

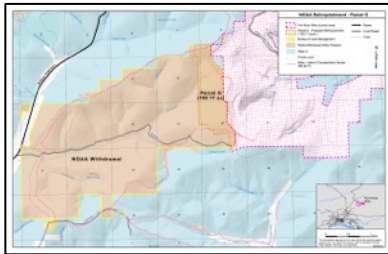
INTERIOR TRAILS QUARTERLY

Dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of trails in interior Alaska

September 2017

INTERIORWIDE

LAND WITH TRAILS NEAR FORT KNOX MAY RETURN TO STATE



A 700-acre parcel of land near Fort Knox with several trails may be handed over to the state. The Bureau of Land Management has decided that land can be returned to the “public domain.” The state of Alaska has identified the land as a “priority for acquisition.” Now it’s up to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to decide if the land will be conveyed to the state.

The parcel of land has several trails running across it, including trails used in the Gold Discovery Run. The trails are used year-round by a variety of trail users, including runners, mountain bikers, snowmachiners, ATVers, and mushers.

The BLM Eastern Interior Field Office completed an environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act to assess the relinquishment and determine whether the land was suitable for return to the public domain. To read the environmental assessment and FONSI, please visit the project website via BLM’s National NEPA register at <http://bit.ly/ParcelG>.

GRAD STUDENT SEEKS INPUT ON OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY

Christian Mogensen, a graduate student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, is conducting a survey regarding people’s experience with outdoor recreation. The survey is part of Mogensen’s effort to collect data for his graduate project. His project centers around getting people more involved with outdoor recreation, and the benefits associated with outdoor recreation activities. Mogensen is also the outdoor adventures assistant coordinator at DRAW, UAF’s Department of Recreation, Adventure and Wellness. If you have any questions, you can contact Mogensen at: cgmogensen@alaska.edu

The survey takes about 10 minutes, and is open to everyone over 18 years old. Find the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6QFG7Z3>

SEPTEMBER DEADLINE FOR RTP GRANT APPLICATIONS OUTREACH

The timeline and associated deadlines for Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant applications have shifted a few weeks earlier this year.

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 Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation has adjusted the grant application period to provide for a more efficient process. The new timeline is as follows:

- All application and informational documents have been available since July 15 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.

Anyone with questions about RTP grants may contact Darcy Harris at 907-269-8699 or darcy.harris@alaska.gov.

(From Alaska Department of Natural Resources press release)

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- ‘Wacky loop’ in Mt. Prindle area lives up to name: <http://tinyurl.com/ybbednf8>
- BLM clarifies side-by-side rules: <http://tinyurl.com/yc4el8rp>
- Next FNSB Summer Trails Challenge is Sept 20: <http://tinyurl.com/y8avo24w>
- Waterfowl hunting again allowed at Tanana Lakes rec area: <http://tinyurl.com/y7b82ks3>

FAIRBANKS AREA

COMMENT DEADLINE DUE FOR YANKOVICH-MILLER HILL PROJECT

Comments are due by September 6 on a proposal to reconstruct Miller Hill and Yankovich roads and possibly build a multi-use path along a portion of Yankovich Road.

The state Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has come up with three alternatives that can be viewed on the project website: <http://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/yankovich-miller/>

The most controversial part of the project is whether to build a multi-use path along Yankovich Road and, if so, how that path would be built. The alternative with the biggest change would be to build a separate multi-use path. (An existing path has already been built from the Yankovich/Miller Hill intersection to a spot across from the Large Animal Research Station, aka the Musk Ox Farm. A new path would connect it to the path on Farmer’s Loop Road.) A separated multi-use path would be the most expensive and would affect the greatest number of property owners, but it would also benefit the greatest number of non-motorized trail and road users. Which side of Yankovich the path would be built has not been determined.

Another alternative would be to build a multi-use path that is connected to Yankovich Road. The third alternative would have no multi-use path. All alternatives would rebuild Yankovich Road with shoulders. The road currently has no shoulders. The no-path alternative would have six-foot shoulders, the connected path would have four-foot shoulders, and the separated path alternative would have five-foot shoulders.

For guidance in comments see the Comments Sheet link on the right side of the page. Comments can be sent to: isadora.fanning@alaska.gov

PORTION OF FARMER'S LOOP PATH TO BE RESURFACED

A portion of the separated path along Farmer's Loop Road is being resurfaced along with the road itself. Work on this project started in August and will last until October 31.

Work will take place from College Road/Alumni Drive to just past Auburn Drive.

Details:

- Work will first take place from Alumni Drive/College Road to Tanana Loop.
 - Hours of operation for this section are 7pm-7am, 7 days/week.
- Work will then move to Tanana Loop to Auburn Drive.
 - Hours of operation for this section are 8am-10pm, 7 days/week.
- Drivers should expect short delays and loose gravel. Please watch for lane restrictions, flaggers and pilot car operations.
- Bike and pedestrian access will be maintained, but expect loose gravel and detour routes.

