

# INTERIOR ALASKA TRAILS NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of trails in interior Alaska

JUNE 2024

## ALASKANS TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL TRAILS DAY IN JUNE



**VOLUNTEER, JOIN IN** Several events will be held in Interior Alaska in celebration of National Trails Day, Saturday, June 1.

National Trails Day is the American Hiking Society's signature trail awareness program. It inspires the public and trail enthusiasts nationwide to seek out their favorite trails to discover, learn about, and celebrate trails while participating in educational exhibits, trail dedications, gear demonstrations, instructional workshops and trail work projects. For more info see: [www.americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/](http://www.americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/)

### FAIRBANKS

- National Trails Day at Ester Dome Singletrack: <https://tinyurl.com/mr2u7ee9>
- National Trails Day at Skarland Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/mr2u7ee9>

### DELTA JUNCTION

- Hike Donnelly Dome with DJTA: <https://tinyurl.com/899d7fkt>

### DENALI

- See the "Seen Recently On Interior Facebook Pages" section

## ALASKA LONG TRAIL NEEDS YOUR FEEDBACK. DEADLINE JUNE 28



**COMMENT** The BLM is continuing its feasibility study to assess the Alaska Long Trail for the National Scenic Trail designation. **The public comment period is open through June 28** via the online interactive map tool located on the Eplanning project page (<https://tinyurl.com/22tvsvtu>). Additionally, three virtual listening Zoom sessions are scheduled in June 2024 (<https://tinyurl.com/4588kzwy>). Your

feedback on the proposed route is appreciated!

## WATCH FOR BEARS, MOOSE CALVES WHEN OUT ON THE TRAILS

It's calving season for the moose and things can get dangerous really fast when you surprise a moose or get too close, and the mama decides it's time to protect her young. And, of course, bears are out of hibernation and active. To learn how to avoid surprising animals and deal with uncomfortable or dangerous situations, check out these resources:

- [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livewith.moose](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livewith.moose)
- [www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/Wildlife.aspx](http://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/Wildlife.aspx)



*Photo from Denali National Park by Ken Conger, National Park Service*

### LINKS TO INTERIOR TRAIL INFORMATION

- List of apps that have many interior Alaska trails: [www.interioralaskatrails.org/resources/web-sites/](http://www.interioralaskatrails.org/resources/web-sites/)
- Interior Alaska Trails (a collection of trail-related resources): [www.interioralaskatrails.org/resources/](http://www.interioralaskatrails.org/resources/). (If you find any broken links or other problems please send an email to [fbxtrails@gmail.com](mailto:fbxtrails@gmail.com))

## ORGANIZATION AIMS TO HELP CLEAN UP TRAILS WITH YOUR HELP

**VOLUNTEER** Clean Trails is an international 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a world-wide community of people dedicated to keeping our wild places and the trails that access those spaces free of litter.



According to the group, “study after study shows the highest indicator that someone will pick up litter is if they witness someone else picking up litter. That’s because peer group norms are more powerful than incentives, and when worked in concert with each other, they can provide impressive behavioral change impacts.”

If you’d like to help with this effort, check out the group’s website: <https://www.cleantrails.org/>

## KEEP A LOOK OUT FOR BIRD NESTS WHEN WORKING ON TRAILS

Trail work sometimes requires downing trees or clearing shrubs. When doing so make sure not to violate the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which makes it illegal for anyone to “take” migratory birds, their eggs, feathers, or nests. “Take” includes destroying or damaging active bird nests or eggs. Different areas of the state have different sensitive periods generally occurring between April 15 and July 25. However, if you encounter an active nest at any time leave it in place and protected until young hatch and depart. “Active” is indicated by intact eggs, live chicks, or the presence of an adult on the nest.



For more information and recommended time periods for avoiding vegetation clearing see: [www.fws.gov/alaska-bird-nesting-season](http://www.fws.gov/alaska-bird-nesting-season)

Photo from Denali 101: [www.denali101.com/denalinationalpark/birds\\_of\\_denali.html](http://www.denali101.com/denalinationalpark/birds_of_denali.html)

## HELP SLOW CLIMATE CHANGE: 1% FOR THE PLANET, CLIMATE RIDE

Climate change affects everyone, including trail lovers.

