

# **ALASKA SCORP 2023-2027: APPENDIX A**

## **Data Descriptions, Surveys, and Public Comments**

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

#### **APPENDIX A1: Outdoor Recreation Supply Data**

**PARK AREA STATISTICS; DATA LIMITATIONS; MAPPING AND MODELING**

#### **APPENDIX A2: ANCSA Region Descriptions**

#### **APPENDIX A3: Public Survey Results (in 2 parts)**

**PT. 1 REPORT**

**PT. 2 DATA**

#### **APPENDIX A4: Land Managers Survey Results**

#### **APPENDIX A5: Tribal Survey Results**

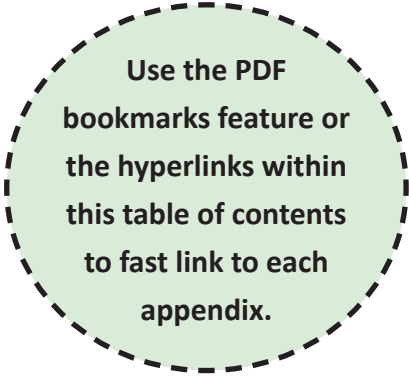
#### **APPENDIX A6: Review Draft Public Comments (in 3 parts)**

**SUMMARY**

**PT. 1 COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA ONLINE SURVEY**

**PT. 2 COMMENTS SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL**

**PT. 3 LETTERS**



Use the PDF  
bookmarks feature or  
the hyperlinks within  
this table of contents  
to fast link to each  
appendix.

# APPENDIX 1: Outdoor Recreation Supply Data

## PARK AREA STATISTICS; DATA LIMITATIONS; MAPPING AND MODELING

### PARK AREA STATISTICS

Four Federal organizations manage roughly 226 million acres, or 94 percent Alaska's recreational lands in the supply inventory, with a footprint of more than half the total area of the state — an area 25 percent larger than the state of Texas. These organizations are:

- U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
- U.S. National Park Service (NPS)

Together, the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources (AK DNR) and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA) manage roughly 14.6 million acres, or approximately six percent of the recreational lands in the database. State staff helped defined the recreational lands and consolidated several layers under the three organizational headings:

- State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources (AK DNR) – Division of Parks Outdoor Recreation (DPOR)
- State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources (AK DNR) – Division of Forestry and Fire Protection, Division of Mining Land and Water (DMLW), and other DNR lands
- Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA) lands

In addition to federal and state lands, the inventory includes 28,000 acres of municipal or borough recreational lands, which represent .01 percent of the total recreational lands in the existing inventory. These include recreational lands of:

- City and Borough of Juneau
- City of Valdez
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough
- Municipality of Anchorage

### DATA LIMITATIONS

Data limitations are common among all datasets. These limitations can include redundant data, missing data, outdated data, or simply data that are a poor proxy for the information sought. Some data limitations are prevalent in Alaska. For example, large geographic areas, small populations, and limited budgets often result in a data supply that is insufficient in meeting the needs of decision makers, local governments, and land managers. Smaller organizations are especially challenged when it comes to maintaining complete, accurate, and up-to-date geodatabases for local outdoor recreation. This section describes some of these data limitations with more specificity and recommends ways that the SCORP model can be used to improve the ability of all relevant data owners to contribute to a higher quality geodatabase for Alaska's treasured outdoor recreation resources.

### **Redundant data**

Often the most accurate and current data is best sourced from the organization that maintains the facilities. In an attempt to create localized versions of a single consolidated dataset, it was found that several local government organizations have duplicate datasets from those of other land management organizations in their district. The more local datasets are often not maintained regularly, out of date, and can thus be problematic for local land management decisions.

Compiling a complete and accurate dataset requires the identification and removal of duplicate data. During this project, not all duplicated data was able to be removed. Moving forward, it is recommended that centralizing the data and standardizing the data model be delegated to local organizations. This would guide creation of a collaborative statewide dataset that identifies and reduces redundancy to improve decision making and outdoor recreation planning at multiple geographic scales. Such improvements would also enhance and encourage community level input to regional or statewide planning.

### **Missing or no data**

During the course of review, it was found that many smaller local governments have null (missing) data for critical fields and the more complex data models are often mostly null. This results primarily from lack of data maintenance resources at the local level. Moreover, several local organizations not only lacked data to provide but also have no immediate plan for producing data. These organizations will not benefit from these technologies to support the management of their lands.

Bridging these data gaps should incorporate input from a wide range of outdoor recreation stakeholders to reach a representative consensus. Recommendations and strategies to help achieve this include:

- Encourage stakeholder input at all geographic scales, especially regional and community levels
- Conduct a deeper review of the needed data fields and pull-down menus
- Refine information for park, facility, and trail types to a manageable list that meets the most common needs
- Develop statewide workforce strategies that maximize data sharing and consolidation efforts to achieve long-term maintenance goals and streamline costs (<https://public.gisconsortium.org/solutions/shared-staffing/>)
- Create a statewide GIS analyst position to be managed under the proposed Office of Outdoor Recreation. *See statewide Goal 7, Objective 5 for more information.*

## Layer Mapping

With the layers defined for the SCORP data model, the next step in consolidating is to group layers by theme to represent in the final data model layer where they will be placed in a spreadsheet. This spreadsheet is known as a layer mapping matrix. Below is an example of the layer mapping matrix for trails.

