



NEWSLETTER

APR
2022

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www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

2022 TRAILS CONFERENCE COMING SOON, FREE ATTENDANCE

ATTEND The 2022 Annual Trails Conference happens **April 7-8!** This year it's virtual and **FREE!!**

Alaska Trails' annual conference provides trail users and the wider public a statewide opportunity for training and networking with trail professionals.

Government agencies, trail builders and non-profits will be able to share what they have learned and engage in conversations with others to share best practices and new ideas. There are many ways to enjoy Alaska's trails and the conference brings them together all under one roof. Trails and outdoor recreation are a public health asset and an economic engine for the state and the trails conference seeks to raise the profile of trails and their importance to Alaska.



For registration information and more see: www.alaska-trails.org/trails-conference

Here's a taste of what will be offered:

- CO Front Range Strike Team: A keynote from the National Forest Foundation will showcase their partnership to address high-priority trail needs in Colorado's front country. Can Alaska do something similar?
- Adaptive Mountain Biking: Hear two local riders address the growth of adaptive mountain biking (aMTB), with a brief overview of common adaptive mountain bikes and their capabilities. They will examine Canadian aMTB trail standards, highlight common avoidable barriers and provide a general assessment of current trail stock.
- Alaska Long Trail: (see more below)
- Continental Divide Trail: Keynote by Teresa Martinez, executive director of the Continental Divide Trail Coalition on efforts to complete this wonderful U.S. asset.

All this couldn't happen without our wonderful supporters. We'd especially like to thank Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, Conocophillips Alaska, and the Alaska Recreation and Parks Association for once again sponsoring this conference! If your group or business would like to sponsor the Trails Conference, please e-mail us at: office@alaska-trails.org.

ATTEND SESSION TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ALASKA LONG TRAIL

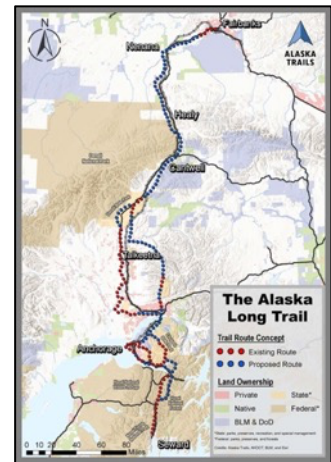
ATTEND We will be having a work session on the Alaska Long Trail during the 2022 Annual Trails Conference.

If you have interest in learning about the proposed routes or have ideas about potential routes in a specific region between Seward and Fairbanks, please come to session 2 of the conference (**April 7, 9:30-11:30 a.m.**). All are welcome in this collaborative process.

While a lot of work has been done by partners along the proposed route in the past year, many questions remain unanswered, and the bulk of the planning work is still ahead of us. Over the course of the next year, this planning work will be carried out in local and regional working groups along the envisioned length of the trail.

The conference session will initiate this planning effort through Zoom breakout rooms where participants will focus on the specific geographic area of their interest. All are welcome in this first of many meetings to follow.

Come join us and help make the Alaska Long Trail a reality!



VIRTUAL RACE RAISES MORE THAN \$40,000 FOR ALASKA LONG TRAIL

A BIG thank you to Turnagain Training!!

Check out this number: \$42,261! That is not a misprint! WOW - that's what Turnagain Training is donating to Alaska Trails through the Virtual Race Across Alaska Winter Challenge.



Alaska Trails is excited to put it to good use on our Alaska Long Trail Project. The RAAWC is a multi-sport, multi-distance winter challenge with the goal to log as many miles as you can over three months starting the first day of winter, December 21 and ending March 20. There's even a 500-mile distance that highlights the Alaska Long Trail stretching from Seward to Fairbanks. Racers logged the miles they put it walking, running, biking, cross-country skiing, swimming and other activities that could add up to fun fitness.

This was only the second year of the event.

Stay tuned for details on next year's challenge!

Thanks so much to Race Director Heather Helzer and the 2,015 participants in the RAAWC for their energy and generosity!

ALASKA TRAILS HAS TOOL TRAILERS READY FOR TRAIL PROJECTS

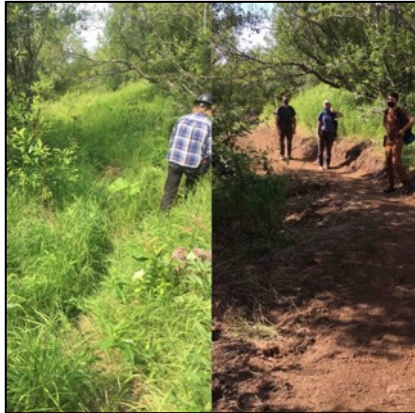
BORROW As you start planning trail building and maintenance projects, remember that Alaska Trails has mobile tool caches available to loan to organized trail groups in Southcentral and Interior Alaska. One cache is in the Fairbanks area and the other is in Anchorage/Mat-Su Valley area.

