

ACTION UPDATE

November 2017

FAIRBANKS AREA

MORE THAN 100 COMPLETE FAIRBANKS SUMMER TRAILS CHALLENGE

From FNSB Parks and Recreation Department Facebook page:

Congratulations to the 103 Trailblazers who completed the ENTIRE Summer Trails Challenge! Thank you for sharing your smiles and good times on the trails with family, friends, and the FNSB Parks and Rec Dept. Your Trailblazer Badges have arrived! Swing by the Parks and Recreation Department Offices during the work week 8:00-5:00 to pick up your hard-earned Trailblazer Badge. We are on the second floor of the Big Dipper Ice Arena at 1920 Lathrop Street. Friends and family can also pick up for you. Note: Our offices are occasionally closed from 12-1 for the lunch hour. Can't wait to see you for the Winter Trails Challenge, coming soon in December! ~Happy Trails~

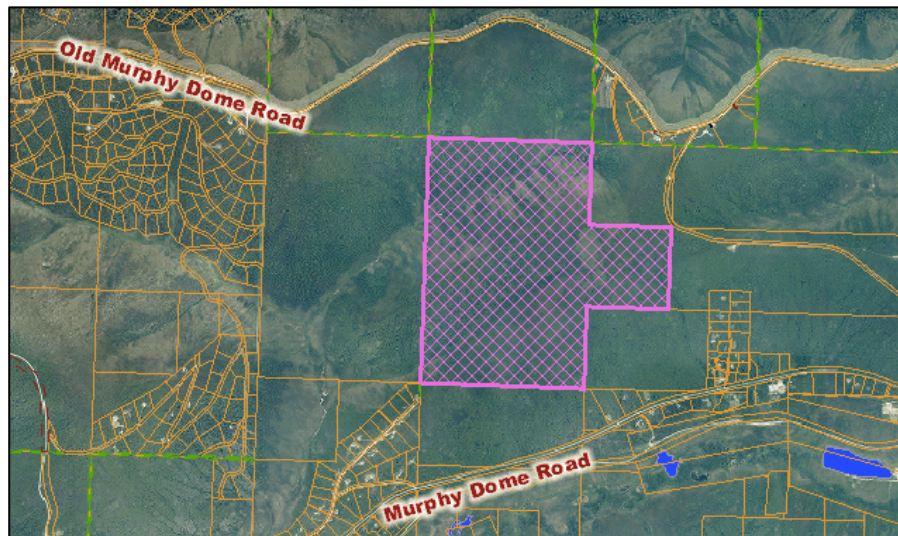
BORO LAND IN MURPHY DOME AREA NOMINATED FOR RECREATION

A large piece of property north of Murphy Dome Road that includes trails has been nominated as part of the Fairbanks borough land nomination process by two people for different, though not incompatible uses. People can comment on the proposed uses (see below).

The 1,100-acre piece of borough land sits in an area bordered by Murphy Dome, Old Murphy Dome, and Spinach Creek roads. A trail off the end of Richard Berry Drive, off Murphy Dome Road, accesses the land.

One nominator said on the nomination form that the “top of the hill” is a “popular hiking spot.”

“I would like the top of this hill and sufficient surrounding land set aside (exempt from development). It is a popular hiking spot (3 trails lead to the top) and someone has



even carried a bench up there.”

The other nominator would like the land to be used for a mix of recreation and residential.

“Proposed use would be a residential/recreational property where I would live and maintain a private sled dog kennel.”

According to borough code the “mayor will at a minimum, biennially in August, present to the assembly a written summary of parcels for sale or retention, and a list of all other nominated land,” according to Sandra Mota, manager of the borough’s Division of Land Management. She expects the nominations affecting this piece of property to be addressed in August 2018.

“Public comment on nominations occurs when the ordinance for retention or for sale comes up for public hearing in the assembly chambers,” Mota wrote in an email. “Any written comment received via email, or at our counter will be held in the file and presented to the assembly as part of their deliberation.”

To comment on the nominations before the ordinance comes up for public hearing you can send an email (land@fnsb.us) or write a letter addressed to: Land Management / Sandra Mota – Manager / PO Box 71267 / Fairbanks AK 99709.

