

INTERIOR TRAILS QUARTERLY

Dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of trails in interior Alaska

September 2018

INTERIORWIDE

MOVED PIPELINE GATE NEAR FAIRBANKS AFFECTS TRAIL USERS



Be Aware! Musers, bikers, jorers, 4-wheelers! The pipeline gate at Old Murphy Dome Road (mile 445 of the pipeline) has been moved to just south of where the Eldorado Creek trail crosses the pipeline and there's a big berm next to it. If you are used to traveling up Waterford Trail and using the pipeline to access Eldorado trail, that way is blocked now. Looks like the 4-wheelers are going over the berm next to

the gate. I hadn't seen this posted anywhere so it was a surprise today.

(From Facebook: Goldstream Community page post by Marjie Richards)

OLNES POND TRAIL SYSTEM COURTESY OF GRANT, VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to a Recreational Trails Program grant and our volunteers, Olnes Pond in Lower Chatanika State Recreation Area (Northern Region) is developing a multi-use trail system.

The new trail system connects campsites to the trail and allows campers to ride their ATVs right out of their campsites onto the trail. State Parks is working to provide a trail system linked to the campsites that will get folks on the trail and off the campground road.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of Alaska State Parks. We see over 350 volunteers every year, and it's because of their generosity and hard work that trails and campgrounds are kept up and running throughout the summer months.

For more information about volunteering, see:

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/vip/index.htm>

(From Alaska State Parks Facebook page)



BLM GAME MANAGEMENT MAPS HAVE USEFUL TRAIL INFORMATION

The Bureau of Land Management - Alaska recently released 13 new georeferenced PDF maps of the Game Management Units on public lands in Alaska. These maps show land status, controlled-used areas, and where and when OHVs can be used.

After initial download, the georeferenced PDF maps work on GPS-enabled mobile devices with an installed mobile map application. For instructions and access to the new subsistence map series, visit us on the web at <https://www.blm.gov/maps/georeferenced-PDFs>.

Maps will also be linked to their corresponding Game Management Unit web pages on the BLM website at: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/natural-resources/subsistence>

(From Bureau of Land Management – Alaska Facebook page)

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Trip Report: Kesugi Ridge has great view-to-effort ratio: <http://tinyurl.com/y8mwjpbu>
- Fairbanks explores Summer Trails Challenge: <http://tinyurl.com/y8ezrqzs>
- Mastodon Trail no longer expected to open this year: <http://tinyurl.com/yc2t223p>
- Rex Trail moose buggy permit increases to \$240: <http://tinyurl.com/yag82huo>
- Trip report: Mount Prindle at its best when there's some frost in air: <http://tinyurl.com/ydevnb78>

STATEWIDE

EVENTS TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY IN SEPTEMBER

Several events will be held across Alaska in celebration of National Public Lands Day. Most will be held on Saturday, September 22.



As of late August, several events were listed on the NPLD website including at Eagle, Paxson Lake, Anchorage, and Juneau.

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer events for public lands, held annually on the fourth Saturday in September. NPLD brings together hundreds of thousands of individuals and organizational volunteers to help restore America's public lands. This year marks the 25th NPLD. The event began in 1979. For more info see:

<https://www.neefusa.org/npld>

CONFLUENCE ON OUTDOORS SET FOR SEPTEMBER IN VALDEZ



Registration is now open for the Third Annual Confluence: Summit on the Outdoors, which will happen in Valdez on Sept. 12-13.

Confluence brings the outdoor recreation community together to explore and share ways to grow and promote Alaska's flourishing recreation economy.

This year's conference will have a diverse group of speakers and a heavier emphasis on business topics. Speakers and sponsoring organizations include UA Center for Economic Development, US Bureau of Economic Development, REI, Alaska State Parks, The Nature Conservancy, Geeks in the Woods, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers and more.

For more information see: <http://valdezadventurealliance.com/>

STATE ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION CRITERIA CHANGING

Comments are due by September 28 on the scoring criteria for the Alaska Transportation Alternatives Program (ATAP) update to include:

- Align criteria with Community Transportation Program (CTP) formatting and standards and now includes weighting. Transportation Alternatives Eligible Project Sponsors and Transportation Alternatives Eligible Project Types are included in appendices A and B.
- This program will no longer be administered as a grant program. Infrastructure projects will be developed through the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities or through federal agency transfers.
- Matching ratio has been reduced from 20% to 9.03% (Alaska sliding scale).
- The program remains consistent with Transportation Alternatives Set-aside funding requirements. For more see <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/Attachment.aspx?id=113841>.