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).



VOLUNTEERS GET READY FOR FINISHING MIDDLE FORK TRAIL

Let's Finish Middle Fork! Alaska Trails has the goal to finish the Middle Fork trail re-route in Chugach State Park this summer!



In fact, the work has already started thanks to the hard work of volunteers. Blaine Smith put together a stellar team to haul materials and supplies via snowmachine so that they will be ready once the snow goes. The Eagle River Nature Center donated the use of its snowmachine for a day, with Aras Sirvelis donating a trailer to haul it. Paul Brusseau lent a Knaak box to secure the tools. Gus Gustafson and Ramunas Sirvelis volunteered their time to make sure that all the tools and materials made it on-site. Later this summer, Blaine and others will be setting up a work project that will use volunteers to knock out the remaining portion of the re-route on this popular trail. We are grateful for all the volunteers and their hard work!

Watch this newsletter or our Facebook page for news about how you can volunteer for this project.
2020 Photo by Gemma Winston: Before and after trail building on the Middle Fork trail in Chugach State Park.

SPRING TRAILS ARE VULNERABLE, PLEASE USE WITH CARE

TREAD LIGHTLY Alaska Trails asks that you please keep in mind how your trail activities might affect other trail users, especially in the spring.

As snow melts and the ground thaws, the trails become extremely muddy. Using really muddy trails at this time can result in ruts that stay all summer when the trails dry out. Those ruts can make the trails difficult to use all summer and into the next winter. They help create erosion by keeping water on the trails.

But with a little thought this problem can be greatly reduced.

- **Try to be patient.** Stay off the trails if you can. If you are unsure if a trail is ready to be used, check it out with the commitment to turn back if you are doing too much damage.
- **Choose low impact.** If you use the trails in several different ways, choose the method of travel that will cause the least amount of damage if you do run into some muddy sections.
- **Pick your trails carefully.** Use well-drained trails with lots of southern exposure. They typically dry out the quickest. If you just have to get muddy, please limit your activities to trails that are already thrashed.



An alternative to using trails in the spring is to get out on foot or by bike and go explore quiet subdivision roads new to you. You get to be outside, be active, and probably find out new things about your community.

Photo: Erosion on a popular trail in the Chugach State Park as seen on September 9, 2020 (Lex Treinen/Alaska Public Media)

SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

March 23: It's been called a "backpack tax," but really it would be a tax on outdoor gear that would affect motorized and non-motorized users alike. (We already have the Recreational Trails Program that taxes motorized users and benefits all trail users.) The "backpack tax" wouldn't necessarily be just for trails. It's an idea that's been kicking around for a while. No specific legislation has been introduced, at least recently. What do you think? Tell us in the comments.

<https://tinyurl.com/3ude65ym>

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

STATE TRANSPORTATION SURVEY INCLUDES TRAIL SYSTEMS

TAKE SURVEY Make sure the state transportation authorities hear your concerns about trails and infrastructure.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has released a survey about where to focus money from the the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Responses are based on modes of transportation. One mode is non-motorized and includes "trail systems."

Read about how to access the survey from this DOTPF email:

Here's another chance for you to weigh in on building resiliency in Alaska through the Infrastructure Bill! **Deadline to complete the survey is April 8, 2022.** Please complete this easy NEW map survey. **WE WANT TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY!**

1. Visit <https://dot.alaska.gov/infrastructureact/> or <https://arcg.is/1G4WPD1>.
2. When you see the map, zoom into Alaska and either move the map pin by clicking on your area of interest, OR enter an area in the search box.
3. Select which mode of transportation you'd like to give input about for that area and you'll be on the way to giving us valuable feedback for improving Alaska's infrastructure! You may take the survey multiple times if you have multiple areas of interest!
4. **Complete the survey by April 8, 2022.**

We can't wait to hear from you!



