

# **INTERIOR TRAILS QUARTERLY**

Dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of trails in interior Alaska

March 2010

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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:

- Take part in the Census
  - CENSUS NUMBERS CAN AFFECT TRAILS FUNDING
- Start planning a project for National Trails Day
  - START GETTING PREPARED FOR NATIONAL TRAILS DAY
- Fight for the Goldstream Public Use Area
  - GOLDSTREAM BILL PASSES SENATE, AWAITS HOUSE ACTION
- Become part of a multi-user trail use discussion
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- Nominate a person or project for a trails award
  - NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR TRAIL AWARDS
- Serve on the Alaska Trails board
  - TRAILS GROUP HAS OPENINGS FOR INTERESTED PEOPLE

## INTERIORWIDE

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### RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROGRAM GRANTS AWARDED



Two trail projects in the Interior were awarded 2010 Recreational Trail Program (RTP) grants in February.

For a description of the projects that received grants, see the Fairbanks and Chena Hot Springs sections of this newsletter.

The RTP is a federally funded competitive and reimbursable matching trail grant program. Grants are available for development and maintenance of recreational trails and facilities, acquisition of trail right-of-way, and development of safety and environmental protection education programs.

For more information on the RTP visit the program's website at [www.alaskastatetrails.org](http://www.alaskastatetrails.org) or contact Bill Luck (907/269-8699 or [Bill.Luck@alaska.gov](mailto:Bill.Luck@alaska.gov)).

### CENSUS NUMBERS CAN AFFECT TRAILS FUNDING

There are many reasons to make sure you get counted in this year's census and funding for trails is one.

While no trail programs directly depend on the census, trails are indirectly affected by transportation funding that is determined by census numbers, according to Christopher Douwes, manager of the Trails and Enhancements Program for the Federal Highway Administration. Several federal transportation funds that pay for construction and planning use population figures to help determine how much money an area will receive. Some of those funds include construction and planning of trails or trailheads.

Also, according to Douwes, "Census Journey to Work information, from a sample of census forms, helps transportation planners determine how people get to work, which helps with overall transportation planning. In Alaska, even recreational trails and snowmobile trails can be important transportation routes."

So, make sure you are counted in this year's census. If your area's census numbers are low that means less funding for your community. For more information on the census in Alaska see: <http://labor.alaska.gov/research/census/>

### START GETTING PREPARED FOR NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

National Trails Day will be held Saturday, June 5, this year and now is not too soon to start planning an event or planning to attend an event.



National Trails Day, sponsored by the American Hiking Society, is a day for people to "seek out their favorite trails to discover, learn about, and celebrate trails." Groups across the country will be holding events, including trail maintenance, hiking, paddling, biking, horseback riding, bird watching, running, and trail celebrations. The theme this year is "Find Your Happy Place."

Events don't have to be huge. They can be simple, such as a short, guided outing or a trail-brushing project. If you decide to hold an event, remember to let our editor know ([fbxtrails@gmail.com](mailto:fbxtrails@gmail.com)) and register it on the National Trails Day website:

[www.americanhiking.org/NTD.aspx](http://www.americanhiking.org/NTD.aspx)

The website is also a good place to check for events if you want to participate. Also, look for a statewide listing of events in the next issue of the Alaska Trails newsletter, which comes out by June 1.

## ALASKA TRAILS HAS TOOL TRAILER READY FOR USE



Trail building and maintenance season is coming soon. As you do your planning don't forget that Alaska Trails has a mobile tool cache in Fairbanks available to loan to organized trail groups.

The trailers 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 one of the caches, please contact Geoffrey Orth ([geoffrey.orth@alaska-trails.org](mailto:geoffrey.orth@alaska-trails.org)). The tool trailers were funded by a grant from the Alaska Trails Initiative.

## INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- A Fairbanks television station KTVF (Channel 11) has been including a weekly winter trails report with the weather each Friday. For more details see: [www.webcenter11.com/content/wintertrails/default.aspx](http://www.webcenter11.com/content/wintertrails/default.aspx)
- Fairbanks winter biker Tony Torti has a Flickr photo website of many Fairbanks area trails, including in the Chena River Recreation Area and off Love Road, which is off Chena Hot Springs Road: [www.flickr.com/photos/13469122@N05/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/13469122@N05/)
- Torti was also interviewed a few years back by the Bicycle Touring 101 website about winter bike touring: <http://www.bicycletouring101.com/InterviewWinterTouringTony.htm>
- The state Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation has snow reports that it updates periodically for park units in different areas of the state including the Chena River State Recreation Area and Denali State Park: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/curevnts.htm>

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## FAIRBANKS AREA

### GOLDSTREAM BILL PASSES SENATE, AWAITS HOUSE ACTION



Senator Joe Thomas' (D-Fairbanks) bill to maintain the Goldstream Public Use Area has been making strong progress in the Legislature. Senate Bill 195 recently passed the Alaska State Senate unanimously after receiving bipartisan support in the Senate Resources Committee.

When the Goldstream Public Use Area was set aside in 1990, it was done so with a sunset clause. If no action is taken by the legislature, the area will revert to undesignated state land on July 1, 2010. The bill, which eliminates this "sunset clause" from state law, would keep this important and heavily used outdoor recreation area intact in perpetuity.

Senator Thomas has received active support from many groups including the Alaska Dog Musers Association, the Alaska Outdoor Council, Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks, Alaska Trapper's Association, Alaska Trails, and many others. The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner has

also written two editorials in support of the effort. Additionally, more than 100 letters of support from individuals around the community have been added to list. Senator Thomas has included all of these and more in the packet of information disseminated to the other legislators.

Senate Bill 195 has moved to the House of Representatives and awaits its first hearing in the House Resources Committee, its only stop on its way to the House Floor. Representatives David Guttenberg and Mike Kelly have also lent their voices to the effort asking the co-chairs of the House Resources Committee for a speedy hearing. The bill is expected to be scheduled the week of March 8.

To find out more about this bill or how you can help, contact Senator Joe Thomas' office at 800/336-7383 or [Sen.Joe.Thomas@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Sen.Joe.Thomas@legis.state.ak.us).

*(Submitted by Grier Hopkins)*

## TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER DISCUSSES TRAIL PROJECTS



**Plack Road in its current state**

The most recent Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System (FMATS) newsletter mentions several trails and highlights one.

A proposal to build a "bicycle and pedestrian facility" (usually meaning a paved trail) along Plack Road is featured in the newsletter. The three-mile road is the primary access for more than 1300 residential lots. It has 11-foot lanes, no shoulders, and a 45 mph speed limit. North Pole residents have collected more than 1,200 signatures in support of building a trail paralleling the road.

In 2008, FMATS budgeted \$475,000 for preliminary design of this project. An additional \$427,000 was budgeted for 2011. Once the preliminary design alternatives are available, the public will again be able to comment on the process at a public open house, most likely in the fall of 2010.

FMATS has also requested more money from the state legislature to deal with area projects and a potential decrease in federal funds. Of the projects listed for state investment, three are specifically trail-related projects: Plack Road, the Yankovich-Miller Hill Road Multi-Use Path, and the Gold Hill Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility.

