

INTERIOR TRAILS QUARTERLY

Dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of trails in interior Alaska

September 2008

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HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

I always encourage readers to do things to support trails and trail access. See the related stories for information:

- Make sure you've commented on trail easements in Ahtna Corp land selections
 - **BLM STILL ACCEPTING COMMENTS ON AHNTA TRAIL EASEMENTS**
- Set up a forum to inform trail users with loose dogs about trap lines
 - **VIDEO SEEKS TO INFORM DOG OWNERS ABOUT TRAP LINES**
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- PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS CREAMER'S FIELD TRAILS FOR EXERCISE
- Let BLM know water and land trails are an important resource.
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- Help rehabilitate a trail
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- Remind our senators not to forget funding for the Alaska Trails Initiative
 - TRAILS INITIATIVE FUNDING IN NEW FEDERAL BUDGET SO FAR
- Enter your photo of the Pinnell Mountain Trail in a nationwide contest
 - NATIONAL TRAILS GROUP SPONSORS TRAIL CONTESTS
- Add your opinion to how federal money should be spent on trails
 - GROUP CALLS FOR MORE FUNDING FOR TRAILS
 - FEDS SEEK COMMENTS ON TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH

PUBLICIZE OUR TRAILS

You can also help local trails by letting the public know about trails and trail issues. There are a number of ways you can keep local trails in the public's mind:

- Post videos, photos and/or a story to a public access website (and then let me know so I can publicize it).
- Write a letter to the editor of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner or other local newspaper about a trails-related issue. Requirements for News-Miner letters can be found at: http://newsminer.com/submit/letter_editor/
- Write a story or take a photo for a trail user group newsletter. A lot of newsletter content is about group administrative news and such. Newsletter editors often love stories about people out having fun on the trails.

Eric Troyer

INTERIORWIDE

BLM STILL ACCEPTING COMMENTS ON AHNTA TRAIL EASEMENTS

The federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is still accepting comments and holding open

houses on trail easements over land being selected by the Ahtna Native Corporation.

Many acres of land that surround a plethora of popular trails in the Cantwell area and other Interior and Southcentral regions have been selected by Ahtna Native Corporation as part of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANSCA), originally passed in 1971. Areas affected include lands around the villages of Cantwell, Chistochina, Chitina, Copper Center, Tazlina, Gakona, Gulkana, and Mentasta.

BLM is accepting comments through October 31, 2008. Final easement recommendations should be determined by the end of the year, which will enable BLM to proceed with the conveyance process in 2009.

Open houses are being held in several communities in September. For a schedule of open houses and more about the issue go to the BLM Alaska home web page (www.blm.gov/ak/st/en.html) and click on "17b Easements in the Ahtna region."

As part of the process of conveyance BLM has created many trail easements to protect those trails. However, some of the land being selected has been used by the public without necessarily being part of a trail. Also, some people have raised concerns about whether the accuracy of the easements on paper is enough to protect trails on the ground.

The issue of parking where the trails meet the roads and highways has also not been addressed sufficiently. Currently Ahtna sells permits for non-shareholders to use its land. Costs run from \$10 for day use for an individual up to \$100 per season for camping per group/vehicle. However, the border of Ahtna land and public lands are often not marked, so many people might not realize they need a permit. (For more on Ahtna permits see: <http://ahtna.lands.googlepages.com/permits>).

You can also express your concerns to your legislator (<http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/index.php>) and to Gov. Sarah Palin (<http://gov.state.ak.us/govmail.php>).

VIDEO SEEKS TO INFORM DOG OWNERS ABOUT TRAP LINES

As winter and trapping season approach, trail users who let their dogs run loose should make sure they know some basic information about traps and trap lines. The Alaska Trappers Association produces a DVD, "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.

According to the ATA website the video "doesn't show dogs caught in traps, or feature any footage that pet lovers might consider disturbing. It doesn't promote trapping, but deals with the practicalities of sharing the trails."

