Appendix A - Glossary

AAC. Alaska Administrative Code that includes state regulations.

ACC. Alaska Conservation Corps.

Access. A way or means of approach. Includes transportation, trail, easements, rights of
way, and public use sites.

Accessible. A term used to describe a site, building, facility, or trail that complies with the
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines and can be approached,
entered, and used by people with disabilities.

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990). A federal law prohibiting discrimination
against people with disabilities. Requires public entities and public accommodations to
provide accessible accommodations for people with disabilities.

ADEC. The State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

ADF&G. The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

ADOT/PF. The State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

Airboat. A shallow draft boat driven by an airplane propeller and steered by a rudder
(11 AAC 20.990).

Aircraft. Any motorized device under 12,500 pounds gross weight that is used or intended
for flight or movement of people or goods in the air (11 AAC 12.340 and 11 AAC 20.990).

All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV). See Off-Road Vehicle.

Anadromous Stream. Those water bodies identified by the Department of Fish and Game
under 5 AAC 95.011.

ANCSA. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

AS. Alaska Statutes.

Assembly. The gathering or meeting of a group of people for a common purpose (11 AAC
12.340).
**Bench (Full, Half, Partial) Cut.** The excavation cut into a slope to provide support for the trail tread surface. “Full” refers to the bench being constructed entirely on an excavated surface. “Partial” refers to the Bench being constructed in part on compacted fill.

**Best Trail Management Practices (BTMPs).** A series of management components developed to reflect the current “state-of-the-art” practices for effective and efficient trails management.

**BLM.** The United States Bureau of Land Management.

**Boat or Vessel.** A device that is used or designed to be used for the movement of people or goods in or on the water, whether manually or mechanically propelled, but does not include personal floatation devices or other floats such as inner tubes, air mattresses, or surf boards (11 AAC 20.990).

**Camp and Camping.** To use a vehicle, tent, or shelter, or to arrange bedding, or both, with the intent to stay overnight in a park (11 AAC 12.340).

**Campground.** An area developed and maintained by the division which contains one or more campsites (11 AAC 12.340).

**CIAA.** Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association.

**CIP.** Capital Improvement Project.

**Citizen Advisory Board.** Appointed by the Director of the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, this board assists park staff with management and development issues.

**Climbing Turn.** A wide, ascending curve that gradually reverses the direction of the trail while gaining elevation. Used in favor of Switchbacks on side slopes of less than 22% when possible.

**Clinometer.** A small, hand-held device used to measure grade (or slope) in terms of degrees or percent. In trails and roads, grade or slope is referred to in percent (%).

**Commercial Activity.** The sale of, delivery of, or soliciting to provide, goods, wares, edibles, or services in exchange for valuable consideration through barter, trade, or other commercial means; a service offered in conjunction with another sale of goods, wares, edibles, or services, which service involves the use of state park land or water, is a commercial activity whether or not it is incidental to, advertised with, or specifically offered in the original sale; all guide, outfitter, and transportation services are commercial activities if any payment or valuable consideration through barter, trade, cash, or other commercial means is required, expected, or received beyond the normal and customary equally shared costs for food and fuel for any portion of the stay in the park (11 AAC 12.340).
**Commissioner.** The Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources.

**Compaction.** The compression of aggregate, soil, or fill material by tamping or trail traffic.

**Conservation Easement.** A restriction placed on a piece of property to protect its associated resources. As defined in statute, a conservation easement is: A nonpossessory interest of a holder in real property imposing limitations or affirmative obligations to retain or protect natural, scenic, or open space values of real property, ensure its availability for agricultural, forest, recreational, or open space use, protect natural resources, maintain or enhance air or water quality, or preserve the historical, architectural, archaeological, or cultural aspects of real property (AS 34.17.060).

**Contour Trail** (also a Curvilinear or Traverse Trail). Concept whereby the trail is designed to rise and/or descend gradually along natural contours. The alignment crosses the contours at a shallow angle so that the natural drainage patterns are easily maintained during the construction process.

**Control Point.** A specific point, area, or feature that is important in trail layout. Positive Control Points are places you want the trail to go to or near (such as trailheads, scenic points, good water crossings, other trails, etc.). Negative Control Points are places you want to stay away from (such as hazards, sensitive habitat, private property, etc.).

**Crib (or Crib Wall).** A retaining device used to support the trail tread or backslope, typically composed of wood or rock.

**Critical Edge.** The outside (downslope) edge of the tread, most pronounced on a bench cut.

**Culvert.** A pipe or box-like structure of wood, metal, plastic, concrete, or rock that conveys a water course under a trail.

