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**Department of
Natural Resources**

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: October 24, 2022

Public Comment Sought on Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan

(Anchorage, AK) – The Alaska Department of Natural Resources invites the public to contribute to the funding and development guide for all Alaska outdoor public recreation. The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for 2023 – 2027 will be available for public review Nov. 1 - 28, 2022.

The SCORP, which is rewritten every five years, also allows Alaska to qualify for millions of dollars in federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) in addition to Recreational Trails Program funds managed by the U.S. Federal Highways Administration and the State of Alaska.

Demand for outdoor recreation in Alaska, by residents and visitors, continues to grow. Pressure on existing facilities and the need for expanded resources all affect the current capacity of outdoor recreational opportunities in Alaska.

“Outdoor recreation defines the Alaskan way of life and is one of the strongest sectors of the Alaska economy,” said Brent Goodrum, Deputy Commissioner for the Department, “From fishing to skiing, remote snowmachining to strolling on neighborhood trails, Alaska ranks at the top of the nation’s outdoor recreation participation rate. Alaskans have a right to say what they want with their trails.”

Major themes covered in the 2023-2027 SCORP include the outdoor recreation economy and workforce, health and wellness, stewardship and conservation, and quality of life. Research shows that outdoor recreation makes significant contributions to health and quality of life. Outdoor recreation has also long been tied to cultural traditions in Alaska. Outdoor recreation is also a major economic force and one of the strongest growth sectors in Alaska’s economy.

The plan was developed with significant research and input from statewide advisory groups and local, state, federal, Alaska Native, and private land managers. Data presented includes surveys on outdoor recreation priorities from the general public, land managers and tribal governments. Also included is data on trends in outdoor recreation around the state.

Public comment on the SCORP is welcome from Nov. 1-28 here: <https://www.alaskascorp.org>

The Department of Natural Resources' mission is to develop, conserve, and maximize the use of Alaska's natural resources consistent with the public interest.

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