

ACTION UPDATE

August 2017

INTERIORWIDE

ALASKA GAS PIPELINE WOULD AFFECT TRAILS, INCLUDING AT UAF

Now is the time to speak up on the effects the Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline (ASAP) would have on trails in interior Alaska. The comment period for the project's Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) ends on August 14.

The path of ASAP, which would transport natural gas from the North Slope to the Cook Inlet area, bisects Alaska and crosses several trails, including the Iditarod National Historic Trail and the Rex Trail. Facilities built to support the project could also affect trails.

One facility is now planned on a piece of University of Alaska Fairbanks property over which a portion of the historic Skarland Trail passes. This facility, probably the Fairbanks Maintenance and Response Base, would be at the corner of Yankovich and Miller Hill roads. Among other things, the trails in this area are used for the Equinox Marathon and the Skiathon.

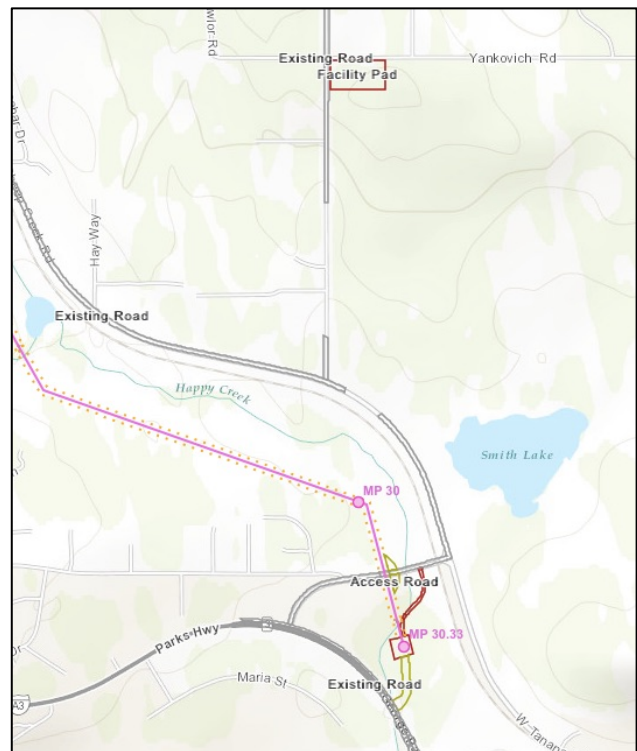
The location of the base does not appear in the text of either EIS, but a facility pad can be found at Yankovich and Miller Hill on the interactive map (see link below). You can use the map to see how the pipeline might affect other trails, too.

It is important for concerns to be heard as soon as possible in the planning stages. Adjustments are much easier to make if concerns are brought up early. Comments may be submitted to asapeiscomments@erm.com

The interactive map, Final EIS and the draft Supplemental EIS can all be found at: <http://asapgas.agdc.us/documents.html>

A few public hearings on the SEIS are still scheduled for early August in Healy and Cantwell. See the schedule here: http://asapgas.agdc.us/public_events.html

(Graphic of ASAP facility on UAF lands from screen shot taken from ASAP interactive map.)



RTP GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD STARTS EARLIER THIS YEAR

The timeline and associated deadlines for Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant applications are shifting a few weeks earlier this year.

RTP grants provide reimbursable, matching funds to develop and repair recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. Grants are also available for trail-related environmental protection, safety, and educational projects.

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation has adjusted the grant application period to provide for a more efficient process. The new timeline is as follows:

- All application and informational documents will be available at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm> on or before July 15;
- Applicants must begin public outreach on their proposed projects by September 15;
- Grant applications must be submitted by October 15.

Anyone with questions about RTP grants may contact Darcy Harris at 907-269-8699 or darcy.harris@alaska.gov.

(From Alaska Department of Natural Resources press release)

ALASKA DOG MUSHERS ASSOCIATION CHANGES WEB ADDRESS

The Alaska Dog Musher's Association has changed its web address. The website is now at <http://alaskadogmushers.com>. The web address sleddog.org should no longer be used or published.

FAIRBANKS PARKS AND REC OFFERING FREE WEEKLY GUIDED HIKES

Join FNSB Parks and Recreation Staff at a different trailhead every week for a guided walk along some of the town's most beautiful areas. Roughly 5k walks. No registration needed. No non-service pets please. This is a free program. Don't forget to bring a water bottle, snacks, bug spray, sun screen, good walking shoes and a camera of course! Dress for inclement weather. All hikes start promptly at 6:00pm. All ages and ability levels are encouraged to attend. More information: <http://tinyurl.com/yat9nlv4>

(From FNSB Parks and Recreation Facebook page: <http://tinyurl.com/zofgaa8>)

ALASKA TRAILS HAS TOOL TRAILER READY FOR PROJECTS



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

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Public services end at Delta-area parks; concessionaires sought: <http://tinyurl.com/yc74vof2>
- Volunteers step up to clean, re-open Delta Junction park outhouses: <http://tinyurl.com/y92kkcvy>
- Water height was perfect for Fortymile River float: <http://tinyurl.com/yahfofjr>
- Half mile of bushwhacking separates cabin trails: <http://tinyurl.com/ycvolkro>
- Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System newsletter (Summer 2017): <http://tinyurl.com/yd2kuwvv>

STATEWIDE

STATEWIDE TRAILS AND PUBLIC LANDS RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- Eagle Watch, State Parks (several recent issues have had trail-related stories): <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/eaglewatch/eaglewatcharchive>

