

INTERIOR TRAILS NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of trails in interior Alaska

May 2019

SPECIAL STATE BUDGET REPORT

MAIN SOURCE OF LOCAL TRAIL FUNDS NOW GOES ONLY TO STATE

The Alaska Department of Parks and Outdoor Recreation recently announced that federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grants will now be available only to state park units. This means that any trail projects outside of the units will no longer be available for the funding, which will be about \$1.2 million this coming year.

In recent years, about half of RTP funds have gone to projects outside of state parks. Those projects are almost all done by local governments and nonprofit groups. The state is not required to share the funding with other entities, but doing so has supplied grants for many



projects across the state, such as for Hillside and Kincaid singletrack trails in Anchorage, Liewer Community Trail in Delta Junction, Tanana Lakes Recreation Area trails in Fairbanks, Mosquito Cove Trail in Sitka, Tsalteshi Trails in Soldotna, Eska West ATV Trail near Sutton, and the winter trail system in Napaimute. The grants have also paid for trail maintenance equipment, including additional supplies for the Alaska Trails tool trailers, which are loaned out to other groups.

A press release issued by the department tried to put a positive spin on the move saying

it “will address a significant backlog in deferred maintenance on trails inside state parks.”

New State Parks Director Ricky Gease has said in media interviews that the department may again share the funding with projects outside state park units, but that won’t be for several years at least.

Part of the reason for the new policy is that one administrative position that oversaw RTP funding was cut by the administration of Gov. Mike Dunleavy. The legislature has not yet submitted the final budget, but so far that administrative position has not been added back in.

However, even if that position survives the budget process it seems unlikely that the state will offer funding for projects outside of state parks given its reasoning for the change in policy. (Under the new policy, groups can still apply for grants if the work falls within state park units.) Rep. Grier Hopkins said the House is trying to save that funding for local governments and non-profits, but it is unclear if the legislature has the authority to tell the executive branch how to spend those funds.

Funded by federal gas taxes paid on motor fuel used in motorized non-highway recreational activities, the RTP is the biggest funder of trail work in the state. Without access to those funds local governments and nonprofit groups will have to either find other ways to pay for such projects, such as through donations or increased local taxes, or do without. Finding other grant programs is also a possibility, but no other source supplies trail-specific grants on the same level.

Fortunately, the money is not disappearing. Local state park units will see more trail work. And local trail businesses will probably see more contract work from the state. However, state parks tend to be farther from cities and towns than trails worked on by local governments and nonprofit groups and so are less accessible to many people.

(Photo by Eric Troyer: Volunteers work on one of the Koponen Homestead trails in 2016. The nonprofit Friends of the Koponen Homestead received RTP funds for this project.)

STATUS OF OTHER TRAIL-RELATED PROGRAMS STILL UNCERTAIN

Other trail-related programs are also on the chopping block. The Dunleavy budget apparently does not authorize accepting money from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), though this has not been confirmed. This program is not solely for trails, but trails are considered a “high priority project.” The program has brought in almost \$40 million in federal funds since it was started in 1965, many of those in Fairbanks-area projects. Why access to this program would be denied is a head-scratcher. It would make more than \$1 million available to state and local governments or groups this coming year. The cut may be a mistake. If so, hopefully it is rectified soon.

Another cut is elimination of the Snowmobile Trails Program, which funds snowmachine trail grooming in the Southeast, Southcentral and Interior regions of the state. Last year, nearly \$160,000 was distributed for grooming trails, which benefits everyone using those trails. (For a list of groomed trails, including maps, see: <http://tinyurl.com/yys47ro6>.) Rep. Hopkins said the House is trying to restore that.

The program is funded through snowmobile registration fees. The Alaska Constitution does not allow for dedicated funds, but the Alaska Legislature has appropriated funds to the snowmobile program based on the registration fees collected. Without the program, those fees will just disappear into the general fund.

There is still time. The budget has not been finalized. If you would like to see any or all of these programs continue, please speak up. Let Gov. Dunleavy and our legislators know that local trails are important community assets.

- Gov. Dunleavy’s contact info: <https://gov.alaska.gov/contact/>
- Alaska State Legislature contact info: <http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/>
- To see some example advocacy letters from Running Club North and the Interior Trails Preservation Coalition click here (<https://www.interioralaskatrails.org/advocacy/>) The original story I wrote on this issue is underneath that.

