

# APPROVED - ORTAB Meeting Minutes 2/27-28/2013

## ORTAB Members Present:

Jeff Budd - Chair - Represents Southeast Alaska / Non-Motorized  
Kate Walters - Represents Trail Users with Disabilities  
Mike Rearden - Represents Western / Southwest Alaska  
Ron Lurk - Represents Anchorage / Diversified  
Mike Sirofchuck - Represents Kodiak / Southwest  
Scott Lapiene - Represents Mat-Su Copper River Basin / Motorized

## DNR Staff Present:

Ben Ellis – Alaska State Parks Director  
Claire LeClair – Deputy Director of Alaska State Parks  
Darcy Harris - Alaska State Trails Program Coordinator  
Steve Neel - Alaska State Parks Grants Administrator  
Justin Wholey - Resource Specialist - Alaska State Trails Program  
Jean Ayers - Alaska State Parks Grants Administrator  
Sally Davies – Alaska State Parks Administrative Assistant

## Public:

Mark Gronewald– Matanuska-Susitna Borough  
Steve Cleary – Alaska Trails  
Jack Mosby– Alaska Trails  
Erik Boraas – Trail Mix, Inc.

## ORTAB Members Not Present:

Andy Morrison - Inter-Board Liaison / Diversified  
Steve Taylor - Represents Fairbanks Area / Northern  
John Rowe - Represents Fairbanks area / Northern

## Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Since the last meeting, Jeff Budd has become Chair.

Meeting called to order at 8:15 am.

New board members Mike Rearden, Ron Lurk, and Mike Sirofchuck are in attendance.

1 **Nomination**

2 Mike Rearden nominates Kate Walters for Co-Chair.

3  
4 **Vote:** (6 yea, 0 nay) – Kate Walters is the new Co-Chair.

5  
6 The board discusses agenda items for the duration of the meeting, including rolling over RecTrails funds  
7 year to year and currently open RecTrails grants. It is decided to talk about these items after scoring  
8 grant applications. A point is made that there is not enough money to fund all of the grant applications.  
9

10 **RecTrails Updates and Q&A**

11 Steve Neel updated ORTAB on the past and current state of the RecTrails program, and answered  
12 questions from the board.

- 13 -Kansas and Florida opted out of the RecTrails program for this year.
- 14 -Alaska’s program is essentially unchanged and there is funding for two years.
- 15 -To update new members: A federal error in a formula from 2009 took back 1.6 million dollars  
16 after giving out a \$900,000 supplement.
- 17 -Federal Highways in Juneau thinks that RTP will exist at least through fiscal year 2014.
- 18 - DOT now passes on 97% of allocated money. (This is incorrect as I had incorrect information at  
19 the meeting – the percent is about 89% - update from Steve Neel 3/19/13).
- 20 -ORTAB must meet to ensure the State is eligible for funds.
- 21 -State DOT could choose not to fund this program.
- 22 -The governor could choose not to fund this program, and to opt out.
- 23 -There is a 30/30/40 split (motorized/non-motorized/diversified).
- 24 -State Parks did not have a problem filling the categories this year.
- 25 -The federal allocation for Alaska was \$1,512,643 for FY’13.
- 26 -State DOT imposed an obligation limitation of \$1,332,654 (not \$1,464,937 as I had originally  
27 thought –update from Steve Neel 3/19/13)

28  
29 **LWCF Projects**

30 Jean Ayers briefly discusses the history LWCF program, information about the current program in Alaska,  
31 and background on the projects.

- 32 -The Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was created in 1965 to preserve outdoor  
33 recreation in perpetuity, and is currently funded through the National Park Service.
- 34 -LWCF grants are 50/50 matching that used to be a minimum of \$125,000. This year there is a  
35 minimum of \$50,000 to benefit smaller communities.
- 36 -There are State Parks LWCF projects that don’t compete with non-profit projects. These are  
37 split 50/50.

1 The board discussed different ways to spend the LWCF money based on the scores. One idea was to  
2 have a cut-off score; the remaining funds to the following year. Another idea was to fund the lowest  
3 scoring grant application (Dave Rose Playground) at a reduced amount (thereby using up all of the  
4 money available. Another thought was to see if a current LWCF project could use more money (the left  
5 over amount).  
6

7 **Motion**

8 Kate Walters moves to fund all projects, with the Dave Rose Project receiving \$16,339 less than their  
9 grant request. Ron Lurk seconds.

10  
11 **Discussion:**  
12 ORTAB members had concerns that it sends the wrong message to fund the lowest scoring grant  
13 application, and that the lowest scoring application was lacking compared to the rest.  
14

15 **Vote:** (1 yea, 4 nay, 1 abstain) - **Motion Fails**

16  
17 Some concerns were raised that the Dave Rose Playground application was scored similarly to the  
18 Tennis Court application, and if Dave Rose isn't funded the tennis courts shouldn't be either. Another  
19 idea was to communicate to the specific applicants with lower scores that their applications should be  
20 improved.  
21

22 **Motion**

23 Mike Sirofchuck moves to accept all four recipients with Dave Rose Park amount being reduced by  
24 \$16,339, with the caveat that the administrators will make it clear to Ketchikan and Anchorage that the  
25 board was disappointed in the quality of their applications, and hope that they (the applicants) can  
26 improve when they do the formal application. Kate Walters seconds.

27  
28 **Vote:** (5 yea, 0 nay, 1 abstain) – **Motion Passes**

29  
30 -End of LWCF project discussion-  
31

32 **Discussion with Director Ben Ellis and Q&A**

33 Alaska State Parks Director, Ben Ellis, addressed the board. He updated ORTAB about current State Parks  
34 budget shortfalls, as well as how much money consumer recreation spending contributes to Alaska's  
35 economy. He also discussed how the legislature came up with a formula to spread deferred  
36 maintenance funds to different regions of the state in State Parks. The different phases of the South  
37 Denali (visitor center, trails, and campground) project was also discussed.  
38

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41

1 **RecTrails Grant Application Discussion**

2 Darcy Harris begins the conversation by explaining that the Sugarloaf Mountain and Grassy Flats  
3 projects were disqualified from the application process. Sugarloaf had land authorization issues relating  
4 to the Alyeska Pipeline corridor, and Grassy Flats was missing essential project details, including match.

5  
6 ORTAB began a discussion about appropriateness of several projects for the Trail Development category.  
7 Some of the board members thought that a few of the projects had and emphasis on safety & education  
8 and should be placed if the “safety & education” category. Note: Safety & Education projects are limited  
9 to 5% from the entire amount available for all grant projects.

10 **Motion**

11 Scott Lapiene moves to move the HoWL Trails Day grant application to the safety & education category  
12 from currently the non-motorized category. Mike Rearden seconds.

13  
14 **No Vote**

15  
16 **Motion**

17 Scott Lapiene moves to table it (the discussion about reclassifying HoWL as safety & education from trail  
18 development) until lunch time. Ron Lurk seconds.