Theme	Organization	Layer Name	Data URL	Date Accessed	Data Available
<b>Trails</b>					
	Fairbanks North Star Borough	Fairbanks North Star Borough Park Trails	<a href="https://services.arcgis.com/3/15/2022">https://services.arcgis.com/3/15/2022</a>	3/15/2022	Public Online
	Municipality of Anchorage	Anchorage Parks and Rec Merged	<a href="https://services2.arcgis.com/3/15/2022">https://services2.arcgis.com/3/15/2022</a>	3/15/2022	Public Online
	Matanuska-Susitna Borough	Matanuska-Susitna Borough Separated Paths	<a href="https://maps.matsusitna.gov/3/15/2022">https://maps.matsusitna.gov/3/15/2022</a>	3/15/2022	Public Online
	Sitka Borough	Sitka Official Trails	<a href="https://services3.arcgis.com/3/14/2022">https://services3.arcgis.com/3/14/2022</a>	3/14/2022	Public Online
	Kenai Peninsula Borough	Kenai Peninsula Borough Trails	<a href="https://services.arcgis.com/3/7/2022">https://services.arcgis.com/3/7/2022</a>	3/7/2022	Public Online
	US National Park Service	National Park Trails	<a href="https://mapservices.nps.gov/3/23/2022">https://mapservices.nps.gov/3/23/2022</a>	3/23/2022	Public Online
	US National Forest Service	National Forest Service Trails	<a href="https://apps.fs.usda.gov/2/24/2022">https://apps.fs.usda.gov/2/24/2022</a>	2/24/2022	Public Online
	SOA Department of Parks and Recreation	Alaska State Park Trail	<a href="https://arcgis.dnr.alaska.gov/2/24/2022">https://arcgis.dnr.alaska.gov/2/24/2022</a>	2/24/2022	Public Online
	US Fish and Wildlife Service	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Wilderness Trails	<a href="https://services.arcgis.com/5/3/2022">https://services.arcgis.com/5/3/2022</a>	5/3/2022	Public Online

## Field Mapping

Each layer was reviewed, and the inventory of fields associated with each layer was developed. Common fields were lined up in a table to guide the mapping of fields from the original data model to the final SCORP data model field. This comparison enabled common fields to be viewed and a model developed that captures the minimum number of common fields that virtually all of the datasets use. Below is a subset of the Trails layers showing the common fields across several organizations' data.

<b>Trails</b>				
	State Parks Trails	FNSB Trails	MOA Trails	KPB Trails
Minimum SCORP Fields	Park_Name		Trail_System	TRAIL SYSTEM
	Trail_Name	NAME	Trail_Name	TRAIL NAME
	Trail_Type	TYPE		
Additional Fields	Bikes_Allowed	STATUS	Data_Source	MILES
	Motorized_Allowed	NOTES		USE
	Length Miles			LINK
				METERS



## Attribute Mapping

Unique legend fields were created to develop symbols for both the facilities and trails. The SCORP legend field for trails assigns each trail to one of the following types: Water, Winter, Terra, or RS 2477. Originally the source data had 33 original trail types.

The facilities layers had 273 unique facility types. These records were simplified to match the symbols supported by National Park Service Official Style. This consolidated all the facility types into 102 types used by the NPS model. Using this model automates the development of the legend symbols. Although the NPS model is very robust some facility types from the original data were not found in the NPS model.

National Park Service Style Guide:

OBJECTID *	SourceURL	Organization	FacilityType	FacilityLegendNPS
68	<a href="https://services.arcgis.com">https://services.arcgis.com</a>	State of Alaska (ADFG)	Launch Ramp	Boat Launch
69	<a href="https://services.arcgis.com">https://services.arcgis.com</a>	State of Alaska (ADFG)	Harbors	Marina
70	<a href="https://services.arcgis.com">https://services.arcgis.com</a>	State of Alaska (ADFG)	Launch Ramp	Boat Launch
71	<a href="https://apps.fs.usda.gov/a">https://apps.fs.usda.gov/a</a>	National Forest Service	Day Hiking	Hiking
72	<a href="https://apps.fs.usda.gov/a">https://apps.fs.usda.gov/a</a>	National Forest Service	Big Game Hunting	Hunting
73	<a href="https://apps.fs.usda.gov/a">https://apps.fs.usda.gov/a</a>	National Forest Service	Campground Camping	Campground
74	<a href="https://apps.fs.usda.gov/a">https://apps.fs.usda.gov/a</a>	National Forest Service	Day Hiking	Hiking
75	<a href="https://apps.fs.usda.gov/a">https://apps.fs.usda.gov/a</a>	National Forest Service	Interpretive Areas	Interpretive Exhibit
76	<a href="https://apps.fs.usda.gov/a">https://apps.fs.usda.gov/a</a>	National Forest Service	Picnicking	Picnic Area
77	<a href="https://apps.fs.usda.gov/a">https://apps.fs.usda.gov/a</a>	National Forest Service	River and Stream Fishing	Fishing

[arc-gis-hub-home.arcgishub.hub.arcgis.com/content/31b357c26700467792cfb5f7778d72ea/about](https://arc-gis-hub-home.arcgishub.hub.arcgis.com/content/31b357c26700467792cfb5f7778d72ea/about)

## Crosswalk data to the SCORP Geodatabase

Each layer was documented using an information card which contained the information to guide appending the data into the SCORP data model. This included information on the layer name, organization, data source URL, any query applied to remove data that was either redundant or not applicable and general rules to populate missing data. In the example below the trail type and park name was not populated in the source data. For this example, the park name was given the organization name and the trail type was temporarily assigned trail. State park trails in Chena were queried out to avoid duplication.