To order a copy of the DVD check the ATA store at: www.alaskatrappers.org/store_dvds.html

STATEWIDE TRAIL GROUP HAS TOOL TRAILER READY FOR LOAN

Alaska Trails, a statewide trail advocacy and education group, has a mobile tool cache available to loan to organized trail groups in Interior Alaska. Alaska Trails keeps the trailer stored in the Fairbanks area. It has a plethora of trail tools including McLeods, Pulaskis, rakes, gloves, hard hats, shears, wheelbarrows, shovels, a tree pruner, a water cooler, and much, much more. If you would like to borrow the trailer, please contact Geoffrey Orth (479-0014, geoffrey.orth@alaska-trails.org).

Alaska Trails also has a tool cache in Southcentral Alaska. The tool trailers were funded by a grant from the Alaska Trails Initiative. (See info on the ATI in the statewide section.)

KEEP TRAILS IN MIND DURING UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Elections for state government are happening in early November. Please consider each candidate's support for trails when you are deciding for whom to vote. If you are in a position to do so, make support of trails a campaign issue at forums or while otherwise talking to candidates.

I don't believe in voting for candidates based on one issue, and I don't want to endorse any particular candidates, however, government officials can have a huge impact on trails, especially in regard to funding and laws.

I will note that Karl Kassel, a board member of Alaska Trails and a former director of the Fairbanks Borough Parks and Recreation Department, is running for State House in District 7.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY ACTIVITY THROUGH MOUNTAIN BIKING

"Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day" is happening October 4. The International Mountain Biking Association and National Park Service-Rivers, Trails, and Conservation are looking for groups to sponsor events or otherwise promote the event.

In the Interior, October—even early October—is pushing the seasonal limit. (Though winter biking is becoming more popular!) Interested people could probably organize an associated event in September. If you are interested in organizing such an event for the day, look for information on the IMBA website: www.imba.com/resources/kids/index.html

(Submitted by Lisa Holzapfel)

FAIRBANKS AREA

NEW PARKS HEAD RECOGNIZES IMPORTANCE OF TRAILS

Earlier this year Mike Cox took over as the new director of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department after the retirement of Karl Kassel.

I was able to talk to Cox about trails shortly after I finished the last edition of the ITQ and was pleased with what he had to say. Cox, a trail user and former musher, said he knows trails had been underappreciated for many years in the Fairbanks borough, but he believes that the community is beginning to recognize their importance as part of our quality of life.

Cox supports the addition of the trails coordinator position, added to the parks and recreation department in 2007, and likes what has been happening with borough projects, such as the Isberg Recreation Area, a trails-based recreation area on the east side of town still in the planning stages.

"I'm excited about the progress being made," he said.

PARKS DEPT CHANGES DON'T DILUTE SUPPORT FOR TRAILS

Over the past few months several employees of the Fairbanks Parks and Recreation Department, who were also strong trail advocates, have left the department. This has caused some concern among trail advocates as to how much support trails projects will continue to get, however, the replacement employees seem to be big supporters of trails as well.

The most important change is that of the department director, but as I pointed out in my previous story, Mike Cox seems to be willing to be a strong advocate for trails as was former director Karl Kassel.

Dan Chagnon, former parks superintendent, retired in early August. Chagnon is a trail user who shares a seat with Kassel on the executive board of Alaska Trails, a statewide trail advocacy group. Chagnon was replaced at the borough by John Haas, who had been one of two project coordinators for the department and has been a big supporter of trail projects. The department is still searching for a replacement for Haas.

The other project coordinator, Paul Schmidt, who had extensive trails experiences, left earlier to take a job Outside. He has been replaced by Steve Taylor, formerly with the state Department of Natural Resources and another familiar name in the trails community.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS CREAMER'S FIELD TRAILS FOR EXERCISE

A new program encourages people to walk the trails at Creamer's Field as a way to exercise in nature.

The program, Healthy Walk in the Woods, offers guided aerobic walks, scheduled nature walks, and backpacks stocked with useful items to borrow. The backpacks have things such as bug dope, binoculars, and a map. There are even family backpacks that also include some items for kids.

The program runs through September and five trails are included in the program. They range from a half-mile to 2.3 miles long. The program is a joint effort by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center, Friends of Creamer's Field, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

For more information, such as scheduled walk times, call Creamer's Field at 452-5162 or check out the Daily News-Miner story at: <http://newsminer.com/news/2008/aug/22/creamers-field-promotes-health-walk-woods-program/>

BOREAL FOREST TRAIL AT CREAMER'S GETS IMPROVEMENTS

The Boreal Forest Trail at Creamer's Field recently got new boardwalk, interpretive signs, and a new viewing platform.

