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### **Albert Loop Trail at Eagle River Nature Center closing for season**

(Anchorage, AK) – Spawning salmon have returned to waters at the Eagle River Nature Center and so have the bears that feed on them. As a result, Alaska State Parks is closing the Albert Loop Trail and its vicinity, effective at noon today (Thursday, Aug. 11). At this time of year, black and brown bears and their cubs use the bridges and beaver dams as fishing platforms and adjacent brush and trees for cover.

Today's closure does not affect the Iditarod/Crow Pass trail, the Rodak Loop and viewing platforms, or the Dew Mound Trail. Reopening of the Albert Loop trail will be announced and most likely will happen at freeze-up when the majority of bears go into hibernation. The trails seasonal closures have occurred since 1997.

Anyone recreating on an Alaska trail is encouraged to take appropriate precautions. Be prepared to encounter a bear, and be knowledgeable in recognizing bear behavior and responding to an encounter.

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