

COVID-19 Conservation Corps

2020 Impact Report



TRAIL MIX, INC.

COVID-19 Conservation Corps

- Trail Mix trained and employed **31 people** unemployed or underemployed due to the pandemic
- Recruitment strategy: willingness to learn > skill
- Improved **10 trails** in the Juneau Trail system
- CCC doubled the amount of time spent improving trails...**19,000 hours** total



Drainage



Tread



Brushing &
Grubbing



New
Construction



Trail
Reroutes

“Nothing is remotely comparable. Money had the direct effect of employing people while also ending up with a very gratifying product.”

- Bruce Botelho,

State and Community Leader



A CCC crew member hauls gravel in a Canycom along the Horse Tram trail.

CCC Worksites

- A. Point Bridget Trail
- B. Equestrian Trail
- C. Horse Tram Trail
- D. Eagle Valley Center (EVC) Cabin Trail
- E. EVC Challenge Course
- F. Auke Bay Elementary
- G. Anne Coleman Beach Access
- H. Under Thunder Trail
- I. Granite Creek Trail
- J. Red Mill Trail

Legend

- Improved Tread
- New Construction Brushing
- Drainage
- Rerouted Path

3.8 Total Miles Brushed and Grubbed

326 Feet of Planking Installed

64 Drains Installed on Red Mill Trail

600 Tons of Gravel Laid on Horse Tram Trail

* This map does not represent official or legal boundaries of the Kwaans or clans named.

Eagle Beach

Nex'w Xaayi
Cloudberry Point
Lena Point

Awk'w
Little Lake
Auke Lake

Kadigooni X'áat'
Island with Spring Water
Spuhn Island

Dzantik'i Héeni
Precious Water for
the Starry Flounder
Juneau

ÁAK'W

T'AAKU

Sayéik
Spirit Helper

Learning the Ropes

Sustainable Trail Design Course

- Mike Shields, Master trail builder and long-time Alaskan
- Course developed in partnership with Alaska Trails
- Crew members learned technical aspects of trail building: soil type, trail grade, mechanical advantage
- Techniques such as rigging, block and tackle, and come-alongs were particularly useful for limiting close contact between crew members on the trails to mitigate COVID spread.



Wilderness Advanced First Aid (WAFA)

- 40-hour training from NOLS instructors
- Crew members practiced assessing emergency situations and addressing common injuries and illnesses
- Received advanced instruction in how to stabilize, treat, and make evacuation decisions for patients in backcountry environments.
- Strong focus on leadership



Mechanical and Hand Tool Technique

- Local US Forest Service Ranger, Peter Cross, trained crews in chainsaw safety and techniques for felling trees, etc.
- Trail Mix staff taught proper hand-tool technique



Investments in Juneau's trails have resounding impacts for our community and economy, not just in times of hardship, but also in times of prosperity.

Typical Trail Mix Budget: **\$190,000**
(\$150K CIP Allocation + \$40K CBJ Parks & Rec Commercial Use Fee)
CCC CARES Act Grant: **\$460,000**