Climate change and other environmental problems may seem like an overwhelming problem, but we humans created them one step at a time, and we can solve them that way, too. Let’s do what we can to now for our children, grandchildren, and beyond.

Here are some things you can do right now to help make a difference.

*Join or Donate to 1% for the Planet*

The goal of this group is to “connect our members with high-impact environmental partners that align with their values and add to their brand story.”



The group was started in 2002 by Yvon Chouinard, founder of Patagonia, and Craig Mathews, founder of Blue Ribbon Flies. It now has more than 5,000 members. If you are a business, you can join the group. But even if you are not a business owner, you can still donate to the group.

1% for the Planet does not focus solely on climate change, but that is a big part of it. If you become member, you get to choose your own cause.

Find out more at: <https://onepercentfortheplanet.org/>

### Take a personal action

Join or organize a fundraiser through Climate Ride: <https://www.climateride.org/>

Climate Ride helps mobilizes people to protect our planet through life-changing adventures. The group organizes charitable biking, running, and hiking events to raise awareness and support sustainability, active transportation, and environmental causes.

You can join one of the many already scheduled events, many are in-person but some allow for virtual participation. Or you can organize your own event or adventure. The page has a Design Your Own Event under its Events dropdown menu.

Find out more at: <https://www.climateride.org/>



## SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

### DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

May 28

**VOLUNTEER** National Trails Day 2024, Saturday, June 1, 9 am-3 pm



The Denali National Park and Preserve Trail Crew and Volunteer Program are once again hosting National Trails Day.

Kick off your summer with a day on the trail, join us for some real trail work and construction! Try your hand at trail maintenance activities such as hauling brush, moving rocks, constructing trail and rehabilitating disturbed areas. Expect 2-4 miles of moderate hiking over uneven terrain. This is a great opportunity to learn how trails are built in a sub-arctic environment. It will also be a chance to get your hands dirty as you help maintain a part of this special place.

Who: You and your friends/family. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Participation is limited to 25 volunteers so be sure to call and reserve your space.

What: Hands-on conservation work.

Bring: water, snacks, lunch, hiking boots, rain gear and clothing layers. Safety gear and tools will be provided.

When: Saturday, June 1, at 9 a.m. The work day will conclude at 3 p.m.

Due to space and parking limitations, we need to limit the number of volunteers to 20 this year, so volunteers will need to sign up in advance. Please call the Denali National Park Volunteer office at 907-683-9504 to RSVP.

Overnight accommodations, like a hut or campsite may be available to those who need them. Please make arrangements for camping in advance by contacting the Volunteer Office.

Every volunteer will receive a thank-you gift, and each adult will receive a voucher for a shuttle bus ride in the park (you choose the date, includes park entrance fee).

Questions: Contact the Volunteer Office at 907-683-9504.

## INTERIOR ALASKA LAND TRUST

May 17

Exciting Parcel Update: We Did It!

Thanks to the generous donations from dozens of community members and the incredible matching contributions from Jack and Carol Wilbur, we have successfully raised over \$50,000 to purchase this crucial Goldstream Valley parcel!

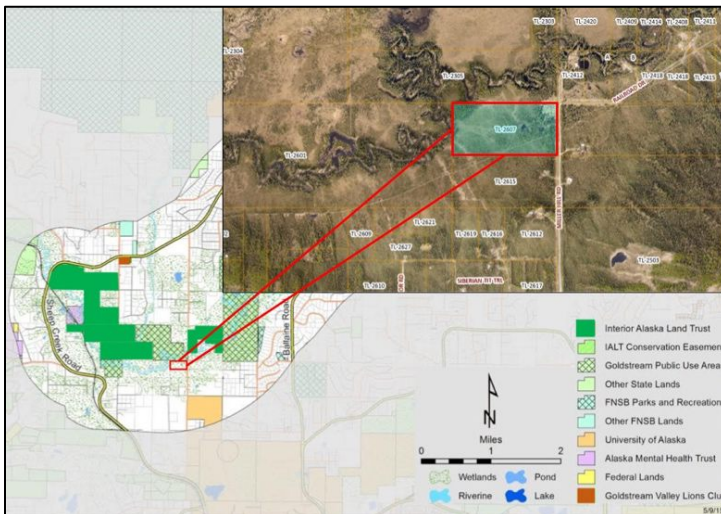
This parcel includes a vital section of the historic east-west Railroad Trail, significantly enhancing access to the Goldstream Public Use Area to the north and safeguarding both current and future trail access. This achievement would not have been possible without the overwhelming support from our amazing community. Thank you so much!