For additional information or to submit comments, contact Marcheta Moulton, Small Federal Program Manager, at 907-465-8769 or email marcheta.moulton@alaska.gov.

(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM OUTREACH DUE IN SEPTEMBER

It's time to get your Recreational Trails Program public outreach plan started.

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

RTP grants provide reimbursable, matching funds to develop and repair recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. Grants are also available for trail-related environmental protection, safety, and educational projects. The grants are administered through the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. The timeline is as follows:

Questions? Contact Darcy Harris at 907-269-8699 or darcy.harris@alaska.gov.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation is accepting grant applications for development or enhancement of facilities related to public outdoor recreation. Eligible applicants include state, regional, or local governments (cities, boroughs or tribal entities) that have the legal authority to provide park and recreation services on public lands.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant program provides up to 50 percent matching assistance for the cost of a project. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation anticipates \$1.5 million may be awarded to eligible Alaska projects.

Grant requests are limited to \$25,000 minimum and \$250,000 maximum in LWCF federal share. The total project cost must be at least \$50,000 to justify a \$25,000 grant request.

The application deadline is 4 p.m. on Friday, November 9. The application package is available online at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/lwcf.htm> or by contacting grants administrator Jean Ayers at jean.ayers@alaska.gov or 907-269-8694.

(From Department of Natural Resources press release)

STATEWIDE LINKS

- State parks newsletter: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/#> > Newsroom > Current Eagle Watch issue

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- No Lazy Feat: A hiker's postcard from Lazy Mountain: <http://tinyurl.com/y8ww3ad9>
- Mat Su Trail App now on Android!: <http://tinyurl.com/y7xck5jc>
- Fairbanks Trails Challenge Guide (challenge ends Sept. 30): <http://tinyurl.com/y8w9xyst>
- Matanuska Greenbelt Trails (map of off-limits area): <http://tinyurl.com/yaokzd8e>
- Portion of Campbell Creek Trail temporarily closed for rehabilitation: <http://tinyurl.com/y8h23kfa>

SOUTHEAST LINK

- The Chilkoot Trail is a hike through history: <http://tinyurl.com/y8ckbznf>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Medred: Water kills again: <http://tinyurl.com/y8ferpg2>
- Steep climbs, profuse sweat, plodding pace — let's go hiking!: <http://tinyurl.com/yc4h3epw>
- State joins Alaska moose hunter in U.S. Supreme Court case — again: <http://tinyurl.com/yayrav9j>
- Alaska Traverse 2018 (north to south): <http://bucktrack.com/alaska-traverse-2018/>

NATIONWIDE/WORLDWIDE

APPLY FOR AN EMERGING LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP!

The online application is now available for the Hulet Hornbeck Emerging Leaders Scholarship Program at the 2019 International Trails Symposium (ITS) and Training Institute. This program will bring 16 young adults, ages 21-28, to Syracuse, New York April 28 to May 1, 2019.

At the ITS, Emerging Leaders will learn from experts, get practical experience with a service project, network with professionals, engage in discussions with career advisors, and take a step closer to a career in the trails world, so they, too, can leave a lasting legacy on the world— as Hulet did.

Diversity and inclusivity are important to us so that we can meet everyone's deepest needs, values, and long-term interests. We welcome individuals of all backgrounds to apply regardless of past trails experience. We are more interested in potential.

The deadline to apply is October 15. For more info: <http://tinyurl.com/y7bkhhdu>
(From American Trails email)

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

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

CONTESTS

- National and International Trails Awards (nomination deadline Dec 3):
<http://tinyurl.com/y7rbfw7g>

TRAIL GUIDES

- Lake Erie Islands Water Trails: New Mainland Trail a big hit with paddlers:
<http://tinyurl.com/ycg9yer4>
- 14 Round-the-Mountain Hikes You Need to Do: <http://tinyurl.com/yckh9ye2>
- 10 most beautiful trails to hike, bike and explore South Carolina history:
<http://tinyurl.com/ycl342kd>
- The Best Mountain Bike Trails Near Salt Lake: <http://tinyurl.com/ycd6jxbe>