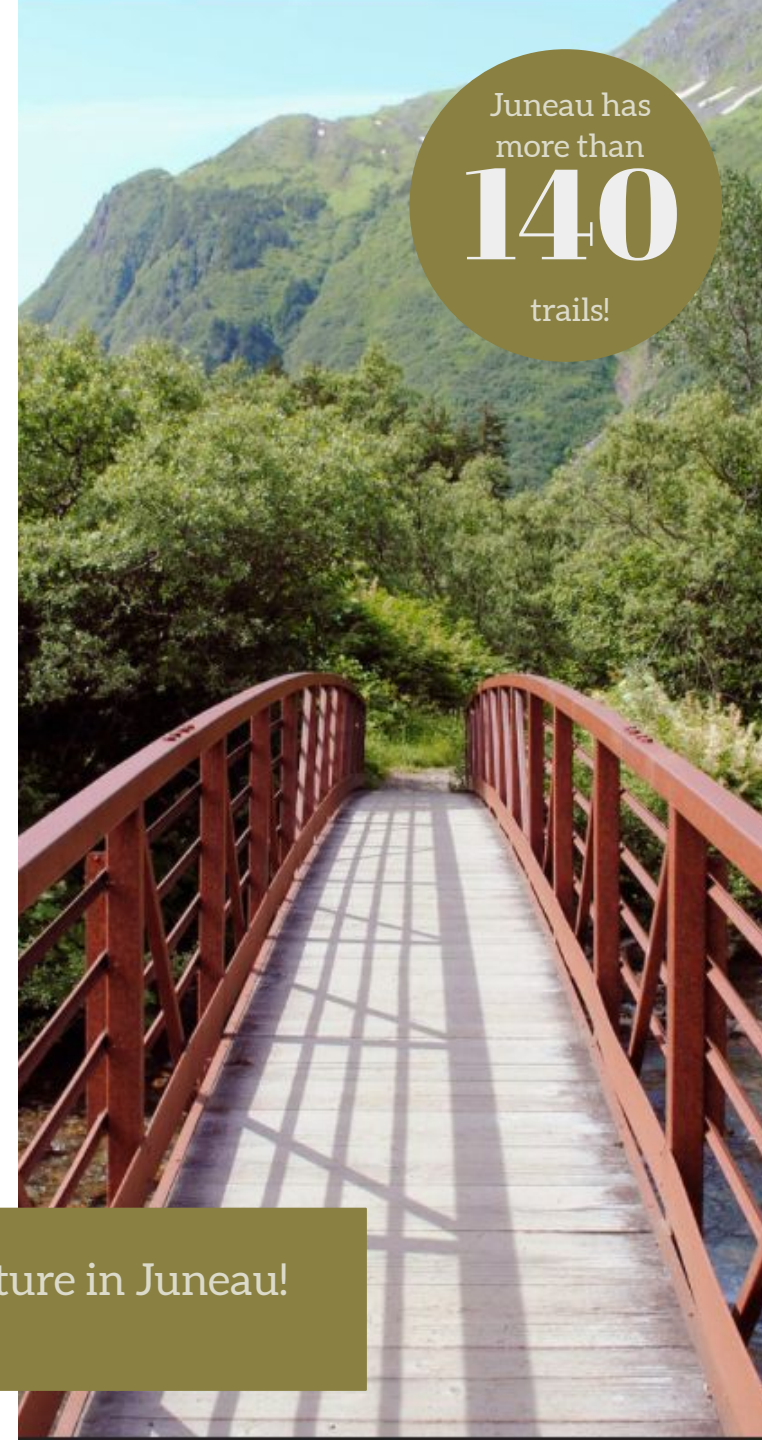
The CCC trained and employed impacted workers during the pandemic while also...

- increasing human capital through workforce development,
- creating lasting outdoor recreation infrastructure,
- boosting the economy in the short term by employing local people and supporting small businesses

Trails are the most widely used recreation infrastructure in Juneau!

(2019 Parks and Rec Master Plan)

Juneau has
more than
140
trails!



How the CCC Benefits the Juneau Economy

Trail Mix reinvested the grant funding into the community by distributing **\$252,150 in paychecks to local employees** and investing in workforce development. The CCC supported small businesses by purchasing supplies and sourcing labor locally.



Juneau's stunning trail system attracts tourists, who spend money locally for lodging, transport, retail and other experiences. **In 2017, 15,859 visitors used Juneau trails as part of a guided group.** Good trail infrastructure and a variety of trail types attracts a larger pool of visitors who will use the trails.



Trail Mix employed and trained CCC crew members. These crew members developed technical and soft skills that are applicable to a variety of jobs such as carpentry, Wilderness First Aid, leadership and teamwork.



Access to outdoor recreation is a major draw to call Juneau home. In a typical year, **89% of Juneau residents report using the trails**, and anecdotal evidence suggests that trails were used more frequently during the pandemic. CCC crews maintained the safety and accessibility of our trails in the face of this surge in foot, wheel, and ski traffic.

Why invest in trails?

- Social cohesion and well-being
- Improved access to public lands
- Sustainable economic development

Alaska is positioned to be the most attractive outdoor recreation destination in the United States, with its diversity of climates, landscapes, and intact natural ecosystems.

