

**ALASKA
TRAILS**



www.alaska-trails.org

ACTION UPDATE

May 2014

Action Updates are produced about once a month between issues of the quarterly Alaska Trails newsletter. Action Updates include new action items, action items previously reported with a deadline not yet passed, and other breaking news of interest to trail users. A copy of this Action Update will be posted to our web site.

STATEWIDE NEWS

ALASKANS TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL TRAILS DAY IN JUNE

Several events will be held across Alaska in celebration of National Trails Day. Most will be held on Saturday, June 7, but others will be held on other days. For information on specific events see the Southcentral and Interior regional news sections.

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/>

CONFERENCE THANK YOU, CONTINUED EDUCATION FROM ALASKA TRAILS

Alaska Trails extends a BIG thank you to all who presented, attended and volunteered at the 2014 Statewide Trails Conference in Anchorage. It was a great success and the dialog continues. Powerpoints and other materials will soon be cataloged on the group's website (www.alaska-trails.org).

ALASKA OHV TRAIL MANAGEMENT BOOK AVAILABLE

An excellent book on management of trails for off-highway vehicles (OHV) is available in hard copy.

"Sustainable Off-Highway Vehicle Trails-An Alaska Trail Manager's Perspective" was written by Kevin Meyer, a now-retired National Park Service (NPS) soils scientist and trails specialist. Meyer was also an active (NPS) Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) partner. Kevin just used the book at the Alaska Statewide Trails Conference, hosting a two-day training on *Fundamentals of OHV Trail Management*. If you want a framework for dealing with OHV/ATV trail management, this book is a fabulous resource. Kevin spent nearly 15 years working with RTCA in Alaska, designing OHV/ATV Trail solutions for over 35 sites statewide and developing this framework to manage OHV/ATVs.

The book is published by the USDA Forest Service, Technology and Development Program, 2300-Recreation Revised, November 2013, 1123-2804P-MTDC. An electronic copy is not ready at this time, but will be soon. So you can keep an eye on the Missoula Technology and Development Center website (<http://tinyurl.com/mcjm4p>) if you want the book electronically. But if you want a hard copy, send us an email with your name and address to Lisa Holzapfel (lisa_holzapfel@nps.gov) and she'll mail one to you.

(From Lisa Holzapfel)

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>

GROUP OFFERS SUMMER TRAIL WORK OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG ADULTS

The Alaska Youth Service Corps (AYSC) is recruiting summer crew members, ages 17-20, to work from June to August. Crew members will be trained and deployed to conduct on-the-ground environmental stewardship activities on public lands in southeast and southcentral Alaska. Working and living together as a team, AYSC crews will use hand tools to improve recreational trails, reduce and control erosion on streams and rivers, remove invasive weeds from natural areas, and remove vegetation along Alaskan highways for wildlife safety.

For more information contact SAGA (phone: 907-789-6172; email: admin@servealaska.org; website: www.servealaska.org/)

MEETINGS WILL ADDRESS STATE LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Open house meetings will be held on the following dates and locations on for input on the Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). All meetings will be from 4:30 to 8:00 PM with a brief presentation at 5:30.

- May 7 – Fairbanks, Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles St.
- May 8 – Wasilla, Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center, 1001 S. Mack Drive
- May 13 – Anchorage, Loussac Library, 3600 Denali St.

The LRTP is an important planning tool for the state, for our communities, and for all modes of transportation. The plan, which looks at near term and future transportation needs, aligns with the state’s policy direction; identifies future transportation challenges and opportunities; balances how best to develop the transportation system while preserving the current system; and ensures safe, reliable transportation for all Alaskans. You can help shape the process! What are the most important transportation issues facing our state? What needs improvement now and in the future? For more information or to sign up for the LRTP mailing list, go to www.dot.alaska.gov/lrtpplanupdate.

(From What’s Up? by Peg Tileston)

COMMENT SOUGHT ON TRANSPORTATION PLAN AMENDMENT

The deadline is May 8 for comments on Amendment 9 to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Amendment 9 addresses scope, funding and scheduling issues on various projects around the state. To comment and to see the projects proposed in Amendment 9, go to (<http://tinyurl.com/l9svqpm>). The amendment includes Parks Highway/Talkeetna Spur Road Pedestrian Improvements.