## Geoprocessing Models

A geoprocessing model was created to automate and make repeatable the steps to append the data from the source into the SCORP data model. Each layer can be isolated, removed from the SCORP geodatabase and replaced by an updated version using these models. As new data sources become available, a new model can be created, and these data can be added to the SCORP geodatabase. Using these tools can help to document and keep the SCORP geodatabase accurate and current.

### Trails

**Layer:** FNSB Park Trails

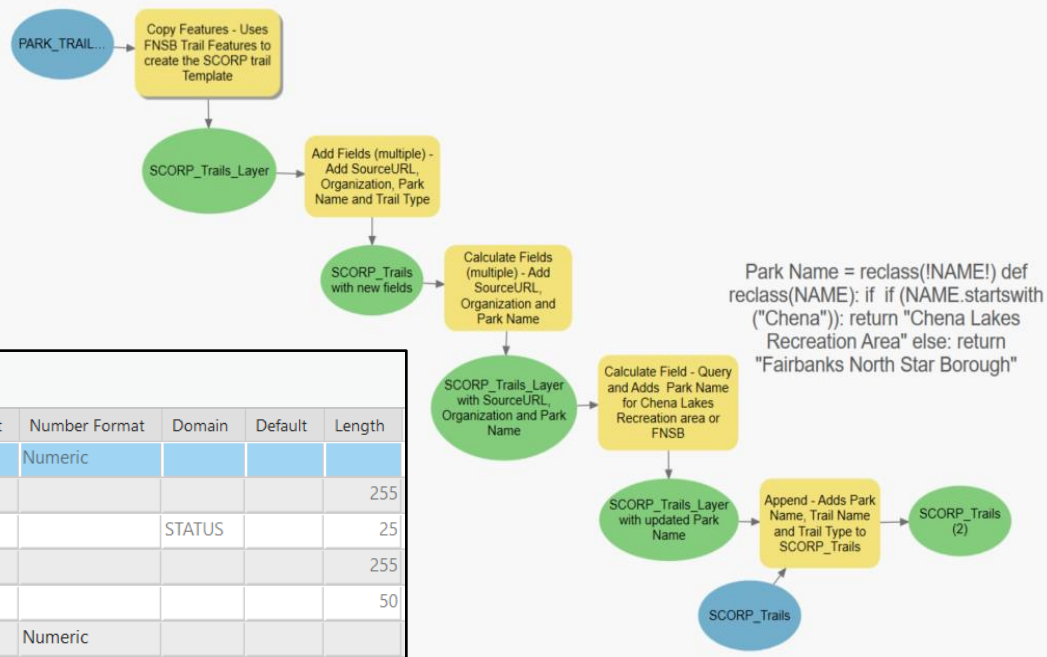
**Organization:** FNSB

**Source:** [https://services.arcgis.com/f4rR7WnlfGBdVYFd/arcgis/rest/services/PARK\\_TRAILS\\_FNSB/FeatureServer](https://services.arcgis.com/f4rR7WnlfGBdVYFd/arcgis/rest/services/PARK_TRAILS_FNSB/FeatureServer)

**Query:** None

**General Rules:** Park Name = "Fairbanks North Star Borough" and Trail\_Name = !NAME! and Trail\_Type = "Trails" and Park Name = reclass(!NAME!) def reclass(NAME): if (NAME.startswith("Chena")): return "Chena Lakes Recreation Area" else: return "Fairbanks North Star Borough"



























Fairbanks North Star Borough  
GIS Model for Trails





































Current Layer		PARK_TRAILS_FNSB									
	Visible	Read Only	Field Name	Alias	Data Type	Allow NULL	Highlight	Number Format	Domain	Default	Length
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OBJECTID	OBJECTID	Object ID	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Numeric			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NAME	NAME	Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				255
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STATUS	STATUS	Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		STATUS		25
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOTES	NOTES	Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				255
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TYPE	TYPE	Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				50
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shape_Length	Shape_Length	Double	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Numeric			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shape	Shape	Geometry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Geoprocessing models were created for over 40 different data sources and were organized by final layer and source organization. Models for Trails, Facilities and Parks follow.



















### Trails Geoprocessing Models (right)

-   T1) SCORP Trails Alaska State Parks Template
-   T2) SCORP Trails National Park Service
-   T3) SCORP Trails National Forest Service
-   T4) SCORP Trails Fairbanks North Star Borough
-   T5) SCORP Trails Municipality of Anchorage
-   T6) SCORP Trails Sitka Trail Works
-   T7) SCORP Trails Kenai Peninsula Borough
-   T8) SCORP Trails National Wildlife Refuge Trails
-   T9) SCORP Trails Department of Natural Resources Waters
-   T10) SCORP Trails RS2477 Historic Transportation
-   T11) SCORP Trails City of Juneau Trails
-   T12) SCORP Trails City of Valdez Trails
-   T13) SCORP Snowtrack trails

### Parks Geoprocessing Models (below)

-   P1) SCORP Parks USFS
-   P2) SCORP Parks NPS
-   P3) SCORP Parks BLM
-   P4) SCORP Parks USFWS
-   P4a) SCORP Parks USFWS Template
-   P4b) SCORP Parks USFWS (Wilderness Areas)
-   P4c) SCORP Parks USFWS (Non-Wilderness Areas)
-   P4d) SCORP Parks USFWS (Inholdings)
-   P5) SCORP Parks DPOR
-   P6) SCORP Parks LDA
-   P7) SCORP Parks Mental Health
-   P8) SCORP Parks Special Use Land
-   P9) SCORP Parks University
-   P10) SCORP Parks MOA
-   P11) SCORP Parks MSB
-   P12) SCORP Parks CBJ
-   P13) SCORP Parks City of Valdez