19  
20 **Vote: (6 yea, 0 nay) - Motion Passes**

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1 **RecTrails Grant Application Discussion – Motorized Projects**

2  
3 **1. Trail Dozer Acquisition**

4 **Applicant:** Alaska State Parks – Brooks Ludwig

5 **Category:** Motorized

6 **Average Score:** 92.57

7 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$50,000 / \$12,500

8 **Land Owner:** Alaska State Parks

9  
10 **Project Description:**

11 The Northern Area of Alaska State Parks manages 68 miles of motorized trails within the Chena River  
12 State Recreation Area. These trails were not designated using the best management practices and have  
13 degraded over the years. State Parks needs mechanized trail equipment to maintain our trail system.  
14 Without equipment there is no way to repair these trails to make them safe and sustainable for public  
15 use.

16  
17 **ORTAB Comments:**

18 There may only be two bids instead of the required three because there are only two distributors of trail  
19 dozers. Another concern was that if Alaska State Parks had a trail dozer, business would be lost by  
20 private contractors for doing trail construction and maintenance. Members commented that the  
21 application was generally well put together.

22  
23 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** Yes

24  
25 **2. Isberg Recreation Trailhead**

26 **Applicant:** Fairbanks NSB Parks and Rec. – Luke Kline

27 **Category:** Motorized

28 **Average Score:** 92.17

29 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$50,000 / \$12,500

30 **Land Owner:** Fairbanks North Star Borough

31  
32 **Project Description:**

33 This grant will involve constructing a trailhead lot near the intersection of Oboe Ct. and Isberg Rd. As a  
34 result of continued improvements, Isberg Recreation Area is seeing a steady increase in users. There is  
35 currently no off street parking to access trails and reduce traffic congestion in this area.

36  
37 **ORTAB Comments:**

38 One concern was that the budget was poorly done. Others appreciated the engineering drawings.

39  
40 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** Yes

1 **3. Maclaren Summit Trail Extension**

2 **Applicant:** SOA DNR DMLW – Jusdi McDonald

3 **Category:** Motorized

4 **Average Score:** 89.57

5 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$50,000 / \$12,500

6 **Land Owner:** State of Alaska - DNR

7  
8 **Project Description:**

9 Extending the existing ATV trail, better known as Maclaren Summit Trail located at milepost 37 of the  
10 Denali Highway, using sustainable design standards, thereby, fostering the preservation of the cultural  
11 resources (as it is partially located in the TLAD Special use area) the natural resources, and the habitat.  
12 The existing trail terminates in an unfavorable location and is continually getting extended by ATVs in a  
13 detrimental and non-sustainable way.

14  
15 **ORTAB Comments:**

16 One concern was that there is trail construction planned during hunting season on the timeline. The  
17 board recommends changing the timeline. Other issues include no details of trail construction  
18 techniques, and it was unclear on the map which section was phase one and which was phase two.  
19 Some board members identified with this project's need because the trail is in poor shape. Currently  
20 trail riders ride off trail to avoid mud holes, putting cultural resources at risk.

21  
22 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** Yes

23  
24 **4. Cabin Hoppers Maxey Groom/Fuel Tank**

25 **Applicant:** Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers – Janice Northey

26 **Category:** Motorized

27 **Average Score:** 88.29

28 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$30,378.40 / \$7594.60

29 **Land Owner:** Kenai Peninsula Borough

30  
31 **Project Description:**

32 The Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers would like to purchase a 2013 Maxey Groom for their Tucker groomer.  
33 The current groomer is too heavy to be pulled up some of the hills on the lower trails. They also want to  
34 purchase a 2000 gallon double walled fuel tank to replace the 3 older 500 gallon, single walled tanks.

35  
36 **ORTAB Comments:**

37 ORTAB had several concerns including: no map was included, there were only two bids for the groomer  
38 without an explanation (3 are required), the public notice wasn't accurate, and freight costs should have  
39 been separate from the purchase price in the budget.

40  
41 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** Yes

1 **5. Eska West ATV Trail**

2 **Applicant:** Mat-Su Trails Council – Scott Lapiene

3 **Category:** Motorized

4 **Average Score:** 81.00

5 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$50,000 / \$12,500

6 **Land Owner:** State of Alaska

7

8 **Project Description:**

9 Reconstruct the first section of trail to Alaska Trails 2007 design.

10

11 **ORTAB Comments:**

12 Some members thought \$50,000 was quite expensive for one mile of trail and two miles of signs. There  
13 could have been more information on work that needed to get done, and less about work that had been  
14 done. The round numbers in the budget didn't seem precise, as one member said. Another identified  
15 with the need for this project because the trail is very degraded.

16

17 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** Yes

18

19 **6. Caribou Hills Trail Assessment and Safety**

20 **Applicant:** Alaska State Parks – Jack Blackwell

21 **Category:** Motorized

22 **Average Score:** 62.67

23 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$21,150.00 / \$5,287.50

24 **Land Owner:** Alaska State Parks

25

26 **Project Description:**

27 Funding will allow Alaska State Parks to purchase snowmachines and a trailer to access Centennial and  
28 Clam Gulch trail easements in the Caribou Hills. In addition, snowmachines will be used for assessing  
29 trail maintenance needs, safety, providing winter safety education programs, and for search and rescue.

30

31 **ORTAB Comments:**

32 The main concern was that State Parks didn't talk to the Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers (who groom trails  
33 in the area) about this project.

34

35 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** No

36

37

38

39

40

1 **7. Native Village of Buckland Trails**

2 **Applicant:** Native Village of Buckland – Charlene Sampson

3 **Category:** Motorized

4 **Average Score:** 63.67

5 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$39,977.50 / \$9,994.38

6 **Land Owner:** NANA / State of Alaska

7

8 **Project Description:**

9 To maintain and restore markers on approximately 106 miles of existing winter trails connecting our  
10 community to subsistence grounds, inter-village communities and outdoor recreation.

11

12 **ORTAB Comments:**

13 Several of ORTAB members’ concerns included the lack of match for the project, no letters of support,  
14 and land authorization from many native allotments would likely be needed. Darcy Harris explained how  
15 she worked with the applicant before the due date to try to help her succeed. The board also talked  
16 about the lack of rural applications, and how to solicit more in the future.

17

18 ***This application was disqualified because it lacked essential qualifying documents.***

19

20 **8. Anchorage Racing Lions Trail**

21 **Applicant:** Anchorage Racing Lions – Mark Oppegaard

22 **Category:** Motorized

23 **Average Score:** 52.86

24 **Funds requested / Match:** \$45,000 / \$11,250

25 **Land Owner:** Municipality of Anchorage

26

27 **Project Description:**

28 The project will include the installation of a scoring tower, the installation of a starting gate, refurbishing  
29 the bleachers and fence, and the installation of a water tank and a sprinkler system. These upgrades will  
30 benefit all Alaskans as the track is on public property. The primary users of the upgraded system will be  
31 dirt bikes and motorcycles.