To read the nominations see “Nominations Under Review” at: <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/lm/Pages/Land-Nominations.aspx>

NEW TRAIL IN GOLDSTREAM AREA ALLOWS CONTINUED ACCESS

A new connector trail has been built off of September Court to access Cranberry Trail in the hills north of Goldstream Valley.

The Cranberry Trail, a loop trail included in the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) Recreational Trails Plan, crosses land that sits between Skyflight Avenue (above the Vallata restaurant) and Green Leaf Road (accessed from Goldstream Road via Pandora Road). A jeep road currently gives access to Cranberry Trail and other trails off September Court that are not on the borough trails plan.

For years that jeep road led to a seismic array research facility run jointly by the University of Alaska and the U.S. Air Force, but the facility was decommissioned recently. The jeep road runs across three undeveloped residential lots, which the university has owned in order to allow access to the seismic facility. Now that the facility is being decommissioned the university plans to sell the lots. The jeep road has no easement, so the university plans to close it to public access next year.

Fortunately, a 20-foot-wide easement extending from the end of September Court exists between two of the university’s residential lots. FNSB Trails Coordinator Bryant Wright worked with a crew from the U.S. Air Force to clear a path on that easement, which will give access to Cranberry Trail, the jeep trail and borough land beyond the residential lots.

This change illustrates the importance of having platted easements for trails even when another trail is being used nearby, but has no easement.

FAIRBANKS AREA LINKS

- Photos of the Skyline Ridge Park trail work party on National Public Lands Day: <https://www.facebook.com/events/313820272354886/permalink/316618958741684/>
- Public comments on the Yankovich/Miller Hill project have been posted (right side menu > Comments Received): <http://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/yankovich-miller/>
- Fairbanks Paddlers Annual Meeting and Potluck (November 10): <http://tinyurl.com/yb8fe22r>
- Interesting discussion about status of the Skyline Ridge Trail on the Skarland & Pearl Creek Park Trail Users FB page: www.facebook.com/groups/SkarlandPearlCreekTrails/permalink/1959398144301731/

DELTA JUNCTION

PIPELINE HIKER TO GIVE TALK FOR DELTA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Ned Rozell will share stories about his adventures while hiking along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline on November 3 at 6pm at the historic Sullivan Roadhouse in Delta Junction.

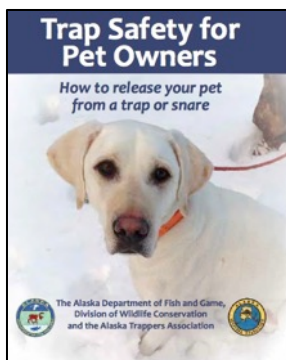
Rozell hiked the length of the pipeline from Valdez to Prudhoe Bay this summer, recreating a feat he accomplished 20 years previously. The presentation, sponsored by the Delta Junction Trails Association, is titled “Ned Rozell and his dog Cora.” Cora also spent the summer walking with Ned. Chili, bread, veggies and sweet treats will also be available at the presentation.

Rozell is a science writer for the Geophysical Institute. He has also freelanced for the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, the Anchorage Daily News, Mushing magazine, the Kenai Peninsula Clarion and others.

INTERIORWIDE/STATEWIDE

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.

2017 RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM PROJECTS ANNOUNCED

The Recreational Trails Program has awarded matching funds for 22 trail projects (five in the Interior) in Alaska this year, with many projects underway or already completed. These are reimbursable, grant-funded projects happening throughout the state between 2017 and 2019. The total allocated for these projects is nearly \$1.3 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/Assets/uploads/DNRPublic/parks/grants/trailsgrantpage/rectr2017.pdf>

INTERIOR ALASKA

- Delta Junction Trails Association, Liewer Trail Lighting: \$49,928
- Fairbanks North Star Borough, Skyline Ridge Park Trail Restoration Phase II: \$50,000
- DPOR, Chena River SRA, Olnes Pond ATV Trail hardening / Clearing: \$140,359
- DPOR, Chena River SRA, Fairbanks: Northern Area Training and Assessment: \$13,313
- DPOR, Chena River SRA, Fairbanks: Granite Tors: \$75,103

ANCHORAGE AREA

- Anchorage Park Foundation, Russian Jack Springs Park, Single Track bike trail: \$49,962
- Anchorage Park Foundation, Improvements at Jodhpur Motocross Trail: \$96,002.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA VALLEY