Work to be completed:

- Remove and reconstruct the asphalt surface on the road and bike path.
- Improve lighting and traffic signals.
- Remove and replacing culverts.
- New concrete curb and gutter, and ADA compliant crosswalks.

For construction updates:

- www.AlaskaNavigator.org
- 511.Alaska.Gov (<http://511.alaska.gov/alaska511/mappingcomponent/index>)

For project information:

- Rebekah Matar, Exclusive Paving, 322-2226 or rcoats@colaska.com
- Andy Pagel, ADOT&PF Project Manager, 451-5446 or andrew.pagel@alaska.gov

This season, work will last through October 31. Work will resume again next construction season.

(From Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities email)

DISCHARGE THAT STOPS CHENA RIVER FREEZING UP FOR RENEWAL

The state is collecting comments on a water discharge permit for the power plant off the Chena River near downtown Fairbanks. The warm water discharged by the plant keeps the Chena River from freezing over during the winter, thereby preventing the creation of a potential winter trail on the river. Of course, there are also benefits associated with the operation of the power plant, owned by Aurora Energy.

People interested in commenting on the discharge can attend a scheduled public meeting or send their comments via email or mail. Pertinent information is below.

Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) permit

- Facility Name: Aurora Energy, LLC Chena Power Plant
- Permit Number: AK0053333
- Discharge Location: Chena River
- Review Period: August 25, 2017 to October 11, 2017
- Permit documents can be accessed from the ADEC Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program website (<http://dec.alaska.gov/water/wwdp/index.htm>) under the Public Notice section.
- Written comments can be submitted via email to: Angela.Hunt@alaska.gov or by mail to:

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

For questions, please call Angela Hunt at 907-269-7599.

Meeting/hearing

Date: September 28, 2017

Public Meeting: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Public Hearing: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Location: Westmark Fairbanks Hotel and Conference Center, Rampart Room 813 Noble Street Fairbanks

STATEWIDE

MOUNTAIN BIKE SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER IN ANCHORAGE

Alaska Trails is working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) to bring you an Alaska Mountain Bike Summit. The summit will be held October 6 and 7 at the Kincaid Park Chalet in Anchorage. Presenters at the Summit will include Michelle Barker of IMBA and Zach Jarrett, regional outdoor recreation planner, BLM Oregon/Washington State office. Jarrett is also the primary author of: *Guidelines for a Quality Trail Experience*.

Please save the dates. More details coming soon. To help us craft the agenda to make sure we are planning a great event, please fill out our survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FTZJH3T>

TRAILS TO BE A KEY TOPIC AT ‘SUMMIT ON THE OUTDOORS’

The “Second Annual Confluence: Summit on the Outdoors” will be held on Friday, September 22, in Valdez.

The goal of this year's event is to identify and prioritize ideas to help make Alaska's outdoor recreation industry more successful. The best ideas from the event will be brought before the state legislature during an outdoor recreation industry lobby day next March. Trails will be one of the key breakout topics so trail builders, trail enthusiasts, city planners, retailers and others should plan to attend and weigh in. Information and online registration can be found at <http://levitation49.org/confluence>.

This second annual gathering of stakeholders interested in Alaska's outdoors as a driver for rural economic development and healthy lifestyles will take place at the Valdez Civic Center. Attendees expected to participate include a cross-section of outdoor-focused elected officials, planners, land managers, businesses and non-profit organizations.

The keynote speaker this year will be Luis Benitez, a guide, adventurer and founding director of the Colorado Office of Outdoor Recreation. Another special guest will be Cailin O'Brien-Feeney, director of local outdoor recreation advocacy for the Outdoor Industry Association.

This event is co-sponsored by the Outdoor Industry Association, REI and Valdez-based host organization Levitation 49. For more information on the summit see: <http://www.levitation49.org/valdez-2017/>

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:

www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails/ApplyNRT.html

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>
- BLM's Frontiers (Summer 2017): <http://tinyurl.com/y7hf56p4>

STATEWIDE LINKS

- Writer produces new edition of guide book: <http://tinyurl.com/y75dstve>

- State looks to update Bicycle and Pedestrian plan: <http://tinyurl.com/ybgvvdur>
- Tell friends your game plan before a backcountry trip — and remember to send proof of life: <http://tinyurl.com/ydbtbugy>
- SnowTRAC annual meeting scheduled for September 6: <http://tinyurl.com/yb3a2uk3>
- Could The Lure Of Trails Salvage Alaska's Economy?: <http://tinyurl.com/ydgg2qee>
- Several Alaska maps features on new BLM digital map site: <https://www.blm.gov/maps>
- Yes, babies and backpacking go together: <http://tinyurl.com/y8po3ve6>

NED ROZELL'S TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE HIKE

- Crossing the divide into a new world: <http://tinyurl.com/ycyc66bf>
- In fifth month, Trans-Alaska hike nears end: <http://tinyurl.com/y8wh3z4d>
- Final steps to Mile 0 of summer walk: <http://tinyurl.com/yb93u8gz>
- Hike across Alaska ends with after-dinner bear: <http://tinyurl.com/y8yzso5r>