VOLUNTEERING, LOBBYING

- Torres del Paine (Chile) Volunteer Trip: <http://tinyurl.com/ybgtaaay>
- Land and Water Conservation Fund support: <https://americanhiking.org/advocacy/take-action/>

FUNDING

- Federal Highway Administration funding (includes trails categories):
<http://tinyurl.com/zqz2m8p>

STUDIES

- Study: Even a Little Walking May Help You Live Longer: <http://tinyurl.com/y8a5rona>
- The Scientific Reason Backpacking Makes You a Better Person: <http://tinyurl.com/yb6feucj>

TRAILS AND TECH

- Navigate Hiking Trails With Hikepack: <http://tinyurl.com/yc9sz67r>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- On The Golden Anniversary Of The National Trails System: <http://tinyurl.com/yakf7yjb>
- Ways to Minimize Your Impact on the Trail: <http://tinyurl.com/y83kzl7u>
- 11 tips for day hiking with young children: <http://tinyurl.com/ydzyt9hk>
- REI continues support of National Scenic Trails, invests nearly \$645,000 in 2018: <http://tinyurl.com/y8kgsdca>
- Crowd-funding for National Forest Service trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y8uenfhx>
- Improving Access to Urban Trails (opinion): <http://tinyurl.com/ycqabmwg>

INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- Top six shaded trails for running and hiking in Hong Kong's summer heat and humidity: <http://tinyurl.com/ydeur3za>
- In new book, stories of an Alaskan who learned to ride horses in order to explore Patagonia – solo: <http://tinyurl.com/yb3e2256>
- Our First Time Bikepacking (amusing 12-minute video): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6oYA6_3Bjr8
- Pedals To Paddles: An Epic Remote BC Bikeraft: <http://tinyurl.com/ku3vbzu>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Sixteen National Forests Near National Parks: <http://tinyurl.com/yakymnzd>
- Vietnam's Daring Golden Bridge Takes a "Hands-On" Approach to Tourism: <http://tinyurl.com/y7blcbxd>

LINKS TO INTERIOR TRAIL INFORMATION

Interiorwide / Statewide

- TrailMapper (local and statewide trails): www.trailmapper.org
- Alaska State Parks trails (includes Chena River SRA): <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/aktrails/index>
- Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department (Birch Hill, Tanana Lakes, and Chena Lake recreation areas; also the Trails Office): <http://www.co.fairbanks.ak.us/pr/pages/default.aspx>
- Skijoring trails page: www.alaskaskijoring.org/trails/
- SnowTRAC trails (groomed for snowmachines; includes Yukon Quest, Chena River SRA, Denali Highway): <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/groompl.htm>
- Fairbanks Cycle Club ride maps: www.fairbankscycleclub.org/Rides/
- National Park Service units: www.nps.gov/state/ak/index.htm?program=all
- Fairbanks Snow Travelers Trails database (snowmachine group; requires account): www.snowtravelers.org

- Alaska Public Lands Information Center (Fairbanks): <http://www.alaskacenters.gov/fairbanks.cfm>
- Fairbanks Area Trail Conditions (Facebook): www.facebook.com/fairbankstrails
- Happy Trails, Inc. (video and pics of some local trails): www.happytrailsak.com

Paper-based (in local stores; on Amazon)

- Books
 - Outside in the Interior (book): <http://tinyurl.com/ycg5aal5>
 - Denali National Park: Guide to Hiking, Photography and Camping (Ike Waits): <https://www.denaliguidebook.com>
 - Best Easy Day Hikes Fairbanks (Falcon Guide): <http://tinyurl.com/yabajvvv>
- Map
 - Fairbanks Area Hiking and Birding Guide: <http://ak.audubon.org/birds/alaska-birding-maps>

Fairbanks area

- Alaska Dog Musher Association Trails: <http://alaskadogmushers.com/trail-maps>
- Creamer's Field: www.creamersfield.org
- Equinox Marathon Trail: www.equinoxmarathon.org
- Ester Dome Singletrack - Happy Valley Trails: <https://www.mtbproject.com/directory/8011352/ester-dome-singletrack-happy-valley-trails-hvt>
- Ester Dome Single Track (Facebook): www.facebook.com/groups/255880317931110/
- Goldstream winter trails: www.acsalaska.net/~brucemc/trail_maps/mapsof.html
- Goldstream Sports Trails Page (includes GS Classic Ski Trails) <http://www.goldstreamsports.com/trail-maps/>
- Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks trails page: www.nscfairbanks.org/index.php/trails
- Pearl Creek Nordic Park: <https://pearlcreeknordicpark.wordpress.com>
- University of Alaska Fairbanks (trail maps, conditions) www.uaf.edu/fs/northcampus/