Alaska's Outdoor Recreation Industry

3.9%

of state GDP, compared to US avg of 2.1% (2019)

38,100

direct, indirect, and induced jobs

\$3.2 bil

annual participant spending (excluding equipment purchases and travel <20mi)

19%

Outdoor recreation industry's contribution to AK GDP 2012-2017



Nature-based recreation makes up the majority of the industry's revenue



Pandemic Problem:
unemployment due to loss of jobs

Pandemic Solution: Invest in a job training and employment program

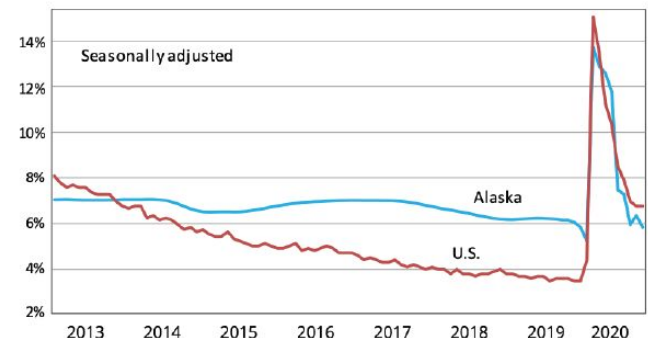


High unemployment is a chronic problem in Alaska

A sustainable long-term solution:

- Contributes to a diverse economy
- Improves the quality of life and promotes mental and physical health for Alaska residents
- Provides communities with the tools and resources to keep up with increase trail usage and infrastructure

Unemployment Rates, Alaska and U.S.
January 2013 to December 2020



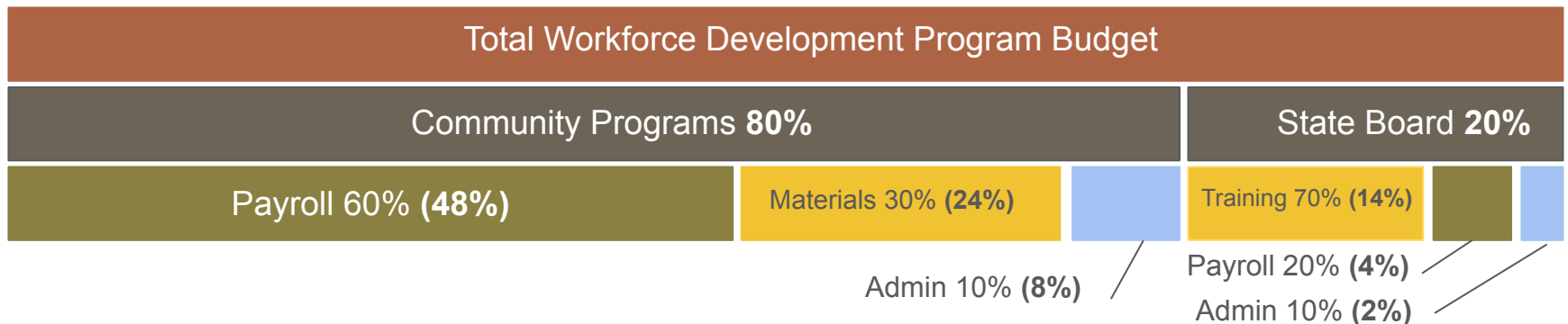
Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

A statewide trails workforce would counter unemployment while boosting Alaska's outdoor recreation economy

What if..

Alaska creates a state office or board that oversees a trails workforce development program

- The office passes on 80% of funding to **communities** in grants for workforce development on public lands.
- Grantees would be required to spend **60% of awarded funding on payroll and associated costs** to employees.
- The office retains 20% of program funding to **develop curriculum, coordinate skills training, and support community programs.**
- Regional representatives from the state office are resources to grantees for project development and implementation, a standardized skills curriculum, and trainers to implement the curriculum.



Direct benefits: employ people in communities, provide job skills training, improve outdoor recreation infrastructure

Indirect benefits: Improve quality of life, mental and physical health for residents. Increased draw for visitors who contribute to cash economy.