WATCH FOR BIRD NESTS WHEN WORKING ON TRAILS

Trail work sometimes requires downing trees or clearing shrubs. When doing so make sure not to violate the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which makes it illegal for anyone to "take" migratory birds, their eggs, feathers, or nests. "Take" includes destroying or damaging active bird nests or eggs. Different areas of the state have different sensitive periods generally occurring between April 15 and July 25. However, if you encounter an active nest at any time leave it in place and protected until young hatch and depart. "Active" is indicated by intact eggs, live chicks, or the presence of an adult on the nest.



For more information and recommended time periods for avoiding vegetation clearing see: www.fws.gov/alaska-bird-nesting-season

Photo from Denali 101: www.denali101.com/denalinationalpark/birds_of_denali.html

ALASKA STATE PARKS POSITIONS CAN INCLUDE TRAIL WORK

Alaska State Parks has a variety of seasonal positions through its the Alaska Conservation Corps (ACC), which are paid jobs, and its volunteer program. Tasks will vary and may include trail work, maintenance, fee station, or office work. Most positions begin in late May or early June. Some offices will start recruitment as early as March. You may wish to call the office in the area you wish to work in, to find out what positions they are offering this year and when applications are being accepted. For more information see:

- ACC: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/misc/accinstr.htm>
- Volunteer Program: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/vip/index.htm>



STATEWIDE LINKS

- Alaska State Parks Trail Reports & Park Conditions: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/curevnts.htm>
- Outdoor Recreation is different in Alaska, our Alaska Long Trail will be too: <https://tinyurl.com/yc644sxx>
- Thru Hiking the Alaska Long Trail: <https://alaskamagazine.com/travel/thru-hiking-the-alaska-long-trail/>
- Koyuk to Unalakleet (Ski, skate - Luc Mehl): <https://thingstolucat.com/2022/03/30/koyuk-to-unalakleet/>
- COVID-19 Conservation Corps 2020 Impact Report: <https://tinyurl.com/dkzpnsa9>
- Iditaski or Mountain Sublime: Two broken sleds, four Pepsis (FDNM): <https://tinyurl.com/yczkr5yr>

SLIGHTLY OFF TRAIL

- Student Conservation Association crew applications **due April 15**: <https://tinyurl.com/rc2kj4q>
- Diane Kaplan to step down as CEO of Rasmuson Foundation: <https://tinyurl.com/56c7wav5>
- Bridge project across Denali Park Road landslide could start this year: <https://tinyurl.com/2p96sy62>
- For 100 years, sled dogs help to maintain the wildness of Denali (ADN): <https://tinyurl.com/2p8w3wz4>
- Outdoor Explorer: Get outside Alaska!: www.alaskapublic.org/2022/03/18/get-outside-alaska/

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

ANCHORAGE PARK BOND INCLUDES SEVERAL TRAIL PROJECTS

VOTE The 2022 Anchorage Park Bond being voted on now includes several trail projects. The Anchorage Park Foundation is encouraging people to vote for the bond. **Voting ends April 5**. Below is an excerpt from an APF online article. See the entire article here: <https://anchorageparkfoundation.org/bond/>

Two trail projects are with state/federal Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS) that need a 9% match to leverage millions in federal funding. The Fish Creek Trail to the Ocean and Coastal Trail to Ship Creek Trail are moving forward in planning, design, and engineering so we can build as early as 2024. Government Hill, Chanshtnu Muldoon, Ure, Eastchester and Russian Jack Springs Parks are just a few of the items that reflect decades of vision from neighbors and advocates taking their dreams to countless meetings to influence master plans for future development.

BOARD OF GAME TURNS DOWN MAT-SU TRAPPING RESTRICTIONS

In March, the Alaska Board of Game voted down a proposal that would have restricted trapping along trails in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner had the news in a story about a variety of actions the Board of Game took when it met. Read the full story here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p952hcx>

Proposition 199, which impacts trapping near trails in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, generated a lot of attention, including hundreds of comments during public testimony.

The proposition was amended to include a list of trails and types of traps that could not be placed within 50 feet of these trails. Randy Zarnke, Alaska Trappers Association president, said the amended proposal was the only one the ATA would support.

Board members, however, were concerned that the public had not been able to see or comment on the amended proposal. Moreover, others argued that there had been little to no conflict between

trappers and people and pets on those specific trails, so it was a “feel good” measure. Ultimately, the board voted down both the original proposal and its amended form.

From the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

MAT-SU TRAILS GROUP HELPS WITH TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

From the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation February newsletter:

The Mat-Su core area is very likely going to be getting a brand new Metropolitan Planning Organization after the results of the 2020 census are released in the Federal Register this spring. Federal law requires that any newly designated urban area form an MPO. This will ultimately be a good thing as there will be a professionalized planning body to carry out a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive performance-based multimodal transportation planning process. The boundaries of the MPO are yet to be decided.



The Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation has been involved on the Pre-MPO steering committee for over a year. MSTPF staff have a seat on the policy board which is the decision-making body of the Pre-MPO. We hope to amplify the need for active transportation corridors and solutions for people who go by foot, bike, or otherwise need alternative forms of transportation. The process has been deftly managed by PDC Engineers | RESPEC Inc. and the Borough Planning Department, but an interim project manager is being sought.

The Pre-MPO has an official name now! Mat-Su Valley Planning for Transportation or MVP Transportation for short. The Pre-MPO Policy Board meets remotely on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11 am. The public is encouraged to attend.

Find more information please visit the project website here: <https://www.matsumpo.com/>

SOIL DISTRICT SEEKS HELP WITH INVASIVE PLANTS ON TRAILS

JOIN The Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District is looking for trail hikers to help with an invasive species project.

The Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District (ASWCD) has been revived! A small team of volunteers with fresh ideas is crafting the group’s mission and getting the organization up and running. The ASWCD has launched an

Invasive Species Program, focusing on highly invasive plants to start. If



you hike beyond the trailheads of Chugach State Park or Chugach National Forest and would like to help find and document locations of a few highly invasive plant species, **join our pilot Hiker-Spotter Project; contact Anne Billman at 907-903-4779 if you are interested.** You do not need to be a plant expert! The ASWCD website is anchoragewcd.org and we can be reached at anchoragewcd@gmail.com. Stay tuned as we get our feet on the ground, and email us if you want more information or would like to help.

ANCHORAGE NON-MOTORIZED PLAN AVAILABLE TO VIEW

To see the Non-Motorized Plan (NMP) that was approved by the Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS) Policy Committee go here: <https://tinyurl.com/mtewa6ft>. The Plan provides the vision for a non-motorized network within the AMATS Metropolitan Planning Area that when implemented will help residents travel more safely and efficiently throughout the AMATS Planning area

without the need of a motor vehicle in all seasons. The NMP merges bicycle, pedestrian, and shared use pathways planning efforts simultaneously. Want an Overview? Listen to AMATS staff review the draft plan in an open house that took place last March: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AegG4-zYC94>

From What's Up? by Peg Tileston

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

COMMENT March 4: The BLM is seeking input from the public on resource management issues to consider in the development of a Campbell Tract Recreation Area Management Plan. Comments can be submitted at virtual public meetings and through the BLM's ePlanning website (see the release for more info). **Comments will be accepted March 21 - April 20.**

<http://ow.ly/QrrH50lal4u>



MAT-SU TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION

March 1: Are you looking for trail or park funding for a project in the Mat-Su? Or maybe you're looking for trail jobs or volunteer opportunities? Well, we've got you covered!

Check out our latest E-News for all things trails and parks in the Mat-Su!

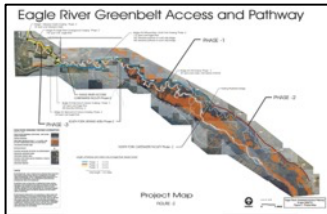
<https://conta.cc/3hBp2nb>

CHUGACH MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDERS

SPEAK UP March 15: The Eagle River Greenbelt would create a hiking and biking path from the Eagle River Nature Center to the Glenn Hwy inside Chugach State Park.

It would help connect the Alaska Long Trail by following the Historic Iditarod Trail and link the Crow Pass Trail to downtown Eagle River.

Please let your Alaska state legislator know your opinion on the Eagle River Greenbelt and the Alaska Long Trail, as both projects have been submitted for funding in this year's capital budget.



MAT-SU BOROUGH RECREATION AND LIBRARY SERVICES

March 3: March is a wonderful time on our trails! There's heat to the sun, but still cold enough overnight temps to make for good snow conditions. The MSB Grooming Crew is still hard at work keeping the trails in as good of shape as they can. The past wind, rain, and wet snow events have slowed things down a little, but it looks like there's some good spring weather in the forecast. Try hitting the trails as early as possible before the afternoon sun makes them too soft and punchy. Here are a couple of pictures of the Lazy Mountain Nordic trails getting worked on this week. Make sure and get out there and enjoy the trails before we hit the dreaded "break up" season!



SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Rebuilding the Iditarod: An Unparalleled Recreation Opportunity: <https://tinyurl.com/bd3yxhmp>
- **2022 Parks Bond: Prop 5 – Vote YES!** (Anchorage): <https://tinyurl.com/2p9chk5w>
- Small Changes with Big Impacts to our Mat-Su Grant Making Program: <https://tinyurl.com/2s3kz725>
- 5 Easy Waterfall Hikes Near Anchorage: <https://tinyurl.com/3uy4jphb>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- UAA says it supports the controversial Bragaw-Elmore extension: <https://tinyurl.com/4av5nsae>
- Infrastructure Grant Symposium hosted by Sen. Murkowski, April 11: <https://tinyurl.com/4j7fnuas>
- Top 10 Things To Do In Hatcher Pass, Alaska: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8m3nez>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

FAIRBANKS WINTER TRAILS CHALLENGE EXTENDED THROUGH APRIL

The Fairbanks Winter Trails Challenge has been extended to May 1.

The abundant snowfall this winter and recent cold nights are helping to preserve our winter trails. But some of the trails may last only a couple more weeks, so go while the going is good, and don't forget your sunglasses.

There was some back and forth about signs on the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks & Rec Facebook page. Here's what was revealed:

- The Sting Loop sign on the Darrell L. Coe Nordic Ski Trails at Salcha Elementary School was not installed. Unfortunately, those trails were not able to be packed and groomed after the holiday storms.
- The Stiles Creek sign was also not able to be put up. However, last year's sign is still up near the Extension trail junction.



Find out more about the Trails Challenge here: <https://tinyurl.com/5xhuhrdt>.

- Here's a link to the guide: <https://tinyurl.com/yc32p7s5>
- Here's the Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/264289499067287/>

Josh Kathleen Klynstra photo from Trails Challenge Facebook Event

TRAIL PROJECTS INCLUDED IN FAIRBANKS CAPITAL PROJECTS PLAN

The "Trail-a-Year" program and several other trail projects were approved recently by the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly.

The projects were included on the borough's Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) list at the assembly meeting on February 24. The CIP list is how the borough plans for big projects and includes many non-recreational projects, such as school buildings. Funding for many of the projects have not been identified, but inclusion on the list allows borough employees to work on the projects, including to seek funding sources.

Approval of the "Trail-a-Year" program, formally known as the "FNSB Public Community Trails Improvement Program," means the borough's parks and rec department will now be able to start addressing problems with physical and legal access to local trails. It will be funded at \$350,000 a year and will allow the FNSB Parks and Recreation Department to use the money to fix up physical access at trail entrances and purchase/negotiate legal access or develop reroutes where the borough has trespass issues. The department would select trails (mainly "Category B" trails from the FNBS Comprehensive Trail Plan) based on priority, need, and feasibility.

“We finally will have the support to negotiate and purchase easements, and develop basic access to priority trails that are in trespass,” according to FNSB Trails Coordinator Bryant Wright. “This is the requisite precursor to any and all trail development that the community has asked for.”

The other big trail projects on the CIP list (and their planned start dates) are:

- Peede Road Recreation Development (FY30)
- Isberg Recreation Area Master Plan Implementation (beyond FY32)
- Skyline Ridge Park Trail System Development (beyond FY32)
- Equinox Marathon Trail Extension and Completion (beyond FY32)

To find out more read this call-to-action post that was written in advance of the assembly meeting:

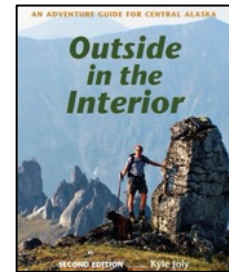
<https://tinyurl.com/5ftad3e9>

SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

BEAVER SPORTS

March 26: 🇺🇸 AWESOME BOOK ALERT 🇺🇸

With its breathtaking vistas and countless acres of unmarked wilderness, Alaska has long attracted those who are looking for a bit of adventure in their vacations—from visitors who want to climb rugged peaks to those content to push a stroller down a paved trail. Filled with maps and photos, *Outside in the Interior* is the perfect guidebook for outdoor enthusiasts of all levels of ability. It presents detailed information about trails throughout Interior Alaska, including round-trip distance, estimated hiking duration and difficulty, elevation, seasonal variations, and tips on what wildlife and other sights hikers are likely to observe along the way. Features on trail etiquette, safety, and the environment round out the volume, making this fully up-to-date new edition of *Outside in the Interior* an invaluable companion to any trip to America’s largest state.



