

ACTION UPDATE

November 2018

INTERIORWIDE

NORTH SIDE TRAIL PROJECT ON ESTER DOME POSTPONED

A proposal to build a motorized multi-use trail on the north side of Ester Dome has been indefinitely postponed. Organizer Geoffrey Orth sent out an email outlining the reasons for the postponement:

A recent site survey has concluded that the eastern alignment is not suitable for a multi-use trail. A combination of changing environmental conditions and land ownership on the eastern approach presents conditions that are not sustainable or cost effective at this time. Changes in land ownership and/or permission from current landowners could alter this for future trail considerations.

The trail as proposed would have stayed on state land. Orth had filed an application with the state Department of Natural Resources to build a trail on those lands. Due to the postponement Adam Leland, a state natural resource specialist, said in an email that the “current application is considered withdrawn, and the case file for ADL 421017 will be closed. Should the construction of the North Side Trail be re-proposed, a new easement application will be necessary.”

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Fairbanks Paddlers Annual Meeting and Potluck (Nov 9): <http://tinyurl.com/y7zqf7rn>
- FCC (Fairbanks Cycle Club) Annual Meeting (Nov 11): <http://tinyurl.com/ybbdcau4>
- Denali National Park seeks input on winter and shoulder season plan:
<http://tinyurl.com/y9ab3emm>

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

SNOWTRAC DISTRIBUTES SNOWMACHINE GROOMING FUNDS

The SnowTRAC board distributed nearly \$160,000 to a variety of groups for grooming operations this season from the Snowmobile Trails Program, according to the board's September meeting minutes. Because requests far demanded available funds, requests were funded at 38%.

The program is funded through snowmobile licensing fees. The state Department of Motor Vehicles collected about \$180,000 in fees in fiscal year 2018, which is about \$12,000 less than in 2017. After a 12% administrative fee was removed, there was \$158,488 left for grooming and projects. Since there were no other project applications, all money went to the grooming pool. A chart below shows the distribution.

See the full minutes and learn more about the program at:
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/snowmotr.htm>

Snowmobile Trails Grant Program Funding Requests 2018					
Area	Groomer	Funds Requested 18/19	Amounts * 38%	Total 2018-2019 Funding Requested	Funds left from 2017-2018
Big Lake	Alpine General Services	\$12,500.00	\$4,757.87		\$0.00
Big Lake	Big Lake Trails	\$25,958.00	\$9,880.39	\$416,383.65	Funds Available for Grooming/Grants 2018-2019
Caribou Hills - North	Cabin Hoppers	\$42,945.00	\$16,346.14	Receipts from DMV FY18	
Caribou Hills - North (new trail)	Cabin Hoppers	\$3,345.00	\$1,273.21	\$180,100.00	
Denali Highway	Denali Highway Trail Club	\$25,825.00	\$9,829.76		
Denali Highway	Denali Snowcat Services	\$46,267.65	\$17,610.84	Receipts Minus 12% Admin	\$158,488.00
Hatcher Pass	Hatcher Pass Contract	\$32,170.00	\$12,244.86	\$158,488.00	
Juneau	Trail Mix	\$7,000.00	\$2,664.41		
Lake Louise	Lake Louise Snowmachine Club	\$25,997.00	\$9,895.23		
Lower Su / Lower Yentna	Yentna River Services - Phillips	\$15,066.00	\$5,734.57		
Mid Su Valley	Mid Valley Trail Club	\$13,703.00	\$5,215.77		
Montana Creek	Motor Musers	\$5,500.00	\$2,093.46		
Chena River SRA	DPOR Northern Region Contract	\$10,016.00	\$3,812.39		
Petersville	AK Snowcat	\$73,843.00	\$28,106.84		
Caribou Hills - South	Snomads	\$35,557.50	\$13,534.24		
Willow	Willow Trail Committee	\$29,796.00	\$11,341.24		
Upper Yentna/ Lower Su	Yentna River Services - Phillips	\$10,894.50	\$4,146.77		
	Totals	\$416,383.65	\$158,488.00	38%	
Safety Grant Requests					
Total	\$0.00				

2018 RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM PROJECTS ANNOUNCED

The Recreational Trails Program has awarded matching funds for 26 trail projects in Alaska this year, with many projects underway or already completed. These are reimbursable, grant-funded projects happening throughout the state between 2018 and 2020. The total allocated for these projects is just over \$1.4 million.