To find out more see the newsletter at: <http://tinyurl.com/ylysy7tu>

## FAIRBANKS OFFROAD GROUP TO START TRAILS DISCUSSION



The Fairbanks Offroad Lions have just formed a permanent "Land Use" committee and are in the process of contacting other user groups for a roundtable discussion on trail use issues. Cory Bellows, president of the group, is trying to get the first meeting set for the middle of March. People interested in working with the group should give Bellows a call (907/ 378-8240) or check out the group's website:

<http://fairbanksoffroadlions.com/>

## RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROGRAM GRANT:

- Happy Valley Trail Construction Phase II: This project is a continuation of the Happy Valley Trail project (Phase I) that began in the summer of 2009. From that season 3.5 miles of trail were constructed and an additional 5 miles are planned for 2010. The trail will be designed for use by mountain bikers, hikers, snowshoers, etc. Clearing widths will not

exceed 6 feet in width. The resulting trail will be naturally surfaced and avoid low boggy areas. Design parameters will adhere to modern sustainability requirements for alignment, grade, integrated water control, and durable tread. Alaska Trails, Inc. was awarded \$50,000 for phase II of this project.

### **FAIRBANKS AREA LINKS**

- The Tanana Lakes Recreation Area, which already has a few trails and will have more, was awarded a 2009 Achievement Award by the National Association of Counties (NACo): <http://tinyurl.com/ycgtdl9>

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## **CHENA HOT SPRINGS ROAD**

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### **NEW ANGEL CREEK HILLSIDE TRAIL CLOSED THIS WINTER**

The new Angel Creek Hillside Trail in the Chena River State Recreation Area is closed this winter to allow it to “season” and to check it for safety issues.

The trail is actually the first part of a longer trail project, which should be finished later this year. Currently, the trail reaches the first of two public use cabins in the Angel Creek Valley. Once finished the trail will provide year-round motorized, multi-use access to both cabins.

Alaska State Parks is “letting the new trail season this winter to establish hydrology and drainage patterns,” according to Superintendent Brooks Ludwig. “If we were to put traffic on it and groom the trail, the compacted snow could potentially act as a dam catching runoff and compromise the tread before it has time to season.”

Parks crews also want to make sure the newly built trail doesn’t have any unpleasant surprises.

“With the steepness of the hillside and potential overflow we wanted to check it out the first winter in case we have any serious safety issues. There is one section that had springs and potential overflow. We already flagged a re-route above the spring but wanted to see what happens this winter,” according to Ludwig. “We’ll make a field trip in March to see what kind of overflow issues we encounter. We plan on leaving it open next winter and every winter thereafter.”

Park staff will begin clearing the trail corridor from the lower to upper Angel Creek public use cabins on March 1. About 5 miles of trail needs to be cleared in preparation for final dozer work. The goal is to finish the trail to the second cabin by September 1, 2010.

### **WORK CONTINUES ON COMPEAU CONNECTOR TRAIL**

Alaska State Parks crews are clearing a 5-mile trail segment, which will finish the Compeau Trail.

This new section of trail, which will parallel the Little Chena Dozer Line, will connect the first 10 miles and last 2 miles of sustainable trail. The dozer line, which was not built to sustainable standards, currently connects the two. Once complete the entire 18 miles of the Compeau Trail from Chena Hot Springs Road to the Colorado Creek Cabin will be sustainably built. There will still be several connector trails to the Little Chena Dozer Line for those wishing

a more adventurous ride.

For more about the Compeau Trail see this web page:

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/chena/trails.htm>

### **RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROGRAM GRANT:**

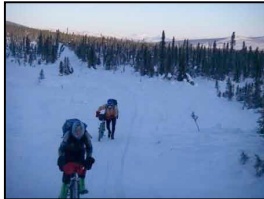
- **Chena Hot Springs Road Trail Safety and Maintenance Upgrades:** Grant funds will be used to rehabilitate degraded sections of the Chena Hot Springs Road Trail, located within the right-of-way of Chena Hot Springs Road from 4.5 Mile to 25.5 Mile. The Fairbanks North Star Borough will reconstruct trail approaches at driveway crossings, repair damaged sections of the trail, and install signage. The Fairbanks North Star Borough was awarded \$50,000 for this project.

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## WHITE MOUNTAINS/ELLIOTT AND STEESE HIGHWAYS

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### **RACE IN WHITE MOUNTAINS REC AREA SPURS DISCUSSION**



Rocky Reifenstuhl photo

A new human-powered trail race that will be held in the White Mountains National Recreation Area in March is the focus of quite a discussion on the Fairbanks Snow Travelers site.