Available for purchase here at the shop!

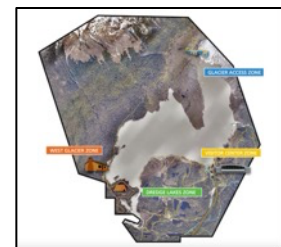
INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Our Biking Birthday Bash in the Whites: Sun, Wind, Cold, and Good Times: <https://tinyurl.com/27hfcseu>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

COMMENTS SOUGHT ON MENDENHALL PROJECT NEAR JUNEAU

COMMENT Comments are **due April 18** on the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act analysis of the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Facility Improvements Project. The Tongass National Forest (TNF) is proposing a variety of the actions at the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area (MGRA) under the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Facility Improvements Project. Those actions include proposals to construct new facilities and trails; make improvements to existing facilities and trails; and determine how much commercial use (outfitter, guide, and transport, and other services) to permit at the MGRA. For more information, go to <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r10/landmanagement/planning/?cid=FSEPRD608806>



From What's Up? by Peg Tileston

COMMENT ON MENDENHALL PROJECT FROM MOUNTAIN BIKE FORUM

Sue Schrader > Juneau Mountain Bike Alliance Public Forum

March 30: Several of the alternatives in the DEIS for the Mendenhall Glacier Rec Area include new trails in the Dredge Lakes area and on the west side of the lake.

Given that these new trails are proposed for tourist use and may very well include commercial guiding of tourists, it is foreseeable that restrictions on cycling and allowing dogs off-leash will be instituted by the Forest Service.

Last Thursday, Ken Post, a former USFS employee, wrote a My Turn in the JE. He noted plans for a 14 ft. wide trail along the south side of the lake and permitting 23,000 tourists seasonally into portions of Dredge Lakes area.

Comments on the DEIS are due to the USFS by: April 18, 2022

SEE: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53780> for more info.

SKI CLUB ADVOCATES FOR SKI TRAILS ON MENDENHALL PROJECT

The Juneau Nordic Ski Club is advocating for more ski trails as part of the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Facility Improvements Project. This is part of a post seen on the club's Facebook page.

March 22: ****Action Alert****

Your comments are needed now to add more ski trails in the Mendenhall Valley!
The US Forest Service (USFS) DRAFT Environmental Impact Statement regarding the future development of the Mendenhall Glacier Recreational Area (MGRA) is open for comment through April 17th. This is a critical opportunity to advocate for the development of additional ski trails in the Mendenhall Valley that will connect and add kilometers, alleviate congestion, and enhance skier experiences.

The proposed alternatives can be read on the USFS site:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53780>.

Skiers are encouraged to submit comments in support of nordic ski trail development in the MGRA. (JNSC's full letter to the USFS, outlining ski-specific priorities, can be found on our website: jnsci.org.) In general, the JNSC thanks the USFS for their extensive work to include winter ski trails into the MGRA.

~The JNSC Board

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

March 14: The Tongass National Forest (TNF) is beginning the planning process for the Ship Cove Trail Reconstruction Project!

For more information about the proposal and to submit comments, visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=61578> or reach out to Mike Mullin at michael.mullin@usda.gov. Comments submitted by April 14th will be most useful.



March 8: Making progress again!



True to its name, Always in the Shade Creek (Chíx'i Héen, aka No Name Creek) stayed frozen a lot longer than everything around, impeding further construction of the Cross Trail Phase 6 extension until last month.

But the crew is back at it and building up the abutments for the future bridge! To meet the grade of the steep slopes to the south, the base of the bridge will be elevated considerably. After the bridge, the focus will shift to the Cruise Ship Connector Trail.

TRAIL MIX, INC.

March 25: How do trails benefit winter recreators? 🧑‍🦺 Just over a decade ago, Trail Mix connected the Treadwell Ditch to Eaglecrest Nordic Loops. By creating this 2 mile compacted gravel path, we we're able to provide hikers and bikers a sustainable route from Eaglecrest to the Treadwell Ditch Trail. 🚲

But, building this trail didn't just mean fun for hikers and bikers. A compacted gravel trail allows snow grooming equipment to operate earlier in the fall and later in the spring. This means that building this trail equipped the area with year round fun! By improving loops and links throughout Juneau, we're able to make trails that can sustain multiple forms of recreation for years to come. Have you been skiing at the Eaglecrest Nordic Loops? 🏂



March 18: We have a long history of working on one of Juneau's favorite trails. Back in 2010, Perseverance was facing many of the same challenges that we'll be facing this upcoming season—washed out trails, landslides, and erosion.