32

33 **ORTAB Comments:**

34 Board members referenced many omissions and shortcomings with this application resulting in a poor  
35 score.

36

37 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** No

38

39

## 1 **RecTrails Grant Application Discussion – Non-Motorized Projects**

### 3 **9. Greenbelt Central Singletrack**

4 **Applicant:** Mat-Su Borough Community Development Dept. – Mark Gronewald

5 **Category:** Non-Motorized

6 **Average Score:** 99.43

7 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$20,939 / \$5,234.75

8 **Land Owner:** Matanuska-Susitna Borough

#### 10 **Project Description:**

11 Layout and construct two 30" wide singletrack non-motorized multi use trails totaling .9 miles using  
12 modern sustainable best practices in the Matanuska Greenbelt on Matanuska Susitna Borough Public  
13 Recreation land. The trails would enhance and expand the new Bearberry Bluff Trail constructed by MSB  
14 in 2012, provide connectivity to adjoining trails and give trail users more options for dispersed  
15 recreation.

#### 17 **ORTAB Comments:**

18 In general, the board thought this was a very well put together application. One member asked if the  
19 landowner permission was valid. Mark Gronewald said that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly  
20 has to approve the funding if the grant is awarded, but this hasn't been a problem for him in the past.

22 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** Yes

### 24 **10. HoWL Trails Days**

25 **Applicant:** HoWL Inc. – Libby Veasey

26 **Category:** Non-Motorized

27 **Average Score:** 94.29

28 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$50,000 / \$12,500

29 **Land Owner:** Alaska State Parks

#### 31 **Project Description:**

32 HoWL will teach environmental stewardship to Alaskan youth by assisting the Kachemak Bay State Park  
33 Trails Department by: 1) assessing HoWL's 2012 renovations at Left Beach and continuing to maintain  
34 the site; 2) brushing the trail from Humpy Creek to Emerald Lake and installing signs on Portlock Plateau;  
35 3) brushing the Glacier Lake Trail; 4) picking up litter and doing other campsite maintenance at Grewingk  
36 Glacier Lake; and 5) placing cairns above treeline on Grace Ridge. All work will be performed by  
37 volunteer youth and HoWL instructors.

1 **ORTAB Comments:**  
2 The main concern of a few members was that this project is more a “safety & education” project rather  
3 than a “trail development” project. It was mentioned that there is very little trail work to be  
4 accomplished during the project. Other concerns question the arbitrary 16% of budget for advertising  
5 and the lack of trail names for specific trail work. The board chooses to postpone the discussion about  
6 reclassifying HoWL as “safety & education” to later in the meeting (motion still on the table).

7  
8 **Motion**

9 Mike Sirofchuck moves to table the HoWL motion again until later (mentioned in the above paragraph).  
10 Scott Lapiene seconds.

11  
12 **Vote:** (6 yea, 0 nay) - **Motion Passes**

13  
14 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** Yes

15  
16 **11. Pullen Creek Streamwalk Trail**

17 **Applicant:** Taiya Inlet Watershed Council – Rachel Ford  
18 **Category:** Non-Motorized  
19 **Average Score:** 87.29  
20 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$29,000 / \$7,250  
21 **Land Owner:** Municipality of Skagway

22  
23 **Project Description:**

24 The Pullen Creek StreamWalk will be a pedestrian interpretive trail along Pullen Creek, a spring-fed  
25 salmon stream in Skagway. The StreamWalk will expose pedestrians to lower Pullen Creek, connecting  
26 visitors and residents to nature, showcasing stream restoration, and interpreting natural and cultural  
27 history. The Conceptual Design for the StreamWalk was finished in October 2012 and was guided by a  
28 group of community members and funded in part by the Municipality of Skagway and in part by the US  
29 Fish and Wildlife Service.

30  
31 **ORTAB Comments:**

32 One concern was the lack of clarity as to what will be built; there are no vicinity maps or labor hours. A  
33 Class 4 trail is discussed as whether or not it would be wheelchair accessible; the board determines  
34 packed gravel with low grades could be.

35  
36 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** Yes

37  
38  
39  
40

1 **12. City of Palmer: Wilson Park Pump Track/Trail**

2 **Applicant:** City of Palmer – Sandra Garley

3 **Category:** Non-Motorized

4 **Average Score:** 87.00

5 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$37,227 / \$9,306.75

6 **Land Owner:** City of Palmer

7

8 **Project Description:**

9 Project Description: Wilson Park Pump Track/Trail will be a new recreational bike trail that fulfills  
10 multiple goals of the City’s 2012 Parks, Trails and Recreational Facilities Master Plan. The pump trail will  
11 be a Phase 1 in the construction of Brittany Estates neighborhood park (Wilson Park) and will remain as  
12 a unique feature within the Park which will serve a higher density neighborhood of starter homes.

13

14 **ORTAB Comments:**

15 ORTAB members thought the application didn’t explain what a bike pump track was very well. Another  
16 concern was a lack of cost estimates for materials.

17

18 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** Yes

19

20 **13. Lookout Mountain Maintenance Building**

21 **Applicant:** Kachemak Nordic Ski Club – Mike Byerly

22 **Category:** Non-Motorized

23 **Average Score:** 80.14

24 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$50,000 / \$12,500

25 **Land Owner:** Kenai Peninsula Borough, leased by KNSC

26

27 **Project Description:**

28 A grant is requested to build a 30'x30' building whose primary purpose will be to house ski trail  
29 grooming equipment and provide protection and maintenance of this equipment. It will also be used for  
30 special events (such races, clinics, high school and middle school ski team training) as a shelter for skiers,  
31 instructors, and spectators.

32

33 **ORTAB Comments:**

34 One concern from the board was that the project is a building and not related to trail construction; there  
35 were also no bids or architectural plans included. There were concerns that \$50,000 is very inexpensive  
36 for any kind of building. Scott Lapiene called the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) previously to get  
37 clarification about land authorization to construct a building. The KPB contact said there needed to be a  
38 final authorization if the grant were approved, but this project is consistent with the land lease.

39

40 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** Yes

1 **14. Kesugi Trail Signage**

2 **Applicant:** Alaska State Parks – Chris Love

3 **Category:** Non-Motorized

4 **Average Score:** 84.57

5 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$16,660 / \$4,165

6 **Land Owner:** Alaska State Parks

7

8 **Project Description:**

9 The proposed project includes the signing of the Kesugi Ridge Trail and the Troublesome Creek Trail in  
10 Denali State Park. This entails building rock cairns above tree line and affixing reflective markers onto  
11 trees below tree line. Rock cairns and reflective markers will be placed such that they will be visible  
12 through line of sight, taking into account the low visibility conditions that often exist in the Park due to  
13 low clouds and fog.

14

15 **ORTAB Comments:**

16 One member vouched that the trail is quite degraded and can use all the help it can get. Others think  
17 that this sounds more like a safety & education project.