**Curvilinear (Trail) Layout.** Concept whereby the trail layout is designed to rise or descend gradually along natural contours. The alignment crosses the contours at a shallow angle so that the natural drainage patterns are easily maintained during the construction process. See also Contour Trail.

**Design Parameters.** Technical specifications for trail construction and maintenance, based on the Designed Use and Trail Class.

**Design Turn Radius.** The minimum horizontal radius required for various user groups to navigate a curve in a single maneuver; this includes switchbacks climbing turns and horizontal turns.

**Designed Use.** The intended use that controls the desired geometric design of the trail, and determines the subsequent maintenance parameters for the trail.
**Developed Facility.** Includes a building, boat ramp, campground, picnic area, rest area, visitor information center, swim beach, trailhead, parking area, and a developed ski area (11 AAC 12.340 and 11 AAC 20.990).

**Difficulty Level.** The degree of challenge a trail presents to an average user’s physical ability and skill, based on trail condition and route location factors such as alignment, steepness of grades, gain and loss of elevation, and amount and kind of natural barriers that must be crossed.

**DMLW.** The State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water.

**DNR or Department.** The State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

**DPOR or Division.** The State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

**Director.** The Director of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Department of Natural Resources, or the Director’s authorized agent (11 AAC 12.340).

**Easement.** An interest in land, of specified dimensions, owned by another that entitles its holder to a specific limited use.

**EPA.** United States Environmental Protection Agency.

**EVOS.** Exxon Valdez Oil Spill.

**Fall-line.** The path water flows down a slope under most circumstances.

**Full Bench (Construction) Cut.** Trail structure used to create a tread along a Contour Trail, whereby the tread is built entirely on an excavated surface (no fill) which is less subject to compaction, erosion and surface slumping. It is the preferred method of bench construction on trails construction on side slopes >30%. See also Partial Bench Cut.

**Firearm.** Includes a pistol, rifle, shotgun, revolver, mechanical, gas or air-operated gun (11 AAC 12.340 and 11 AAC 20.990).

**GeoBlock.** A trademark name structural geogrid material (see Porous Pavement Panel).

**Geotextile (Geofabric, Filter Fabric).** A pervious, woven or non-woven, petrochemical fabric that provides a stable base and separation layer used in a variety of applications including aggregate capping.

**Grade.** Relative steepness (rise and fall) of the trail as compared to a flat horizontal plane. Trail steepness is measures in grade as a percentage.
Grade Control. Fundamental part of Sustainable Trail construction whereby strict trail
grade restrictions are placed in the design parameters, primarily to minimize erosion due to
natural forces and trail users.

Grade Reversals (or Grade Dip). A short change from positive (climbing) grade, to
negative (descending) grade for approximately 6 to 12 feet designed into the trail alignment
to shed water. Grade reversals are an important component in Contour Trail construction.
See also Rolling Grade Dip.

Green Infrastructure. An interconnected network of green space (hubs + corridors) that
conserves natural ecosystem values and functions and provides associated benefits to human
populations.

Guideline. A specific course of action that must be followed when a DPOR resource
manager permits, leases, or otherwise authorizes use of state lands. Guidelines range from
giving general guidance for decision-making or identifying factors that need to be
considered, to setting detailed standards for on-the-ground decisions.

Half Rule. A trail’s grade should not exceed half the grade of the sideslope. If the grade is
steeper than half the grade of the sideslope, it is considered a Fall-line trail.

Hardening. Any number of methods of strengthening a tread surface in response to
degradation or to better accommodate a particular type of use. Examples include: aggregate
capping, boardwalk or puncheon construction, turnpiking, or the use of porous pavement
panel.

HCC. Homer Cycling Club.

HEA. Homer Electric Association.

ILMA. Interagency Land Management Agreement.

Integrated Water Control. Instituting water management into basic trail design, usually
during construction. Primary components include Grade Reversals and Outslope.

Kachemak Bay Water Trail. A 125-mile route extending from the Homer Spit east along
Kachemak Bay to the head of the bay, and further along the southern side of the bay to the
City of Seldovia.

KAP. Kenai Area Plan.

KBCS. Kachemak Bay Conservation Society.

KBSP. Kachemak Bay State Park.

KBSWP. Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park.

Knicks. A semi-circular, shaved down section of trail, about 5 - 10 feet in length, and canted to the outside with exaggerated outslope. Most commonly employed as a maintenance action on existing low gradient trail sections. A Knick is smooth and subtle, often an unnoticeable feature to users.

KNSC. Kachemak Nordic Ski Club.

Latrine. Vault toilet or bathroom facility.

LDA. Legislatively Designated Area.

Logging Out. Clearing a trail of fallen trees.

