INTERIOR ALASKA TRAILS NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of trails in interior Alaska

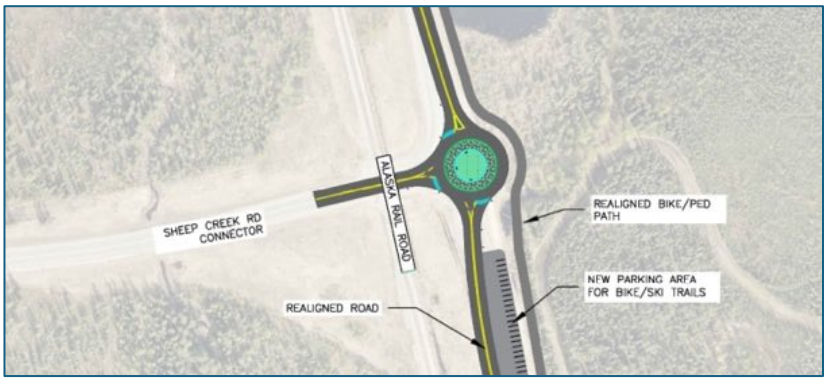
NOVEMBER 2026

SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

Oct 31

The Alaska Department of Transportation will be having a public open house on November 17 at West Valley High School on a proposal to replace the Sheep Creek Road & West Tanana Drive T intersection with a roundabout.



Part of this project would also realign West Tanana Drive so that parking for the University of Alaska Fairbanks trail system is moved from the west side to the east side of the road (the same side as the trail system).

In addition, the project would also "Connect existing recreation trails systems with future trail network planned for the Gold Hill Rd area by extending walking path across intersection and along the north side of Sheep Creek Rd to Gold Hill Rd."

Besides the open house, you can also comment via email or mail. See more details here. http://notice.alaska.gov/225696

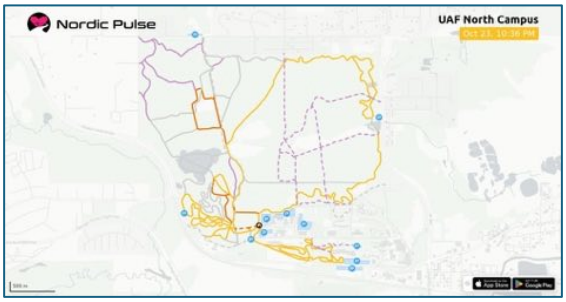
Oct 25

Both UAF and the NSCF at Birch Hill now have Nordic Pulse grooming updates. See the Birch Hill grooming page here: https://nordic-pulse.com/ski-areas/US/AK/Birch-Hill-Recreation-Area

Shared from UAF North Campus
Oct 21

Hi North Campus users - We've got big news!

We're on Nordic Pulse, a live grooming platform, and we're live! We're still getting familiar with the app so consider this a soft launch. Our goal is to migrate



LINKS TO INTERIOR TRAIL INFORMATION

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

grooming reports to the platform, updating our website along the way. This is a huge win for both our grooming staff, but also for you all. You can easily see the days and times of when trails were last groomed, as well as see trail usage, distances, difficulty, and parking.

P.S. We have new maps for the winter trails finalized, and soon you will see those updated on the website and at the trail kiosks.

Link: https://nordic-pulse.com/ski-areas/US/AK/UAF-North-Campus

Oct 5

Heads up for Waterford Trail users. Reports are that a miner is accessing a claim by using the top third of the trail. Some branches and small trees were left on the trail but otherwise reports are that the trail tread is still usable for other trail users. Some trail users have helped clean up the debris.

This is a good time to remind people that many of the trails we use are mining roads/trails. They were built by miners, and some are still actively being used to access claims, though sometimes years can pass with no mining activity. As long as the miners are following the law, they have the same right to use the trails as other trail users. So please be respectful of their use.

Most miners are respectful of other trail users. They don't tear up the trails so that they are unusable to others. In fact, some miners have repaired erosion damage on some local grails.

And remember that we wouldn't have many of our trails in the first place if it weren't for miners.

Waterford Trail on Trail Forks: https://www.trailforks.com/trails/waterford-trail/

Oct 6

Just found out about two more trail funding sources.

--Readiness and Recreation Initiative (A program of the Land and Water Conservation Fund; for enhancing recreational opportunities near military installations) https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/rari.htm

--Jeep Decal Store Trail Stewardship Micro-Grant ($250, awarded quarterly; not limited to 4x4 groups) https://jeepdecalstore.com/pages/trail-stewardship-grant

See these and a bunch more on the Interior Alaska Trails Funding Sources page. https://www.interioralaskatrails.org/funding-sources-for-trail-development/

INTERIOR ALASKA TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION

Oct 25

Interested in joining the Interior Alaska Trails and Parks Foundation team?

Our Mission: The Interior Alaska Trails and Parks Foundation advocates to develop, maintain and promote a year-round trails and parks system for the greater Fairbanks area and beyond. The Foundation will promote cooperation between all users of trails and parks in our community.