Many of the comments are critical about the idea of allowing the race in the recreation area. Some comments expressed concern that encouraging such races would eventually restrict motorized use in the recreation area. Others said that no one, even race organizers, should be given special preference to reserving cabins. Race organizers were allowed to reserve three public-use cabins for the race, which will be held March 21-23, before the reservations were open to the public. Several restrictions were placed on the race in order to minimize impact on the rest of the public.

The race has proven to be popular with racers. The 50 entry limit was met long ago.

To read about the Bureau of Land Management Decision to allow the race see:

[http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/fdo/eastern\\_interior\\_field/whites100.html](http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/fdo/eastern_interior_field/whites100.html)

To read the comments in the Fairbanks Snow Travelers discussion see:

<http://www.snowtravelers.org/viewtopic.php?f=16&t=3974>

To read about the race see: <http://whitemountains100.org/>

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## STATEWIDE

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### **PFD APPLICATION DEADLINE COMING AT END OF MARCH**

The application deadline for the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend is March 31. If you haven't applied for your PFD, do so soon. And when applying, consider giving to Alaska Trails through the "Charitable Contributions Program." It's a secure and easy way to make a donation.

When you sign up for your PFD online, you will see an option called "The Gift of Giving" near the end of the application process. Search for the group by choosing region (Statewide) and

the name Alaska Trails (it is not listed alphabetically). Click and follow the instructions to make a new donation, or an additional gift.

Please also take the extra step of providing your contact information to the group. They want to acknowledge and recognize your generous support, and this is the only way they will know it's you making the gift. Since the group will not see who contributes until this fall, you can also email Alaska Trails President Geoffrey Orth ([geoffrey.orth@alaska-trails.org](mailto:geoffrey.orth@alaska-trails.org)) and the group will keep you informed of its projects in your community.

## NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR TRAIL AWARDS



AMERICAN  
TRAILS

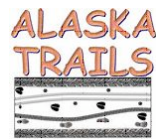
Interested people should start thinking about nominating people or programs for the American Trails 20<sup>th</sup> National Trails Awards.

The deadline for nominations is June 30. The awards ceremony will be held at the 20th American Trails National Symposium in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Nov. 14-17, 2010.

The awards were last given in 2008, and no Alaskans or Alaskan projects were among the winners. In fact, no Alaskans were even nominated for the state-by-state Trail Advocate and Trail Worker awards.

For more information on the awards and how to nominate people or projects, see: [www.americantrails.org/2010/awards.html](http://www.americantrails.org/2010/awards.html)

## TRAILS GROUP HAS OPENINGS FOR INTERESTED PEOPLE



Alaska Trails, a statewide trails advocacy group, is interested in hearing from people who might want to serve as board members. The board currently has several openings. By serving on the board you help guide the group in its mission “to enhance the Alaska trail experience by supporting sustainable, world-renowned trails through advocacy and education.” If you would like to run for the board some time in the future please contact the Alaska Trails office at 907/334-8049 or [Office@Alaska-Trails.org](mailto:Office@Alaska-Trails.org).

## FORAKER GROUP OFFERS CLASSES FOR NON-PROFITS



The Foraker Group, which is dedicated to strengthening Alaska's non-profits, offers classes about the proper workings of non-profit groups, which includes many trail and trail user groups. If you are a member or employee of a non-profit group consider taking one of the classes, which are offered in several communities and statewide by teleconference. For more information visit the Foraker Group website ([www.forakergroup.org/](http://www.forakergroup.org/)) or call 907/743-1200 or (toll free) 877/834-5003.