The trails program is managed by the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) and receives its funding for trails projects from the Federal Highway Trust Fund.

For more information about the Recreational Trails Program, please visit the program's website at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm>, or contact Darcy B. Harris, the Alaska State Trails Program Coordinator, (phone: 907/269-8699; email: darcy.harris@alaska.gov).

Below is a list of the award titles by region. For more details see the complete list at: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trailsgrantpage/rectr2018.pdf>

ANCHORAGE AREA

- DPOR, Chugach State Park, Rabbit Lake Trail Improvements: \$33,096
- DPOR, Chugach State Park, Iditarod NHT (Crow Pass) Phase 1: \$49,781
- Girdwood Mountain Bike Alliance, Girdwood Mountain Bike Park Phase 1: \$50,000
- Alaska Trails, Mirror Lake Phase II: \$50,000
- Federation of Community Councils, Govt. Hill West Bluff Trail Connection: \$31,920
- USFS Chugach National Forest, Winner Creek Trail: \$49,918

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA VALLEY

- DPOR, Denali State Park, Curry Ridge Trail Phase IV: \$99,335
- DPOR, Mat-Su, Denali State Park, Kesugi Ken to Byers Lake Snowmachine Trail: \$240,765
- DPOR, Mat-Su, Hatcher Pass: \$62,834

INTERIOR ALASKA

- Fairbanks North Star Borough, Tanana Lakes phase IV: \$41,975
- DPOR, Chena River SRA, Fairbanks: Mastadon Construction: \$91,426
- DPOR, Chena River SRA, Angel Rocks Trail: \$17,455
- DPOR, Chena River SRA, Fairbanks: Mastadon Hardening II: \$23,899
- DPOR, Chena River SRA, Fairbanks: Northern Area Training and Assessment: \$13,313

SOUTHEAST ALASKA

- DPOR, Southeast, Haines: Seduction Point Trail Rehabilitation: \$39,293
- DPOR, Southeast, Settlers Cove Trail Access Improvements (Ketchikan): \$47,808
- DPOR, Southeast, Mt. Riley Trail Restoration (Haines): \$19,272

KENAI PENINSULA/ VALDEZ

- DPOR, Kachemak Bay State Park: Saddle Trail Re-Route Phase IV: \$50,000
- DPOR, Kachemak Bay State Park: Lagoon Trail Repair: \$50,000
- Tsalteshi Trails Association, Kenai Peninsula: Slikok Trail Expansion: \$100,000
- DPOR, Kenai Peninsula, Eshamy Bay PUC: \$50,570
- DPOR, Kenai Peninsula, Morgan's Landing Day Use Trail Improvements: \$38,389
- Ground Truth Trekking, Kachemak Bay State Park, Tutka Backdoor Access and Continuity: \$18,100

KODIAK

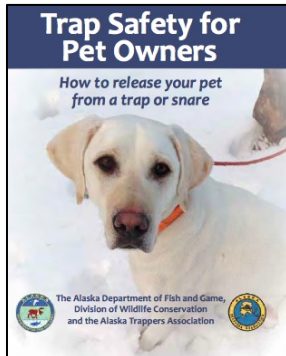
- DPOR, Kodiak, Fort Abercrombie Trails: 13,935
- DPOR, Kodiak, Afognak Trail: \$9,512

STATEWIDE

- DPOR, Alaska Trails Program Administrative Allowance: \$106,955

RESOURCES HELP REDUCE PET/TRAPPING CONFLICTS

Trapping season is here, so trail users who let their dogs run loose should make sure they know



some basic information about traps and trap lines. A pamphlet and videos are available.

PAMPHLET: A pocket-sized pamphlet titled “Trap Safety for Pet Owners” describes the types of traps and snares that may be encountered and provides illustrated instructions on how to free pets swiftly and safely. It is produced by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Alaska Trappers Association (ATA). Copies are available free of charge at department offices, or may be viewed on the website at: <http://tinyurl.com/m6oulhk>. More information, including video footage featuring trap removal instructions, is found on the department’s

website at www.adfg.alaska.gov (see “Sharing the Trails” under the “Hunting > Trapping” dropdown menu), and on the ATA website (www.alaskatrappers.org).