North of Fairbanks

- BLM-White Mountains Rec Area Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BLMWhiteMountains

East of Fairbanks

- North Pole Parks, Trails, and Recreation: http://www.northpolealaska.com/parksites?field_microsite_tid=24
- Chena River State Recreation Area trails: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/chena/trails.htm>
- Pinnel Mountain Trail guide: www.bottomdollar.us/Pinnel%20home.html

South of Fairbanks

- Denali National Park and Preserve: www.nps.gov/dena/planyourvisit/dayhiking.htm

- Eastern Denali Highway hikes: <http://fairbankshiking.org/trails/eastern-denali-highway/>

Bureau of Land Management (north, south and east of Fairbanks)

- Includes White Mountains National Recreation Area, Denali Highway, Gulkana and Delta rivers, Birch Creek, and the Pinnell Mountain and Quartz Creek trails. To find information on land and water trails managed by BLM, you can either go to the overall BLM “Visit” page (<https://www.blm.gov/visit>) and do a search or go to the BLM Alaska page (<https://www.blm.gov/alaska>) and see if what you are looking for is in “Popular Links” or “Featured Places.”

(If you know of more please send me an email: fbxtrails@gmail.com)

LINKS TO INTERIOR TRAIL USER GROUPS

Dog mushing groups

- Alaska Dog Musers Association: <http://alaskadogmusers.com>
- Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association: www.alaskaskijoring.org/

Facebook pages

- Alaska Dog Musers Association: <https://www.facebook.com/Alaska-Dog-Musers-Association-214130832872/>
- Alaska Snowshoe: <https://www.facebook.com/AlaskaSnowshoe/?fref=nf>
- Alaska Trailblazers Snowmobile & ATV Club (Tok): <https://www.facebook.com/aktrailblazers/>
- Fairbanks Fatbike Forum: www.facebook.com/groups/453831528146223/
- Fairbanks Paddlers: <https://www.facebook.com/fairbankspaddlers/>
- Get Outdoors Fairbanks: www.facebook.com/GetOutdoorsFairbanks
- Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks & Rec: <https://www.facebook.com/Fairbanks-North-Star-Borough-Parks-Rec-285026928325274/>
- Friends of Chena-Ester Ditch: https://www.facebook.com/ChenaEsterDitch1930?hc_location=ufi
- Skarland & Pearl Creek Park Trail Users (Facebook): www.facebook.com/groups/1553793074862242/
- Two Rivers Dog Musers: <https://www.facebook.com/TwoRiversDogMusers/>

Misc.

- Alaska Outdoor Council: www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org/
- Alaska Trappers Association: www.alaskatrappers.org/
- Arctic Audubon Society: www.arcticaudubon.org/
- Delta Junction Trails Association: www.deltajunctiontrails.com

- Fairbanks Area Hiking Club: <http://fairbankshiking.org>
- Fairbanks Cycle Club: <https://www.fairbankscycleclub.org>
- Friends of Creamers Field: www.creamersfield.org/
- Fairbanks Paddlers: www.fairbankspaddlers.org/
- Interior Alaska Land Trust: <https://interioraklandtrust.org>
- Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks: www.nscfairbanks.org/
- Running Club North: www.runningclubnorth.org/

Mountain climbing groups

- Alaska Alpine Club: <http://www.alaskaalpineclub.com>
- Alaskan Alpine Club: <http://alaskanalpineclub.org>

Off-road groups

- Arctic Offroad: www.arcticoffroad.com/
- Fairbanks Offroad Lions Club: www.fairbanksoffroadlions.com/

Snowmachine groups

- The Fairbanks Snow Travelers: www.snowtravelers.org/

University of Alaska Fairbanks-related

- UAF Trails Club: <https://uaftrailsclub.weebly.com>
- UAF Dept of Recreation, Adventure and Wellness: www.uaf.edu/draw/
- UAF North Campus Recreation: <http://www.uaf.edu/fs/northcampus/>
- West Ridge Runners: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/west-ridge-runners>

(If you know of more please send me an email: fbxtrails@gmail.com)

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.