



NEWSLETTER

JAN
2022

PO Box 100627; Anchorage, AK 99510-0264

907/334-8049

www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

VIRTUAL RACE ACROSS ALASKA BENEFITS YOU AND ALASKA TRAILS

ENTER/DONATE We are absolutely blown away by the support Race Across Alaska Winter Challenge has generated for Alaska Trails. So much gratitude to Turnagain Training for organizing this incredible winter activity and to everyone that has signed up and donated. The race goes until March 20, so there's still plenty of time to sign up if you want to join: <https://www.raawc.com/>

Check out this December 29 Facebook post from Turnagain Training!

OHH MY GOODNESS! We have raised over \$35,000 for the Alaska Trails THIS YEAR through the Race Across Alaska!

For every racer that signs up, we donate \$10 to the Alaska Trails plus while going through checkout racers can donate additional funds. If you donate \$9.07 or more, Alaska Trails will mail you a Race Across Alaska sticker as a thank you for your donation.

Donate **HERE!**

<https://www.raawc.com/Race/Donate/AK/Anchorage/AlaskaChallenge>

Here are the details:

The Race Across Alaska Winter Challenge, a multi-sport challenge, is a great way to get outside while challenging yourself to stay happy and healthy during winter. And you'll be helping our cause to help build and maintain some of the best trails in the world!

Here's how it works. You can run, walk, fatbike, indoor bike, XC ski or swim (heck, even pogo stick!). You can choose from six different virtual distances – from 125 miles, 1.4 miles a day, to 2,000 miles, which is a whopping 22.3 miles per day. New this year is a 5-person relay of 2,000 miles which is the distance from Ketchikan to Deadhorse. Now that's a challenge. The goal is to log as many miles as you can over the three months of winter to get (virtually) from location A to B:

- 125 miles = Anchorage to Seward, AK, that's 1.4miles/day
- 225 miles = Anchorage to Homer, AK, that's 2.5miles/day
- 350 miles = Anchorage to Fairbanks, AK, that's 3.9miles/day
- 850 miles = Anchorage to Deadhorse, AK, that's 9.5miles/day
- 2,000 miles = Ketchikan to Deadhorse, AK, that's 22.3miles/day



You will have the ability to log your miles, track your progress, collect virtual badges, so how you rank up to others on the leader board daily. You can invite other to this challenge to help you to stay motivated all winter long.

Online registration began November 25 and the virtual race started on Winter Solstice – December 21. **See the website for more details:** www.raawc.com/Race/AK/Anchorage/AlaskaChallenge

RAAWC is a fundraiser for the Alaska Long Trail project. **For every racer that participates, \$10 will be donated to Alaska Trails PLUS racers can donate additional funds to support the development of The Alaska Long Trail.** Last year nearly \$20,000 was donated through participation and donations – and that was the first year of the RAAWC. Alaska Trails is very grateful for the financial support from the race, but also the boost it gives to the community by inspiring an active, healthy lifestyle.

The official race cannon will be fired at the Zoom Kickoff Party on December 21 at 4:30pm AKS (8:30pm EST). Join the Facebook group to hear about pop-up Zoom and/or Zwift FREE workouts along with facebook live videos: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/824863588292365>

SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Dec 16: From trail building and maintenance to behind the scenes planning, we got a lot done in 2021! Check out our 2021 highlights to see what all we accomplished: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/2021-highlights>

SHOP Dec 9: We want to give a #ThankfulThursday shoutout to FashionPact! They've donated nearly \$400 to Alaska Trails so far this year from individuals that have chosen us as their charity of choice. Every item is \$5, with \$1 going to the charity chosen by the donor, and \$1 going to the charity chosen by the shopper. It's a great way to get rid of old things, find new treasures, and support local charities that make our community a better place! Thank you FashionPact!!!



SEVERAL OTHER WAYS TO HELP FUND ALASKA TRAILS

In addition to FashionPact, with the help of other organizations, you can help Alaska Trails continue advocating for trails.

FRED MEYER REWARDS: Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer



Rewards Card to Alaska Trails at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for Alaska Trails or by our nonprofit number – KU871. Then, every time you shop and use your rewards card, you are helping Alaska Trails earn a donation! You still earn your rewards points, fuel points, and rebates, just as you do today.