The 1.5-mile trail has long been a popular stroll for residents and visitors. Now it also provides an education about boreal forests in general and the history of that particular forest. The interpretive signs were installed with help from a \$200,000 grant from ConocoPhillips. More than half the boardwalk was replaced and the new viewing platform is higher than the old one.

For more information about the trail and the recent work done to it, see the following Daily News-Miner story: <http://newsminer.com/news/2008/aug/28/boreal-forest-trail-creamers-field-gets-makeover/>

CHENA HOT SPRINGS ROAD

WORK CONTINUES ON MULTIUSE TRAILS IN REC AREA

With help from a forest firefighter crew, state parks has cleared trees from 3.5 miles of the route of the planned Angel Creek Hillside Trail in the Chena River Recreation Area.

In September, a crew from the Southeast Alaska Guidance Association (SAGA) will clear the rest of the trail route to the Lower Angel Creek Cabin. Next spring dozer work will be done on the trail.

Once finished, the 5.5-mile sustainable trail will offer year-round multi-use access to the cabin (except for seasonal restrictions). The current wetlands trail has been closed in summer because it is in poor condition. Plans call for the sustainable trail to eventually be extended to the Upper Angel Creek Cabin.

State parks has also worked on the Stiles Creek Trail, another multi-use trail in the rec area. A wet portion of the trail near the trailhead at Mile 31.6 Chena Hot Springs Road has been hardened with fractured rock. Both ends of the trail are due to be rerouted to sustainable standards. Also, 70 of 400 planned rolling grade dips have been finished. The dips help to shunt water off the trail to prevent erosion of the trail tread. The remaining dips will be finished next year.

Crews and contractors spent seven days doing maintenance work on the Compeau Trail, such as grading rough sections, reworking rolling grade dips, and re-establishing outlopes.

STATE PARKS EMPLOYEES WORK ON TRAIL PROJECTS

Interior employees from the state Department of Parks and Outdoor Recreation were busy this summer making several trail improvements in the Chena River Recreation Area including:

- Replacing 250 boardwalk planks on the Granite Tors Trail.
- Working with a University of Alaska Fairbanks science professor on the Compeau Trail to determine a scientific method for opening trails each spring based on soil moisture content. (And writing several tickets for people who ignored the trail closure signs at the trailhead.)
- Working with a forest firefighter hotshot crew to clear blow-downs on the Granite Tors, Angel Rocks, and Chena Dome trails.

(From "Eagle Watch," a DPOR newsletter)

DENALI HIGHWAY

COMMENTS SOUGHT ON DELTA RIVER PLAN UPDATE

The Bureau of Land Management is beginning the process of updating the Delta River Management Plan. The update will not only affect the Delta River and Tangle Lakes, but also land-based trails in the area. The BLM is requesting input in identifying resources, resource values, and other issues and concerns.

Comments on the initial part of the plan update process are due by Monday, September 15, 2008. More opportunities for comments will come later. For instructions on how to submit comments and more information about the process see:

www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/sa/delta_nwsr/Delta_River_Planning.html

Read the Scoping Bulletin to see the kind of issues they will be considering:

http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/ak/gdo/delta_river_plan.Par.80276.File.dat/Delta_bulletin_july_08_final.pdf

A lot of different interests will be weighing in, so land- and water-based trail users need

to make sure they are well represented.

SUSTAINABLE FOOT TRAIL BUILT AT TANGLE LAKES

A large section of a new trail at the Tangle Lakes Campground was built this summer under the guidance of the BLM Glennallen Field Office.

The first section of the sustainable foot trail was built in June by members of an interagency training class with participants from various government agencies. An SCA conservation crew then continued construction throughout the month of July, despite extreme amounts of rain and even some snow.