18

19 **Motion**

20 Mike Sirofchuck moves to move Kesugi Trail Signage into the safety education category. Ron Lurk  
21 seconds.

22

23 **Vote:** (6 yea, 0 nay) - **Motion Passes**

24

25 Kesugi Trail Signage is moved into the safety & education category.

26

27 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** No

28

29 **15. Point Bridget Trail Restoration**

30 **Applicant:** DPOR Southeast Region – Kevin Murphy

31 **Category:** Non-Motorized

32 **Average Score:** 76.33

33 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$46,564 / \$11,641

34 **Land Owner:** Alaska State Parks

35

36 **Project Description:**

37 This project will repair and reclaim heavily damaged sections of the Pt Bridget trail that provides access  
38 to three of the most popular Public Use Cabins on the Juneau road system. The repairs will use gravel,  
39 muck trucks and a helicopter.

40

1 **ORTAB Comments:**

2 Some concerns raised by the board about this project include no pictures of the project area, no  
3 multiple bids on some purchases, narrative leaves out important details, maps don't show where work is  
4 to occur, some land is outside the park boundary with no indication of land ownership, and the budget  
5 and narrative don't agree in several places. A bridge is mentioned briefly, but no details are mentioned  
6 in the budget.

7  
8 There is also a discussion about how Alaska State Parks trail crews have received money for each region  
9 from federal highway dollars; a concern was raised that state parks can receive these funds, as well as  
10 apply for RecTrails grants.

11

12 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** Yes

13

14 **16. North Bridget Cove Trail**

15 **Applicant:** Trail Mix, Inc. - Erik Boraas

16 **Category:** Non-Motorized

17 **Average Score:** 75.57

18 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$48,847.47 / 12,461.87

19 **Land Owner:** City and Borough of Juneau

20

21 **Project Description:**

22 The Bridget Cove Trail, managed by the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ), is the primary access trail to  
23 the State Parks Camping Cove Cabin. This trail is in a serious state of disrepair. CBJ has provided a  
24 capital improvement project to repair the trail, however the funds are insufficient to complete the  
25 construction. RTP funds are requested to complete the necessary repairs.

26

27 **ORTAB Comments:**

28 Some concerns include a poor timeline and budget; the trail project is also focused on the use of only  
29 one cabin, and the match section says to contact the City & Borough of Juneau for details with no  
30 explanation.

31

32 State Parks Grant Administrator Steve Neel also mentions that Trail Mix has been tardy with some of  
33 their RecTrails grants; they have been very late in doing work and reporting, and are trying to get caught  
34 up on their projects.

35

36 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** No

37

38

39

1 **RecTrails Grant Application Discussion – Diversified Projects**

2  
3 **17. Tsalteshi Trails Improvement Project II**

4 **Tsalteshi Trails Association – Bill Holt**

5 **Category:** Diversified

6 **Average Score:** 98.86

7 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$50,000 / \$12,500

8 **Land Owner:** Kenai Peninsula Borough

9  
10 **Project Description:**

11 The Tsalteshi Trails Association will mulch, level and add trail signs and maps to the recently constructed  
12 Owl and Squirrel trails. Metal halide lights on the Moose, Eagle and Rabbit trails will be replaced with  
13 LED lighting. Additional grooming equipment and a trailer will be purchased to better maintain all trails  
14 for public use. Hazard and beetle-kill trees will be removed on all trails and the trail side berms will be  
15 leveled.

16  
17 **ORTAB Comments:**

18 ORTAB discussed whether or not to give ADA and/or youth development points.

19  
20 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** Yes

21  
22 **18. Fairbanks Bridge Replacement**

23 **Applicant:** Alaska State Parks - Brooks Ludwig

24 **Category:** Diversified

25 **Average Score:** 91.71

26 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$10,327.60 / \$2,581.90

27 **Land Owner:** Alaska State Parks

28  
29 **Project Description:**

30 This grant will repair three wooden bridges on trails located in Chena River State Recreation Area.

31  
32 **ORTAB Comments:**

33 There were concerns with the Northern Region Superintendent both writing and authorizing grant work;  
34 one member though there should be a separation of duties. Another comment was that support letters  
35 for State Parks projects in the Northern Region are always from the same groups. There were also no  
36 posting dates for the public notice.

37  
38 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** Yes

39  
40

1 **19. Mile 16 Bike Trail Phase II**

2 **Applicant:** Alaska State Parks – Amy O’Connor

3 **Category:** Diversified

4 **Average Score:** 0 (disqualified – see below)

5 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$50,000 / \$12,500

6 **Land Owner:** State of Alaska - DNR ML&W

7

8 **Project Description:**

9 1. Complete construction of the “roughed in” 1.84 flow style downhill bike trail. Work will include a  
10 combination of hand and mechanized trail work to finish the tread work on a terra firma bike trail.

11

12 2. Install drainage features, harden sections of poorly drained soils, construct aerial bike features.

13

14 3. Construct and install trail information kiosks.

15

16 4. Construct bridges across Fishhook Creek.

17

18 **ORTAB Comments:**

19 State Parks Grant Administrator Steve Neel brings up the fact that phase I of this project is still open,  
20 and until it is closed, phase II cannot begin with RecTrails grant money. He also mentioned there wasn’t  
21 much money left over, but it would take a few weeks after the final billing before the next project could  
22 start. Because of this, several members were concerned that another project might lose out if this were  
23 funded.

24

25 **Motion**

26 Scott Lapiene moves that we disqualify Mile 16 Bike Trail Phase II, because they have an open grant for  
27 the same trail. Mike Rearden seconds.

28

29 **Vote:** (6 yea, 0 nay) - **Motion Passes**

30

31 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** No

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1 **20. Cross Park Trail – Nancy Lake**

2 **Applicant:** Alaska State Parks – Vic Stanculescu

3 **Category:** Diversified

4 **Average Score:** 90.29

5 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$49,500 / \$4,914

6 **Land Owner:** Alaska State Parks

7

8 **Project Description:**

9 This phase will complete the reopened multi-use East Red Shirt Lake Trail Upgrades/Chicken Lake Cross-  
10 Park Section, which needs: #1, Brushing/Logging out; #2, 600 Lf foot trail tread reroute; #3, Wet ford  
11 armoring and drainage structure rehabilitation; #4, 1200 Lf x 3 ft. installation of geo-block, supported by  
12 corduroy or geo textiles per BMP (best management practices); #5, installation of informational signs on  
13 4.5 miles of trail and trail head areas.

14

15 **ORTAB Comments:**

16 An estimate for geo-material was from 2006 to the superintendent of Chugach SP (not the Mat-Su area  
17 superintendent). One member was concerned that the match and sponsor commitment was too small,  
18 and there wasn't an area map.

19

20 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** Yes

21

22 **21. Kesugi Ridge Improvements**

23 **Applicant:** Alaska State Parks Mat-Su – Chris Love

24 **Category:** Diversified

25 **Average Score:** 90.86

26 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$47,310 / \$11,827.50

27 **Land Owner:** Alaska State Parks

28

29 **Project Description:**

30 The proposed project includes basic trail repairs on the Kesugi Ridge Trail between the junction with  
31 Ermine Hill Trail and the junction with the Cascade Trail in Denali State Park. The project will include  
32 widening & brushing the trail corridor and integrating drainage on established trails.