- Curry Ridge Riders, South Denali Trail Signs: \$83,226
- DPOR, Denali State Park, Curry Ridge Trail Phase III: \$77,505
- DPOR, Hatcher Pass Trail: \$47,488
- Upper Susitna Soil & Water Conservation District, Susitna Valley High School Trails, Talkeetna: \$48,661

- Willow Trails Committee, Willow Park Trail: \$38,382

SOUTHEAST ALASKA

- DPOR, Southeast, Haines: Seduction Point Trail Rehabilitation: \$39,293
- Sitka Trail Works, Mosquito Cove Trail Repair Phase II: \$43,937

KENAI PENINSULA/ VALDEZ

- DPOR, Kachemak Bay State Park: Saddle Trail Re-Route Phase III: \$63,958
- DPOR, Caines Head SRA, Public Use Cabin: \$45,545
- DPOR, Caines Head SRA: Caines Head Trail Improvements: \$63,319
- USFS Chugach National Forest, Bartlett Glacier Trail: \$49,945
- Levitation 49, Shoup Trail Re-Opening: \$39,573
- Ground Truth Trekking, Taylor Bay Trail, Kachemak Bay State Park: \$7,475

STATEWIDE

- DPOR, Interpretation and Education Section, Alaska State Park Trail Guide Videos: \$60,876
- DPOR, Alaska Trails Program Administrative Allowance: \$106,955

CONFLUENCE FLOWS TO FOLLOWUP FORUM IN ANCHORAGE NOV. 28

A state office of outdoor recreation as well as funding mechanisms, allies and priorities for outdoor recreation infrastructure took center stage in conversations that unfolded during the Second Annual Confluence: Summit on the Outdoors.

More than 40 government officials, non-profits, public land managers and business leaders engaged in a focused exploration about the future of the state's outdoor recreation economy during a solutions-oriented meeting in Valdez Sept. 22.

For those who tried to get to Valdez but couldn't, a half-day forum is being planned in Anchorage, Nov. 28, from 1 - 5 p.m. (<http://www.levitation49.org/confluence-2017/>) The goal of the Anchorage meeting is to reach consensus and hone policy objectives to present to legislators at an outdoor recreation lobby day in Juneau next spring.

To see outtakes and photos from the September event go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/y8jdthur>

(From Confluence report)

STATEWIDE TRAILS AND PUBLIC LANDS RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- Eagle Watch, State Parks (several recent issues have had trail-related stories): <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/eaglewatch/eaglewatcharchive>

STATEWIDE LINKS

- Running Alaska's Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y7kf9so8>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Appeals court backs NPS over Alaska moose hunter and his hovercraft: <http://tinyurl.com/y6udhrnr>
- Biking the Nulato Hills worth the considerable effort: <http://tinyurl.com/yczzspuc>
- Sharing your stories of misadventure in the outdoors: <http://tinyurl.com/ybxp9p9x>
- When struggling in the backcountry, friends will tell you sweet, sweet lies: <http://tinyurl.com/ybkx7tue>
- Outdoor Explorer radio show: Changing maps: <http://tinyurl.com/yb57vofz>
- Release a dog from a bodygrip trap (also known as a Conibear Trap): <https://vimeo.com/84344143>
- Park service considers \$30-per-person entrance fee at Denali: <http://tinyurl.com/ybg2m5nw>
- Alli Harvey: It's cold, dark, and the couch is comfy. Do I really have to run?: <http://tinyurl.com/y9yb4fta>
- Uncomfortably numb: If you like your fingers and toes, keep them warm: <http://tinyurl.com/ycect3av>
- Answers to the question: 'What is Alaska Avalanche Information Center?': <http://tinyurl.com/ycojjgvm>
- Ambler Road Project comment deadline extended to Jan 31: <http://tinyurl.com/y8c7guhl> and <http://www.ambleraccess.com>

SOUTHEAST

- Hikers barred from trail at the end of North Douglas Highway: <http://tinyurl.com/y8g4jzdy>
- Juneau's Trail Mix Dinner and Auction fundraiser, Nov 18, 6pm: <https://trailmixinc.org>
- Sitka's Trail Works newsletter (Fall 2017): <http://tinyurl.com/yancsx33>