### Facilities Geoprocessing Models (right)

-   F1) SCORP Facilities Alaska State Parks Template
-   F2) SCORP Facilities National Forest Service
-   F3) SCORP Facilities National Park Service Points of Interest
-   F4) SCORP Facilities National Wildlife Refuge System Trail Features
-   F5) SCORP Facilities Alaska Department of Fish and Game Sport Fishing Access Trails
-   F6) SCORP Facilities Alaska Department of Fish and Game Sport Fishing Opportunities
-   F7) SCORP Facilities Alaska Department of Fish and Game Launch Ramps
-   F8) SCORP Facilities Alaska Department of Fish and Game Harbors
-   F9) SCORP Facilities Municipality of Anchorage Park Facilities
-   F10) SCORP Facilities Municipality of Anchorage Trail Posts
-   F11) SCORP Facilities Matanuska-Susitna Borough Recreational Facilities
-   F12) SCORP Facilities Matanuska-Susitna Borough Recreational Waterbody Access
-   F13) SCORP Facilities Sitka Trail Works Cabins and Shelters
-   F14) SCORP Facilities Kenai Peninsula Borough Facilities
-   F15) SCORP Facilities City of Valdez Playgrounds
-   F16) SCORP Facilities City of Valdez Restrooms

## Facilities Geoprocessing Models (right)

**Table of Organizations and layers added to the SCORP (below)**

Organization	Parks	Trails	Facilities
City and Borough of Juneau	X	X	
City of Valdez	X	X	X
Fairbanks North Star Borough		X	
Kenai Peninsula Borough		X	X
Mat-Su Borough	X		X
Municipality of Anchorage	X	X	X
Sitka Trail Works		X	X
State of Alaska (ADFG)			X
State of Alaska (DNR)	X	X	
State of Alaska (DPOR)	X	X	X
State of Alaska (MHT)	X		
US Bureau of Land Management	X		
US Fish and Wildlife Service	X	X	X
US Forest Service	X	X	X
US National Park Service	X	X	X

- F1) SCORP Facilities Alaska State Parks Template
- F2) SCORP Facilities National Forest Service
- F3) SCORP Facilities National Park Service Points of Interest
- F4) SCORP Facilities National Wildlife Refuge System Trail Features
- F5) SCORP Facilities Alaska Department of Fish and Game Sport Fishing Access Trails
- F6) SCORP Facilities Alaska Department of Fish and Game Sport Fishing Opportunities
- F7) SCORP Facilities Alaska Department of Fish and Game Launch Ramps
- F8) SCORP Facilities Alaska Department of Fish and Game Harbors
- F9) SCORP Facilities Municipality of Anchorage Park Facilities
- F10) SCORP Facilities Municipality of Anchorage Trail Posts
- F11) SCORP Facilities Matanuska-Susitna Borough Recreational Facilities
- F12) SCORP Facilities Matanuska-Susitna Borough Recreational Waterbody Access
- F13) SCORP Facilities Sitka Trail Works Cabins and Shelters
- F14) SCORP Facilities Kenai Peninsula Borough Facilities
- F15) SCORP Facilities City of Valdez Playgrounds
- F16) SCORP Facilities City of Valdez Restrooms

## Geodatabase Layers and Fields (right)

SCORP Layers	SCORP Parks	SCORP Trails	SCORP Facilities
<b>Key Field (Unique Id)</b>	ParkID	TrailID	FacilityID
<b>Common to Most Data</b>	ParkName	TrailName	FacilityName
	ParkType	TrailType	FacilityType
	ParkDescription	TrailDescription	FacilityDescription
<b>Descriptive (Optional)</b>	ParkDistrict	TrailSystemName	
	ParkUnit		
	Acreage		
	ParkWebsite	TrailWebsite	FacilityWebsite
<b>Public Information</b>	Organziation	Organziation	Organziation
	SourceURL	SourceURL	SourceURL
<b>Data Tracking Fields</b>		ParkID	ParkID
		ParkName	ParkName
<b>Foreign Key (relates layers to parks)</b>			

## APPENDIX 2: ANCSA Region Descriptions

The ANCSA Regional Association divided the state into twelve regions defined by the common heritage and shared interests of the Indigenous peoples within each geographic area.<sup>1</sup>

### **The Ahtna Region<sup>1,2,3</sup>**

**Region Location:** Southcentral Interior

**Total Size of Region:** Approximately 28 million acres *an area roughly the size of Ohio*

**Number of Residents in Region:** 3,682

**Main Alaska Native Culture(s) in Region:** Ahtna Athabascan

**Alaska Native Regional Corporation:** Ahtna, Incorporated

**ANCSA conveyed land owned by Ahtna, Incorporated:** Approximately 1.5 million acres

**Name of Alaska Native Regional Non-profit Organization:** Copper River Native Association

**Number of Village Corporations in Region:** 1

**Number of Communities in Region:** 12

**Number of Federally Recognized Tribes in Region:** 8

### **The Aleut Region<sup>1,4,5</sup>**

**Region Location:** Aleutian chain and surrounding islands

**Total Size of Region:** 2 million acres *an area roughly the size of Delaware*

**Number of Residents in Region:** 8,500

**Main Alaska Native Culture(s) in Region:** Aleut (Unangax)

**Alaska Native Regional Corporation:** Aleut Corporation

**ANCSA conveyed land owned by Aleut Corporation:** More than 1.5 million acres

**Name of Alaska Native Regional Non-profit Organization:** Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association