AMAZONSMILE: If you shop at Amazon, please take the simple extra step of signing up for AmazonSmile.



It's the same Amazon website, but when you shop from AmazonSmile, you can make a donation to Alaska Trails at the same time: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/73-1677483>

GOODSEARCH: GoodSearch.com is a search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to charities designated by the user. You use it just as you would any search engine, and, it's powered by Yahoo!. Just go to www.goodsearch.org and be sure to enter Alaska Trails as the charity you want to support.



BAGOY'S: Anchorage-based Bagoy's Florist and Home helps through its Helping Hands web fundraising program (<https://www.bagoys.com/programs/charitable-giving/>). When you order online from Bagoy's (www.bagoys.com) there is a check box at the bottom of the payment page that says "This is a Helping Hands order." When you check that box, the list of enrolled organizations are shown and you can choose Alaska Trails from the list.



STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

STATE HUNTER ACCESS PROGRAM APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

APPLY Applications for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Hunter Access Program are available.

The 2022 program schedule is now posted on the website (<https://tinyurl.com/3hecnsny>).

Anyone interested in applying should review the updated FAQ's and criteria as you think about project ideas. Please contact ADF&G with questions. Contact information is on the website.



2022 Program Schedule

- **March 1, 2022: Application due date**
- September 2022: Applicants that have been selected for award are notified
- January 2023: Award and grant agreements are finalized, signed, and implemented

Grants from this program do not necessarily go toward trails, but they often do. Trail projects from this project benefit all trail users. To see example projects use the “Completed Projects” or “Project Map” on the main page (<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=hunteraccess.main>).

Photos of Byers Lake bridge from Hunter Access Grant Program webpage

SUPPORT STATE, NATIONAL TRAILS BY PURCHASING PARK PASSES

BUY A PASS Many of the great trails in Alaska and the rest of the United States are in state and national parks. Buying a pass helps support these agencies even if you never use the pass. Of course, if you do use the pass, then so much the better. That means you are out having fun!

- **Alaska State Parks annual pass:** Support state parks during a time of tight state budgets. Of course, your parking is then paid for when you park at a state parks trailhead that requires a fee. Passes are good for the calendar year. Annual boat launch passes are also available: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/passes>
- **National Park Service annual passes:** The park service offers general passes. It also has a variety of other discounted or free passes for seniors, fourth-graders, people with disabilities, some volunteers, and members of the military: www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm



WINTER TRAIL GROOMING PROGRAMS NEED YOUR HELP

DONATE/SERVE Winter is upon us and if there is no snow on the ground in your area, there soon will be.

Many winter trails activities require (or at least are much improved by) grooming, such as snowmachining, skiing, mushing, and fatbiking. If you engage in an activity that is improved by grooming, please remember to support those efforts. There are several ways you can help.

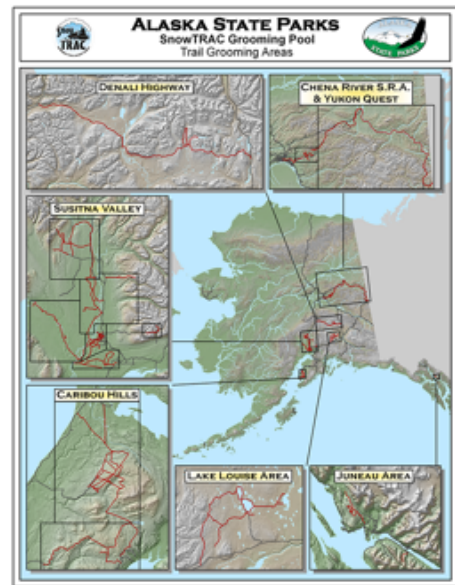
If you use an area that is clearly groomed and has a grooming fund, make sure to donate. Not all trails that are groomed have a specific grooming fund, but you can also join or donate to the group that is doing the grooming. Look for signs that tell you how you can help.

You can also support the Alaska Snowmachine Trails Program, which provides funds for grooming in several areas of the state. The grooming this program provides benefits more than snowmachiners. Anyone who uses the groomed trails benefits, including fatbikers, skiers, mushers, and hikers. You can't donate to the Snowmachine Trails Program, but you can help it by making sure to register your snowmachine, which is what funds the program. You can also serve on the SnowTRAC board, which advises the state administration on how the funds are spent. Finally, you can advocate for the program. In years past, administrations have tried to cut the program as part of budget cutting measures. However, strong advocacy has kept the program alive.