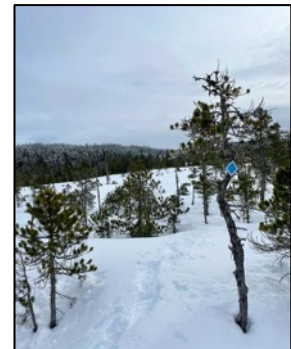
During this work project in 2010, crews cleared away landslide debris and repaired any damaged railings. They then reshaped the trail and packed it down.


👁️ Look to the background of the picture and you'll see another type of transformation! In between the before and after of this project, a large avalanche slid across the valley.

March 15: Follow the .

The 2.5 mile winter traverse from John Muir cabin to Peterson Lake cabin is an undeveloped trail that many enjoy cross country skiing or snowshoeing. Metal blue diamonds on trees mark a route that travels through beautiful forest and subalpine meadows while avoiding the muskeg that would hamper a hike in the summer.

Most people start at the Spaulding Meadows trailhead, where the blue diamonds begin on the Auk Nu trail to John Muir cabin. From the cabin, head down the hill towards Auke Mountain to pick up the route. In total, the trek is a bit more than 10 miles, but the journey can be broken up into smaller chunks by cabin stays. Strong navigation skills are a must as poor visibility can make route-finding difficult. A map, compass, and/or GPS track are recommended.



Have you skied or snowshoed this traverse? Share your favorite part or best tip in the comments .

March 11: Back in 2009, we partnered with our friends Temsco Helicopters to clean up Mount Juneau! Volunteers and crew headed up the mountain to pick up litter, large debris, and even a few machines that had been abandoned at the top.

George Shaaf, Trail Mix Executive Director at the time, was contacted by the owner of the land on top Mt. Juneau. George remembered that “she had a desire to get all of that off of the mountain and try to return it back to its natural state as best as we could. We told her that we would help her out with that.” (Quote from KTOO’s “The story of the downtown Juneau tramway that was never built”:

<https://www.ktoo.org/2017/06/09/story-downtown-juneau-tramway-never-built/>)

March 7: Making our trail system safer one tree at a time! 🍷

Last week, Meghan, Duncan, and Ryan worked to remove a tree that was hanging over Outer Point Loop. In forestry, trees like this one that could fall on someone are called fool killers or widowmakers. To reduce risk, avoid going underneath them or if that's not possible, move as quickly through their fall zone as you can, one person at a time. Then take a quick pic from a safe distance and fill out the Juneau Trails Damage Report so we can take care of it. Photos are especially helpful for assessing hazard. Link in bio or find it on our website under 'Contact.'



Thanks for being our eyes out on trail!

March 1: Beepin' 📡 for backcountry safety!



Big thanks to the Juneau Snowmobile Club for installing a beacon checker at the base of the Blueberry Hills access trail to Treadwell Ditch. For those who like to snowmachine and ski around Dan Moller cabin, this device will quickly confirm if you are transmitting a signal and also reminds you the other rescue gear you need to carry.

Remember, a functioning beacon will help you in the event of an avalanche, but more important are the knowledge and skills to recreate safely in the backcountry and avoid that worst case scenario.

SOUTHEAST LINKS

- Juneau officials consider path: 'Time for Lemon Creek to get some love': <https://tinyurl.com/2p999v6v>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

CONGRESS PASSES TRAIL FUNDING, BEGINS PROCESS FOR 2023

Congress finally passed and the President signed into law the long awaited annual appropriations bill for 2022, which included increased support for trails and trail-related programs. The American Hiking Society led the trails community all year in advocating for funding to address maintenance needs and ensure open and accessible trails for all to enjoy. After wrapping up 2022 funding, the House of Representatives turned its attention to 2023. AHS submitted testimony on behalf of a diverse group of trail users to encourage the continued increase in funding for trails. Check out our blog to learn more about these efforts:

<https://tinyurl.com/2p96w59v>

From "Paperless Trail," the American Hiking Society newsletter

25TH ANNUAL HIKE THE HILL A SUCCESS!

Over 120 hikers and trail advocates from across the country came together last month for the 25th Annual Hike the Hill advocacy event. This annual event, celebrating its 25th year, co-hosted by American Hiking Society and Partnership for the National Trails System brings together hikers, leaders of the National Trails System and the trails community writ large and next gen advocates to collectively advocate for shared priorities of the trails system before congress and federal agency leaders. The trail community met with the

National Park Service Director, top leadership at the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, and key congressional committees. Learn more about our impact here and add your voice!