**Number of Village Corporations in Region:** 13

**Number of Communities in Region:** 13

**Number of Federally Recognized Tribes in Region:** 13

### **The Arctic Slope Region<sup>1,6,7</sup>**

**Region Location:** North Slope

**Total Size of Region:** 55-60 million acres *an area roughly the size of Minnesota*

**Number of Residents in Region:** 10,000

**Main Alaska Native Culture(s) in Region:** Inupiat

**Alaska Native Regional Corporation:** Arctic Slope Regional Corporation

**ANCSA conveyed land owned by ASRC:** Nearly 5 million acres

**Name of Alaska Native Regional Non-profit Organization:** Arctic Slope Native Association

**Number of Village Corporations in Region:** 8

**Number of Communities in Region:** 8

**Number of Federally Recognized Tribes in Region:** 9

### **The Bering Straits Region<sup>1,8,9</sup>**

**Region Location:** Seward Peninsula and coastal lands of eastern Norton Sound

**Total Size of Region:** 17 million acres *an area roughly the size New Jersey, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Delaware combined*

**Number of Residents in Region:** 9,492

**Main Alaska Native Culture(s) in Region:** Inupiat, Central Yupik, Siberian Yupik

**Alaska Native Regional Corporation:** Bering Straits Native Corporation

**ANCSA conveyed land owned by BSNC:** 2.1 million acres

**Name of Alaska Native Regional Non-profit Organization:** Kawerak, Incorporated

**Number of Village Corporations in Region:** 20

**Number of Communities in Region:** 20

**Number of Federally Recognized Tribes in Region:** 20

### **The Bristol Bay Region<sup>1,10,11</sup>**

**Region Location:** Bristol Bay

**Total Size of Region:** 40 million acres *an area roughly the size of Wisconsin*

**Number of Residents in Region:** 7,500

**Main Alaska Native Culture(s) in Region:** Yupik, Dena'ina, Alutiiq

**Alaska Native Regional Corporation:** Bristol Bay Native Corporation

**ANCSA conveyed land owned by BBNC:** More than 3 million acres

**Name of Alaska Native Regional Non-profit Organization:** Bristol Bay Native Association

**Number of Village Corporations in Region:** 25

**Number of Communities in Region:** 31

**Number of Federally Recognized Tribes in Region:** 31

### **The Calista Region<sup>1,12,13</sup>**

**Region Location:** Yukon-Kuskokwim River Delta and the Kuskokwim Mountains

**Total Size of Region:** Approximately 62 million acres *an area roughly the size of Oregon*

**Number of Residents in Region:** More than 29,000

**Main Alaska Native Culture(s) in Region:** Yupik, Cupik, Athabaskan

**Alaska Native Regional Corporation:** Calista Corporation

**ANCSA conveyed land owned by Calista Corporation:** Approximately 6.5 million acres

**Name of Alaska Native Regional Non-profit Organization:** Association of Village Council Presidents

**Number of Village Corporations in Region:** 45

**Number of Communities in Region:** 44

**Number of Federally Recognized Tribes in Region:** 54

### **The Chugach Region<sup>1,14,15</sup>**

**Region Location:** Portions of land on the Kenai Peninsula and the coast of Prince William Sound

**Total Size of Region:** Approximately 10 million acres *an area roughly the size of Connecticut and Vermont combined*

**Number of Residents in Region:** 9,500

**Main Alaska Native Culture(s) in Region:** Alutiiq (Sugpiaq), Eyak (Athabascan), Tlingit

**Alaska Native Regional Corporation:** Chugach Alaska Corporation

**ANCSA conveyed land owned by Chugach Alaska Corporation:** 928,000 acres

**Name of Alaska Native Regional Non-profit Organization:** Chugachmiut

**Number of Village Corporations in Region:** 5

**Number of Communities in Region:** 7

**Number of Federally Recognized Tribes in Region:** 5

### **The Cook Inlet Region<sup>1,16,17</sup>**

**Region Location:** Southcentral

**Total Size of Region:** Approximately 29 million acres *an area roughly the size of Pennsylvania*

**Number of Residents in Region:** 459,579

**Main Alaska Native Culture(s) in Region:** Athabascan, Southeast Indian, Inupiat, Yupik, Alutiiq (Sugpiaq) and Aleut (Unangax)