To find out more about the program see:

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/snowmotr.htm>

Most importantly, get out there and enjoy all the great winter trails we have in Alaska!



SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA STATE PARKS

Dec 29: ****Alert!! RTP Grant deadline extended!****

The Recreation Trails Program application due date has been extended to January 7, 2022. ☀️ See details here: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm>

FAIRBANKS TRAIL USERS OPEN GROUP

If you don't already know, Purple Air Monitor pages are a good way to get a look at temperatures from a variety of places in local urban areas. These monitors are mainly for air quality, so they are good for that, too.

Here's a link for the Fairbanks area.

<https://map.purpleair.com/1/mTEMP/a0/p2592000/cC0#9.06/64.8709/-147.6998>

STATEWIDE LINKS

- Top 10 Trails in Alaska: www.railstotrails.org/trailblog/2021/december/15/top-10-trails-in-alaska/
- Couple Goes On 40 Adventures To Celebrate Their 40th Anniversary: <https://tinyurl.com/4j8mf5h7>
- Half a dozen dogs and one person were accidentally caught in traps or snares last year, Alaska wildlife group says: <https://tinyurl.com/4jfdv9ty>

SLIGHTLY OFF TRAIL

- Alaska Mountain Wilderness Classic 2021 (Jay Cable blog): <https://tinyurl.com/6dyf2u6s>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

MSB ASSEMBLY TO HOLD MEETING WITH MAT-SU GRAVEL INDUSTRY

COMMENT At 3 pm Tuesday, Jan. 4 there will be a special meeting with the Mat-Su Gravel Industry. Public comment is welcome.

This is an opportunity to speak to any issue including gravel pit reclamation, mining in the water table, the Greenbelt (and associated trails), a gravel tax, and the pending legislation that proposes to eliminate permit requirements and public input on any pit of 20,000 cubic yards or less and remove the need for any Conditional Use Permit requirement for a gravel operation at the landfill.

HOW TO COMMENT:

The meeting starts at 3 PM Tuesday, Jan. 4 You can participate in both by:

- Come in person to 350 E. Dahlia, Palmer; testify under "Audience Participation"
- Call in by dialing 1-855-225-2326; Press *3 to unmute yourself when you hear the clerk announce Audience Participation

Send an email by Monday, Jan. 3 to the borough clerk at lonnie.mckechnie@matsugov.us and she will send it to the entire Assembly and mayor.

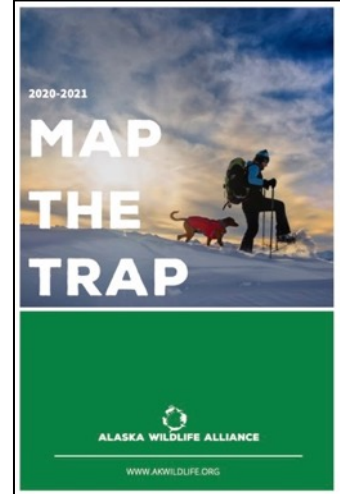
From Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation newsletter

COMMENT DEADLINE COMING SOON FOR TRAP SETBACK PROPOSAL

COMMENT January 7 is the deadline for comments on the proposal to before the Board of Game to institute 50-yard trap setback from over 200 designated multi-use trails in the Mat-Su area. To see the proposal, go to View the proposal (Proposal 199) here. Send comments to "Submit a comment." For more information on this proposal and ways to get involved, contact Nicole at nicole@akwildlife.org or visit www.akwildlife.org/safetrails.

The effort for the setback proposal is being spearheaded by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. The group's 2020-21 Map The Trap Report is now available online. Last year, Alaska Wildlife Alliance collected reports of trap encounters across Alaska and sought the opinions of both trappers and non-trapping Alaskans to understand the impacts of traps on recreation. Click here to view the report and learn about the Map the Trap project or visit www.akwildlife.org/safetrails.

From What's Up? by Peg Tileston



If you want to comment this proposal, titled Proposal 199, it can be found at (<https://tinyurl.com/952du8c2>) or by visiting the Alaska Wildlife Alliance website (<https://www.akwildlife.org/safetrails>).

