

# INTERIOR TRAILS QUARTERLY

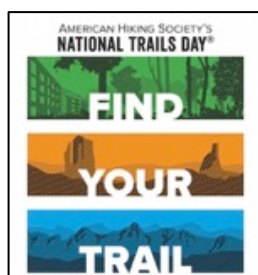
Dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of trails in interior Alaska

June 2017

## INTERIORWIDE

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### ALASKANS TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL TRAILS DAY IN JUNE



Several events will be held across interior Alaska in celebration of National Trails Day. Unless otherwise noted:

- No RSVP is needed
- The events will be held on Saturday, June 3
- More information can be found at:

<http://nationaltrailsday.americanhiking.org/ntd-events/>

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: <http://www.americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/>

#### FAIRBANKS

- A trail volunteer training day starting at 10am at the Fairbanks REI store and hosted by Fairbanks North Star Borough, REI, Interior Trails, Alaska Trails and the Bureau of Land Management. More information: <http://tinyurl.com/y8ddd2q>
- Alaska Endurance Trail Run, a 6,12, and 24 hour trail run/race held on the UAF West Ridge Trails, starting at 8pm on Friday, June 2. More information: <https://www.alaskaendurancetrailrun.org/>

#### DENALI NATIONAL PARK

- A trail maintenance project hosted by Denali National Park and Preserve starting at 9am.

#### DELTA JUNCTION

- Hike up Donnelly Dome with the Delta Junction Trails Association starting at 11am.

#### TOK

- A 2-mile hike hosted by Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge starting at 10am. RSVP to 907-883-5312 [timothy\\_lorenzini@fws.gov](mailto:timothy_lorenzini@fws.gov).
- A 3-mile hike to Eagle Point hosted by Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge at Eagle Trail, 16 miles south of Tok, starting at 10am.

## ALASKA TRAILS HAS TOOL TRAILER READY FOR PROJECTS



As you start planning trail building and maintenance projects, remember that Alaska Trails has a mobile tool cache available in the Fairbanks area to loan to organized trail groups in the Interior. The trailers were upgraded recently and have many trail tools including mcleods, pulaskis, rakes, gloves, and much, much more. If you would like to borrow one of the caches, please contact Geoffrey Orth ([gcorth@straydogs.us](mailto:gcorth@straydogs.us)).

## WASILLA MEETING TO DISCUSS REX TRAIL DECISIONS, MONITORING

The Rex Trail will be discussed at a meeting in Wasilla on Thursday, June 1.

The meeting will be held from 6:30 to 8:30pm at the Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center for Rex Trail Decisions And Trail Monitoring Report. Three topics will be presented:

- A summary of the 2008, 2009, and current decisions regarding use of the Rex Trail.
- The results of the Trail Monitoring Report published in 2016.
- Upcoming and completed pilot projects that address certain highly degraded sections of the trail.

The eastern Rex Trail is an important multi-use trail, extending 50 miles from approximately milepost 280 on the Parks Highway in the west, to the Wood River in the east. A recent increase in non-winter motorized travel coincided with the severe degradation of many portions of the trail.

To slow further degradation of the trail, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issued a decision to seasonally restrict use of wheeled vehicles greater than 1500 pounds in 2008, and issued an amended decision that allowed for expedited permitting of certain large tracked vehicles in 2009. As part of these decisions, currently extended through the 2017 hunting season, DNR initiated a trail monitoring study that collected trail condition data twice a year for 9 years. The results of this study were published in the 2016 Rex Trail Long Term Monitoring Report.

With assistance from Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, DNR has also begun pilot projects to test the feasibility of trail improvements to support a variety of vehicle types on certain sections of the trail. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Adam Leland at (907) 451-2722, or email [adam.leland@alaska.gov](mailto:adam.leland@alaska.gov).

*(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston; photo of Rex Trail courtesy of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.)*



## GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR IMPROVING BIKE INFRASTRUCTURE

People interested in improving bicycle infrastructure and advocacy initiatives have until July 21 to submit letters of interest for the People For Bike Community Grant Program.

