To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the concept of building trails to connect forestry roads between Fairbanks and Nenana.

The Tanana Valley State Forest is a wonderful resource. I support timber extraction in the forest, but I also think it is an excellent resource for recreation, hunting, and gathering. Forestry roads in the area are already used by non-foresters for a variety of purposes. Building connecting trails between the roads would make the resource that much more valuable.

Connecting trails (and at least one bridge) would allow people to roam farther, opening new areas for recreation, hunting, and gathering. These connections would allow winter users to create interesting loops by combining the roads and trails with the Tanana River winter trail. Packrafters, especially those on bikes, would also be able to create loops by floating down the river and coming back using the forestry roads and trail connections.

Connecting the roads by using trails would also bring a couple of advantages. For one, it would help the Alaska Long Trail from Seward to Fairbanks be one step closer to completion. For another, it would invite resources such as trail building grant funds (for example, the Recreational Trails Program) and partnerships with trail groups (for example, Alaska Trails and the Interior Alaska Trails and Parks Foundation). These grants and partnerships would help lessen the financial and administrative workload of adding the trails.

Alaska Trails has written a letter in support of this concept. I fully support that letter, which can be found here: https://www.interioralaskatrails.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/TVSF-management-plan-comments-2024-Alaska-Trails.pdf

I urge you to adopt the proposal suggested by Alaska Trails.

Thank you,
Eric Troyer
Editor and Publisher
Interior Alaska Trails Newsletter