Justifications for the proposal are in the last three pages of the document. They include reasons for the overall proposal, why the specific trails were included in the proposal, and why a distance of 50 yards was chosen for the setback. Included in the proposal are six problem incidences with trapping during the 2020-21 trapping season that were collected from the "Map the Trap" project.

If you are interested in submitting a comment on the trap setbacks follow the instructions below:

- Access the Board of Game comment portal: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.comments

- Select 'Central/Southwest Region Meeting - Comments due 1/9/2022 and fill in your contact information.
- Write your comment about Proposal 199. The Board of Game is a citizen board that makes decisions about state trapping regulations. You don't need to be technical, writing about your thoughts and experiences makes a great public comment.

GIRLS ON THE RUN SEEKS COACHES AT ANCHORAGE SCHOOLS

Girls on the Run is gearing up for our upcoming spring season and we have sites looking for community coaches at the following elementary schools: Bowman, Chester Valley, College Gate, and Rabbit Creek! Coaches do NOT need to be runners, they just need to believe in helping girls be joyful, healthy, and confident. If you're interested in coaching one OR two days a week please reach out to Shaina (see below) or join us at one of our upcoming Empower Hours! Join us IN PERSON, Tuesday, Jan 18th from 5:00-7:00pm at Cynosure Brewing or VIRTUALLY, Wednesday, Jan 12th at 7:30pm to learn more about coaching, bringing a site to your school, joining our board, or general information. For more information please contact Shaina at coaches@gotrsouthcentralak.org



SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION

December 3: Sled dogs are a significant part of Alaskan culture and offer a fun and unique way to recreate during the winter months! Through a partnership with the Alaskan Sled Dog and Racing Association (ASDRA), Far North Bicentennial Park and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has a designated sled dog trail system. Sled dog teams are fast, quiet, and unable to stop quickly. For safety reasons, these trails are mushing only in the winter months; and are closed to all other users.



Please take note of the location of these trails and learn more about dog mushing in Anchorage at <https://asdra.org/index.php/trails/>. If you have questions, please call Anchorage Parks and Recreation at 907-343-4355 or the BLM at 907-267-1246.

ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

Dec 22: Happy Hump Day! Now that we have a little more daylight every day, we hope you will consider adding a bike ride or walk into your daily destination. Bike to the coffee shop. Walk to a restaurant. Ski to work. Every little bit helps to improve your health and ward off the winter blues. Anchorage trails will take you to lots of places!



SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Learn to avoid traps on Chugach trails: <https://tinyurl.com/4y45df6a>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Advisory Board being reactivated: <https://tinyurl.com/4sceaswx>
- A Berry Wonderful Loop: <https://tinyurl.com/6nayhzef>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

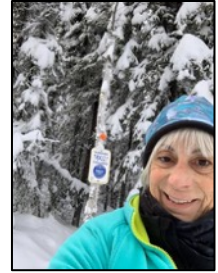
FAIRBANKS PARKS AND REC AGAIN HOLDING TRAILS CHALLENGE

The Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department is hosting another Winter Trails Challenge.

The sign list was revealed in late December for this popular ongoing event, which is free and open to anyone. However, not all signs had been installed as of December 20. At that time signs #1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 had been installed. Given the record-breaking weather the Interior experienced at the end of the month, the remaining signs are likely not yet installed. The guide also has not been published.

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

Partly from FNSB Parks and Recreation Facebook page; Selfie by Lisa Wright Currie



COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED FOR TANANA FOREST PLAN UPDATE

In response to a request from the public, the Division of Forestry has extended the scoping comment deadline to 5:00 p.m. Monday, January 17, 2022. (Note: One of the missions of state forests is recreation, which includes trails and using forestry roads as trails.)

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry is revising the Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan per AS 41.17.230 and AS 38.04.005. The Division of Forestry reviewed the 2001 Forest Management Plan and determined that a revision is necessary to reflect current conditions and uses. More information on the Tanana Valley State Forest and the 2001 Forest Management Plan is available at <http://forestry.alaska.gov/stateforests.htm>

The purpose of this notice is to ask the public for their ideas and suggestions in developing the Draft Forest Management Plan. The public is invited to comment on any aspect of Tanana Valley State Forest management. Scoping issues to consider include but are not limited to:

- Access; Recommended additions to the Tanana Valley State Forest; Updated forest inventory; Silvicultural treatments; Forest health & climate change; Wildlife habitat management; Recreation; Research uses.