STATEWIDE LINKS

- Ethan Tyler to serve as new Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation director: <http://tinyurl.com/yc3lruek>
- 10 Amazing Alaska Hikes Under 3 Miles You'll Absolutely Love: <http://tinyurl.com/yadwec4a>
- Valdez Hosts 2nd Annual Gathering of Outdoor Recreation Industry: <http://tinyurl.com/ybeqtb5v>

NED ROZELL'S TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE HIKE

- High summer along the pipeline's path: <http://tinyurl.com/y9ugn42b>
- Daily respites during a summer-long walk: <http://tinyurl.com/y75snloj>
- Dog partner enhances hike across Alaska: <http://tinyurl.com/yctbpywh>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- How to document your Alaska adventure: <http://tinyurl.com/ya77vh5z>
- Everybody does it: What to know before you 'go' in the backcountry: <http://tinyurl.com/ydduogun>
- Thank you, kind stranger, for carrying my friend's 100-pound dog across a boulder field: <http://tinyurl.com/ybgxwf3z>
- Don't leave your spork at home, and other tips for hungry backpackers: <http://tinyurl.com/y82lmhn2>

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- New K'esugi Ken Campground: Go for the views, stay for the fun (and trails): <http://tinyurl.com/ya93soqr>
- Learned on Kesugi Ridge: Sometimes a sufferfest is simply inevitable: <http://tinyurl.com/yc72mpvs>
- State and Ahtna reach (proposed) settlement on long-disputed Klutina Lake access (comment deadline Aug 30): <http://tinyurl.com/ybfvhfgm>
- Cordova by Trail (within a larger story about a Cordova trip): <http://tinyurl.com/y8eqlu9j>
- Outdoor Explorer radio show: Erin McKittrick and her Cook Inlet trek: <http://tinyurl.com/y99zunv7>
- Anchorage is making a new effort to curb illegal parking at state park trailheads: <http://tinyurl.com/ycnl5lgt>
- Riders praise Mirror Lake singletrack trails: <http://tinyurl.com/ybc7kwzr>
- HEADLAMP: Skywalk from Eagle River to Turnagain Arm: <http://tinyurl.com/y9j7jr95>
- Alaska's lawmakers ask feds to solve Cooper Landing Bypass conflicts: <http://tinyurl.com/y9ebex2d>
- Borough Maps Monashka Trails, From Deer Social Zones to Bear Latrines: <http://tinyurl.com/y8bx8ksk>
- Avoid Campbell Creek trails in Far North Bicentennial Park until fall, bear experts say: <http://tinyurl.com/ybrtxgln>

SOUTHEAST LINKS

- New bridges, old trail: Treadwell Ditch Trail getting upgrades: <http://tinyurl.com/yd2ec3a9>
- Echo Ranch land swap goes ahead: <http://tinyurl.com/ycaxraqa>

NATIONWIDE/WORLDWIDE

NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS*WEBINARS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, TRAINING, ETC.*

- For a listing of upcoming trail webinars workshops, conferences, and other meetings, see the American Trails calendar at: www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html

ADVOCACY

- Administration's Budget Proposes Catastrophic Cuts to Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y99woxrq>

FUNDING

- Polaris T.R.A.I.L.S. Grant (for ATVs; Sept 1 and March 1 deadlines): <http://tinyurl.com/zcz8u7a>

TRAIL GUIDES

- Michigan's 6 Most Beautiful Bike Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/yc8q3eq6>
- Explore Idaho by Rails-to-Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/yd6jf27y>
- 7 great urban trails in Twin Falls, ID: <http://tinyurl.com/yadjr8hy>
- 5 Hiking Trails You Need to Explore This Summer in Northern Nevada: <http://tinyurl.com/y9lzdg5d>
- 5 Michigan Trails with a Twist: <http://tinyurl.com/ycq9msxu>

STUDIES

- Data Collection Bike To Assess Trails & Take Google Images: <https://dmampo.org/data-bike/>
- Economic and Health Benefits of Bicycling and Walking (CO): <http://tinyurl.com/ybat4vmk>
- Economic Impacts of Active Transportation (UT): <http://tinyurl.com/y8dbex3e>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- Transportation Alternatives Annual Report (includes state-by-state breakdown): <http://tinyurl.com/vwuf4zu>
- Green Infrastructure in Parks: <https://www.epa.gov/nps/green-infrastructure-parks>
- The man reclaiming lost Cherokee trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y9slw3u4>
- The future of urban trails: routes for electric vehicles?: <http://tinyurl.com/y7p2flst>
- E-bikes would be allowed on Michigan trails if legislation approved: <http://tinyurl.com/yde863e5>
- \$53M to go to U.S. national park maintenance, infrastructure: <http://tinyurl.com/y7yjowln>

INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- Top UK MTB Trail Locations: <https://www.tetongravity.com/story/news/top-uk-mtb-trail-locations>
- British Canoeing Launch 10 New Canoe Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y7uto3yy>
- Olle Trail opens in Mongolia's grasslands: <http://english.donga.com/List/3/03/26/965667/1>
- 5 Irish Trails With Spectacular Views: <http://irelandways.com/irish-trails-with-spectacular-views>

Interior Trails Quarterly is a free email newsletter that comes out four times a year: March, June, September, and December. ITQ Action Updates come out once a month in between regular editions of the ITQ. Both are written and distributed by Eric Troyer, a lifelong Alaskan and trail user. To submit items, get on or off the mailing list, report problems, or anything else email Eric at fbxtrails@gmail.com. Note: submissions may be also be used in the statewide Alaska Trails newsletter.

DISCLAIMER: Interior Trails Quarterly and ITQ Action Updates are not products of any organization. However, I am a board member of the Interior Trails Preservation Coalition, a member of several Interior trail user groups, and a member of Alaska Trails and editor of its newsletter.