According to Lee Hart of the outdoor industry advocacy group Confluence, some of the most important legislators to contact are listed below. If you have a relationship with any of them, please consider contacting them:

- Rep. Laddie Shaw - rep.laddie.shaw@akleg.gov
- Rep. Zach Fields - rep.zack.fields@akleg.gov
- Rep. Harriett Drummond - rep.harriett.drummond@akleg.gov
- Sen. Mia Costello - senator.mia.costello@akleg.gov
- Sen. Lora Reinbold - sen.lora.reinbold@akleg.gov
- Sen. Chris Birch - senator.chris.birch@akleg.gov
- Sen. Mike Showers - Senator.Mike.Shower@akleg.gov

Specifically for the Snowmobile Trails Program please contact:

- Rep. Mark Neuman Representative.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov
- Sen. Mike Showers Senator.Mike.Shower@akleg.gov
- Sen. Click Bishop Senator.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov
- Sen. David Wilson Senator.David.Wilson@akleg.gov

STATE BUDGET LINKS

- Alaska State Parks will take all of trail fund normally split with local groups: <http://tinyurl.com/y2yzj3w6>
- KUAC: State Refocuses Trail Grants: <https://fm.kuac.org/post/state-refocuses-trail-grants>
- Local trails hurt by Dunleavy's cost-shifting move (opinion): <http://tinyurl.com/y67tjmp5>

INTERIORWIDE

CHENA RIVER STATE REC AREA TRAIL ACCESS LIMITED UNTIL DRY

Several trails in the Chena River State Recreation Area will be closed to all uses except foot travel to allow them time to dry out during this season's early melt.

The Compeau, Stiles and Angel Creek Hillside trails were closed on April 10, about 10 days earlier than normal due to an early seasonal melt. They are scheduled to reopen on May 23 or sooner, depending on weather and trail conditions.

In order to protect the state's investment and sustain summer use of these popular trails, it is necessary to allow the trails to thaw and the water to disperse without disturbance.

Other trails that are seasonally closed in the recreation area include the East Fork, Colorado Creek, and Angel Creek Valley trails. These are winter-only trails and open to snowmachine use from October 15 to April 10.

Alaska State Parks is reluctant to restrict any uses unless there are no other viable management alternatives. In such cases, the benefits of protecting the usefulness of these trails outweigh the inconveniences of seasonal restrictions.

Park managers urge trail users to respect the integrity of the trails so all may continue to

enjoy them. Violations may be reported to the State Parks office at 451-2695 during the day. During evenings and weekends, call Alaska State Troopers and they will contact the park enforcement team.

(From Alaska State Parks press release)

SALCHA-BADGER ROAD AREA PLAN INCLUDES TRAIL COMPONENT

The comment period for the Salcha-Badger Road Area plan has been extended to Friday, May 17. Trails figure prominently in this plan. This area plan will guide the direction of the Salcha-Badger Road area over the next approximately 20 years.

HOW TO ACCESS THE DRAFT AREA PLAN:

- View, download and/or print the draft plan through the project website: www.salchabadgerplan.com. There, you will find:
 - The Draft Executive Summary – a concise, graphic overview of the plan.
 - The Draft Area Plan – more details on draft plan issues, policies and actions.
 - NEW!!! The Draft Area Plan Appendices – Over 150 pages of data and background research considered in development of the draft plan, including results from community survey and meetings, and important background maps and resources used to develop the Area Plan Future Land Use Map.
- Review or pick up a hard copy of the plan at the:
 - North Pole Branch Library (656 NPHS Boulevard, North Pole)
 - Salcha Senior Center (6062 Johnson Road, Salcha)
 - FNSB Community Planning Department (907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks)
 - Noel Wien Public Library (for checkout only, 1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks)

DIFFERENT WAYS YOU CAN COMMENT ON THE DRAFT AREA PLAN

- Use our NEW Interactive Online Comment Tool to review and electronically comment on the plan.
- Complete and mail a COMMENT FORM:
 - FNSB Community Planning Department
 - 907 Terminal Street
 - Fairbanks AK 99707
- Email or call the project team directly:
 - Kellen Spillman, FNSB Client Project Manager, 907-459-1266, Kspillman@fnsb.us
 - Shelly Wade, Agnew::Beck Project Manager, 907-242-5326, Shelly@agnewbeck.com

(From Fairbanks North Star Borough press email)

REMEMBER TO LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD ON BORO BUDGET

The Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly will soon be taking public comment on the borough budget. This is an opportunity to speak up for trails (among other things). Mayor Bryce Ward's proposed budget holds steady on the trails aspect of the Department of Parks and Recreation, which overall is about the same as last year.