By the beginning of August nearly 1,400 feet of new trail was built. An additional 600 feet of trail will be built in 2009 to complete the trail and tie into existing trail overlooking the lower Tangle lakes and the Landmark Gap area. Vegetation mat removed from the trail construction process is being used within the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District to rehabilitate illegal sections of OHV trail. BLM hopes these mats will transplant successfully and help to naturally revegetate illegal sections of trail, reducing the need for physical barriers such as signs and gates, which can be unsightly and costly.

(Submitted by Cory Larson)

MINING ACTIVITY IN TANGLE LAKES AREA MONITORED

People concerned about potential affects of mining in the Tangle Lakes region have been trying to monitor exploration activities this summer.

Pure Nickel, Inc., received a state permit to do exploratory drilling in the area this summer, according to an email put out by Ruth McHenry, of the Copper Country Alliance. One cluster of drill sites is on the southwest slope of the mountain just east of the lakes. Activity there could be visible from the lakes and the Denali Highway. Another set of holes was to be drilled in the Eureka Creek and Fish Lake areas.

In her email, McHenry asked people to document what they see and hear and note how it affected their experience. She asked that a copy of the notes and any photos be sent to her at: Copper Country Alliance; HC 60 Box 306T; Copper Center AK 99573 (907-822-3644).

PARKS HWY/DENALI NATIONAL PARK AREA

NENANA USERS SHOULD STAY INFORMED ABOUT LAND DEAL

The state is in the process of conveying land to the Denali Borough that might have an affect on use of the Nenana River. The public comment deadline on the conveyance has already passed, but there will be other opportunities to comment, especially to the Denali Borough on how the land the borough receives is used. For information on the conveyance see:

<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/muni/index.htm>

The Denali Citizens Council is keeping tabs on the situation, especially in regard to hundreds of acres in the Nenana Canyon. For more information on the council see:

<http://www.denalicitizens.org/>

PARK SERVICE MISTAKE CAUSES BAD FEELINGS IN CANTWELL

A mistake by a National Park Service trail crew created some controversy near Cantwell in early August, according to a story in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner.

The Denali National Park and Preserve crew, which was marking a trail easement, accidentally trespassed on private property and got two off-highway vehicles stuck. The park admitted the crew's error and the landowner, Ahtna Native Corp., while upset wasn't planning to create a stir over the incident.

However, some local Cantwell residents feel the incident smacks of hypocrisy. The park service is vigilant about trespass issues in the park, and private citizens face stiff fines if they trespass, locals said, but the park service appears to be getting off easy in this case.

In defense, park administrators say they have done all they can unless Ahtna files a trespass complaint with the Alaska State Troopers.

For the full story see: www.newsminer.com/news/2008/aug/10/trespassing-incident-mired-hypocrisy/

REX TRAIL SEASONAL RESTRICTIONS UPHELD; APPEAL FILED

Despite an appeal being filed, the Rex Trails still has seasonal restrictions on use of off-highway vehicles over 1,500 pounds.

In mid-June Tom Irwin, commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, lifted a stay on the restrictions until issues on the appeal are addressed. The state planned to post signs at the beginning of the trail, which starts at Mile 276 Parks Highway, and at the intersection where the restriction takes place. It also planned to do more field assessments this past summer. It will continue to monitor the trail and work with soil scientists and other agencies and organizations regarding assessment plans.

For more information see the state's Rex Trail web page at: www.dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/rextrail/public_involvement/updates.htm

RICHARDSON AND ALASKA HIGHWAYS

PARK SERVICE EXAMINING OHV USE ALONG NABESNA ROAD

Earlier this summer, the National Park Service (NPS) released a scoping report regarding the compatibility of recreational off-highway vehicle (OHV) use along the Nabesna Road. A Draft of Alternative Management Actions will be out for public review and comment by mid-September 2008. Comments gathered after a 60-day period will then be analyzed by the NPS and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement should be available for public comment during the fall of 2009. OHV groups and individual trail users should keep themselves informed on what direction the NPS is headed by studying the scoping report prior to commenting on management alternatives that will be made public this fall.

View or download the (large) report at: www.nps.gov/wrst/parkmgmt/upload/Scoping_Report_WRST_NabesnaTrails_EIS-2.pdf

(From email by Rod Arno)

BLM SPONSORS NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY EVENT

The Sourdough Creek Campground Trail will be the focus of a National Public Lands Day event sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management on September 27.