This program offers funding for important and influential projects that leverage federal funding and build momentum for bicycling in communities across the United States. Grants of up to \$10,000 are provided for bicycle infrastructure projects and targeted advocacy initiatives that make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to ride.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations with a focus on bicycling, active transportation, or community development; city or county agencies or departments; and state or federal agencies working locally. Full applications will be due October 13. For more information and to see the grant guidelines, go to <http://www.peopleforbikes.org/pages/grant-guidelines>.

*(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)*

## APPLICATIONS DUE FOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ASSISTANCE

Could the National Park Service help in your community to create close-to-home recreation opportunities and protect nearby nature?

Apply by June 30 to be considered for technical assistance with your locally led conservation and outdoor recreation project. The community assistance specialists in our Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program can help you to:

- Increase access to outdoor recreation and the natural world;
- Improve community health with new opportunities for more active living;
- Promote conservation and encourage stewardship of local resources;
- Benefit the local economy by improving quality of life;
- Connect youth to the outdoors and engage the next generation of conservation stewards; and
- Build partnerships that support your project's success!

**To find out if we can help your community**, review the application process. Then call or email our staff member nearest you to discuss your idea. We want to talk with you informally before you apply, to explore and develop your project idea and help you make the best of your application. Please let us know by the end of May if you intend to submit an application.

Still need help deciding to do something great in your community with our help? Watch this short video: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/multimedia.htm>

Applications are due by June 30. For more information: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/apply.htm>

*(From NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program email)*

## SNOWMOBILE TRAILS PROGRAM APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Grant applications for the state Snowmobile Trails Program are now available. Public notice for applications must be posted by June 10. Grant applications must be submitted or postmarked by July 1.



This program, administered by the state Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, provides reimbursable, matching grant funds for trail easement acquisition, development and maintenance of trails and trail-related facilities for snowmobile use. The program also provides funds for snowmobile safety and educational programs.

Matching funds are not required for safety and educational grant programs. Grant funds are generated from annual registration fees paid to the state by snowmobile owners statewide. For more information on the Snowmobile Trails Grant Program and the Grooming Pool, please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/q33aj9m>

For general grant questions regarding the program please contact the Grants Administrator (907/269-8709). For project development questions please contact the State Trails Coordinator (907/269- 8699). Or contact either one through the Department of Natural Resources email page (<http://tinyurl.com/3umsvj5>).

## RTP GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD STARTS EARLIER THIS YEAR

The timeline and associated deadlines for Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant applications are shifting 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 will be available at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm> on or before July 15;
- 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](mailto:darcy.harris@alaska.gov).

*(From Alaska Department of Natural Resources press release)*

## WATCH 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 a PDF document with more information and recommended time periods for avoiding vegetation clearing see: <http://tinyurl.com/kwubruc>

## WATCH FOR MOOSE WITH CALVES WHEN OUT ON THE TRAILS

It's calving season for the moose again 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. An Eagle River woman was sent to the hospital recently after accidentally getting between a mother moose and her calves. Read about it here:

<https://craigmedred.news/2017/05/25/near-deadly-attack/>

To learn how to avoid surprising moose and how to deal with aggressive moose, check out these resources:

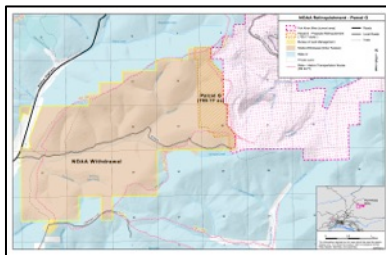
- <https://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/MooseontheLoose.aspx>
- <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livewith.moose>

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## FAIRBANKS AREA

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### TRAILS CROSS LAND BEING CONSIDERED FOR RELINQUISHMENT



June 1 is the deadline for comments on a proposal by NOAA to relinquish 709 acres on Gilmore Dome. The Gilmore Satellite Tracking Station is located on 8,855 acres of federally withdrawn lands adjacent to Fort Knox mine.