Public input from this scoping period will inform the development of the Draft Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan, which will also be available for public review and comment. Written input must be received by the Division of Forestry no later than 5:00 p.m. Monday, January 17, 2022. Please send all submissions by mail or email to:

Alaska Division of Forestry
ATTN: TVSF Revision
550 W. 7th Ave Suite 1450
Anchorage, AK 99501
dnr.for.tvsfrevision@alaska.gov

Two virtual public scoping meetings were held on December 15 and 16, 2021. For more information, please contact Ashley List at (907) 269-8481 or dnr.for.tvsvrevision@alaska.gov

From Alaska Division of Forestry email

SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

INTERIOR ALASKA TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION

Dec 19: 2021 Trail Project:

Table Top Mountain trail brushing

In conjunction with BLM, Randy (IATPF Vice President) and Brian (IATPF Treasurer) and Bobby (Arctic Offroad) worked half a day brushing the East side of Table Top.

We learned:

Blades on weed whackers are not the best way for the type of vegetation.

We hope to be back in 2022 with more efficient tools. We will also need to rustle up some volunteers! Keep you eye out for volunteer opportunities!



Dec 15: Summer 2021 project

Nome Creek Jeep Trail reroute. This trail is the historic road from the bridge through the dredge piles and back to the current road to Ophir Creek campground. There was a washout 2 years ago and users were creating a bypass.



In cooperation with BLM, IATPF Treasurer Brian worked for 8 hours to create roughly 200 yards of new trail. The willows were crazy thick.

Using the BLM volunteer value tables, this job was worth \$228 in volunteer hours. Of course BLM saved much more than that!

Remember that YOU keep trails open and awesome by using them, volunteering for maintenance work and by your generous donations!

Dec 12: Summer 2021 project:

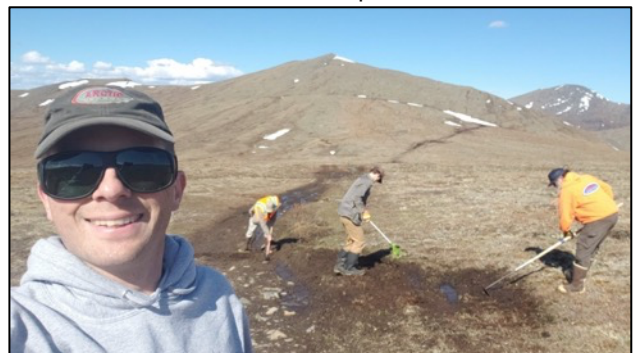
Partnered with BLM to support the Pinnell Mountain Trail Rehabilitation! We provided food, snacks and huge sub sandwiches. Fed volunteers are happy volunteers!

Our board members (Brian and Randy) along with Bobby (representing Arctic Offroad) spent a total of 48 work hours during the 2 day project June 5 & 6! BLM counts dollar equivalents for volunteer hours, and this project our work represented \$1,369.92!

Randy returned for the one day work event.

Met a lot of great trail lovers!

Remember that YOU keep trails open and awesome by using them, volunteering for maintenance work and by your generous donations!



FAIRBANKS AREA HIKING CLUB FAN PAGE

Dec 19: Hello all, While skiing on the Rosie Creek trails this afternoon, my family's dog Philbin was caught in a conibear trap. The trap was less than 10 yards from the trail, right near the trail entrance by the farm. We really thought that he wasn't going to make it. It was a disgustingly cruel way to bait a dog. My mom found another trap less than 10 ft from the trail after we got the trap off (with the aid of my dad and another kind person looking for their dog). Please beware, I'm not sure if this was purposeful or just irresponsible trapping and there may be more traps in the area. If you are or know any trappers in the area, please encourage them to place traps high in trees. Most furbearers will climb up to investigate. I really hope no one else has to go through this. Once Philbin recovers, it will be skijoring only for him.