Volunteers can help with rehabilitation of the trail, which will include leveling, brushing, weeding, and filling gravel. For more information contact Marnie Graham at BLM (907/822-3217) or check the website at: www.ak.blm.gov/gdo/index.html

TRAIL USERS SHOULD EXPECT WET CONDITIONS THIS FALL

Copious amounts of rain this year has left many trails soft, muddy, and vulnerable to erosion.

The Bureau of Land Management's Glennallen Field Office is asking motorized trail users to keep that in mind when using trails in its management region, which generally encompasses areas along the Denali, Richardson, and Tok Cut Off highways. Operating off-highway vehicles in a respectful manner not only leaves the land in a better state but also represents the motorized user groups in a more positive fashion to other users.

(Submitted by Cory Larson)

STATEWIDE

TRAILS INITIATIVE FUNDING IN NEW FEDERAL BUDGET SO FAR

An effort to again fund the Alaska Trails Initiative (ATI) is still alive but can use some help, according to the latest reports.

In July, Sen. Ted Stevens sent out a notice stating that he was "able to secure \$2 million for Alaska Trails Initiative in the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2009, which was recently approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee."

However, with an upcoming election a new budget may not get passed and, in any case, there is no guarantee that the Senate version of the budget will be the final version. Please don't let our senators forget about the ATI funding. To send letters or emails in support see the following web pages:

- Sen. Stevens: <http://stevens.senate.gov/public/>
- Sen. Murkowski: <http://murkowski.senate.gov/contact.cfm>

Earlier this year, Gov. Sarah Palin had asked Alaska's Congressional delegation to direct \$4 million to the Alaska Trails Initiative. In making the request, Palin cited the fact that many trails provide access to or across federal lands and often benefit visitors from other states and nations.

ATI funding has helped a number of trail projects in the Interior including the Angel Creek Hillside Trail in the Chena River Recreation Area and the 100-Mile Loop Trail project in the Fairbanks area.

This trails program was started and championed by Sen. Ted Stevens, but the original funding for the program has been spent. Further funding of the ATI was the focus of a letter-writing effort by trail advocates from across the state earlier this year. To find out more about the Alaska Trails Initiative: www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/grants/aktrailinit.htm

NATIONWIDE

NATIONAL TRAILS GROUP SPONSORS TRAIL CONTESTS

The national group American Trails is sponsoring two opportunities to highlight trails and trail-related websites. The American Trails Website Contest seeks sites that really make trails come alive, and provide effective information, support volunteers, and engage the public. Awards will be made in a variety of categories to recognize websites of all sizes, types, and interests.

American Trails is also sponsoring the 2008 National Recreation Trails Photo Contest to highlight these great trails in several categories. (The Pinnell Mountain Trail is a National Recreation Trail.) Photos of any activity or facility on designated National Recreation Trails are eligible. The deadline for entering both contests is December 15, 2008.

- Website contest: www.AmericanTrails.org/webcon.html
- NRT photo contest: www.AmericanTrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails/photocon.html

GROUP CALLS FOR MORE FUNDING FOR TRAILS

The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) is calling for a new model of federal funding for trails and walking and biking facilities. Walking and biking currently receive less than 2 percent of all transportation funds nationally, yet these modes carry nearly 10 percent of all trips. Through the 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation, the group wants to double federal funding for trails, walking and biking. RTC is working with dozens of communities all over the country that are pushing for focused funds to encourage more walking and biking and less driving. For more information on this effort see:

www.railstotrails.org/whatwedo/trailadvocacy/2010Campaign.html

FEDS SEEK COMMENTS ON TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH

Trail advocates have a chance to have their say about funding for Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) research projects.

The general objective of the Surface Transportation Environment and Planning Cooperative Research Program (STEP) is to improve understanding of the complex relationship between surface transportation, planning, and the environment. STEP will fund research, field demonstrations, technology transfer, conferences, and workshops, as well as portions of various pooled fund research efforts. More than \$16 million annually through 2009 has been allocated for this cooperative research program.