## READ ABOUT TRAIL NEWS FROM ACROSS THE STATE

For lots more on statewide trail news, read the Alaska Trails newsletter. You can download past issues from the group's website ([www.alaska-trails.org/](http://www.alaska-trails.org/)). While there consider joining and helping trails statewide. (If you are already a member, don't forget to renew.) Alaska Trails has a mission to enhance the Alaska trail experience by supporting sustainable, world-renowned trails through advocacy and education. See the group's membership form page at: [www.alaska-trails.org/get\\_involved/onlinemembership.html](http://www.alaska-trails.org/get_involved/onlinemembership.html).

## STATEWIDE LINKS

- A group of snowmachiners plans to spend 20 days traveling from Michigan to Tok, Alaska, while raising funds for diabetes research: [www.9and10news.com/category/story/?id=189352](http://www.9and10news.com/category/story/?id=189352)
- For people interested in sustainable trail design, Bill Luck, Alaska State Trails Coordinator, recommends the “Guide to Sustainable Mountain Trails: Trail Assessment, Planning, and Design Sketchbook.” A digital copy is available at: [www.americantrails.org/resources/trailbuilding/index.html](http://www.americantrails.org/resources/trailbuilding/index.html)
- Icebike is a website that features information about winter cycling. It has articles from all over the world, including several about cycling trails in Alaska: <http://www.icebike.org/>
- Paddle to Seattle, an award-winning movie about a 2008 kayaking trip through the Inside Passage, will be playing in several locations across the state as part of the Alaska Ocean Film Festival. The next showings will be in March in Sitka, Ketchikan, and Juneau. For a schedule and more details see: <http://tinyurl.com/ylfe86o>

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## NATIONWIDE

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### PRESENTATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR TRAILS SYMPOSIUM

The 20<sup>th</sup> American Trails National Symposium will be held this coming November in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Organizers are inviting people to submit ideas for presentations in support of the symposium’s theme: “The Green Way for America.” The symposium expects to have 40 concurrent sessions, each lasting 75 minutes.

The program committee is particularly seeking presentations that introduce new ideas, convey useful strategies, identify lessons learned, and strengthen participants’ existing skills and knowledge — in the spirit of the symposium theme. The deadline for submitting proposals is April 9. To learn more about the call for presentations see:

[www.americantrails.org/2010/call.html](http://www.americantrails.org/2010/call.html)

To learn more about the symposium in general see: [www.americantrails.org/2010/index.html](http://www.americantrails.org/2010/index.html)

### NEARBY TRAILS A BIG ATTRACTION FOR NEW HOMEBUYERS

Walking paths are mentioned as part of a “must-have” feature for new homes in a recent article in the Wall Street Journal’s online MarketWatch.

The article is about a survey done by AVID Ratings Co., which conducts an annual survey of homebuyer preferences. One of the top 10 items selected by homebuyers is “Community landscaping, with walking paths and playgrounds.” The article adds: “Forget about golf courses, swimming pools and clubhouses. Buyers in large planned developments prefer hiking among lush greenery.”

See the article at: <http://tinyurl.com/yavhsy6>

Trails and green spaces often come up as a top amenity for home buyers. In a 2002 survey by the National Association of Homebuilders and the National Association of Realtors trails were second only to highway access in a list of amenities desired by home buyers. Read about that survey at: <http://tinyurl.com/ycgzsq4>

## **OHV NEWSLETTER HAS VARIETY OF TRAIL STORIES**



The February issue of the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council newsletter has several trail stories of interest.

It includes an article on a recent report by the federal Government Accountability Office (GAO) evaluating the use of Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) recreation on federal lands. Also included is an article on a new study by the Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition (COHVCO) that shows the positive economic impact of off-highway vehicle recreation in Colorado.

Also in the issue:

- An article about a proposal by President Obama that would cut U.S. Forest Service trail funding.
- An article about the National Trails Training Partnership.
- An article about a decision by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors to formalize the alignment of the Rubicon Trail in California.