Public hearing on the budget will be scheduled soon. (Check the borough website for more information: <http://www.co.fairbanks.ak.us/Pages/default.aspx>.) Sign-up sheets for public testimony on the budget are available in the lobby at noon on the day of the hearing. People have three minutes to speak, though that can go longer if any assembly members or the mayor have questions. If you can't make the meeting, you can always email or call the Assembly members: <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/assembly/Pages/Assembly-Members.aspx>

Mayor Ward has already submitted his budget. It can be found here (22MB): <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/fs/Documents/FY20RecommendedBudget.pdf>. The Parks and Recreation section starts on page 470.

COMMENT DEADLINE NEARS FOR WHITE MOUNTAINS, STEESE PLAN

BLM Eastern Interior Field Office is seeking public input on trails and access in the White Mountains and Steese areas. Currently we are collecting preliminary information and verifying our road and trail inventory. After the inventory is complete, the field office will develop transportation and travel plans for these areas. An environmental assessment will be prepared in conjunction with the plans. The plans will address both motorized and non-motorized access, allowable types of motorized and non-motorized use, road and trail networks, travel on Birch Creek and Beaver Creek and conflicts between user groups.

People can view the information and comment online. Comments must be postmarked or received by May 2. For more and to comment see: <http://tinyurl.com/y2x5ow99>

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY COMING UP THE FIRST SATURDAY IN JUNE

National Trails Day is happening June 1, and as of the end of April there are several events registered for interior Alaska: Denali Volunteer Trail Crew (Denali National Park and Preserve), the Alaska Endurance Trail Run (Fairbanks), and Donnelly Dome Hike (near Delta Junction). There's still room for more! If you are interested in leading or organizing an event, visit <https://americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/> for information on how to host an event and where to register an event. National Trails Day is the country's largest celebration of trails. Events will take place in every state across the country.

SPRING TRAILS ARE VULNERABLE, PLEASE USE WITH CARE

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.

Early season damage of trails is a recurring problem. Many people are chomping at the bit to get outside once the snow melts. And some people love to get as muddy as they can while out 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. A little more damage probably won't make a big difference, but a trail in nice shape can be damaged for a season in a hurry.

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. For additional ideas see this Fairbanks Daily News-Miner story: <http://tinyurl.com/jfsq5b5>

ALASKA TRAILS HAS TOOL TRAILER READY FOR PROJECTS



As you start planning trail building and maintenance projects, remember that Alaska Trails has a mobile tool cache available in the Fairbanks area to loan to organized trail groups in the Interior. The trailers were upgraded recently and have many trail tools including mcleods, pulaskis, rakes, gloves, and much, much more. If you would like to borrow one of the caches, please contact Geoffrey Orth (gcorth@straydogs.us).

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Thieves steal University of Alaska trail maintenance equipment: <http://tinyurl.com/yxczv8qz>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- 2019 Paddling Film Festival World Tour; Fairbanks, May 10: <http://tinyurl.com/y328m7pe>

LINKS TO INTERIOR TRAIL INFORMATION

The web and other sources have lots of information about trails in Interior Alaska (and statewide), but it's often hard to find. Here is a collection of trail-related resources:

<https://www.interioralaskatrails.org/resources/>

(If you find any broken links or other problems please send an email to fbxtrails@gmail.com)

STATEWIDE

STATEWIDE TRAILS CONFERENCE SUCCEEDS THROUGH SNOWSTORM

An untimely last gasp of winter couldn't put the damper on the 2019 Alaska Statewide Trails Conference!

Several inches of snow meant that the field session planned for the third day of the conference had to be cancelled. (See this Anchorage Daily News story on the snow if you weren't there:

<http://tinyurl.com/y2236ry8>) However, attendees and presenters were still able to enjoy two fantastic days at the University of Alaska Anchorage, where breakout sessions ranged in topics from building turns to funding ideas, offering something valuable for everyone.



The conference held over April 18-20 included two days of exciting breakout sessions, keynote presentations, and networking. Trail advocates and professionals from across Alaska and beyond came to share their innovative ideas, valuable lessons, and challenges faced in their experience building and maintaining trails. In addition, engineering and GIS students from UAA and Alaska Pacific University had the opportunity to share their trail-related projects.

Alaska Trails would like to extend a special thank you to presenters who took the time to share their knowledge and expertise. Presentations can be found at <http://www.alaska-trails.org/2019-trails-conference-presentations.html>

A Special THANK YOU to our conference sponsors!