Next Steps: Let's Clean Up!

Our next mission is to clean up the property. There is a significant amount of trash that needs to be removed, and we need your help. Stay tuned on our social media channels and via email (become a member or signup for our newsletter:

<https://interioraklandtrust.org/donate/>) for details on upcoming clean-up days. **If you're interested in getting more involved, please don't hesitate to message us!**

Together, we're making a difference. Thank you for your continued support!



## SKARLAND & PEARL CREEK PARK TRAIL USERS

May 17

Update from Stan Justice on the Sky Summit Estates trail issue up near Skyline Ridge:

"So disappointing. Assembly voted 9-0 to approve platting board decision. It got sold as no trail or the trail by the road."

Read the details of the issue here: <https://tinyurl.com/unrbww7k>

## ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES

May 22

Hey #Fairbanks, **STREAM CLEANUP DAY is June 8th!**

When: 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>

Where: Meet at DNR Chena River Recreational Area Pavilion off University Ave

Who: Anyone who wants to help clean Fairbanks-area waterways – note that children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult

Please RSVP [melissa.riordan@alaska.gov](mailto:melissa.riordan@alaska.gov) to reserve a canoe available to experienced paddlers. There is a limited number of canoes reserved based on when RSVP request is received.





## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

May 22

### ⚠️ Travel Alert - Upper Birch Creek Wayside ⚠️



Extremely soft and muddy spring conditions have led to several vehicles getting stuck on the access road for the Upper Birch Creek Wayside at milepost 94 on the Steese Highway. Even the repair crew vehicles got stuck, so its still too wet to repair until it dries out more. Until conditions improve, the public is cautioned to not travel on the road to limit the risk of stuck vehicles and prevent further road damage.

Questions? Contact the BLM Fairbanks Public Room at 907-474-2200 or 1-800-437-7021 (toll-free).

## FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

May 20

Story about mineral exploration around Treasure Creek Trail just north of Old Murphy Dome Road: <https://tinyurl.com/yeyu99m5>

## INTERIORWIDE LINKS

### SLIGHTLY OFF TRAIL

- Quartz Lake public use cabin burns, spreads to wildlands: <https://tinyurl.com/4c748y8p>
- Paddling Skills and Safety Classes in June 2024: <https://tinyurl.com/mwkpzba5>

## STATEWIDE

### TAKE A HIKE. SERIOUSLY. IT'S AN ALASKA TRAILS FUNDRAISER!

**GET OUT, DONATE!** Mark your calendars! Take A Hike (Or Whatever You Like), our annual virtual fundraiser, begins on National Trails Day, June 1, and runs through June 10.



This is an opportunity to get outside during these beautiful spring days and enjoy the trails that are emerging from under the snow. Trails are crucial to our community - mentally, physically, and economically. If you're able, we hope you'll support our work so we can continue building and maintaining trails for Alaskans across the state!

Here's how you can help:

1. From June 1-10, Take A Hike—or bike, run, walk, horseback ride, or whatever—and then make a donation to Alaska Trails at [www.alaska-trails.org/take-a-hike-donate](http://www.alaska-trails.org/take-a-hike-donate).
2. Donors who give \$25 or more are eligible for a prize drawing from some awesome local businesses.
3. Let your friends know about it by tagging us in your photos on social media (@alaskatrails). Send your photos and stories of the trail you chose to hike (or bike, run, or walk) to [maya.kaup@alaska-trails.org](mailto:maya.kaup@alaska-trails.org) to be featured on the Alaska Trails social media pages.

