

# Guide to

## Mike Kelly Trail



**Mike Kelly Trail:** This challenging trail follows the Anaconda Creek ridgeline with steep grades that offer stunning views of the Chena River Valley, the Alaska Range, and north towards the White Mountains. The trail is 13.5 miles (one-way). It offers a myriad of outdoor recreation opportunities including hunting, trapping, snow machining, ATV riding, berry-picking, skiing, biking, hiking, dog mushing, horseback riding and dirt biking to name a few.

**History:** The trail was originally constructed as a fire break during the Boundary Fire in 2004. Access via the fire break extended into the alpine country of Chena River State Recreation Area, paralleling the non-motorized, 30-mile Chena Dome Trail.

The decision to create a permanent multi-use trail followed robust debate in the greater Fairbanks area over motorized access in alpine country- between those wanting to preserve access and others worried about environmental impacts.

Alaska State Representative Mike Kelly of Fairbanks and Department of Natural Resource Commissioner Tom Irwin joined forces to work with user groups to find a solution. Ultimately DNR agreed to keep the fire break (Mike Kelly Trail) open to mile 13.5, a prominent high-point just short of the Chena Dome Trail.

To mitigate closing the remainder of the fire break to alpine traffic, Rep. Kelly secured a \$184,000 legislative Appropriation to build a year-round trail (Compeau Trail) to the Colorado Creek Public Use Cabin. The Compeau Trail connects to the Mike Kelly Trail at mile 8.5 and provides more than 30 miles of trail-riding opportunities.

**Trail Access:** The Mike Kelly Trail starts near the end of a 6-mile wood-cutting road that leaves Chena Hot Springs Road at mile 18. You can also access the Mike Kelly Trail from the Compeau Trailhead located at mile 29.5 Chena Hot Springs Road. The Compeau Trail at mile 10 intersects the Mike Kelly Trail.



*The Mike Kelly Trail is dedicated to the memory of Mike Kelly, a true champion of public access to Alaska's outdoors.*



**Seasonal Closures:** The 6-mile wood cutting road and Mike Kelly Trail are open year-round but caution is advised as the road gets extremely muddy and rutted during break-up. The Compeau Trail closes annually to all uses except hiking between April 20 and the Thursday proceeding Memorial Day weekend.

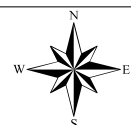
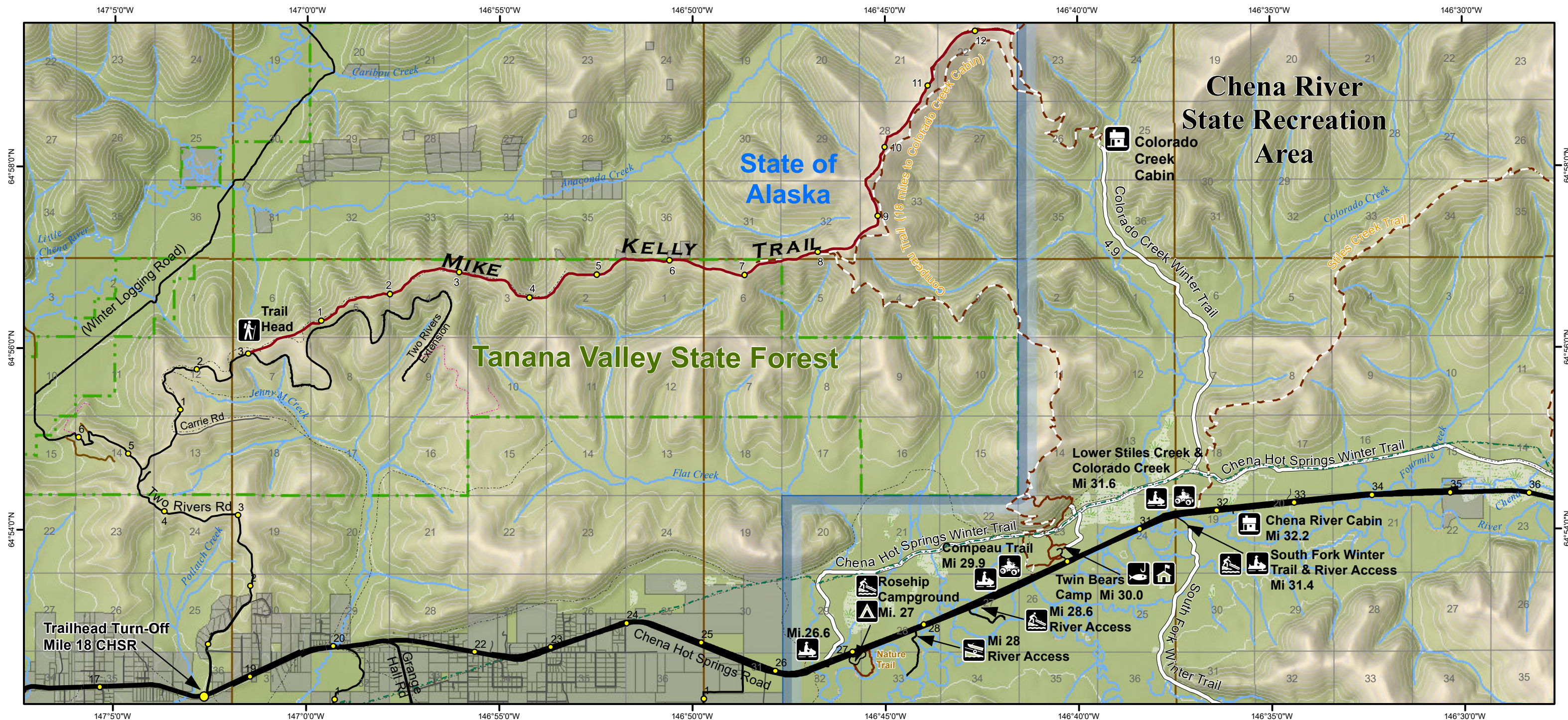
Alaska State Parks  
Northern Area Office  
3700 Airport Way  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
(907) 451 - 2695



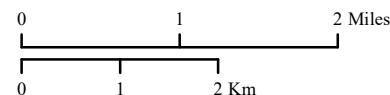




# Department of Natural Resources - Mike Kelly Trail



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 Albers  
Projection: Albers  
Contour Interval: 50 ft



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|------------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Snowmobiling     | Fishing    | Twin Bears Camp  | Mile Posts | Stream     | State Forest Boundary |
| Boat Launch      | Hiking     | Public-Use Cabin | Lake/River | Gravel Bar | CRSRA Boundary        |
| Boat Hand-Launch | ATV Riding | Campground       | Wetland    | Road       | Private Property      |

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This map represents differential GPS data collected during the Alaska State Parks Trail Inventory Project, that was conducted in conjunction with the National Park Service (NPS) Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program, Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR), Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR), and Chena River State Recreation Area.

Alaska State Parks Northern Area Office: (907) 451-2695.  
Alaska State Parks: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks>

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