Contact us at iatpfoundation@gmail.com

INTERIOR ALASKA LAND TRUST

Oct 19

Join us for IALT's Annual Member Meeting!

Come connect with fellow IALT members, meet members of our Board and our new Executive Director, and hear about the conservation projects we've been working on over the past year — along with what's next for the Interior Alaska Land Trust.

Enjoy refreshments, catch up with friends and neighbors, and bid on items from local businesses and organizations in our silent auction.

Wednesday, November 4 at 6:00 PM
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks
4448 Pikes Landing Road
We hope to see you there!

Oct 14

Big thanks to Stan Justice of Fairbanks Trails Inc and all the volunteers who helped us install fencing this week at the new Chinook Conservation Park trailhead! And a huge thank-you to the

Chena Tool Library for lending us their electric post-hole digger, it saved us a ton of time.

While construction continues along Chena Pump Road, we've been busy improving an existing multi-use trail, building new footpaths, and completing the main parking area and trailhead at the Chinook Conservation Park.

The park is open, but the parking lot is not ready for use yet, so please avoid parking there for now. We'll make an announcement as soon as it's open for business!

Want to support projects like this and help us protect and improve greenspaces across Interior Alaska? Become an IALT member today: https://interioraklandtrust.org/

BLM-WHITE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Oct 29

❄️ The snow is here, and winter trail season is open!

Effective immediately, the White Mountains National Recreation Area and Steese National Conservation Area are moving to winter motor vehicle limitations now that adequate snow cover is in place. Waiting for the snow to build helps reduce trail and resource damage, so the trails are ready for the season ahead.

In the White Mountains, winter trails are open to snowmobiles up to 1,000 pounds curb weight and 50 inches wide, along with all non-motorized use. The Ski Loop Trail and Summit Trail remain non-motorized.

Some trail work is still in progress, and some areas may not be well marked, so download the BLM's free

georeferenced PDF maps before you head out. They work with your phone's GPS even without cell service.

Wear a helmet, ride responsibly, and check White Mountains Trail Updates for current access info.
https://ow.ly/Gomz5102bFc
Full details: https://ow.ly/uY2Q5102byl
Maps: https://ow.ly/UfTx5102bCU
Questions? Contact the BLM Fairbanks Public Room at (907) 474-2200 or 1-800-437-7021.
Photo: BLM Alaska/Craig McCaa

Oct 15

❗ Attention trail users!

The BLM has reopened the Wickersham Dome Trailhead after contractors completed their work for the season.

Contractors were working on a project to improve access at the trailhead. The project will expand the trailhead parking lot, widen the entrance road, shift the motorized and non-motorized trails, and replace the current vault toilet with two vault toilets, improving services for the public.

The BLM expects to implement one additional temporary closure in May 2027 to complete project construction.

For more information, contact the BLM Fairbanks Public Room at (907) 474-2200. For more information about the White Mountains, please visit: https://www.blm.gov/visit/white-mountains/trail-update

📸: Fall hike at Wickersham Dome. BLM Photo/Craig McCaa See less

FAIRBANKS TRAILS INC

Oct 4

By Stan Justice

The work party to cut a bench on a side slope portion of 19.8 ADMA loop was a success. Thank you for spending a couple of hours moving peat and gravel!

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Fairbanks Borough park trail maps (and others): https://www.fnsb.gov/1220/Trail-Maps
- State park trail conditions reports: https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/curevnts.htm
- RTP Grant Applications
  - Birch Hill Trail Revitalization: http://notice.alaska.gov/225353
  - Chena Lake Rec Area North Trail Access Improvements: http://notice.alaska.gov/225381
  - Tanana Lakes Rec Area Flicker Trail Project: http://notice.alaska.gov/225382
  - Happy Valley Gravity Trail (Ester Dome): https://tinyurl.com/3ah6ddee

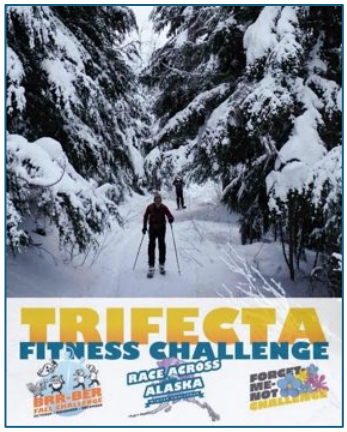
SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Fairbanks Borough Parks & Rec Winter Activity Guide: https://tinyurl.com/2pczp56a

STATEWIDE

ALASKA TRAILS BENEFITS FROM RACE ACROSS ALASKA CHALLENGE

PARTICIPATE The Virtual Race Across Alaska Winter Challenge registration is now OPEN, and Alaska Trails is grateful to once again be a non-profit beneficiary!



This race begins December 21 and lasts for the three months of winter, challenging you to exercise through the dark winter months and run, bike, hike, cross-country ski or any other mode of exercise you'd like that collects miles. Alaska Trails receives $10 from each racer's registration.