33

34 **ORTAB Comments:**

35 One board member testifies to the poor condition of the trail. One concern is there are no community  
36 support letters, although some members point out that this park is not very close to any community.  
37 There is also a discussion on when food can be reimbursed for (only for trail crews at remote spike  
38 camps).

39 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** Yes

40

1 **22. Lucky Shot Bridge**

2 **Applicant:** Willow Area Community Organization - Steve Charles

3 **Category:** Diversified

4 **Average Score:** 89.57

5 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$50,000 / \$12,500

6 **Land Owner:** Alaska State Parks

7

8 **Project Description:**

9 This project will involve design and construction of a pedestrian bridge along the Lucky Shot Trail within  
10 the Willow Creek State Recreation Area. Dimensions will be approximately 180' x 5' constructed with all  
11 weather wood decking and compliant with all permits and State Parks standards. Completion of this  
12 project will allow for an extended recreational trail system.

13

14 **ORTAB Comments:**

15 There was a discussion about whether there is a need for the bridge, and a board member described  
16 how the addition of the bridge will encourage ATVs to stay off of wetlands and on an established trail.

17

18 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** Yes

19

20 **23. YCC Talkeetna Lakes Park**

21 **Applicant:** Upper Susitna Soil and Water Conservation District – Laura Allen

22 **Category:** Diversified

23 **Average Score:** 91.14

24 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$36354.32 / \$9,088.58

25 **Land Owner:** Matanuska-Susitna Borough

26

27 **Project Description:**

28 Within Talkeetna Lakes Park, a multi-use trail, called X Lake Loop Trail, needs 2.5 miles of maintenance  
29 and 0.6 miles of reconstruction for public use. Two new Nordic ski trails built in the fall of 2011 require  
30 3.23 miles of finishing work. Canoe portage trails require 0.2 miles of maintenance and 0.1 miles of new  
31 trail construction.

32

33 **ORTAB Comments:**

34 Some comments from ORTAB members were that they had good maps, and were precise in the funds  
35 that would be needed to perform tasks. Some concern included poor file organization, maps didn't  
36 identify specific projects, and management hours mirrored labor hours; one rebuttal was that YCC youth  
37 workers needed constant supervision. Another comment was that support letters were for the soil &  
38 water district and not for this specific project.

39

40 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** Yes

1 **24. HSWCD Watermelon Trail Improvements**

2 **Applicant:** Homer Soil & Water Conservation District – Todd Schroeder

3 **Category:** Diversified

4 **Average Score:** 85.00

5 **Funds requested / Match:** \$14,110 / \$3527.50

6 **Land Owner:** Kenai Peninsula Borough

7

8 **Project Description:**

9 The Watermelon Trail provides the most viable access to the Caribou Hills and Ninilchik Dome  
10 Recreation Areas from Homer. This project would address environmental damage near the bridge  
11 crossing at Beaver Creek, located within the Anchor River - Fritz Creek Critical Habitat Area, through trail  
12 surface hardening, and would also reroute several portions of the trail onto public lands.

13

14 **ORTAB Comments:**

15 ORTAB Comments include old letters of support (2009 & 2010), poor budget, no ERC, and no map  
16 showing the trail.

17

18 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** No

19

20 **25. Government Peak Singletrack Phase I**

21 **Applicant:** Alaska Trails – Steve Cleary

22 **Category:** Diversified

23 **Average Score:** 87.71

24 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$50,000 / \$12,500

25 **Land Owner:** Matanuska-Susitna Borough

26

27 **Project Description:**

28 The Government Peak Singletrack is a planned network of trails located within the Northwest corner of  
29 the Government Peak Recreation area off Edgerton parks road. The initial 3.5 miles of trail will be  
30 designed for all levels of mountain bikers, but also desirable to hikers, Nordic skiers, snowshoe users and  
31 winter bikers. Construction will be to IMBA Sustainable Trail Standards.

32

33 **ORTAB Comments:**

34 Members of the board noted that there was no SCORP citation, no bids, and lack of clarity for what will  
35 happen to the old trailer. Steve Cleary answers a few questions via teleconference with the board.

36

37 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** Yes

38

39

40

1 **26. Statewide Trail Counters**

2 **Applicant:** Alaska State Parks – Brooks Ludwig

3 **Category:** Diversified

4 **Average Score:** 87.00

5 **Funds requested / Match:** \$20,355 / \$5,088.75

6 **Land Owner:** Alaska State Parks

7

8 **Project Description:**

9 Purchase 34 TRAFx Trail Counters to gather information for the management of 34 trails within Alaska  
10 State Parks.

11

12 **ORTAB Comments:**

13 A couple folks agree that it was hard to score a project like this with the current grant application score  
14 sheet. One member likes the project, but wants the information to be accessible to the public. One  
15 concern is that there is no information in the application on how the trail counters will be used.  
16 Trail counters also need to be in place for a long time to gather useful data; they are a long-term  
17 commitment.

18

19 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** No

20

21 **27. Alaska Trails Tool Trailer**

22 **Applicant:** Alaska Trails Inc. – Steve Cleary

23 **Category:** Diversified

24 **Average Score:** 87.67

25 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$18,833 / \$4708.25

26 **Land Owner:** N/A

27

28 **Project Description:**

29 Alaska Trails has two 5'x8' mobile tool trailers that were originally funded through Alaska Trails Initiative  
30 (ATI) in 2007. Each trailer is able to outfit a trail crew of 25+. Over the years the two tool trailers have  
31 been used to help construct over 30 miles of sustainable trails and with that use comes the need to  
32 replace and upgrade equipment. This grant facilitates that upgrade.

33

34 **ORTAB Comments:**

35 This is another project that some board members found difficult to score with the current score sheet.  
36 Steve Cleary explains (via teleconference) that the old trailer will be sold, and used as match; he also  
37 explains management at \$75/hr includes overhead.

38

39 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** Yes

40

1 **28. Channel Islands Water Trail**

2 **Applicant:** Trail Mix, Inc. – Erik Boraas

3 **Category:** Diversified

4 **Average Score:** 80.57

5 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$49,553.68 / \$12388.42

6 **Land Owner:** Alaska State Parks

7

8 **Project Description:**

9 The creation of a Water Trail in Lynn Canal, by improving four strategic campsites, and connecting  
10 existing facilities would create a unique recreation opportunity not currently available in Northern  
11 Southeast Alaska. This trail would create a unique opportunity for locals and visitors alike to experience  
12 the coastal environment of Southeast Alaska in as safe a manner as possible, while encouraging  
13 sustainable use of the Channel Islands State Park.

14

15 **ORTAB Comments:**

16 One member liked the project because it is a water trail and serves a different constituency (than terra  
17 trails). The board points out that there is no land authorization (Darcy Harris checks into this and obtains  
18 a copy of the authorization for the following day). One member is concerned that the narrative states  
19 that there will be more infrastructure that requires no additional maintenance. Members of the board  
20 like the project, but want Trail Mix to get caught up on their current projects.