LWCF. Land and Water Conservation Fund. A federal program which provides monies and matching grants to federal, state, and local governments for the acquisition and/or development of land and water for public outdoor recreation use.

Managed Trail. A state park trail that has some type or level of Managed Use. To qualify as a Managed Trail, one or more of the following must apply: 1) The trail is depicted on a state park map distributed for public use; 2) The trail is maintained by park staff or volunteers on a regular schedule (up to several years interval) for public use purposes; 3) The trail is, or was, constructed for public use; 4) The trail is abandoned or closed to public use but is used for administrative purposes; or 5) The trail is signed or marked by state parks for public use.

Managed Use. The type of use that is actively managed and appropriate on a trail, considering the design and management intent.

Maximum Trail Grade. A defined maximum tread grade that can be constructed along the trail.

May. Same as “should”, see Should.

Micro-cache. A geocache less than 100 milliliters in size.

Motorized Vehicle. A motorized device for carrying persons or objects over land, water, or through the air, and includes automobiles, snowmachines, bicycles, off-road vehicles, boats, and aircraft (11 AAC 21.290).
**National Register of Historic Places.** The nationwide catalog of significant historic districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and maintained by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior (11 AAC 16.900).

**NPS.** National Park Service.

**Obstacles (Natural).** Objects that add challenge by impeding travel. They include: rocks, roots, logs, holes, ledges, drop-offs, etc.

**Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV).** A motorized mechanical device used for carrying persons or objects over land or water, including automobiles, motorcycles, snowmachines, all-terrain vehicles, and motorized boats. May also be referred to as: All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV), or Off Road Vehicle (ORV).

**Off-Road Vehicle (ORV).** A motorized vehicle designed or adapted for cross-country operation over irregular terrain, consisting of more than one drive wheel or track, having a gross vehicle weight less than 1,500 pounds or exerting less than eight pounds per square inch ground pressure, and that is 64 inches wide or less, and does not include snowmobiles (11 AAC 20.990). See definition above also.

**Organic Soils.** The term is also used to refer to the upper most layer of dark surface soil that has a high organic material content. Organic soils have a propensity of readily absorbing and holding water and are poorly suited as a trail tread material.

**Outslope.** The amount the tread slopes from side-to-side to promote drainage off the trail instead of down the trail.

**Partial Bench Cut.** A trail structure used to support the tread along a Contour Trail, whereby the tread is partially supported by an excavated bench cut into a side slope and partially supported by a fill section of compacted excavated material. See also Full Bench Cut.

**Permit.** A written authorization to engage in uses or activities that are otherwise prohibited or restricted (11 AAC 18.200).

**Personal Watercraft (PWC).** A vessel that is less than 16 feet in length, propelled by a water-jet pump or other machinery as its primary source of motor propulsion, and designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing, or kneeling on the vessel, rather than by a person sitting or standing inside it. (11 AAC 20.990).

**Porous Pavement Panel.** A permeable, rigid, multi-pocketed structural geogrid, typically plastic, that is used to harden areas of saturated or unstable soils without the use of gravel infill, bridges, or boardwalks. e.g. GeoBlock.
Appendix A - Glossary

1. **Protrusion.** An object that protrudes from the surface of a trail.

2. **Retaining Wall (Revetment).** See Crib.

3. **Rolling Grade Dip.** A trail structure that utilizes a ramp-like excavation, a flat-bottomed drain, and a built up compacted soil dam to direct water off the tread. Typically utilized as a maintenance structure on existing trails.

4. **Route.** See Social Trail.

5. **ROW.** Right-of-way. The legal right to cross the land of another.

6. **RV.** Recreational Vehicle, such as a motor home or camper.

7. **SCORP.** Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

8. **Shall.** Same as “will”, see Will.

9. **Short Pitch Maximum.** See Maximum Trail Grade.

10. **Should.** States intent for a course of action or a set of conditions to be achieved. Guidelines modified by the word “should” state the plan’s intent and allow the manager to use discretion in deciding the specific means for best achieving the intent or whether particular circumstances justify deviations from the intended action or set of conditions.

11. **Sideslope.** See Slope.

12. **Slope.** Refers to the relative steepness of the natural terrain. Slope can be calculated by determining the vertical rise over a given horizontal distance, but is more often directly read from a slope measurement instrument called a Clinometer. Slope can be expressed in degrees, but for trail use is more commonly expressed as a percentage.

13. **Snow Trails.** Trails that have a surface consisting predominantly of snow or ice, which are designed and managed to accommodate use on that surface.