This year, there are two other challenges you can enter. Together they are called the Trifecta Fitness Challenge events. All Trifecta participants will get a special medal, plus if you sign up for all 3 challenges, you'll get a significant discount. The Fall BRR-BER Challenge, which started October 1, is a time-based challenge, so activities like hiking, yoga, pickle ball, and in-home workouts are good to go! Check out all the challenges and sign up here: https://runsignup.com/Race/AK/Anchorage/AlaskaChallenge

ALASKA LONG TRAIL PHOTO CONTEST DEADLINE COMING SOON

ENTER We are celebrating the Alaska Long Trail with a photo contest! If you like to take photos, please join in!

We're celebrating the landscapes, wildlife, people, and experiences that make the Alaska Long Trail so extraordinary. Photographers of all skill levels can submit images taken along the Alaska Long Trail route for a chance to win cash prizes and have their work featured on Alaska Long Trail accounts.

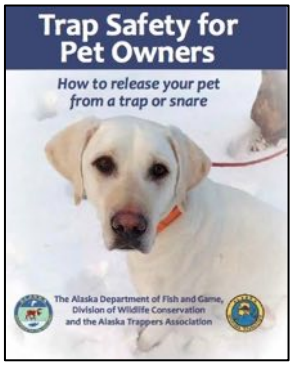
Contest Categories include:

- Adventure: The experience of being on the trail with others.
- Landscape: Scenic vistas and terrain along the trail.
- Culture: People, communities, and trail/camping activities.

The submission period lasts until November 30. Up to 16 entries per person. Category winners receive $200, runners-up $100, grand prize $400. Winners will be announced January/February 2027. Learn more here: https://www.alaska-trails.org/photocontest

RESOURCES HELP REDUCE PET/TRAPPING CONFLICTS

Trapping season opens November 1, 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).

VIDEO: The ATA also has 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 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_LcQ_Ug1Iw).

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.

WINTER TRAIL GROOMING PROGRAMS NEED YOUR HELP

DONATE/SERVE Winter is upon us and if there is no snow on the ground in your area, there soon will be.

Many winter trails activities require (or at least are much improved by) grooming, such as snowmachining, skiing, mushing, and fatbiking. If you engage in an activity that is improved by grooming, please remember to support those efforts. There are several ways you can help.

If you use an area that is clearly groomed and has a grooming fund, make sure to donate. Not all trails that are groomed have a specific grooming fund, but you can also join or donate to the group that is doing the grooming. Look for signs that tell you how you can help.

You can also support the Alaska Snowtrail Grant Program, which provides funds for grooming in several areas of the state. The grooming this program provides benefits more than snowmachiners. Anyone who uses the groomed trails benefits, including fatbikers, skiers, mushers, and hikers. You can’t donate to the Snowmachine Trails Program, but you can help it by making sure to register your snowmachine, which is what funds the program. You can also serve on the SnowTRAC board, which advises the state administration on how the funds are spent. Finally, you can advocate for the program. In years past, administrations have tried to cut the program as part of budget cutting measures. However, strong advocacy has kept the program alive.

To find out more about the program see: https://dot.alaska.gov/atlas/snow-trails/

Most importantly, get out there and enjoy all the great winter trails we have in Alaska!

SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA STATE PARKS

Oct 6

⛺ Alaska State Parks' New Reservation System Is Live! ⛺

Planning your next Alaska adventure? Our new reservation system launched October 1! Reserve public-use cabins, reservable campsites, and other facilities at:

https://reservealaskastateparks.com

Before you book:

- Most cabins can be reserved up to *90 days in advance*.
- Cabins in Afognak Island and Shuyak Island state parks, along with camping permits for Wood-Tikchik State Park, can be reserved up to *180 days in advance*.
- A *$4.50 nonrefundable reservation fee* applies to cabin and facility reservations.
- Reservations can be modified or canceled online at least *8 calendar days before arrival*.
- Cancellations during this window receive a refund minus the reservation fee. Different rules apply closer to your arrival date.

Please review the updated reservation and cancellation policies before booking:
https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/aspcabins/index.htm#resinfo

For more park information and trip planning, visit:
https://www.alaskastateparks.org

STATEWIDE LINKS

- State park trail conditions reports: https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/curevnts.htm
- Community Winter Trails Program (for rural communities): https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/wintertrails/

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- 2026 Alaska State Parks Passport Program: https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/passport.htm

NATIONWIDE/WORLDWIDE

NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS

WEBINARS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, TRAINING, ETC.

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

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- American Trails "Trail Tracks": www.americantrails.org/newsletter

VOLUNTEER

- Am. Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacations: https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacation-trips/
- Conservation VIP (October newsletter): https://tinyurl.com/56dd3kte

FUNDING

- Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative (OHVs, quarterly deadlines): https://yamahaoai.com/
- Right Rider Access Fund (OHV; applications Nov 15-Jan 15): www.riderfund.org/apply-for-funding/

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. Note: submissions may 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 president of the Fairbanks Cycle Club, a member and volunteer of several Interior trail user groups, and editor of the Alaska Trails newsletter.