

ALASKA TRAILS PROGRAMS
(RECREATIONAL TRAILS (RTP) AND SNOWMOBILE TRAILS PROGRAMS (Snow))

PURPOSE OF TRAILS PROGRAM

- To provide funding for recreational trails, trail related facilities, acquisition for trail access, environmental protection and safety education projects.
- Purposes include the development, maintenance and access protection of important recreational opportunities.
- Protecting traditional recreational uses for motorized, non-motorized and diversified recreational opportunities.
- Purchase real property or an interest in lands through the use of conservation easements and fee-simple purchase, which are used to acquire recreational trail lands and interests from willing sellers or donors.
- Project selection is accomplished by funding the highest ranked projects as determined through the advisory boards and Director's approval

REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPOSED PROJECTS

- Interested parties must apply through the annual grant cycle.
- Property must provide a recreational trail interest and be in the division's best interest.
- Willing seller; letter of intent to sell.
- Sponsor match is 20% of the total project cost.
- 5% of total project cost must come from a non-federal source
- Government or nonprofit entity must hold title; clause in conveyance documents addressing alternate title holder if nonprofit was to dissolve.
- A management agreement between parties involved must address annual maintenance needs.

INITIAL SCREENING CRITERIA

Trails program requires the following information in the proposal:

- Project description
- Name of property owner(s); including subsurface or mineral estate
- Location of property
- Legal description; # of tracts
- Total project financial information
- Total acreage; chart of acreage of proposed tracts
- Maps and color photographs

- Letters from partners and stakeholders
- Description and acreage of any structures

Required steps as process

- Appraisal and review of appraisal
- Title research; encumbrances
- Legal access to property
- Hazardous materials or waste

For fee-simple acquisitions:

- Documentation that an entity is willing to hold title.

For conservation easements:

- Documentation that the entity has agreed to manage the CE and monitor the property in perpetuity

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION AND FUNDING PROCESS

State prioritization and submission:

- Proposals undergo a threshold review. Those meeting threshold criteria advance to the advisory boards.
- Advisory boards review and evaluate proposals and provides funding recommendations to director of Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR).
- DPOR director makes project funding decisions.
- Projects are subject to a state agency review and compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) review and approval:

- Reviews and approves NEPA compliance or categorical exclusion determined by Programmatic Agreement
- Approves project funding contracts

SCHEDULE

- Proposals for the Snowmobile Trails Program (Snow) are due August 1.
- Proposals for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) are due October 1.
- Snow proposals are reviewed by the advisory board (Snowmobile Trails Advisory Committee (SnowTRAC)) and recommends funding to the DPOR Director in September/October.
- RTP proposals are reviewed by the advisory board (Outdoor Recreation and Trails Advisory Board (ORTAB)) and recommends funding to the DPOR Director in February/March.