**Alaska Native Regional Corporation:** Cook Inlet Region, Incorporated

**ANCSA conveyed land owned by CIRI:** Approximately 1.6 million acres

**Name of Alaska Native Regional Non-profit Organization:** Cook Inlet Tribal Council

**Number of Village Corporations in Region:** 7

**Number of Communities in Region:** 7

**Number of Federally Recognized Tribes in Region:** 8



### **The Doyon Region<sup>1,18,19</sup>**

**Region Location:** Interior

**Total Size of Region:** Approximately 172 million acres *an area roughly the size of Texas*

**Number of Residents in Region:** 86,130

**Main Alaska Native Culture(s) in Region:** Athabascan

**Alaska Native Regional Corporation:** Doyon, Limited

**ANCSA conveyed land owned by Doyon, Limited:** 12.5 million acres

**Name of Alaska Native Regional Non-profit Organization:** Tanana Chiefs Conference

**Number of Village Corporations in Region:** 26

**Number of Communities in Region:** 34

**Number of Federally Recognized Tribes in Region:** 40

### **The Koniag Region<sup>1,20,21</sup>**

**Region Location:** Kodiak Archipelago

**Total Size of Region:** More than 3 million acres *an area roughly the size of Connecticut*

**Number of Residents in Region:** 13,000

**Main Alaska Native Culture(s) in Region:** Sugpiaq (Alutiiq)

**Alaska Native Regional Corporation:** Koniag

**ANCSA conveyed land owned by Koniag:** Nearly 1 million acres

**Name of Alaska Native Regional Non-profit Organization:** Kodiak Area Native Association

**Number of Village Corporations in Region:** 11

**Number of Communities in Region:** 7

**Number of Federally Recognized Tribes in Region:** 10

### **The NANA Region<sup>1,22,23</sup>**

**Region Location:** Northwest

**Total Size of Region:** More than 23 million acres *an area roughly to the size of Indiana*

**Number of Residents in Region:** 7,684

**Main Alaska Native Culture(s) in Region:** Inupiaq

**Alaska Native Regional Corporation:** NANA Regional Corporation

**ANCSA conveyed land owned by NANA:** Approximately 2.2 million acres

**Name of Alaska Native Regional Non-profit Organization:** Maniilaq Association

**Number of Village Corporations in Region:** 1

**Number of Communities in Region:** 11

**Number of Federally Recognized Tribes in Region:** 11

### **The Sealaska Region<sup>1,24,25</sup>**

**Region Location:** Southeast

**Total Size of Region:** 24 million acres *an area roughly to the size of Indiana*

**Number of Residents in Region:** Approximately 73,000

**Main Alaska Native Culture(s) in Region:** Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian, Aleut

**Alaska Native Regional Corporation:** Sealaska Corporation

**ANCSA conveyed land owned by Sealaska Corporation:** 360,000 acres

**Name of Alaska Native Regional Non-profit Organization:** Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

**Number of Village Corporations in Region:** 12

**Number of Communities in Region:** 24

**Number of Federally Recognized Tribes in Region:** 0

**Federal Reservation in Region:** Annette Island Reserve - Metlakatla Indian Community

## REFERENCES

1. ANCSA Regional Association. The Twelve Regions. Accessed August 30, 2022. <https://ancsaregional.com/the-twelve-regions/>.
2. Ahtna. Accessed August 30, 2022. <https://www.ahtna.com/>.
3. Copper River Native Association. Accessed August 30, 2022. <https://crnative.org/>.
4. Aleut Corporation. Accessed August 30, 2022. <https://aleutcorp.com/>.
5. Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association. Accessed August 30, 2022. <https://www.apiai.org/>.
6. Arctic Slope Regional Corporation. Accessed August 30, 2022. <https://www.asrc.com/>.
7. Arctic Slope Native Association. Accessed August 30, 2022. <https://arcticslope.org/>.
8. Bering Straits Native Corporation. Accessed August 30, 2022. <https://beringstraits.com/>.
9. Kawerak, Incorporated. Accessed August 30, 2022. <https://kawerak.org/>.
10. Bristol Bay Native Corporation. Accessed August 30, 2022. <https://www.bbnc.net/>.
11. Bristol Bay Native Association. Accessed August 30, 2022. <https://bbna.com/>.
12. Calista Corporation. Accessed August 30, 2022. <https://www.calistacorp.com/>.
13. Association of Village Council Presidents. Accessed August 30, 2022. <https://www.avcp.org/>.
14. Chugach Alaska Corporation. Accessed August 30, 2022. <https://www.chugach.com/>.
15. Chugachmiut. Accessed August 30, 2002. <https://www.chugachmiut.org/>.
16. Cook Inlet Region, Incorporated. August 30, 2022. <https://www.ciri.com/>.
17. Cook Inlet Tribal Council. Accessed August 30, 2022. <https://citci.org/>.
18. Doyon, Limited. Accessed August 30, 2022. <https://www.doyon.com/>.
19. Tanana Chiefs Conference. Accessed August 30, 2022. <https://www.tananachiefs.org/>.
20. Koniag. Accessed August 30, 2022. <https://www.koniag.com/>.
21. Kodiak Area Native Association. Accessed August 30, 2022. <https://kodiakhealthcare.org/>.
22. NANA Regional Corporation. Accessed August 30, 2022. <https://www.nana.com/>.
23. Maniilaq Association. Accessed August 30, 2022. <https://www.maniilaq.org/>.
24. Sealaska. Accessed August 30, 2022. <https://www.sealaska.com/>.
25. Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. Accessed August 30, 2022. <http://www.ccthita.org/>.
26. Annette Island Reserve - Metlakatla Indian Community. Accessed August 30, 2022. <http://www.metlakatla.com/index.html>.

## APPENDIX 3: Public Survey Results

### PART 1 REPORT

This report includes responses for survey question 2 (Q2) through Q37.  
Personal information collected (Q1) was removed from this report.

Q2 - Do you engage in outdoor activities in Alaska? Please consider everything from hiking, skiing, hunting and fishing to organized sports and walks in your immediate area.