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Anchorage looks to use community-driven data to update trail plan: <http://tinyurl.com/yb4tzujx>
- 6 of the Best State Parks in America (Chugach State Park is one): <http://tinyurl.com/ycwlu9gn>
- Volunteers work to rebuild damaged landscapes on Flattop Mountain: <http://tinyurl.com/y758whoz>
- Cruising the Trail of Blue Ice: <http://tinyurl.com/y88cyzn9>
- Who Doesn't Love a New Latrine?: <http://tinyurl.com/yabqb2lu>
- Opinion: Chugach Park Fund aims to care for Anchorage's wild backyard: <http://tinyurl.com/y7dul9wv>
- Valley Mountain Bikers And Hikers have a new website: <https://vmbah.wildapricot.org>
- Biking the Resurrection Pass Trail: The memories are forever: <http://tinyurl.com/y7lr57xc>
- Trail-building project connects popular sites along the Alaska Railroad: <http://tinyurl.com/yb48d263>

- Whether you want history or nature, Kodiak's Fort Abercrombie is a 182-acre treasure: <http://tinyurl.com/ybx7k3qc>

NATIONWIDE/WORLDWIDE

AHS OFFERS 2018 VOLUNTEER VACATIONS SCHEDULE



The American Hiking Society's 2018 Volunteer Vacations registration is now live. The group is offering many diverse trail maintenance projects across the country. The schedule provides both backpacking and day hiking options, a variety of difficulty levels, and indoor and outdoor accommodations to suit all experience levels and backgrounds. No prior trail maintenance experience is required, just the willingness to

get a little dirty and give back to the hiking trails you love.

Find projects and register here: volunteervacations.americanhiking.org/em-volunteer-vacations/

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

TRAIL GUIDES

- Great Hiking Trails Around the World: <http://tinyurl.com/y7ewpyo8>
- 12 essential Seattle-area hiking trails: <http://tinyurl.com/ybk9zp9j>
- 7 amazing hiking trails near New Orleans: <http://tinyurl.com/y9ash8y6>
- 6 Fall Hikes and Trails Around Grand Rapids, MI: <http://tinyurl.com/y9mgp44v>
- 10 Family-Friendly Hiking Trails in Northern Michigan: <http://tinyurl.com/yckvc2p9>
- Hike the Olympic Peninsula by Bus: <http://tinyurl.com/y6wpuf8r>

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- American Trails newsletter (Oct 2017): <http://tinyurl.com/yamj93uz>
- Trails.com newsletter (Hiking Safety Hacks): <http://email.trails.com/q/1437uLhFpmxS7NQbvjYFF/wv>
- National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (Oct 2017): <http://tinyurl.com/y8yd2c47>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- Book – Great Hiking Trails of the World: <http://tinyurl.com/y8hoyp7>
- Video – Benefits of Family Camping: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X7dnaAuMwN0>

- How to go Hiking with Dogs: <https://americanhiking.org/resources/hiking-with-dogs/>
- 2017 National Recreation Trails photo contest (deadline Dec 15): <http://tinyurl.com/p5ku38v>
- Book review: *Appalachian Odyssey: A 28-year Hike On America's Trail*: <http://tinyurl.com/y7lc64tx>
- U.S. DOT envisions trails can be part of core transportation networks: <http://tinyurl.com/yayuwudr>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- US considers higher entry fees at 17 popular national parks: <http://tinyurl.com/ya8jx2au>
- Walk desolate Mars trails with new NASA VR: <http://tinyurl.com/y86knngf>
- More Americans Head Into The Wild Unprepared For ... The Wild: <http://tinyurl.com/y73292f9>
- Recreation Industry Reports Strong 2017, Strong Outlook: <http://www.funoutdoors.com/2018Outlook>
- Fund Makes \$400 Million for Public Lands, Waters in 2017: www.funoutdoors.com/node/view/3856
- Rec Leaders Talk Strategy on Infrastructure, Fees, Outreach: www.funoutdoors.com/node/view/3867

INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- A U.S. and Mexican city want to build a cross-border bike trail: <http://tinyurl.com/y9e3p9kv>
- Trail saboteur caught on camera in Belfast: <http://tinyurl.com/yc66qk63>

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.