21

22 **Motion**

23 Jeff Budd moves to advise trail mix first of all to get squared away with ORTAB and the state with  
24 outstanding projects, and B that they look at the feedback from this particular grant and resubmit the  
25 application and answer our questions, because this is a unique project that deserves more  
26 consideration; they just need to spend more time putting it together. Scott Lapiene seconds.

27

28 **Vote:** (6 yea, 0 nay) – **Motion Passes**

29

30 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** No

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1 **29. Grassy Flats – City of Coffman Cove**

2 **Applicant:** City of Coffman Cove – Misty Fitzpatrick

3 **Category:** Diversified

4 **Average Score:** Disqualified for lack of site control.

5 **Funds requested / Match:** \$50,000 / \$12,500

6 **Land Owner:** DNR

7  
8 **Project Description:**

9 To construct a .25 mile segment of our Grassy Flats Trail Project which is 1.25 miles and will be  
10 constructed in segments as funding becomes available. Funding will be used to develop a rock source,  
11 stockpile rock at the trailhead and utilize city-owned trail building equipment to complete the  
12 construction of Grassy Flats Trail Segment 1, starting at the Coffman Cove boat harbor and ending .25  
13 miles away as well as forking to Sea Otter Drive to create a loop that can be utilized right away by trail  
14 users.

15  
16 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** No

17 -Meeting Adjourned-

18  
19 **Thursday, February 27, 2013**

20  
21 **RecTrails Grant Application Discussion – Safety and Education**

22  
23 **30. AK Trails 2014 Trails Conference**

24 **Applicant:** Alaska Trails – Steve Cleary

25 **Category:** Safety and Education

26 **Average Score:** 92.71

27 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$32,250 / \$8812.50

28 **Land Owner:** N/A

29  
30 **Project Description:**

31 Alaska Trails has two 5'x8' mobile tool trailers that were originally funded through Alaska Trails Initiative  
32 (ATI) in 2007. Each trailer is able to outfit a trail crew of 25+. Over the years the two tool trailers have  
33 been used to help construct over 30 miles of sustainable trails and with that use comes the need to  
34 replace and upgrade equipment. This grant facilitates that upgrade.

35  
36 **ORTAB Comments:**

37 Some members want the conference to reach out to more motorized users in the future, and support a  
38 special effort to encourage them to attend.

39  
40 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** Yes

1 **31. NAOI Wilderness Safety Challenge Ambassadors**

2 **Applicant:** North America Outdoor Institute – Debra McGhan

3 **Category:** Safety and Education

4 **Average Score:** 84.00

5 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$47,980 / \$11,995

6 **Land Owner:** N/A

7

8 **Project Description:**

9 This project will result in a growing team of Alaska outdoor recreation safety ambassadors (teachers)  
10 who will incorporate lessons on Alaska Wilderness Trail Safety in schools across the state. Working with  
11 Alaska public school teachers and outdoor education students from universities and private education  
12 programs, NAOI will host training workshops to teach instructors how to deliver this information.

13

14 **ORTAB Comments:**

15 Some concerns about this project include that it is Anchorage and Valley focused, there are no mock-  
16 ups/prior teaching materials, public benefit seems unrealistic, participant fee match is mentioned in  
17 narrative but not budget. There is also question of whether schools would allow enough time to  
18 adequately teach this curriculum.

19

20 Grant Administrator Steve Neel points out that project management looks to Federal Highways like  
21 admin money (which there is a cap on). He explains that this project’s budget would not be accepted as-  
22 is from Federal Highways.

23

24 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** No

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1 **32. Kesugi Trail Signage (Revisited – see above for project details)**

2 **Applicant:** Alaska State Parks – Chris Love

3 **Category:** Non-Motorized

4 **Average Score:** 84.57

5 **Funds Requested / Match:** \$16,660 / \$4,165

6 **Land Owner:** Alaska State Parks

7

8 **Additional ORTAB Comments:**

9 Some members think that the signs will probably be replaced when the Kesugi Trail Improvements  
10 project is done.

11

12 **ORTAB Recommends for Funding:** No

13

14 **Motion**

15 Scott Lapiene moves that we fund the AK Trails Conference safety grant application. Ron Lurk seconds.

16

17 ORTAB looks at the Safety & Education projects to make sure they have a defensible reason to  
18 support the trails conference; one reason is it’s focused statewide rather than one region.

19

20 **Vote:** (2 yea, 4 nay) – **Motion Fails**

21

22 The conversation shifts to the HoWL Trails Day grant application.

23

24 **Motion**

25 Scott Lapiene moves that we move the HoWL Trails Day program to safety & education. Ron Lurk  
26 seconds.

27

28 **Vote:** (3 yea, 3 nay) – **Motion Fails**

29

30 HoWL Trails Day stays in the trail development category.

31

32 **Project Funding Allocation Discussion**

33 ORTAB discusses how the funding ends up being allocated to non-profits and Alaska State Parks. Darcy  
34 Harris explains that the money that doesn’t fund the grants ends up funding trail crews and the Natural  
35 Resource specialist in the Trails Office (to support the Trails Program and map trails/create maps). One  
36 complaint is that Alaska State Parks sets aside money that non-profits don’t have access to for their trail  
37 projects, and can also apply for grants for the same pool that non-profits can.

38

39

40

1 One idea to communicate that some board members want non-profits to have a larger share of the pot,  
2 is to extend the funding line on the spreadsheet (to incorporate more projects than there is money  
3 available). Some members want more say in allocating the money between State Parks and non-profits.  
4 The board also briefly discusses having more meetings a year in different areas of the state.  
5

## 6 **Motorized Funding Decision**

7

### 8 **Motion**

9 Mike Sirofchuck moves that we recommend all projects down through the Eska West ATV Trail. Ron Lurk  
10 Seconds.

11  
12 **Vote:** (6 yea, 0 nay) – **Motion Passes**

## 13 14 **Diversified Funding Discussion/Decision**

15

### 16 **Motion**

17 Scott Lapiene moves that we fund up through the Government Peak Singletrack Phase I trail, for a total  
18 of \$271,597. Mike Rearden seconds.

#### 19 20 **Discussion:**

21 Some members bring up poor participation in the RecTrails program statewide, by pointing out  
22 that there are five projects from the Matanuska/Susitna valleys. Members then look at different  
23 funding options including reducing the amount of all the projects that the board liked. The  
24 helpfulness of the Alaska Tool Trailer is also discussed.

#### 25 26 **Amended Motion:**

27 Scott Lapiene amends his motion to: fund the diversified category to the Alaska Tool Trailer  
28 grant application. Mike Rearden seconds.