(From What’s Up? by Peg Tileston)

SPRING TRAILS ARE VULNERABLE, PLEASE USE WITH CARE

Alaska Trails asks that you please keep in mind how your trail activities might affect other trail users, especially in the spring.

As snow pack disappears, the ground thaws and the trails become extremely muddy. Using really muddy trails at this time can result in ruts that stay all summer when the trails dry out. Those ruts can make the trails difficult to use all summer and help create erosion by keeping water on the trails.

Early season damage of trails is a recurring problem. Many people are chomping at the bit to get outside once the snow melts. And some people love to get as muddy as they can while out on the trails. But with a little thought this problem can be greatly reduced.

- **Try to be patient.** Stay off the trails if you can. If you are unsure if a trail is ready to be used, check it out with the commitment to turn back if you are doing too much damage.
- **Choose low impact.** If you use the trails in several different ways, choose the method of travel that will cause the least amount of damage if you do run into some muddy sections.
- **Pick your trails carefully.** Use well-drained trails with lots of southern exposure. They typically dry out the quickest. If you just have to get muddy, please limit your activities to trails that are already thrashed. A little more damage probably won't make a big difference, but a trail in nice shape can be damaged for a season in a hurry.

If we all head out onto the trails with other users in mind, everyone will have a better trail experience.

SNOWMOBILE TRAILS PROGRAM APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE NOW

Grant applications for the state Snowmobile Trails Program were available starting April 1. Public notice for grant 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). Contact either one through the Department of Natural Resources email page (<http://tinyurl.com/3umsvj5>).

STATEWIDE LINKS

- 1,400-mile snowmobile trek follows Iditarod Trail: <http://tinyurl.com/pnztga3>
- Getting Ready for Paddling Season (Outdoors Explorer radio show): <http://tinyurl.com/lkgbw9f>
- Wildlife Hazards in Context (Outdoor Explorer radio show): <http://tinyurl.com/l99kyzk>
- Experimental road wicking fabric (might be useful for trails): <http://tinyurl.com/q2u9rty>
- Walk/Bike to School Day is May 7: <http://www.walkbiketoschool.org>
- Planning Summer Trips With Kids (Outdoor Explorer radio show): <http://tinyurl.com/lberp4s>
- No two people are outdoorsy in the same way: <http://tinyurl.com/lf3cvhv>
- Earth Day Brings Spring Cleaning to Anchorage Trail: <http://tinyurl.com/ka4ggxx>
- Deadline is June 1 for the Alaska Community Foundation's "Strengthening Organizations" grants: <http://tinyurl.com/mv2bnzn>

Southeast link

- Juneau elementary students clean up trail for Earth Day: <http://tinyurl.com/l6uzgu9>

Northwest link

- For some Northwest Arctic students, Kobuk 440 trail becomes a classroom: <http://tinyurl.com/k8ntadr>

STATEWIDE TRAILS AND PUBLIC LANDS RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- State Parks' *Eagle Watch* (April, 56.1MB): <http://tinyurl.com/qxdcshg>

SOUTHCENTRAL REGION NEWS AND NOTICES

NEW TRAILS TO BE BUILT IN REC AREA NEAR HATCHER PASS

Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers is partnering with Alaska Trails to build 3.5 miles of new singletrack trail in the northwest corner of the Government Peak Recreation Area. The area is in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough off Edgerton Parks road near Hatcher Pass.

Phase 1, which consists of two loops with two-way trails will be constructed this summer with the help of mechanized equipment. In the late summer and early fall volunteers will be needed for trail work days to help put the finishing touches on the tread and general cleanup.

The trails built this year will be designed for all levels of mountain bikers and will be to International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) Sustainable Trail Standards. They will also be open to hikers, cross-country skiers, snowshoers, and winter bikers.

MAT-SU GROUP PLANS WORK ON ESKA, PURINTON TRAILS

The Mat-Su Trails Council will be doing work this season on the Eska Creek Falls and Purinton trails. Eska Creek Falls Trail is off of Jonesville Road in Sutton. The Purinton Trail is off about Mile 90 of the Glenn Highway.