KUAC also had a story on this:

Dog Trapped on Local Trail

<https://fm.kuac.org/2021-12-22/dog-trapped-on-local-trail>

Dec 3: From the Fairbanks Area Hiking Club page":

Sydney Brannoch

Hey all! I created a new Facebook group for parents in and around Fairbanks who backpack, ski pack, bike pack, etc. with their kids. The aim of the group is to discuss trips, offer tips, ask questions, make friends, etc. Please feel free to join and invite others who might be interested! 🎿👟🚲

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/453138743147045/>

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



Dec 13: #12DaysOfPublicLands: On my 1st trip to public lands, my best friend showed to me....A skier gliding in the fresh snow! 🎿❄️🏔️

Located just an hour's drive from Fairbanks, Alaska, the one-million-acre BLM-White Mountains National Recreation Area offers stunning scenery, peaceful solitude, and outstanding opportunities for year-round recreation. Don't forget to pick-up after your four-legged buddies! 🐾

Visit: <http://ow.ly/E3h850H9PIb>.

📍 Colorado Creek Trail; Craig McCaa, BLM.

ALASKA SKIJORING & PULK ASSOCIATION

Juliette Funck

Dec 20: If any of you have skijored the Ace lake trails recently you have probably noticed the fine corduroy grooming tracks and new trail signs by now. Henry "Hank" Charles Wilton has taken great pride in maintaining and improving the trail system the last few years and will continue to do so. He aims for resort quality trails in your back yard. He has done this with gas and maintenance out of his own pocket. If you appreciate the work he is doing please consider contributing to his budget on Venmo @HenrytheYeti or with cash if you see him on the trail grooming or riding his fat bike with Bender and Yeti (aka Ashi). He doesn't have Facebook (hence me making this post) but you can follow him @bicknellsthrush on Instagram.



FAIRBANKS TRAIL USERS OPEN GROUP

DOT is hosting a Zoom public meeting regarding the Parks Highway MP 231 Enhancements project. The meeting will be held Thursday, January 6, 2022, 5:30 – 7:30 PM. Aspects of the project include:

- Construction of new pedestrian facility connections under the Nenana river Bridge on both sides.
- Trail connections and re-routing (Triple Lakes and Oxbow trails).

<https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/parks231/>

DELTA JUNCTION TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Dec 14: Join DJTA for the Delta Junction Winter Trails Challenge from now through March. Get out and explore your local trails by hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, or running.

Take a selfie at the temporary challenge signs placed on each trail and post it to social media using the hashtag “#DJTAtrails” or email to deltajunctiontrailsassociation@gmail.com. Complete the challenge by finding at least 5 of the 6 trail signs.

Individuals that submit their pictures showing they completed the challenge will receive a Winter Challenge sticker and be eligible to win a Deltana Trail Guide, Hydro Flask water bottle, and an annual DJTA membership to use in 2022 or 2023. To be sure we know you are entering, send a sign-up email to the above address with Trails Challenge in the subject line.

Challenge yourself by finding them all!

Visit the club’s Facebook page to see the pages of the guide. You may request a higher resolution pdf at the email address above.

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Anniversary Adventure (White Mountains ski trip): <https://tinyurl.com/yc4tc58h>
- Cache Mountain (White Mountains bike trip): <https://yak.spruceboy.net/2021/12/cache-mountain.html>
- Christmas at Colorado Creek Cabin (White Mountains ski trip): <https://tinyurl.com/hx5bk8dk>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Road improvements planned on Cache Creek Road near Fairbanks: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8rh477>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

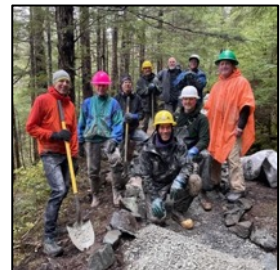
SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

TRAIL MIX, INC.

December 23: 🏆 A new record for the Volunteer Trail Maintenance Team! 🏆

In 2017, the VTMT comprised 3 people with an idea to make Treadwell Ditch bikeable from end to end. Four years later, its ranks have swelled to over 30 volunteers who range in age from their late 40s to mid 70s. We're proud to share that this dream team of retirees spent 2,701 hours volunteering on trail this year! From the Ditch to Switzer Creek to the Amalga Cabin access trail, this has been their biggest year yet, but wait til you hear what's in store...

In 2022, this crew will be part of Trail Mix's focus on loops and links in our trail system, including a new trailhead for Mt. Jumbo that will connect Savikko Park to Treadwell Ditch.



Our goal is to create a more seamless experience of our trail system with fewer barriers and greater ease. They're ready to do their part volunteering on this and other trails, but none of this work can happen without your support.