Trails Work for Alaska

- **THE OPPORTUNITY:** Alaska's \$1.25 billion in American Rescue Plan Act funds.
- **THE ASK:** \$12 million for a trails workforce development program housed under the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.
- **THE DECISION-MAKER:** Governor Dunleavy.
- **WHY:** Doesn't require state matching funds; good first step for Dunleavy to direct federal funds to trails; Can share success stories of CCCs
- **HOW:** Through direct lobbying and grassroots engagement, we will position this program as an investment in Alaska's people, land, and economy.
- **WHO:** A coalition of conservation, tourism, small business, and Native communities; local elected officials; and supporters from across Alaska.
- **WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE:** Working together to generate public pressure through tactics like a sign-on letter from community leaders, petition signatures from general public, letters to the editors, phone calls, lobby meetings, and press hits.

WILL YOU JOIN US?



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 bit.ly/trailsworkforaksignup



How to get involved...

Show your support

Help us advocate for increased funding for trail programs in Alaska

bit.ly/trailworkforaksignup

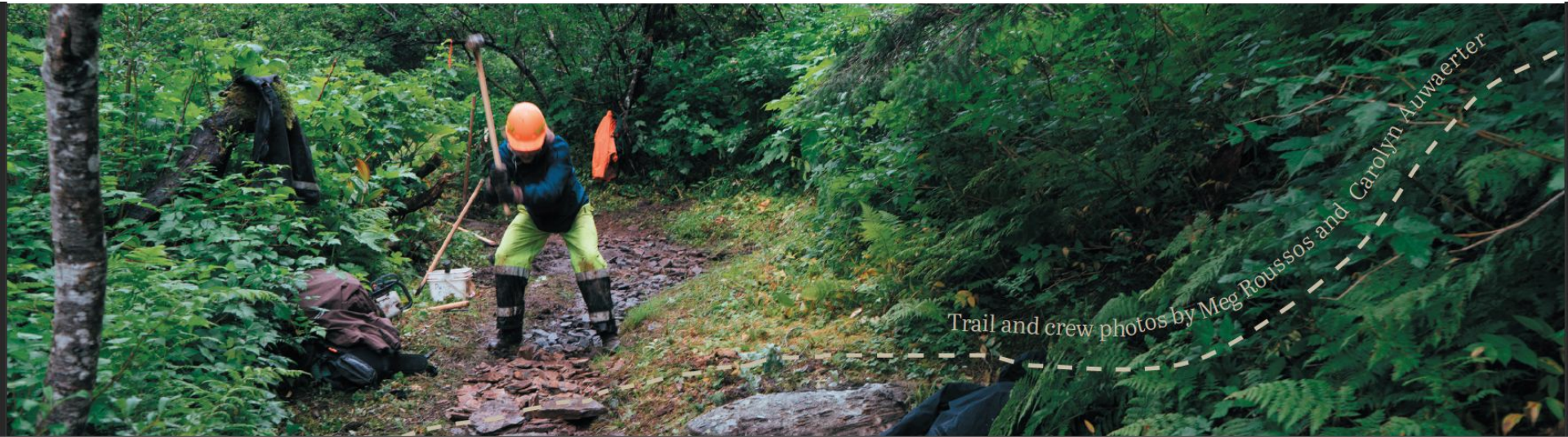
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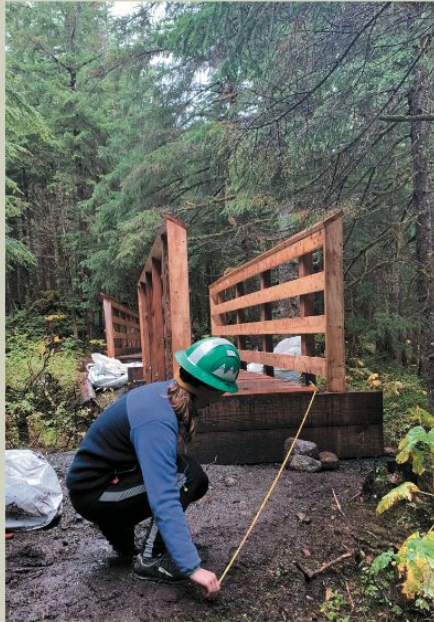
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