The FHWA is requesting lines of research for FY 2009 at the STEP Web site at: www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/step/index.htm. (Click on the "Feedback" link on the left side of the page.) The deadline for submitting suggestions is September 22, 2008.

For more information on STEP see:

- Text version: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-14135.htm>
- PDF version: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/step/fr23jun08121.htm>

Some trail users will be interested in the following note that accompanied one notice regarding comments on STEP:

“Note to Nonmotorized Transportation, TE, and Trail Advocates. FHWA’s STEP administrators review stakeholder comments. A lack of comments indicates to them either satisfaction with FHWA’s program proposal, or a lack of interest.”

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR NATIONAL TRAILS CONFERENCE

The National Trails Symposium, to be held November 15-18 in Little Rock, AR, will include educational sessions and workshops led by experts from across the country, as well as many networking opportunities. To register or find out more about the event see:

www.americantrails.org/2008/

There are many other trails-related events happening throughout the year, such as the International Mountain Biking Association trail building school and, in early September, the ProWalk/ProBike 2008 Conference. Find out more from the American Trails Calendar at:

www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html

REGULAR NOTICES

CONSIDER APPLYING FOR A STATE TRAILS GRANT

The state has two trails-related grant programs that offer money for a variety of trails-related projects. The grants are administered by the state Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation and are for trail acquisition, trail development and maintenance, and safety and education projects. To get copies of requirements and application forms for each program please visit the Division’s trails web site (www.alaskastatetrails.org) and click on “Grants” at the top of the page. See details below for the specific program deadlines. If you have any questions contact the ADPOR grants administrator at 907/269-8709 or the state trails coordinator at 907/269-8699, or by mail at 550 W. Seventh Ave., Suite 1380, Anchorage, AK 99501-3561.

DEADLINE FOR RECREATIONAL TRAIL GRANTS APPROACHING SOON

Grant applications for the state Recreational Trails Program have been available since July 1. Public notice for grant applications must be posted by September 10. Grant applications must be submitted or postmarked by October 1.

SNOWMOBILE TRAILS GRANTS DEADLINE PASSED

Grant applications for the state Snowmobile Trails Program were due August 1. However, now is a good time to start planning to apply for a grant for next year.

COMPREHENSIVE TRAIL PLAN HELPS PRESERVE TRAILS

If you’ve got a trail you like and you’re not sure if it’s protected for future use by the public, check to see if it’s included in the Fairbanks borough’s Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan. The plan was first adopted more than 20 years ago and trails are added to it regularly. If your favorite trail is not included in the plan then you should strongly consider getting it added. The plan is one of the best ways to protect a trail from being lost to development. To find out more about the plan and how to get a trail added contact Borough Trails Coordinator Tom Hancock (459-7401; thancock@co.fairbanks.ak.us).

Another way to find out about the trails plan is to attend a borough Trails Advisory Commission meeting or contact one of the members (see info below).

BORO TRAILS COMMISSION MEETS MONTHLY

The Fairbanks borough's Trails Advisory Commission (TAC) meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Blue Room on the 3rd floor of the Alaska Centennial Center for the Arts Building at Pioneer Park, at 6 p.m. unless otherwise announced. For further information, contact the Parks and Recreation Dept. at 459-1070 or email parks@co.fairbanks.ak.us.

The commission, part of the Parks and Recreation Department, advises the borough government on matters relating to trails within the borough, especially relating to the Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan. A list of TAC members can be downloaded at <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/Boards/trailscomm-members.pdf>.

STATE PARKS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD MEETS MONTHLY

The Northern Area State Parks Citizens Advisory Board meets on the second Wednesday of each month from September through May at 5:30 p.m. at the Department of Natural Resources (3700 Airport Way; Airport Way and University Avenue). The board advises the state on matters relating to state parks and outdoor recreation, including trails. For more information contact Superintendent Brooks Ludwig (451-2695).

FORAKER GROUP OFFERS CLASSES FOR NONPROFITS

Many trail groups and trail user groups in Alaska are nonprofit organizations. If you are a member or employee of a nonprofit group and would like to learn more about the proper workings of nonprofit groups, consider taking a class offered by the Foraker Group, an organization dedicated to strengthening Alaska's nonprofits. The group is offering several classes in the next few months. For more information contact the Foraker Group (907/743-1200 or 877/834-5003; www.forakergroup.org/).