For more info see: [www.alaska-trails.org/take-a-hike](http://www.alaska-trails.org/take-a-hike)

## SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME - OFFICIAL

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May 13

Moose Safety- Avoid mad mama moose!

Spring is here. It is the time when wildlife species are giving birth to young. The peak of moose calving for much of the state is approximately the week of May 20th.

Soon there will be many cow moose with new calves that they will aggressively defend! Don't become complacent around moose. A protective mother can attack without notice. Give them plenty of space. If you see a cow moose (with or without a calf) don't go near it. Take another route or a wide detour to safely get around it.

Yelling at moose and trying to intimidate them into moving along may backfire and make them more aggressive.

To report an aggressive moose or other wildlife encounters call your local ADF&G office or report online here:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=reportwildlifeencounter.main>

Check out our Living with Wildlife web pages for lots more information about moose and bear safety:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livewith.main>

Check out this wildlife safety story about other wildlife species that may be protective of their young: [https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeneews.view\\_article&articles\\_id=909](https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeneews.view_article&articles_id=909)



Image © ADF&G

## STATEWIDE LINKS

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- Mat-Su Assembly reaffirms support for Alaska Long Trail while opposing federal restrictions: <https://tinyurl.com/284nm3fs>

### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Volunteering in the outdoors | Outdoor Explorer: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8zxybt>
- The Essentials for Traveling in Alaska's Bear Country: <https://tinyurl.com/yj2aafct>
- Veteran musher Ramey Smyth to rebuild collapsed Burled Arch: <https://tinyurl.com/mr3hmd3m>
- Alaska Supreme Court upholds Valdez ordinance that limited fur trapping: <https://tinyurl.com/3uffyzra>
- Study says social media drives visitation in parks, especially in Alaska: <https://tinyurl.com/2yy8d72k>
- Hey, Alaskans: What's your best advice for staying safe outdoors?: <https://tinyurl.com/yc7meapi>

## NATIONWIDE/WORLDWIDE

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## APPLY FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT FUNDING

From an American Trails newsletter:

This unique program, administered by the Federal Highway Administration, strategically invests in projects that connect active transportation networks and spines, accelerating local and regional plans to create safe and convenient walking and biking routes to everyday destinations and to fill

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gaps between communities. Applicants must submit their applications through grants.gov.

**Applications due by Monday, June 17, 11:59 p.m. ET.**

Find out more here: [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle\\_pedestrian/atiip/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/atiip/)

Grants.gov site: <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/353043>

## NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS

### WEBINARS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, TRAINING, ETC.

- American Trails calendar (trail webinars workshops, etc): [www.americantrails.org/training/calendar](http://www.americantrails.org/training/calendar)

### TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- American Trails "Trail Tracks": [www.americantrails.org/newsletter](http://www.americantrails.org/newsletter)

### VOLUNTEER

- Am. Hiking Society's 2024 Volunteer Vacations: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacation-trips/>

### FUNDING

- FOX Factory Trail Trust (**applications reviewed quarterly**): <https://trailtrust.com/>
- Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative (OHVs, **quarterly deadlines**): <https://yamahaoai.com/>
- National Forest Foundation awards (deadlines June 21): <http://tinyurl.com/px7y6ke>
- 2024 Trails Capacity Program Awardees Announced (incl Alaska Trails): <https://tinyurl.com/eayxury6>

### OTHER LINKS:

- Europe's best long-distance hiking trails: <https://tinyurl.com/ycyya53t>
- The Wild World of Wildlife Conservation Funding: <https://tinyurl.com/3b95ps68>

Interior Alaska Trails Newsletter is a free monthly email newsletter 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](mailto:fbxtrails@gmail.com). Note: submissions may be also be used in the statewide Alaska Trails newsletter, from which this newsletter is excerpted.

DISCLAIMER: Interior Alaska Trails Newsletter is not a product of any organization. However, I am a board member of the Interior Trails Preservation Coalition, president of the Fairbanks Cycle Club, a member of several Interior trail user groups, and editor of the Alaska Trails newsletter.