14. **Snowmobile (snowmachine).** A self-propelled vehicle intended for off-road travel on snow, having a maximum width of 50 inches and a curb weight of not more than 1,000 pounds, driven by one or more tracks in contact with the snow, and steered by one or more skis in contact with the snow (11 AAC 20.990).

15. **Social Trail (also a Route).** An unplanned, usually unmaintained and typically undesirable trail alignment that develops informally as a result of public route pioneering, overuse, degraded trail avoidance, or generally poorly planned trail design.
SRS. State Recreation Site.

State. The State of Alaska.

Surface Protrusions. Surface imperfections that are within the acceptable challenge level for the trail and do not obstruct the managed uses of the trail. Examples include rocks, roots, holes, stumps, or fallen logs.

Sustainable. Capable of being continued with minimal long-term effect on the environment and meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Sustainable Trail. A trail that conforms to its terrain and environment, is capable of handling its intended use without serious degradation, and requires minimal maintenance.

Switchback. A sharp turn in the tread alignment, often 180 degrees, used to gain elevation on steep side slopes (typically required on slopes above 22%).

TBLH. Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery.

Ten-Percent Average Grade Guideline. Refers to the practice of keeping the average trail grade or overall trail grade from exceeding 10% along the alignment of the trail.

Terra Trails. Trails that have a tread surface consisting predominantly of native soil or rock, which are designed and managed to accommodate use on that surface. A Terra Trail may also have sections of boardwalk, or other hardened tread.

Tethering. Fastening or restraining an animal so that it can range only within a set radius (11 AAC 20.990).

TMO. See Trail Management Objective.

Traffic Control Device. Any physical barrier, including a boulder, ditch, berm, railing, fence, post, or gate (11 AAC 12.340).

Trail. A linear route managed for human-powered, stock, boats, or OHV forms of transportation or for historic, heritage or commercial values.

Trail Class. The prescribed scale of trail development, representing the intended design and management standards of the trail.

Trail Corridor. The total cleared area on both sides of a trail.

Trail Hardening. A technique to improve the surface characteristics of a tread. Usually applied in wet or boggy ground or to enhance ADA characteristics.
Trailhead. The point at which a trail starts.

Trail Management Objective (TMO). Documentation of the management intention of a trail based on its Designed Use, Design Parameters, and special considerations. TMOs provide basic reference information for trail planning, management, condition surveys, and reporting.

Trail Segment. A specific section of a trail with identified starting and ending points.

Trail Standards. Trail maintenance specifications that define the level of quality and service the agency intends to provide for the public.

Trail Structures. Any component of a trail that has been purposely constructed. This would include: developed treadway, bench cuts, switchbacks, retaining walls, drainage devices, culverts, bridges, hand railings, boardwalks, trail signs and posts, etc.

Trail Type. A category that reflects the predominant trail surface and general mode of travel accommodated by a trail. There are three Trail Types: Terra, Water, and Snow Trails.

Tread. The wear surface of the trail upon which a user travels. The tread, or treadway, is the most fundamental component of a trail.

Tread Creep. Areas along a contour trail where the tread is sliding downslope due to compaction, slope failure, or fill failure of a Partial Bench Cut. May be caused by trailside features such as trees, bushes, roots, or another projection that forces traffic onto the Critical Edge, compacting it downslope.

UAV. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle. Also referred to as a drone.

USCG. United States Coast Guard.

USFS. The United States Forest Service.

Vehicle. A mechanical device for carrying persons or objects over land, water, or through the air, including automobiles, motorcycles, snowmachines, bicycles, off-road vehicles, motorized boats, and aircraft. Vehicle does not include non-motorized sailboats, canoes, kayaks, rafts, sailboards, hang gliders, gliders, or parasails (11 AAC 12.340 and 11 AAC 20.990).

Vessel or Boat. A device that is used or designed to be used for the movement of people or goods in or on the water, whether manually or mechanically propelled, but does not include personal floatation devices or other floats such as inner tubes, air mattresses, or surf boards (11 AAC 20.990).
**Waterbar.** A trail structure typically constructed of wood, rock, or reinforced rubber and soil that is set at an angle across tread to direct water off the treadway. Generally being phased out in favor of Grade Reversals and Outslope integrated into new construction, and Outslope and Rolling Grade Dips retrofit into existing construction.

**Water Trail.** Trails that have a surface consisting predominantly of water, which are designed and managed to accommodate use on that surface, and which may include land-based portages.

**Weapon.** Includes a bow and arrow, slingshot, crossbow, and firearm (11 AAC 12.340 and 11 AAC 20.990).

**Will.** Requires a course of action or a set of conditions to be achieved. A guideline modified by the word “will” must be followed by land mangers and users. If such a guideline is not complied with, a written decision justifying the noncompliance is required.