to hear more about Alaska trail topics, share trail information, or propose a trail project, join us for an hour. 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 five days before the first of the month. Send stories to Editor Eric Troyer at [fbxtrails@gmail.com](mailto:fbxtrails@gmail.com)