Will you help us create a more connected trail system by making your year-end gift today?
bit.ly/loopsandlinks2022

Dec 22: Totem Pole Trail is coming to downtown. Congrats Sealaska Heritage Institute!

Shared from

Sealaska Heritage Institute

December 20: SHI SECURES FUNDING TO LAUNCH TOTEM POLE TRAIL

Project part of vision to make Juneau the Northwest Coast art capital of the world.

Sealaska Heritage has secured a grant to commission ten totem poles that will comprise part of Kootéeyaa Deiyi (Totem Pole Trail) along the downtown Juneau waterfront.

The \$2.9 million grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation will allow SHI to hire Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian master artists in Juneau and villages across Southeast Alaska to carve the poles, which will be raised in 2023.

The project is part of SHI's vision to make Juneau the Northwest Coast art capital of the world, said SHI President Rosita Worl: <https://www.sealaskaheritage.org/node/1525>

December 7: Before all this snow ❄️, we snuck in a little more trail work!

Last week, a chainsaw crew fixed up a few trails by removing downed trees. They cut up more than



10 blowdowns on Montana Creek Trail, Kaxdigoowu Héen Dei, Mendenhall Peninsula Trail, and Mendenhall Wetlands Access.

We typically spend the first month of each trail season on winter maintenance, so it was nice to take care of a few trails now.

Thanks to Sam, Duncan, and Cedar for bundling up and logging these trails out!

SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

December 8: Trails make the news! One of the best things about the Cross Trail is how it serves the community in all seasons. Did you get out and play in the snow on the trail?

Shared from

Daily Sitka Sentinel added a new photo to the album: Front Page Photos 2021.

December 7 at 4:54 pm ·

WINTER WONDERLAND – Sitkans walk and ski along Kramer Avenue Sunday.

The winter wonderland has returned to a regular rain forest today with temperatures in the upper 30s. More snow mixed with rain is in the forecast for the remainder of the week. (Sentinel Photo by James Poulson)



Dec 4: Harbor Mountain PSA from the US Forest Service:

Gate 3 and beyond is open to over the snow vehicles and foot traffic only.

As of 12/2/2021, there is over 1 foot of snow at gate 2 and a little over 2 feet at gate 3. There is between 2 and 3 feet of snow at the picnic shelter.

ATVs should not try to go up Harbor Mt Road at this point at least not until it is packed down by the over the snow vehicles. For further information contact Sitka Ranger District at 907-747-6671.

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR 25TH ANNUAL HIKE THE HILL

Celebrating its 25th year, Hike the Hill is a joint effort between American Hiking Society and Partnership for the National Trails System to bring together trail organizations to advance shared trail priorities with congressional and federal agency leaders including: trails funding, public lands management and conservation, equitable access, and other top priority issues that sustain trails and improve access to public lands. If this is your first Hike the Hill, you haven't attended in a few years, or haven't been able to travel to DC, we encourage you to join us in 2022 in this virtual format!

<https://americanhiking.org/advocacy/#hike-the-hill>

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

- ConservationVIP News (Dec): <https://tinyurl.com/2h4a5b5e>

FUNDING

- National Forest Foundation awards (deadline Jan 12): <http://tinyurl.com/px7y6ke>
- Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative (OHVs, next deadline Mar 31): <https://yamahaoai.com/>
- Polaris T.R.A.I.L.S. grants (ATV trail projects; due March 1): <https://tinyurl.com/y49dxbhe>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- New Bolt Act Could Fund 20 Long-Distance Bike Trails in the US: <https://tinyurl.com/yckh9m68>
- Some NPS Trails May Close Without Proper Funding (video): www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzNb_HJ0HFM
- Waterford Press, American Trails Announce New State Day Hiking Series: <https://tinyurl.com/y5tze4c9>
- Reimagining Trails: <https://www.backpacker.com/trips/reimagining-trails/>
- Ever Wonder How to Become a JEDI Knight for Trails? <https://tinyurl.com/y5dym76f>
- MTB Trails That Helped Popularize Copper Harbor Have Been Shut Down: <https://tinyurl.com/5n74uuuf>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Recreation Not Red Tape (bill): All the Details: <https://tinyurl.com/ydjfyjc>

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