29  
30 **Vote:** (6 yea, 0 nay) – **Motion Passes**

## 31 32 **Non-Motorized Funding Discussion/Decision**

33 The board rescores the Point Bridget Trail Restoration so it is above North Bridget Cove in overall score;  
34 this is done because concerns that Trail Mix is overbooked in trail projects. Steve Neel comments that if  
35 one project category is recommended beyond available funds, then the other categories have to stay in  
36 30/30/40 proportion; Scott Lapiene mentioned the option that the remaining funds could just be  
37 unallocated and default back to State Parks. The board discusses reducing HoWL to half, but finding  
38 matching funds may be quite difficult in three months.  
39  
40  
41  
42

1 **Motion**

2 Kate Walters moves to reduce funding of HoWL to \$25,000. Mike Sirofchuck seconds.

3

4 **Vote:** (2 yea, 4 nay) - **Motion Fails**

5

6 **Motion**

7 Mike Rearden moves to reduce funding of HoWL to \$46,648. Mike Sirofchuck seconds.

8

9 **Amendment:** Kate Walters amends the motion: If the director chooses\_not to fund at the  
10 board’s recommended amount, the difference be taken from the HoWL grant application to  
11 balance the allocation.

12

13 **Vote:** (6 yea, 0 nay) - **Motion Passes**

14

15 **Safety & Education Funding Decision**

16

17 **Motion**

18 Scott Lapiene motions that the board funds the Alaska Trails 2014 Trails Conference for \$32,250. Mike  
19 Rearden seconds.

20

21 **Vote:** (6 yea, 0 nay) - **Motion Passes**

22

23 **Discussion with Deputy Director Claire LeClair and Q&A**

24 Some board members are concerned that Alaska State Parks uses such a large percentage of the  
25 RecTrails money, so non-profits have access to less of it. One member notes that California and Hawaii’s  
26 boards essentially rubber-stamp state park projects. Some of the members want a say in all the money  
27 that is available from RecTrails. When the board asks Claire LeClair about the possibility of having more  
28 say in all of the RecTrails money, she says it’s possible by widening your recommendations to the  
29 director.

30

31 The board also discusses the benefits of having meetings in different parts of the state (how the  
32 program used to operate). The discussion then changes to how to get more rural applicants, and how to  
33 make the application process easier.

34

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39

1 **Approval of All Grants**

2 The board asks to approve \$126,340.32 more than the actual funds are available, that follows the 40%  
3 diversified, 30% motorized, and 30% non-motorized split, with 5% of all the funds going towards safety  
4 & education.

5  
6 **Motion**

7 Scott Lapiene moves to submit our recommended projects for funding out of the 2013 ORTAB RecTrails  
8 money. Kate Walters seconds.

9  
10 **Vote: (6 yea, 0 nay) - Motion Passes**

11  
12 Erik Boraas calls in from Trail Mix to help answer any questions the board may have had. The board  
13 expresses to him they are interested in his projects, but the application was lacking, and there are other  
14 Trail Mix projects out of compliance. They encourage him to apply again with an improved application.

15  
16 **Absent Board Member Discussion**

17 The board discusses members who are absent for the meeting and did not turn in score sheets: Andy  
18 Morrison and John Rowe. Steve Taylor is absent but submitted scores. The board talks about how Andy  
19 usually communicates well and participates, but John often only has some of the applications scored.  
20 The board also looks into the ORTAB operating procedures describing grounds for board member  
21 dismissal.

22  
23 **Motion**

24 Scott Lapiene moves to dismiss John Rowe. Mike Sirofchuck seconds.

25  
26 **Discussion:**

27 The board also discusses sending a letter to both Andy Morrison and John Rowe to raise concern  
28 and inquire into their interest in continuing to serve on the board.

29  
30 **Vote: (1 yea, 4 nay, 1 abstain) - Motion Fails**

31  
32 **Motion**

33 Kate Walters moves that Jeff Budd write a letter to John Rowe inquiring as to his intentions to the  
34 board. Mike Sirofchuck seconds.

35  
36 **Vote: (6 yea, 0 nay) - Motion Passes**

1 **Motion**

2 Scott Lapiene moves to send a letter to Andy Morrison a letter that states that we appreciate the  
3 difficulties in serving on two boards, but the lack attendance and scores hampered our ability to be  
4 balanced in our evaluations. Mike Sirofchuck seconds.

5

6 **Vote:** (6 yea, 0 nay) - **Motion Passes**

7

8 **Motion**

9 Scott Lapiene moves to add discussion of raising the motorized cap to \$100,000 to the agenda. Mike  
10 Sirofchuck seconds.

11

12 **Vote:** (6 yea, 0 nay) - **Motion Passes**

13

14 ORTAB members talked about a lack of motorized projects in the past (though there is not currently a  
15 shortage). Ideas included raising the motorized cap to \$100,000 and allowing only one \$100,000 project  
16 (motorized or non-motorized) to the grant cycle. No recommendations were made to change any caps.

17

18 **Edits to the RecTrails Application**

19 The board begins by covering some general ideas to make filling out the application easier, including  
20 more instructions in the application itself, adding statements indicating how points are lost, and  
21 ordering attachments in the application in order. Then the board went through the application page by  
22 page making edits to make it easier to fill out and flow better. The goal is to have the revised application  
23 out by August 1<sup>st</sup> 2013.

24

25

26 Before the meeting adjourns, ORTAB members discuss how to reach out to encourage rural  
27 communities to apply for grants: a RecTrails flyer, mailer, and email list are some of their ideas. They  
28 also discussed wanting to see the State Parks budget, and a summary of the projects that aren't scored  
29 by RecTrails, but use RecTrails money. The last brief discussion pertained to having a backup in place, in  
30 case Federal Highways didn't accept a project, so the next viable project could be funded.

31

32 **Motion**

33 Mike Sirofchuck moves that if any projects get turned down by the board be consulted on which grant(s)  
34 receive that money. Kate Walters seconds.

35

36 **Vote:** (6 yea, 0 nay) - **Motion Passes**

37

38

1 **Motion**

2 Scott Lapiene moves to adjourn. Ron Lurk seconds seconds.

3

4 **Vote:** (6 yea, 0 nay) - **Motion Passes**

5

6

-Meeting Adjourned-

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# MEMORANDUM

STATE OF ALASKA

Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

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## 2013 Recreational Trails Program Tentative Grant Awards

The following Recreational Trails Program projects have been tentatively approved by the Outdoor Recreational Trails Advisory Board and the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, and are subject to final approval from the Federal Highways Administration.

### Interior Alaska

**Trail Dozer Acquisition:** Alaska State Parks- Northern Region was tentatively awarded \$50,000 to buy a trail dozer that will help repair and maintain the 68 miles of trails in the Chena River State Recreation Area.

**Bridge Replacement:** Alaska State Parks - Northern Region was tentatively awarded \$10,327.60 to repair three wooden bridges on trails located in Chena River State Recreation Area.

**Isberg Recreation Trailhead:** The Fairbanks North Star Borough was tentatively awarded \$50,000 to build a trailhead parking lot. This new lot will provide off-street parking for trailhead access and will help reduce traffic congestion.

**Maclaren Summit Trail Extension:** DNR Mining, Land, and Water, Southcentral Region, was tentatively awarded \$50,000 to extend an existing ATV trail located at milepost 37 of the Denali Highway. Sustainable design standards will be employed, thereby, fostering the preservation of the cultural resources, (as it is partially located in the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District, Special Use Area) the natural resources, and the habitat.