VIDEO: The ATA also sells a 30-minute video, "Sharing Alaska's Trails," that includes information such as how to know if you are on a trap line, trap line safety, the physics of handling and



opening traps and snares, and tips for first-aid for pets accidentally caught in traps. The video doesn't promote trapping, but deals with the practicalities of sharing the trails. A three-minute excerpt of the DVD can be found on YouTube

(www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jk242jZwEAQ). To order a copy of the DVD check the ATA store (www.alaskatrappers.org).

Most trapping seasons run from November 1 to the end of February, but the season for a few species lasts longer. Wolf traps could be active well into April.

LWCF GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE IN EARLY NOVEMBER

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 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.

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.
(From Department of Natural Resources press release)

NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL APPLICATIONS DUE SOON

Some applications for designating a trail as a National Recreation Trail are due by November 1.



For trails on private, city, county, or state land, or on federal land NOT overseen by the Department of Agriculture, the designation process goes through the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). Those applications are due on November 1 of each year.

For trails on National Forests, National Grasslands, and National Recreation Areas and associated lands, the designation process goes through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Those may be submitted anytime, but must be submitted by February 15 to be included in publicity with DOI designations each June.

For more about applying see: <https://www.americantrails.org/national-recreation-trails/apply>

STATEWIDE LINKS

- State parks newsletter: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/#> > Newsroom > Current Eagle Watch issue
- State trails advisory board to meet Jan. 22-23 in Anchorage: <http://tinyurl.com/y9ld4tvq>
- The Trans-Alaska Trail website: <http://aktrail.org/index.html>

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Anchorage trails get face lift with new markers: <http://tinyurl.com/ya6hnr9>
- (Kodiak) Trails Update: <http://tinyurl.com/y7q33zke>
- Mountain bikers get more singletrack trails at Mirror Lake: <http://tinyurl.com/ya7qgmdt>

SOUTHEAST LINKS

- Sitka Trail Works thanks City & Borough of Sitka for grant: <http://tinyurl.com/y8kwo3w4>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- I was impaled by an arrow in my leg on an Alaska hike. Here's how it happened: <http://tinyurl.com/yaxrz7bz>
- Attention fourth-graders: Here's how to get free entry into national parks: <http://tinyurl.com/y8rct456>
- Walk/Bike Alaska website (<https://walkbikealaska.wordpress.com/>) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/walkbikealaska/)
- Outdoor Explorer radio show:
 - The outdoors and personal growth: <http://tinyurl.com/y8w5gsek>
 - Outdoors and activism: <http://tinyurl.com/y778457l>

NATIONWIDE/WORLDWIDE

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>

TRAIL GUIDES

- Six of the best US national trails – chosen by experts: <http://tinyurl.com/ycvbcjt9>
- The 10 Most Dangerous Hikes in America: <http://tinyurl.com/yaalt9dv>
- Top 5 bike trails in the Orlando area: <http://tinyurl.com/yamfewv>

CONTESTS

- National and International Trails Awards (nomination deadline Dec 3):
<http://tinyurl.com/y7rbfw7g>
- [National Recreational Trail photo contest \(deadline Dec 15\): http://tinyurl.com/y72do9vl](http://tinyurl.com/y72do9vl)

VOLUNTEERING

- Conservation Volunteers International Program (Scotland and Chile trips upcoming):
<https://conservationvip.org/destinations/>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- The man who hiked 30 US national trails – in pictures: <http://tinyurl.com/y9udswvs>
- Video (3:45): 6 Flavors of PNW (Pacific Northwest) Trail Builders:
<http://tinyurl.com/y864vek8>
- Lawmakers debate fix after Land and Water Conservation Fund lapses:
<http://tinyurl.com/ybufgdzk>
- The National Trails System is celebrating 50 years today — but what about the next 50 years?: <http://tinyurl.com/yct9u2lk>

INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- One of the Longest Hiking Trails in the World Just Opened in Chile:
<http://tinyurl.com/y7gnh46z>
- 12 Epic Adventures You Need to Have Before You Die: <http://tinyurl.com/ydy7ab5c>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- The Most Compact Survival Backpack (hilarious 5-min video): www.youtube.com/embed/8gxdjH3QjNU
- 13 Myths About Bears That No One Should Believe: <http://tinyurl.com/y9gpjkr7>
- Elk Hunter Mauled by Grizzly Near Yellowstone, Blinds Self With Bear Spray: <http://tinyurl.com/yco2vrfc>

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.