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Anchorage climbers set speed record in Chugach Mountains: <http://tinyurl.com/y8wuw9a6>
- New Mat-Su park offers lots of scenery along Knik Arm: <http://tinyurl.com/y7j3mtjs>
- A new Mat-Su map shows a special, hidden place: <http://tinyurl.com/ybkeftfn>
- Singletrack Advocates National Public Lands Day event in Kincaid Park: <http://tinyurl.com/ydejeleg>
- The trail on the west side of Russian Jack Springs Park golf course was renovated by Youth Employment in Parks in July and is now open and ready for use: <http://tinyurl.com/y8zwwg3ek>
- Packrafting the 'Goat Trail remix' in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park: <http://tinyurl.com/y97m7pzn>
- Tsalteshi: single and ready to mingle: <http://tinyurl.com/yawn28w4>
- A Lost Lake trail run to remember: <http://tinyurl.com/y76uhgv4>
- The intersection of the channelside trail and North End park needed some work. So this happened: <https://www.facebook.com/islandtrails/posts/10155485092703476>

SOUTHEAST LINK

- Haines couple owes \$52,000 after trying to block people driving on their land: <http://tinyurl.com/yb6ad5d5>
- Sitka's Mosquito Cove – Trail Maintenance Aug. 21- Sept. 14: <http://tinyurl.com/yavnyxdy>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Paddling in place or going in reverse, this amateur is a work in progress: <http://tinyurl.com/y9f2lyrk>
- Book an outdoors date with a loved one: <http://tinyurl.com/yco7tyg6>
- There Is No Tomorrow (fatbike/packraft expedition in northwest Alaska): <http://tinyurl.com/y99f85u3>

- Lake Clark National Park's only public-use cabin is a gem: <http://tinyurl.com/y9dajhwb>
- On flat ground after a climb? Gravity can still get the best of you: <http://tinyurl.com/y9zxb3sa>

NATIONWIDE

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

- 10 Easy Hiking Trails on the Blue Ridge Parkway: <http://tinyurl.com/y9q2qvo9>
- Top 10 Michigan bike trails for novice, expert riders this summer: <http://tinyurl.com/ybrfbzb2>

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- Trails.com newsletter: <http://email.trails.com/q/1mPplcRgNdyEbkfy78SN/wv>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- A Detailed Inventory Is Critical To Revitalizing OHV Trail Systems: <http://tinyurl.com/y9wp7hjz>
- IMBA Supports Bipartisan Bill To Improve Trail Access On Public Land: <http://tinyurl.com/y95oaymo>
- Selecting a Campsite: <https://americanhiking.org/resources/selecting-a-campsite/>
- Congress Continues to Promote Land Access: <http://tinyurl.com/ycbwa9v6>
- American Trails hikes the hill in Washington, DC: <http://tinyurl.com/y9kxgdba>
- Book delves into the rich history of American hiking club culture: <http://tinyurl.com/y8urzbgv>
- Game-Changing Rails to Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y96eagh7>
- Discovering What Makes An IMBA EPICS Ride So "Epic": <http://tinyurl.com/ybl54sfr>

INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- World's longest pedestrian suspension bridge opens in Switzerland: <http://tinyurl.com/yag3tc8y>
- Whitehorse a great destination for mountain biking road trip: <http://coast-magazine.com/arctic-adventures>
- Trans Canada Trail links the nation and its people: <http://tinyurl.com/y7azu7mh>

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/yabajvww>
- Map
 - Fairbanks Area Hiking and Birding Guide: <http://ak.audubon.org/alaska-birding-maps>

Fairbanks area

- Alaska Dog Musher Association Trails:
 - www.sleddog.org/maps/
 - <http://sleddog.org/trail-maps>
- Creamer's Field: www.creamersfield.org
- Equinox Marathon Trail: www.equinoxmarathon.org
- Ester Dome/Happy Valley Singletrack: www.fairbankscycleclub.org/Rides/EDS.pdf
- Ester Dome Single Track (Facebook): www.facebook.com/groups/255880317931110/
- Goldstream winter trails: www.acsalaska.net/~brucemc/trail_maps/mapsof.html

- Goldstream Sports classic ski trail:
<http://www.goldstreamsports.com/merchant/4172/files/Ski-trail-sign-map-20122.compressed.pdf>
- 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](http://www.bottomdollar.us/Pinnell%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 Pinnel 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: www.sleddog.org/
- Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association: www.alaskaskijoring.org/
- Two Rivers Dog Musers Association: www.trdma.org/

Facebook pages

- Alaska Snowshoe: <https://www.facebook.com/AlaskaSnowshoe/?fref=nf>
- 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/

Misc.

- Alaska Outdoor Council: www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org/
- Alaska Trailblazers (Tok): <http://aktrailblazers.com>
- 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: 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: <https://sites.google.com/a/alaska.edu/alaska-alpine-club/>
- 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://sites.google.com/a/alaska.edu/trails/>
- 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 than 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 be 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.