Eska Creek Falls ATV Trail Rehab

The group will be rebuilding the first ¾-mile of the existing trail. A design was completed by Alaska Trails in 2009 with funding secured by Neil Shishido from the Recreational Trails Program. The design calls for hardening the first section of trail then building new trail up to the tree line where it will merge back with the existing trail.

This season's project will use a slot trench in combination with ditch and cap followed by a tread of crushed gravel on top. The project has run into one snag since approval. The crushed material is from a parcel set aside for schools. As such the state is required to charge full market price for the gravel.

This season's project is funded using grants from the Recreational Trails Program and the Mat Su Parks and Trails Foundation.

Purinton Creek Trail

The trailhead was relocated several years ago and the new access crosses a badly degraded swamp. The Mat-Su Trails Council has designed a 160-foot-by-10-foot at-grade "bridge" that will accommodate all types of users. The crossing will get motorized users off of sensitive soils and provide a safe and easy crossing for all non-motorized uses.

The project is funded from a combination of sources including state legislative appropriation, Polaris Industries, Glacier View Community Council, the Mat-Su Trails Council, and local individuals and off-highway

vehicle clubs. Timbers for the project were purchased through Spenard Builders Supply and fasteners thru Fasteners & Fire Equipment.

For more information on the Mat-Su Trails Council see: <http://tinyurl.com/l3g6amk>

(From Scott Lapiene)

FREE SUSTAINABLE TRAILS COURSE OFFERED BY ALASKA TRAILS

Alaska Trails will be teaching a short-version of its introductory course on sustainable trail building in Alaska. The class is free and will be held Thursday, May 22, 6-7:30pm at REI in Anchorage (1200 W Northern Lights Blvd; 907/272-4565).

Come and see what it takes to make the great trails that you have been using all these years. This class will emphasize sustainable design elements, trail planning, and management concepts for all trail enthusiasts.

Sign up at <http://www.rei.com/event/56760/session/89392/06022014>

For more information contact Alaska Trails (907/334-8049; Office@Alaska-Trails.org)

COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR KACHEMAK BAY AREA PARKS

Two Public Scoping Open Houses will be held in May for the Kachemak Bay State Park and State Wilderness Park Management Plan Revision. The dates and places for the open houses are:

- May 9, noon-2pm; Port Graham Community Hall, Port Graham
- May 13, 5:30 to 7:30pm; the Islands and Ocean Visitor Center Auditorium, Homer

The purpose of the plan revision is to address issues the park is facing due to changing patterns in recreational use and increased visitation, as well as updating recommendations for park management and facility development. Additionally, a trail plan will be developed to provide specific guidance for trail management and development in these areas. The open house is an opportunity for the planning team to include local input in the early stages of plan development.

To view the existing park plan and learn more about this process visit, go to

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/plans/kbay/kbayplan.htm>. The deadline for submitting initial scoping comments is May 15 and should be faxed to 907/269-8915 or emailed to shawana.guzenski@alaska.gov.

(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)

KACHEMAK BAY WATER TRAIL RIBBON-CUTTING IN EARLY JUNE

Join fellow paddlers and boaters from Homer, the Kenai Peninsula, and around the state for the inauguration of the Kachemak Bay Water Trail in Seldovia and Homer on Friday, June 6. Food, fun, and water frolic will be part of the celebrations.

Organizers will send interested people an invitation in early May. Details include:

- Seldovia ribbon-cutting: Friday, June 6, from noon to 2 p.m., boat ramp on northeast corner of boat harbor
- Homer ribbon-cutting: Friday, June 6, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., behind Pier 1 Theatre on the Homer Spit

For information contact Dave Brann in Homer (homerbrann@gmail.com) or Sandy Murray in Seldovia (jere_murray@yahoo.com). For more information on the trail see: www.kachemakbaywatertrail.org

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Snakes in Southcentral Alaska? Only pets, say biologists: <http://tinyurl.com/l8682js>
- You can survive -- and enjoy -- shoulder season: <http://tinyurl.com/nxn8dyo>