### Southeast Alaska

**Pullen Creek Stream Walk:** The Taiya Inlet Watershed Council was tentatively awarded \$29,000.00 to implement the Pullen Creek Stream Walk Project. It will be a pedestrian interpretive trail along Pullen Creek, a spring-fed salmon stream in Skagway. The Stream Walk will expose pedestrians to lower Pullen Creek, connecting visitors and residents to nature, showcasing stream restoration, and interpreting natural and cultural history. The Conceptual Design for the Stream Walk was finished in October 2012. It was guided by a group of community members and funded in part by the Municipality of Skagway and in part by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

## **Kenai Peninsula**

**HoWL Trails Days:** HoWL was tentatively awarded \$50,000.00 to teach environmental stewardship to Alaskan youth by assisting the Kachemak Bay State Park Trails Department by: 1) assessing HoWL's 2012 renovations at Left Beach and continuing to maintain the site; 2) brushing the trail from Humpy Creek to Emerald Lake and installing signs on Portlock Plateau; 3) brushing the Glacier Lake Trail; 4) picking up litter and doing other campsite maintenance at Grewingk Glacier Lake; and 5) placing cairns above tree line on Grace Ridge. All work will be performed by volunteer youth and HoWL instructors.

**Lookout Mountain Maintenance Building:** The Kachemak Bay Nordic Ski Club was tentatively awarded \$50,000.00 to build a 30'x30' building that will house ski-trail grooming equipment and provide a location for maintenance of this equipment. It will also be used for special events (such races, clinics, high school and middle school ski team training) as a shelter for skiers, instructors, and spectators.

**Tsalteshi Trails Improvement Project II:** The Tsalteshi Trails Association was tentatively awarded \$50,000.00 to mulch, level, and add trail signs and maps to the recently constructed Owl and Squirrel trails in the Tsalteshi Trail System near Soldotna. Metal halide lights on the Moose, Eagle and Rabbit trails will be replaced with LED lighting. Additional grooming equipment and a trailer will be purchased to better maintain all trails for public use.

**Cabin Hoppers Maxey Groom:** The Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers were tentatively awarded \$30,378.00 to purchase a 2013 Maxey Groom for their Tucker snowmobile trail groomer. They will also purchase a 2000 gallon, double-walled fuel tank to replace the 3 older 500 gallon, single walled tanks currently in use.

## **Southcentral Alaska**

**Eska West ATV Trail:** The Mat-Su Trails Council was tentatively awarded \$50,000 to reconstruct the first section of the Eska West ATV Trail near Chickaloon.

**Greenbelt Central Singletrack:** The Mat-Su Borough was tentatively awarded \$20, 939.00 to layout and construct two 30" wide single-track, non-motorized, multi-use trails, totaling 0.9 miles using modern sustainable best practices in the Matanuska Greenbelt on Matanuska-Susitna Borough Public Recreation land. The trails will enhance and expand the new Bearberry Bluff Trail constructed in 2012, provide connectivity to adjoining trails, and give trail users more options for dispersed recreation.

**Wilson Park Pump Track:** The City of Palmer was tentatively awarded \$37,277.00 to build Wilson Park Pump Track/Trail. It will be a new recreational bike trail that fulfills multiple goals of the City's 2012 Parks, Trails and Recreational Facilities Master Plan. The pump trail will be Phase 1 in the construction of Brittany Estates neighborhood park (Wilson Park), and will remain as a unique feature within the Park which will serve a higher density neighborhood of starter-homes.

**YCC Talkeetna Lakes Park:** The Upper Susitna Soil and Water Conservation District was tentatively awarded \$36,354.32 to perform trail work in Talkeetna Lakes Park, on the multi-use X Lake Loop Trail. Two and a half miles of maintenance and over a half mile of reconstruction are needed for this public trail. Two new Nordic ski trails built in 2011 require approximately 3 miles of finishing work, and canoe portage trails require maintenance and a small amount of new trail construction.

**Cross Park Trail-Nancy Lake:** Alaska State Parks, Mat-Su, was tentatively awarded \$49,500.00 to complete the reopened, multi-use, East Red Shirt Lake Trail Upgrades/Chicken Lake Cross-Park Section, which needs: brushing/logging, foot trail tread reroute; wet-ford armoring and drainage structure rehabilitation; installation of geo-block, and informational signs on 4.5 miles of trail and at trailhead areas.

**Mile 16 Bike Trail:** Alaska State Parks, Mat-Su, was tentatively awarded \$50,000.00 to complete construction of the roughed-in 1.84 mile flow-style downhill bike trail near Hatcher Pass. Work will include a combination of hand and mechanized trail work to finish the tread work on a terra firma bike trail. They will also install drainage features, harden sections of poorly drained soils, construct aerial bike features, construct and install trail information kiosks, and construct bridges across Fishhook Creek.

**Lucky Shot Bridge:** The Willow Area Community Organization was tentatively awarded \$50,000.00 to design and construct a pedestrian bridge along the Lucky Shot Trail within the Willow Creek State Recreation Area. Dimensions will be approximately 180' x 5' constructed with all weather wood decking and compliant with all permits and Alaska State Parks standards. Completion of this project will allow for an extended recreational trail system.

**Government Peak Single Track:** Alaska Trails was tentatively awarded \$50,000.00 to execute the Government Peak Singletrack project. It is a planned network of trails located within the Northwest corner of the Government Peak Recreation Area off Edgerton Parks road near Hatcher Pass. The initial 3.5 miles of trail will be designed for all levels of mountain bikers, but also desirable to hikers, Nordic skiers, snowshoe users and winter bikers. Construction will be to International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) Sustainable Trail Standards.

### **Statewide**

**Tool Trailer:** Alaska Trails was tentatively awarded \$18,833.00 to replace, and upgrade the equipment in, their two mobile tool trailers. Alaska Trails currently has two 5'x8' trailers that were originally funded through the Alaska Trails Initiative Program in 2007. Each trailer is able to outfit a trail crew of 25+. Over the years the two tool trailers have been used extensively to help construct over 30 miles of sustainable trails, but the tools are worn out and need replacing, and the trailers need to be upgraded to a bigger and more user-friendly model.

## **Safety and Education**

**Alaska Trails 2014 Trails Conference:** Alaska Trails was tentatively awarded \$32,250.00 to stage another statewide trail gathering in the spring of 2014. It will focus on all aspects of sustainable trail building, trail management, and trail advocacy. By teaching sustainable trail management techniques to Alaskans from across the state, the 2014 Trails Conference is intended to provide a solid benchmark for trail builders, managers and users.

To obtain more information about the Recreational Trails Grant Program, please visit the program's website at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm>, or contact Darcy B. Harris, the Alaska State Trails Program Coordinator, at 907-269-8699 or [darcy.harris@alaska.gov](mailto:darcy.harris@alaska.gov).

###