Read more on the AHS Blog: <https://tinyurl.com/mrafwj25>

From "Paperless Trail," the American Hiking Society newsletter

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY EVENT REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Join in on celebrating the 30th annual National Trails Day on June 4, 2022, by hosting an event on your favorite local trail. By registering an official National Trails Day event on our website your event can be found by the community, you'll receive an event toolkit as well as the opportunity to request free swag from some of our sponsors.

Create community and connect with the people in your area who share your love of being outside. Join the nationwide movement to give back to the trails and make sure everyone can enjoy the outdoors.

Register your event here: <https://americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/host-information/>

From "Paperless Trail," the American Hiking Society newsletter

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR NEW TRAILS GRANT PROGRAM

APPLY American Trails, in partnership with the Trails Move People coalition, recently announced its new grant program called The Trail Fund. It is dedicated to maintaining and enhancing America's trails through maintenance, research, and stewardship training projects. **Application deadline is April 15.** Read more from the American Trails Facebook post:

Looking for trail funding? Apply today for the Trail Fund!

Learn more: <https://www.americantrails.org/apply-for-the-trail-fund>

The deadline to apply for the current year's application process (for funding to be used by December 31) is April 15. Winning applications will be announced by May 15.

Request the amount needed! Should your application be approved to receive funding, we will try our best to approve the amount of funding requested for a project, but please know that this may not be feasible pending the number of applications received and the amount of funding available. We want to know the needs of the trails community when it comes to maintenance, research, and stewardship training (as we will use these stats to leverage more funding in future years), so we encourage you to submit for the amount needed as we may still be able to offer some funding for your project, but not the entire amount.



APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR FOREST TRAIL PARTNER FUNDING

APPLY The National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, in collaboration with American Trails, American Hiking Society, Back Country Horsemen of America, the International Mountain Bicycling Association, the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council, and the American Motorcyclist Association, is pleased to announce the fifth round of a trails granting program in partnership with the USDA Forest Service for the National Forest Trail Stewardship Partnership Funding for National Forest System trails for the 2022 Field season.

The Trail Stewardship Funding Program will award funds to trails and stewardship organizations for increasing trail maintenance accomplishments and reducing deferred maintenance (trail backlog) on National Forest System trails.

Learn more here: https://www.wildernessalliance.org/trail_funding

From Paperless Trail, American Hiking Society newsletter

REGISTER NOW FOR A 2022 VOLUNTEER VACATION

VOLUNTEER Ready to get back on the trails as the weather starts to warm? Join a Volunteer Vacation this spring to help build trails, repair winter damage and ensure safe access to public trails across the country!

Spaces are still available on several projects this spring including a special Volunteer Vacation led by women, for women at Lula Lake Land Trust, Tennessee! This is an excellent project for new volunteers, who will receive full instructions and demonstrations for the safe use of all tools and trail building techniques.



Volunteers are also needed in Cheaha State Park, Alabama to install drainage features on the Lake Trail, a highly popular hike for those with an adventurous spirit looking to gain 1,000 feet of elevation over just half a mile! Register today or email volunteer@americanhiking.org for more information.

Learn more and register here: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacation-trips/>

From Paperless Trail, American Hiking Society newsletter

NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS

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

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- American Trails "Trail Tracks": www.americantrails.org/newsletter

VOLUNTEER

- Conservation Volunteers International Program newsletter (March): <https://tinyurl.com/2s4zsvta>

FUNDING

- National Forest Foundation awards (**deadline Jun 22**): <http://tinyurl.com/px7y6ke>
- FOX Factory Trail Trust (**applications reviewed quarterly**): <https://tinyurl.com/bdfjevrd>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- USFS Trail Partner Survey – The Results Are In: <https://tinyurl.com/2wjhv3yx>
- 10 Long Hikes To Consider Before The Appalachian Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/yckv7nnk>
- Trails Appropriations Request Submitted to Congress: <https://tinyurl.com/2s3a8jet>

INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- 10 most popular hiking trails in Canada based on Google, Instagram: <https://tinyurl.com/2p93fyvx>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Backpack Tax: Is it Time Hikers Pay Their Fair Share?: <https://tinyurl.com/3ude65ym>
- Fewer Americans are hunting, that raises hard questions: <https://tinyurl.com/2vtfdwrđ>

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