- Hiker Heaven; A sample guide of Alaskan hikes: <http://tinyurl.com/kljvnr1>
- Grant workshop to be held in Anchorage, May 7-8: <http://tinyurl.com/nnzs9hc>
- Fixing Chugach Park's dangerous Mount Baldy Trail would be money well spent: <http://tinyurl.com/mr74llm>
- The Alaska Outdoorsman: Middle Fork Loop Trail: <http://tinyurl.com/lqwfy2>
- 5 Hikes around Anchorage that aren't Flat Top: <http://tinyurl.com/lzm7ohl>
- Manitoba Cabin a family-friendly place on near side of backcountry: <http://tinyurl.com/kuw9xfz>
- Committee giving trail behind Kenai school a facelift: <http://tinyurl.com/mmydtjz>
- Homer Earth Day event includes trail, poems dedication: <http://tinyurl.com/n8vcstv>
- Kodiak's Island Trails Network newsletters: <http://tinyurl.com/ms6l2a9>; <http://tinyurl.com/krljdj6o>

INTERIOR REGION NEWS AND NOTICES

TRAIL RESTRICTIONS SET FOR CHENA RIVER STATE REC AREA

Between Sunday, April 20 and May 22, multi-use trails in the Chena River State Recreation Area will be closed to all but pedestrian use. The purpose of these closures is to protect trails during spring break-up so that all users can continue to enjoy them.

The Compeau, Stiles Creek, and Angel Creek Hillside Trails, which are accessed from Mile 26 to Mile 50.5 of the Chena Hot Springs Road, will be closed to protect natural resources, decrease maintenance costs, and reduce trail degradation. This closure will remain in effect until May 22 unless repealed sooner by Director's Order. The South Fork and Angel Creek Valley Trails are winter-use-only trails. They will close on April 20 and reopen to winter traffic on Oct. 15.

State Parks is always reluctant to restrict the use of park lands and only does so if there are no other viable management alternatives. The regulatory basis for these closures is 11 AAC 12.335 and 11AAC20.990 (21).

(From Alaska State Parks notice)

PEOPLE ADVISED AGAINST DRIVING ON FORESTRY ROADS

Due to saturated soils during spring break-up please do not drive on Fairbanks Area State Forest Roads from April 20 through May 20. These roads include: Cache Creek, Nenana Ridge, Rosie Creek, Skinnys, Bonanza, Standard Creek, Two Rivers, and Mosquito Creek.

If roads dry out more quickly, the dates will change to allow access prior to May 20. The silt-based roads are incredibly muddy and traffic on them in this condition creates ruts, which channel runoff and cause the road to washout, making it impassible altogether. If the roads are severely damaged by traffic and runoff it will take longer to make access possible, so please cooperate with any advisories that are posted.

If you would like information as to which roads this advisory impacts or updated information, please call Division of Forestry 907/451-2602.

(From Alaska Outdoor Council email)

PATH CIRCLING UNIVERSITY AREA TO BE STARTED THIS SUMMER

A bike/pedestrian path circling the greater University of Alaska Fairbanks area is on its way to being started this summer.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly recently approved most of the project. However, the assembly told the state Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF) to hold one additional meeting with property owners on controversial part of the project along Yankovich Road.

As planned, the path would start at the UAF roundabout and continue along Tanana Farm Road as a two-way paved pathway that is adjoined to the road on the north side. At Sheep Creek Road the path will become a completely separated pathway still on the north side, where a current unpaved path now exists. This section will not be paved because of the permafrost concerns in the area. It will be slightly higher and wider than the current path, which should help with water issues during spring thaw.

At Miller Hill Road, the new path will follow that road north along its east side to Yankovich Road. At Yankovich, the new path will follow that road east along its south side to the Large Animal Research Station (LARS). Both these path sections will be separated from the road. DOTPF plans to start and possibly complete this first phase (from the roundabout to LARS). UAF is donating property for the project.

As planned, the second phase of the project would switch to the north side of Yankovich Road after the LARS and run along that side to Ballaine Road. It would be paved and separated from the road. The path could not be built on the south side of Yankovich Road because “the houses on the south side of Yankovich are too close to the road and we would have to move garages if the path was placed there,” Carl Heim, DOTPF manager for the project, wrote in an email.

From the intersection of Yankovich and Ballaine, the path would follow Ballaine Road south (on its west side) until it connects to the existing bike/pedestrian path that runs along Farmer’s Loop Road.