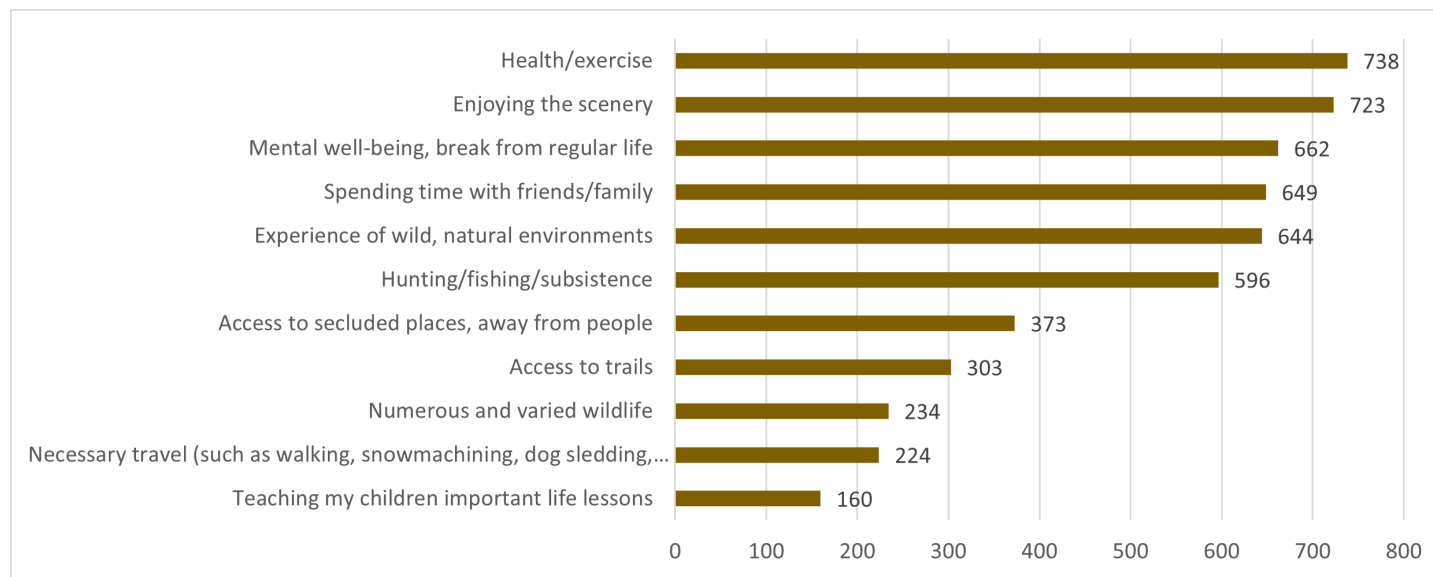
Q3 - Do you engage in outdoor activities in Alaska in the summer?



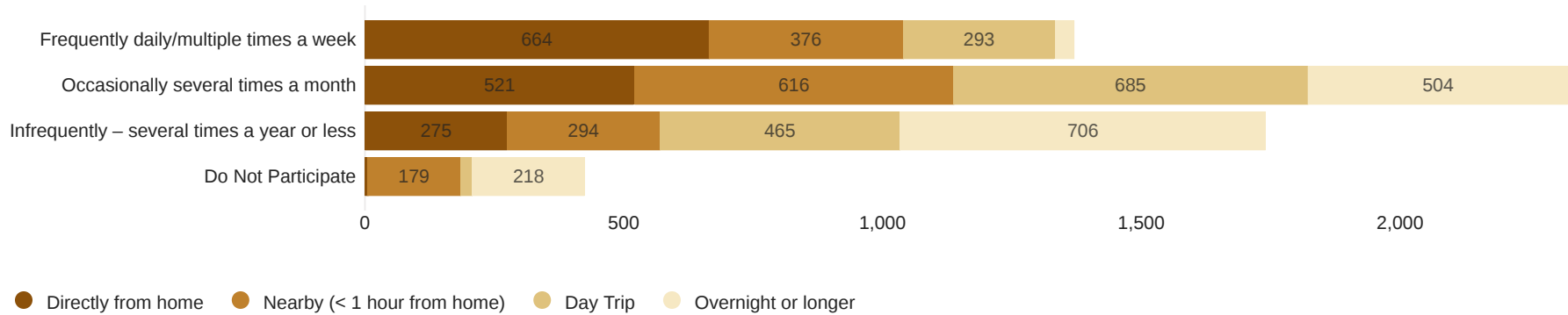
Q4 - Do you engage in outdoor activities in Alaska in the winter?



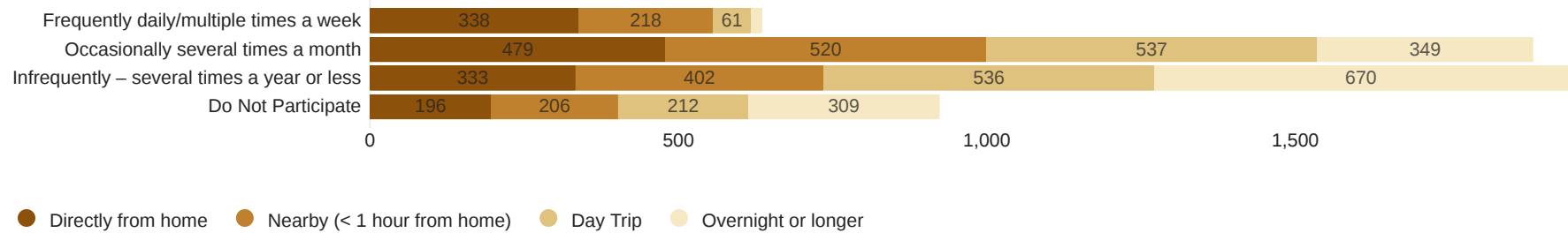
Q5 - What are the main reasons you spend time outdoors in Alaska? Please check up to five.