- ConocoPhillips Alaska
- Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
- BaseCamp Anchorage
- Friends of State Parks, Mat-Su
- Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation
- Bosco's

REPORT SHOWS OUTDOOR INDUSTRY ADDS \$3 BILLION TO ALASKA

A report recently released by the University Of Alaska Center For Economic Development estimates that the outdoor industry in Alaska generates more than \$3 billion each year and creates more than 30,000 jobs. Trails figure prominently in the report, which uses three areas as case studies: Olmes Pond north of Fairbanks, K'esugi Ken in Denali State Park, the proposed Iditarod Historic Trail between Anchorage to Seward.

To see the full report go to:

<https://www.alaskatia.org/Research/OutdoorRecreationImpactsandOpportunities%202019.pdf>

Below are excerpts from the report's executive summary:

"...in-state consumer spending related to outdoor recreation trips amounts to nearly \$3.2 billion annually. That spending creates about 29,000 direct jobs, and 38,100 total jobs through a multiplier effect (indirect and induced). About one job in ten in Alaska is tied to trip-related outdoor recreation spending."

"The economic impacts of outdoor recreation reach beyond the immediate stimulus of consumer spending. Outdoor amenities contribute to an improved quality of life that attracts new residents who become part of the state's workforce. Access to parks and trails makes neighborhoods more desirable, according to a multitude of survey data. Additional research shows that businesses are more likely to invest in places with perceived high quality of life."

"Outdoor recreation provides an impetus for entrepreneurship in Alaska, as well. A previous study, Emerging Sector Series: Outdoor Products, documented the growing Alaska-based companies that build or design outdoor recreation products, serving in-state as well as out-of-state markets."

- Alaska Journal of Commerce story on the report: <http://tinyurl.com/y2fsvdpv>

BLM OFFERS LEAVE NO TRACE MASTER EDUCATOR COURSE

The BLM is pleased to announce that the Leave No Trace Master Educator course is coming to Alaska.

This is a backpacking course to be held in the White Mountains National Recreation Area. Course dates are the week of June 24. Course cost is \$650. See the following link or contact Kelly Egger with any questions. To learn more about Leave No Trace (LNT) go to this web site: <https://Int.org/>. Please contact Kelly (kegger@blm.gov; 907-474-2242) to register for the course, as it is not listed on the web site.

Course participants should have a commitment to teaching others and sharing the LNT principals. BLM, as with other agencies, has incorporated LNT principals into its permitting process as well as recreation and youth programs across the state.

The five-day Master Educator Course is the top tier of Leave No Trace training. This course provides participants with a comprehensive training on Leave No Trace skills and ethics with practical application during a field-based course. Participants learn minimum impact techniques through multiple methods including discussions, scenarios, demonstrations, and hands-on activities.

COMMENTS SOUGHT ON STATEWIDE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and DOWL is holding a virtual-public open house for the Alaska Statewide Active Transportation Master Plan 2019. The purpose of this open house is to provide the public with an opportunity to review the master

plan, ask questions, and provide comments to the planning team. The public open house and 45-day comment period started March 18 and concludes May 3.

Visit the website www.akbikeped.com to view the Master Plan, join the email list and make a comment.

The Master Plan is:

- A policy document to define future goals, policies and objectives to encourage the creation of a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian network for the State of Alaska.
- A framework to enable the identification of current facilities, needs and an approach to addressing gaps using defined objectives.
- An accountability document with specified performance measures, to enable DOT&PF to measure its progress toward achieving the plan's purpose.

(From DOWL email)

SNOWMOBILE TRAILS PROGRAM APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The Snowmobile Trails Program was not included in Gov. Mike Dunleavy's budget (see link at bottom of story), but the state legislature has not had its say yet. The program has been cut and restored in the past. So, even though the program's future is uncertain, administrators are moving ahead as normal. Therefore, the following notice is currently valid.



Grant applications for the state Snowmobile Trails Program are now available. Public notice for applications must be posted by June 10. Grant applications must be submitted or postmarked by July 1. This program, administered by the state Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, provides reimbursable, matching grant funds for trail easement acquisition, development and maintenance of trails and trail-related facilities for snowmobile use. The program also provides funds for snowmobile safety programs. Matching funds are not required for safety programs.

Grant funds are generated from annual registration fees paid to the state by snowmobile owners statewide. For more information on the Snowmobile Trails Grant Program and the Grooming Pool, please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/q33aj9m>

For general grant questions regarding the program please contact the Grants Administrator (907/269-8709). For project development questions please contact the State Trails Coordinator (907/269- 8699). Or contact either one through the Department of Natural Resources email page (<http://tinyurl.com/3umsvj5>).