NOAA notified BLM last fall, with an interest to relinquish 709 acres of the withdrawal. This area is top filed by the State of Alaska for mining claims, and Fort Knox has been doing exploration work in area. BLM will determine whether this partial relinquishment is suitable for return to the public domain.

Several trails run across the parcel being considered for relinquishment including a portion of the route of the Gold Discovery Run.

For more information, go to <https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-considers-request-relinquishing-federal-land-near-fox>. For additional information or to submit comments, contact Valerie Baxter at (907) 474-2363 or email [vbaxter@blm.gov](mailto:vbaxter@blm.gov).

*(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)*

### TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE INCLUDES INTERACTIVE MAP

The Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System is updating the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) in order improve transportation for our region and comply with state and federal requirements.

The new plan will anticipate growth through the year 2045 and lay out a long-range vision for the transportation system in the Fairbanks metropolitan area. The goals to be reviewed in this update include:

1. Coordinate planning efforts to provide an integrated transportation and land use system that embodies smart growth principles and stimulates the economy to grow.

2. Provide a safe, efficient, secure, and interconnected multi-modal transportation system for all users.
3. Protect the environment, improve air quality, and promote energy efficiency.
4. Optimize the utility and lifespan of the existing transportation system.
5. Ensure adequate transportation facilities to support economic development.
6. Facilitate an open, honest, and transparent decision-making process conducted through constructive two-way communication between the project team, agencies, and the public.

Part of the planning process includes an interactive map where people can add comments (for example to add trail connections) and to like comments already added:

<http://tinyurl.com/n272j46>

## LAKE AND TRAIL FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE TANANA LAKES REC AREA

The Fairbanks Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting a Lake and Trail Festival, Saturday, June 10, at Tanana Lakes Recreation Area Non-Motorized Boat Launch. Our partners will provide paddling instruction in canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards throughout the day (pre-registration required). There will be many family oriented outdoor games, activities and classes. The Summer Trails Challenge will be unveiled too! For more information keep an eye on the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department website (<http://www.co.fairbanks.ak.us/pr/pages/default.aspx>) or its Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Fairbanks-North-Star-Borough-Parks-Rec-285026928325274/>) or call at 459-1070.

*(From the FNSB Parks and Recreation Department website)*

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## STATEWIDE

### FOUR EASY WAYS TO HELP FUND ALASKA TRAILS

With the help of other organizations, you can help Alaska Trails continue advocating for trails.

**FRED MEYER REWARDS:** Sign up for Community Rewards by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card



to Alaska Trails at [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards). You can search for Alaska Trails or by its nonprofit number – 91035. Then, every time you shop and use your rewards card, you are helping Alaska Trails earn a donation. You still earn your rewards points, fuel points, and rebates, just as you do today.

**AMAZONSMILE:** If you shop at Amazon, please take the simple extra step of signing up for



AmazonSmile. It's the same Amazon website, but when you shop from AmazonSmile, you can make a donation to Alaska Trails at the same time:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/73-1677483>

**GOODSEARCH:** GoodSearch.com is a search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to charities designated by the user. You use it just as you would any search engine, and, it's

powered by Yahoo!. Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and be sure to enter Alaska Trails as the charity you want to support.

### 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

- Outdoor Explorer radio show: Creating an active transportation network:  
<http://tinyurl.com/kd6hw7w>
- Fourteen Best Places To Canoe And Kayak On National Forests (includes Prince William Sound): <http://tinyurl.com/n6pm892>
- New trails proposed in Denali National Park: <http://tinyurl.com/l4yclo>
- From Northern Soundings: A Trek Down Memory Lane: Writer Ned Rozell retraces an 800-mile journey (hiking the Alaska Pipeline corridor): <http://tinyurl.com/m4bk9fe>
- 5 Less-Traveled Hiking Trails to Hit This Summer (#5 is Gates of the Arctic):  
<http://tinyurl.com/knb9gfy>
- Trans-Alaska Trail update: <http://tinyurl.com/mnmdnxo>
- New 'Hiking Alaska' book offers more routes, more color — and more heft:  
<http://tinyurl.com/mzpphd7>

### SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- No more singletrack trails in (Anchorage) parks, please (opinion):  
<http://tinyurl.com/m3pfun9>
- (Kodiak) Island Trails Network “Trails Update”: <http://tinyurl.com/mbdwj3r>
- Bears jam up plans for new mountain bike trails in Anchorage’s Far North Bicentennial Park:  
<https://craigmedred.news/2017/05/19/three-bears-more/>
- Life with bears (in the Anchorage area): <http://tinyurl.com/n3v3bh7>
- Proposed cabin in Hatcher Pass backcountry would boost hiking options:  
<http://tinyurl.com/n2rq9w8>
- Mat-Su Borough trail passes now available for purchase online (single day and annual):  
<http://tinyurl.com/m5j3k3n>
- Soak up splendors of Denali at new K'esugi Ken Campground: <http://tinyurl.com/ycy6bzd2>
- Anchorage Park Foundation Fundraiser (June 14): <http://tinyurl.com/y7osa3vo>
- Anchorage Park Foundation summer schedule (includes trail volunteer opportunities):  
<http://anchorageparkfoundation.org/events/>
- Anchorage Parks and Recreation volunteer opportunities (including trails):  
<http://tinyurl.com/ybt8d9pw>
- Bikes and bunks (Eklutna Serenity Falls Hut): <http://coast-magazine.com/bikes-and-bunks>

*SOUTHEAST LINK*

- New federal spending bill would defuse Southeast Alaska logging controversy (trails involved): <http://tinyurl.com/n7ptpsm>
- (Kodiak) Termination Point Community Celebration (June 2): <http://tinyurl.com/lrx79t>

*SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL*

- Teach Alaska kids to be bear aware from an early age: <http://tinyurl.com/kzs2qr6>

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## NATIONWIDE

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**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](http://www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html)

*FUNDING*

- National Forest Foundation Matching Awards Program (deadline June 26): <http://tinyurl.com/px7y6ke>
- Horseback riding trails grant (application due August 1): <https://www.agha.com/step>

*TRAIL GUIDES*

- Best Dog-Walking Trails In Orange County (CA): <http://tinyurl.com/kou25rj>
- Some of the Best Trails for Mountain Biking Around Grand Junction: <http://tinyurl.com/kd93zam>
- Best Hiking Trails Near Winchester VA: <http://tinyurl.com/mjuwl6t>

*OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:*

- National Park Maps (1,608 free high-resolution national park maps): <http://npmaps.com>
- Hiking Trails and Mud Season: Caring for Trails When They Need It Most: <http://tinyurl.com/myl8do6>
- 10 of the best US hiking trails: <http://tinyurl.com/kqpaeu2>
- Review of Certain National Monuments Established Since 1996; Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment (none are in Alaska; comment deadline is July 10): <http://tinyurl.com/l28ef7s>
- Hiking America's Trails is the Subject of a New "Informed" Piece with Rob Lowe: <http://tinyurl.com/y7pvzgs2>

*STUDIES*

- Cycling to work linked with large health benefits: <http://tinyurl.com/kzklw2e>



- Why green spaces are good for grey matter: <http://tinyurl.com/lphybc8>
- 5 ways nature boosts happiness, according to science: <http://tinyurl.com/k2hajs>

#### *INTERNATIONAL LINKS:*

- South Africa Outdoor Fun: 5 great Joburg hiking trails: <http://tinyurl.com/l9xvrta>
- Explore Five Amazing Hiking Trails in Parks Across Brazil: <http://tinyurl.com/ybnod26g>

#### *SLIGHTLY OFF TRAIL*

- No cars are allowed on the most adorable official US Highway: <https://roadtrippers.com/trips/16679177>
- There's An App For That (outdoors-related apps): <http://tinyurl.com/kxk7ue4>

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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](mailto: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.