Read the newsletter at: [www.nohvcc.org/newsletter/news02-2010.asp](http://www.nohvcc.org/newsletter/news02-2010.asp)

## **PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS PARK SERVICE, INCREASES BLM**

President Obama released his proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2011 earlier this month.

The budget for the Park Service was cut, while the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service budgets are both targeted to see a slight increase. However, in the Forest Service Capital Improvement and Maintenance Program—the line item that funds road and trail maintenance—was reduced 21% to \$117 Million, while increasing federal land acquisition by \$119 Million.

Congress will be debating the proposed budget in the months to come.

*(From American Council of Snowmobile Associations E-News)*

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## **REGULAR NOTICES**

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### **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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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).

### **STATE LAND USE PLANS COULD AFFECT TRAILS**

The state Department of Natural Resources has several plans and studies underway across the state that affect how the state deals with its lands. Often this includes land and water trails. These plans and studies have opportunities for public comment.

Take a look at the planning web page for the Division of Land, Water, and Mining (<http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/>). If you see a plan or study that affects an area with trails important to you, please look into opportunities for public comment.

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## **LINKS ABOUT TRAILS FROM OUTSIDE ALASKA**

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### **STUDIES AND REPORTS:**

- A new report released recently by the Alliance for Biking & Walking shows that lack of investment in biking and walking could be contributing to higher traffic fatalities and chronic disease rates: <http://tinyurl.com/yhdmdz>
- Many off-highway motorized trails in America's national forests could deteriorate dramatically or even disappear under the new federal budget, according to a American Motorcyclist Association report: [www.ama-cycle.org/news/story.asp?id=1741](http://www.ama-cycle.org/news/story.asp?id=1741)

### **TRAILS AND SUCH IN THE MEDIA:**

- In Boise, Idaho, Boise State University students mapped trails as part of a class on geographic information: <http://tinyurl.com/yfhsuht>
- This article features snowshoe running, a great way to enjoy winter trails: <http://rocnw.com/article/leo-roth/20101310370>
- People are considering turning a 42-mile Eastside rail corridor in the Seattle area into a hybrid rails-with-trails system: <http://tinyurl.com/yjqpslh>
- Stimulus funds speed up work on a 78-mile trail in Arizona: <http://tinyurl.com/yay8zbn>
- Ten new bike and pedestrian paths, totaling about eight miles, will be built in Philadelphia and South Jersey with \$23 million in federal stimulus funds: <http://tinyurl.com/yfkotsg>

- Taking care of cross-country ski trails has become a lot more sophisticated over the years. Here's a story from the Olympics: <http://tinyurl.com/ykcysb4>

#### **OTHER LINKS:**

- For a listing of upcoming trail workshops, conferences, and other meetings, see the American Trails calendar at: [www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html](http://www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html)
- American Trails has a section of its website called "Cool Trail Solutions" that is devoted to photos and graphics of solutions to a wide array of trail-related problems. The goal of the section is to enhance resources for trails planning, development, and management with visual ideas from across the country. Visit the site at: [www.americantrails.org/resources/cool/index.html](http://www.americantrails.org/resources/cool/index.html)
- American Hiking Society offers trail work vacations all over the country. Check this out for a vacation or possibly as a way to get volunteers: [www.americanhiking.org/Get-Involved/Volunteer-Vacations/](http://www.americanhiking.org/Get-Involved/Volunteer-Vacations/)
- Here's an interesting trail guide. It's a deck of cards full of winter hiking options in western Washington: [www.powells.com/biblio/9781594852718](http://www.powells.com/biblio/9781594852718)
- The American Council of Snowmobile Associations is planning its Washington, D.C. fly-in in April. For more information see: [www.snowmobilers.org/](http://www.snowmobilers.org/)
- This update of the "Recreational Trails Program and Transportation Enhancement Activities" is chock full of information about trails, trail groups, and trail user groups: <http://tinyurl.com/yzgv4q5>
- Two trails are part of an Israeli government plan to restore and preserve heritage sites across the country: [www.haaretz.com/hasen/pages/1150150.html](http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/pages/1150150.html)
- The International Mountain Biking Association is encouraging people to lobby for the Urban Revitalization and Livable Communities Act, HR 3734. Funding from the act could help build new urban parks and rehabilitate existing ones. IMBA sees its new youth- and family-friendly trails systems called "Gateway Trails" as a component for such parks: <http://tinyurl.com/yk8az2q>
- Idaho state license plates that promote and fund mountain biking and trails could soon be a reality if a bill in the Idaho House of Representatives passes: [www.mtexpress.com/vu\\_breaking\\_story.php?bid=8722](http://www.mtexpress.com/vu_breaking_story.php?bid=8722)
- Considering a trip to Italy? This site describes four bike trails in Tuscany: <http://tinyurl.com/y87335q>
- Join a snowmobile club and get \$20 off a trail sticker. That's the idea behind two new bills working their way through the Wisconsin Legislature: <http://tinyurl.com/yb3xca8>
- The River Network's 2010 National River Rally will be held in Snowbird, Utah, May 21-24: [www.rivernetnetwork.org/programs/national-river-rally](http://www.rivernetnetwork.org/programs/national-river-rally)