- Snowmachine trail maintenance funding cut from Dunleavy budget: <http://tinyurl.com/yxbjx5b3>

STATEWIDE LINKS

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Proposed ordinance would prohibit trapping near trails, trailheads in Anchorage: <http://tinyurl.com/yyqhgt3>

SOUTHEAST LINKS

- Treadwell Ditch Renovation Project update: <http://tinyurl.com/yyg79vop>
- Sitka Trail Works newsletter (Spring 2019): <http://tinyurl.com/y688vr4t>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Spruce bark beetle damage shuts down 2 popular Alaska campgrounds: <http://tinyurl.com/y3yh9f4w>
 - Removal of rotten trees at state campgrounds may exceed \$1M: <http://tinyurl.com/yxe6tf98>
- Alaska DOT&PF Extends Application Deadline (Sept. 15) for Local Projects: <http://tinyurl.com/y64w7lzp>
- Outdoor Explorer radio show:
 - Accessing Alaska's rivers: <http://tinyurl.com/yxoqg3dv>

NATIONWIDE/WORLDWIDE

TELL YOUR SENATORS TO SUPPORT TRAIL FUNDING!

The funding of our trails is essential for their continued accessibility, maintenance, and preservation. Right now, Congress is deciding their fate, so the American Hiking Society brought together 220 trail organizations to save our trails, but we can't do it without your help too.

Contact your senators today: https://americanhiking.org/advocacy/take-action_trail_funding/

(From American Hiking Society email)

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

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

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

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

TRAIL GUIDES

- Five hikes in Colorado that are best done in the spring: <http://tinyurl.com/y46un5fu>
- 8 beginner hikes in and around Seattle: <http://tinyurl.com/yysmswyy>
- Top 10 Family-Friendly Hiking Trails in the West: <http://tinyurl.com/yyvm8577>

FUNDING

- Clif Bar Family Foundation grants (for groups, projects; ddline June 1): <http://tinyurl.com/y5es3wjc>
- Adventure Grant for an adventure of your choosing (\$1,000, deadline June 1): <http://tinyurl.com/y3gjqt6>
- IMBA Announces Spring 2019 Trail Accelerator Grant Recipients: <http://tinyurl.com/y57nl4ot>
- Outdoor Foundation Invests \$1.8 Million into Four Thrive Outside Communities: <http://tinyurl.com/y2638dkt>
- National Forest Foundation awards (deadlines Jan 17, June 26): <http://tinyurl.com/px7y6ke>

VOLUNTEERING

- American Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacations: <http://tinyurl.com/ydh95kp8>
- Conservation Volunteers International (April newsletter): <http://tinyurl.com/y5cuy9ow>
- American Trails' *Trail Ambassadors* program for National Recreation Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y5sgnukn>

STUDIES

- Three New Studies Added – OHV Economic Impact Studies Available: <http://tinyurl.com/y492jmj6>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- Register your National Trails Day Event now: americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/host-information/
- Hawaii trails have been shrinking and eroding: <http://tinyurl.com/y6hjggfo>
- The hard truth about off-trail (snowmachine) riding: <http://tinyurl.com/y5f34g5y>
- Wisconsin Governor's Budget Restores Eminent Domain for Bike Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y4ynurbh>
- 2019 Recreational Trails Program Annual Report: <http://tinyurl.com/yyfdwfs9>
- Slow trails: What you can learn from a snail when on a hike: <http://tinyurl.com/y2bltvd6>

INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- 10 of the world's best hiking trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y5y8fffm>
- Ireland Is Being Blanketed in Newly-Built Singletrack Mountain Bike Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y48c8l6m>
- South Korea opens hiking trails on world's most heavily armed border: <http://tinyurl.com/y374bfmj>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- When the Trekking Trail is the Best Teacher: <http://tinyurl.com/y5fl832r>
- 'Quit Your Job': Eagle Creek Will Send You on Outdoor Sabbatical: <http://tinyurl.com/y6999ct7>

Interior Trails Quarterly is a free email newsletter that comes out four times a year: March, June, September, and December. ITQ Action Updates come out once a month in between regular editions of the ITQ. Both are written and distributed by Eric Troyer, a lifelong Alaskan and trail user. To submit items, get on or off the mailing list, report problems, or anything else email Eric at fbxtrails@gmail.com. Note: submissions may also be used in the statewide Alaska Trails newsletter.

DISCLAIMER: Interior Trails Quarterly and ITQ Action Updates are not products of any organization. However, I am a board member of the Interior Trails Preservation Coalition, a member of several Interior trail user groups, and a member of Alaska Trails and editor of its newsletter.