However, the section along Yankovich Road’s north side is controversial. It would require right-of-way acquisition and removal of vegetation, including trees. Some people in the area oppose that part of the project because of the need for right-of-way acquisition. The Fairbanks Assembly, the final local planning authority, approved the project at its April 24 meeting on condition “that DOT hold one additional meeting with interested property owners along Yankovich Road; to reconsider options for the bike path along Yankovich Road from the Musk Ox Farm to Ballaine Road that would minimize or eliminate the need for taking of private property along this section of the project.”

Options other than a separated pathway for that section of the project are limited, according to Kellen Spillman, a borough planner.

“If the pathway is somehow hooked to the roadway it would essentially require rebuilding the entire roadway, and would most likely be cost prohibitive,” Spillman wrote in an email. However, he said DOTPF and the borough will meet with the landowners and look again at the project to see if the design can be modified to reduce the need for right-of-way acquisition.

Another option is to not build that portion of the project. Unfortunately, Yankovich Road has virtually no shoulder. Whatever the outcome, the construction date of the second phase is unknown since the project is slightly short on funding and the right-of-way would need to be acquired.

More information on the project (including maps) can be found in the assembly’s agenda packet from April 24 (<http://tinyurl.com/mkf8j59>). The packet is large (53MB) and includes everything from that meeting.

SEMINAR TO EXPLORE RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND ACCESS ISSUES

The local right-of-way association will hold a seminar on access issues in late May in Fairbanks.

“Access Law & Issues Affecting Public & Private Lands in Alaska” will be held May 30 from 8am to 5pm at the Westmark Hotel and Convention Center, 813 Cowles Street, Fairbanks Alaska.

Topics to be covered include RS 2477 Rights of Way, Public Land Order and Other Highway Rights of Way, Alaska Native Claim Settlement Act 17(b) Easements, Alaska Supreme Court Cases on Easements, and Public Prescriptive Easements.

The seminar, being sponsored by the International Right of Way Association, Chapter 71, Fairbanks, costs \$200 for members of the association and \$225 for non-members. The cost includes lunch. Registration deadline is Friday, May 16, 2014.

For more information and to register online see the website (<http://tinyurl.com/ktthkrk>) or contact seminar coordinator Cora Shook, (907/978-4087; bearhug@gci.net).

VALUE OF CHENA RIVER EXPLORED AT ANNUAL SUMMIT

The second Annual Chena Summit will be held May 7 at the Carlson Center from 11am to 6pm with a free Educators Fair and Hot Topics presentation 4pm-6pm. The summit will feature a variety of sessions focusing on the value of the Chena River, with experts providing information related to Critters, Habitat, Recreation, and Economics of the Chena River with stimulating conversations among the many community stakeholders. Please register at: <http://tinyurl.com/q6389pl>

(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)

ESTER DOME SINGLETRACK CLOSED DURING BREAK UP

The Ester Dome Singletrack trails will be closed during spring break up, as they are every year. They will open when they firm up.

When they open a notice will be sent out on the Fairbanks Cycle Club List Serve and posted on Goldstream Sports Facebook

Even the smallest of ruts on the trail will channel the water down the trail instead of letting it shed off the side as designed. Once the water starts running down the trail, the erosion will do a lot of damage. Please respect the quality of the trail we all enjoy so much.

Once break up is over and the trails firm up, they are ok to ride even when wet. The same is true of all trails. This time of year we are all excited to ride but can do much more damage than it looks like due to the power of flowing water.

Thank you for your trail respect. Check with Joel at Goldstream Sports for more info: 455-6520.

(From Fairbanks Cycle Club list serve message)

INTERIOR LINKS

- Fairbanks couple completes White Mountains 100 on skis: <http://tinyurl.com/ktmem9e>
- Spring breakup means trail closures: <http://tinyurl.com/mhwatmu>
- Denali Park Road cleared to 92 Mile: <http://tinyurl.com/mbuyzd3>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

ADMINISTRATION PROPOSES FULL LWCF FUNDING

With the release of the Obama administration's budget in March, hikers, anglers, conservationists, hunters, and Americans who simply enjoy the outdoors are celebrating the president's intent to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for the first time in many years.

Funding for this program is derived primarily from revenues from offshore drilling with the intent to use the funds to protect lands and waters that Americans use for recreation. This includes building sustainable trails. Yet, most years Congress diverts much of these funds to other uses. We salute the President's proposal to fully fund this important program.