## LINKS TO INTERIOR TRAIL USER GROUPS

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### Dog mushing groups

Alaska Dog Musher's Association: [www.sleddog.org/](http://www.sleddog.org/)

Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association: [www.sleddog.org/skijor/](http://www.sleddog.org/skijor/)

Two Rivers Dog Musher's Association: [www.trdma.org/](http://www.trdma.org/)

### Misc.

Alaska Outdoor Council: [www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org/](http://www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org/)

Alaska Trappers Association: [www.alaskatrappers.org/](http://www.alaskatrappers.org/)

Arctic Audubon Society: [www.arcticaudubon.org/](http://www.arcticaudubon.org/)

Chena Flats Greenbelt Project: [www.chenaflats.org](http://www.chenaflats.org)

Ester Trails Committee: [www.estercommunity.org/committees/trails.html](http://www.estercommunity.org/committees/trails.html)

Fairbanks Cycle Club: [www.fairbankscycleclub.org/](http://www.fairbankscycleclub.org/)

Friends of Creamers Field: [www.fairnet.org/agencies/creamers/index.html](http://www.fairnet.org/agencies/creamers/index.html)

Interior Alaska Trail Riders Association (for horseback riders): [www.ptialaska.net/~lnorth/](http://www.ptialaska.net/~lnorth/)

Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks: [www.nscfairbanks.net/](http://www.nscfairbanks.net/)

Running Club North: [www.runningclubnorth.org/](http://www.runningclubnorth.org/)

### Mountain climbing groups

Alaska Alpine Club: [www.uaf.edu/aac/](http://www.uaf.edu/aac/)

Alaskan Alpine Club: [www.alaskanalpineclub.org/](http://www.alaskanalpineclub.org/)

### Off-road groups

Arctic Offroad: [www.arcticoffroad.com/](http://www.arcticoffroad.com/)

Fairbanks Offroad Lions Club: [www.fairbanksoffroadlions.com/](http://www.fairbanksoffroadlions.com/)

Northern Alaska Off-road: [www.norakor.com/catalog/](http://www.norakor.com/catalog/)

### Snowmachine groups

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

Northern Lights Snowmobile Club (an Eielson club): [www.nlsc.net/](http://www.nlsc.net/)

### University of Alaska Fairbanks-related

UAF Trails Club: [www.uaf.edu/trails/](http://www.uaf.edu/trails/)

UAF Outdoor Adventures: [www.uaf.edu/outdoor/](http://www.uaf.edu/outdoor/)

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Interior Trails Quarterly is a free email newsletter that 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 [fbxtrails@gmail.com](mailto:fbxtrails@gmail.com). 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.