LINKS ABOUT INTERIOR AND OTHER ALASKA TRAILS

I'm interested in links to websites that have stories or other useful information about trails in interior Alaska or anywhere else in the state. Please send any that you haven't yet seen in the newsletter.

- Fairbanksan Bruce "Buck" Nelson has produced an excellent DVD of his 2006 trek across northern Alaska from the Canadian border to Kotzebue Sound. He covered more than 1,000 miles via foot and boat to complete this trip. Order the DVD, "Alone Across Alaska," and find out some other interesting information at: www.bucktrack.com
- Alaska All Season Cycling: An interesting site about mountain biking by Tony Torti with lots of photos and accounts of winter and summer rides, many in interior Alaska, as well as information about winter riding: <http://home.gci.net/~winterbiker/index.html>
- BLM produces a newsletter available online and the Summer 2008 edition has several

informative articles on activities to do outdoors, including on trails. One article highlights geocaching and points out that there are at least 10 in the White Mountains National Recreation Area. To see current and back issues of the newsletter see:

www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/info/frontiers.html

- They finally finished! This website isn't about trails, specifically, but it is about a compelling epic Alaska trip traveling from Seattle to the Aleutian Islands via packrafts. Pure, wonderful nutso travel! I've included this web address in the last few newsletters. They finally finished their trek in late June: www.groundtruthtrekking.org/
- As you prepare for a winter of cross-country skiing, consider bookmarking Cross Country Alaska, a website about cross-country skiing (www.crosscountryalaska.org/site/). This website has a trails report page that allows people to comment on trails from every region of the state. Not all the trails have comments posted and sometimes comments are a month or more old, but they are often useful and they're free!: www.crosscountryalaska.org/trails/index.php
- OK, this one isn't about trails either. This link takes you to a goofy "biking" video done by employees at Goldstream Sports. But it also gives me a chance to mention that if anyone has posted trails-related videos or pictures to a public website like YouTube or Flickr, let me know and I'll advertise the link in this newsletter: www.youtube.com/watch?v=OkoKixTrHMs

LINKS TO INTERIOR TRAIL USER GROUPS

Below is a list of groups that have a website and whose members use interior Alaska trails. There might be more, so if I'm missing any please send me the links.

Dog mushing groups

Alaska Dog Musers Association (www.sleddog.org/)

Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association (www.sleddog.org/skijor/)

Two Rivers Dog Musers Association (www.trdma.org/)

Misc.

Alaska Outdoor Council (www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org/)

Alaska Trappers Association (www.alaskatrappers.org/)

Arctic Audubon Society (www.arcticaudubon.org/)

Chena Flats Greenbelt Project (www.chenaflats.org)

Ester Trails Committee (<http://esterrepublic.com/ECA/ecatrails.html>)

Fairbanks Cycle Club (www.fairbankscycleclub.org/)

Friends of Creamers Field (www.fairnet.org/agencies/creamers/index.html)

Interior Alaska Trail Riders Association (for horseback riders at www.ptialaska.net/~lnorth/)

Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks (www.nscfairbanks.net/)

Running Club North (www.runningclubnorth.org/)

Mountain climbing groups

Alaska Alpine Club (www.uaf.edu/aac/)

Alaskan Alpine Club (www.alaskanalpineclub.org/)

Snowmachine groups

The Fairbanks Snow Travelers (www.fairnet.org/Agencies/FST/PHPBB/portal.php)

Northern Lights Snowmobile Club (an Eielson club at www.nlsc.net/)

University of Alaska Fairbanks-related

UAF Trails Club (www.uaf.edu/trails/)

UAF Outdoor Adventures (www.uaf.edu/outdoor/)

Interior Trails Quarterly is a free email newsletter than comes out four times a year: March, June, September, and December. It is 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 etcl@acsalaska.net. Note: submissions may be also be used in the statewide Alaska Trails newsletter.

DISCLAIMER: This newsletter is not a product of any organization. However, I am the vice president of the Interior Trails Preservation Coalition, a member of Alaska Trails and editor of its newsletter, and a member of several Interior trail user groups.