For more information on the program see the following links:

- Homepage: <http://lwcfccoalition.org>

- State LWCF: <http://www.nps.gov/lwcf/>
- Wikipedia page: <http://tinyurl.com/mho3wo2>

(From the American Hiking Society's Paperless Trail e-newsletter, April edition)

NATIONWIDE/WORLDWIDE LINKS

RECENT TRAILS-RELATED E-NEWSLETTERS

- Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (April): <http://tinyurl.com/orsknao>
- American Trails (April): <http://tinyurl.com/kvvmfml>

STUDIES:

- Price tag for childhood obesity: \$19,000 per kid: <http://tinyurl.com/kajjsyr>
- Study Reveals More Children Are Walking to School: <http://tinyurl.com/kstwx6f>
- Dirt exposure 'boosts happiness': <http://tinyurl.com/ysp6z6>
- The Health Benefits of Walking: <http://tinyurl.com/lpu4ajl>
- 2014 U.S. Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth: <http://tinyurl.com/ke9zfh5>

GRANTS:

- IMBA Small Grants Program deadline is May 30: <http://tinyurl.com/qxg6eq4>

MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, TRAINING, ETC.

- For a listing of upcoming trail workshops, conferences, and other meetings, see the American Trails calendar at: www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html
- 2015 International Trails Symposium will be held in Portland, OR: <http://tinyurl.com/mddqdxb>

OTHER LINKS:

- Pure Michigan: On the way to becoming a trails state: <http://tinyurl.com/k2obk87>
- Trail etiquette tips (from Colorado but good for anywhere): <http://tinyurl.com/qjzpv7u>
- Are Asphalt Pumptracks the Future?: <http://tinyurl.com/l4fm8d9>
- US Secretary of Transportation encourages citizens to share transportation stories (which can include trails): <http://tinyurl.com/m96tnel>
- Firm trail surface product; acts like pavement, made of wood: <http://tinyurl.com/ntz4m2x>
- Veteran building trails to recovery: <http://tinyurl.com/lalzhya>
- A legal interpretation of the recent Supreme Court Rails-to-Trails ruling: <http://tinyurl.com/kgja8qv>
- 2014 Outstanding Trails for 4WDs named: <http://tinyurl.com/m4xks9f>
- Smartphone app provides Iowa by trail: <http://tinyurl.com/n8rlrwo>
- 20 top trails across the USA: <http://tinyurl.com/mmww2tn>
- Top 9 Hiking Trails in the U.S.: <http://tinyurl.com/lfqhuxl>
- IMBA Model Trail Nominations are Due by May 16: <http://tinyurl.com/m4sxd7o>
- 'Sharing Trails Day' held in Lewiston, Montana: <http://tinyurl.com/l3nmysx>
- 50 Northwest Mountain Bike Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/mk6fjc4>
- Transportation Planning for Healthy Communities: <http://tinyurl.com/mjqazhz>

- Jury finds Haleakala Trail is public land: <http://tinyurl.com/mz9paex>
- The Top Mountain Bike Trails in the USA, State by State: <http://tinyurl.com/k5st475>
- The Pleasures of Long Distance Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/kbbn23s>
- Coalition Maps Out Strategies for RTP reauthorization: <http://tinyurl.com/n23qmd9>
- The world's greatest walking trails: <http://tinyurl.com/n4ho79e>
- Best 10 walking trails of Korea: <http://tinyurl.com/l9q2x8w>
- Abu Dhabi to double walkways and bike trails by 2020: <http://tinyurl.com/mlapraf>
- Trails 'clear and away the number one' recreation asset, says Canadian consultant: <http://tinyurl.com/mlvme7d>

The Alaska Trails board meets via teleconference on the second Tuesday of each month from noon to 1:00PM. If you want to hear more about Alaska trail topics, share trail information, or propose a trail project, join us for an hour. Members and the public are welcome. More info: office@alaska-trails.org

A copy of this newsletter will also be posted to our web site. Full newsletters come out at the beginning of March, June, September, and December. Action Updates come out most months in between. Deadline for articles is five days before the first of the month. Send stories to Editor Eric Troyer at eric.troyer@alaska-trails.org

Enjoy your trail activities safely and be an Alaskan trail steward!