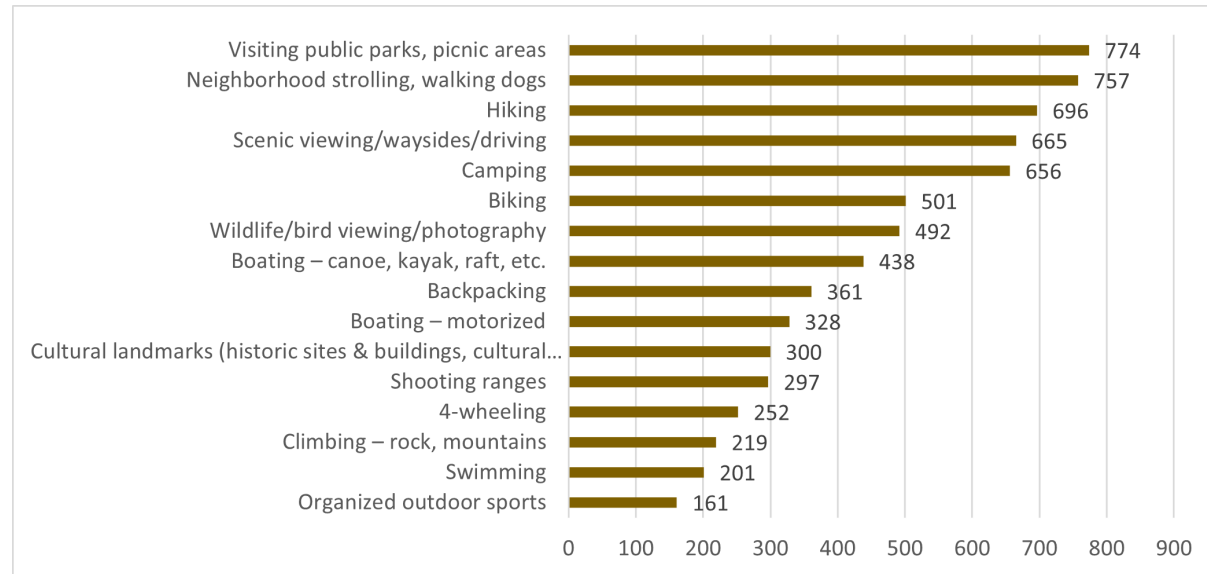
## Q6 - How frequently do you typically travel for SUMMER outdoor activities?



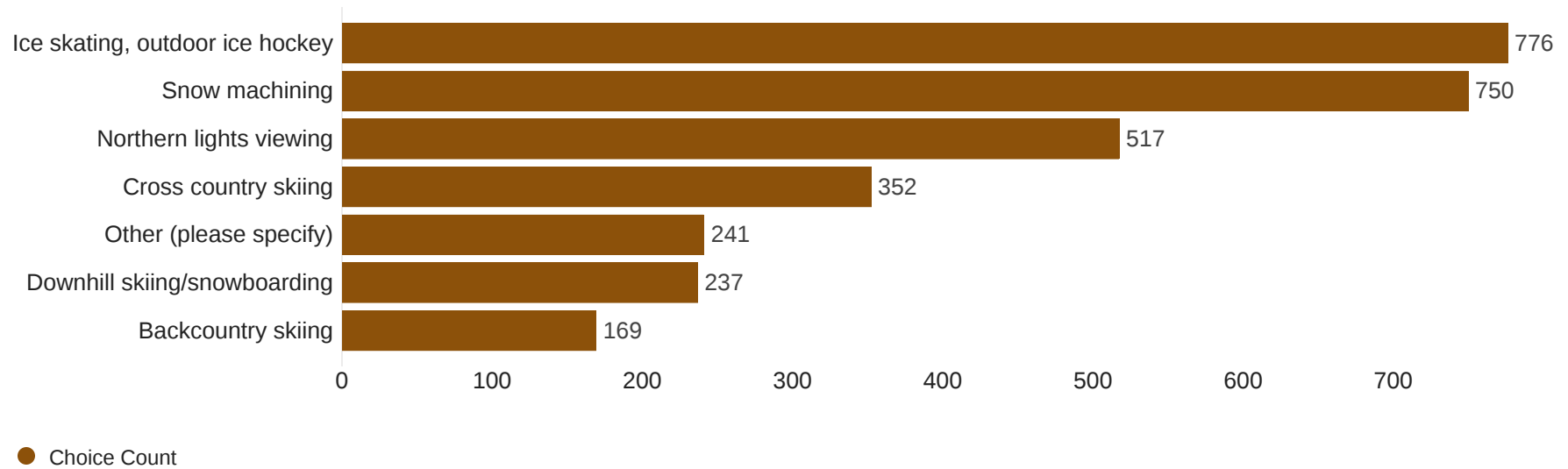
## Q7 - How frequently do you typically travel for WINTER outdoor activities?



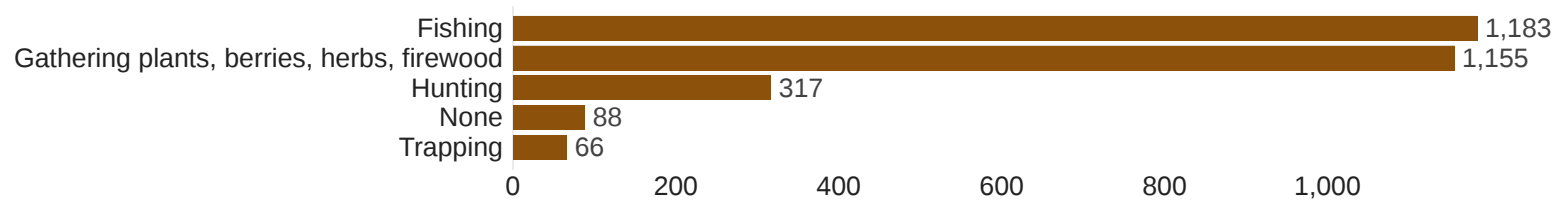
Q8 - Select all year-round outdoor activities you have done in the past year:



Q9 - Select all winter outdoor activities you have done in the past year:

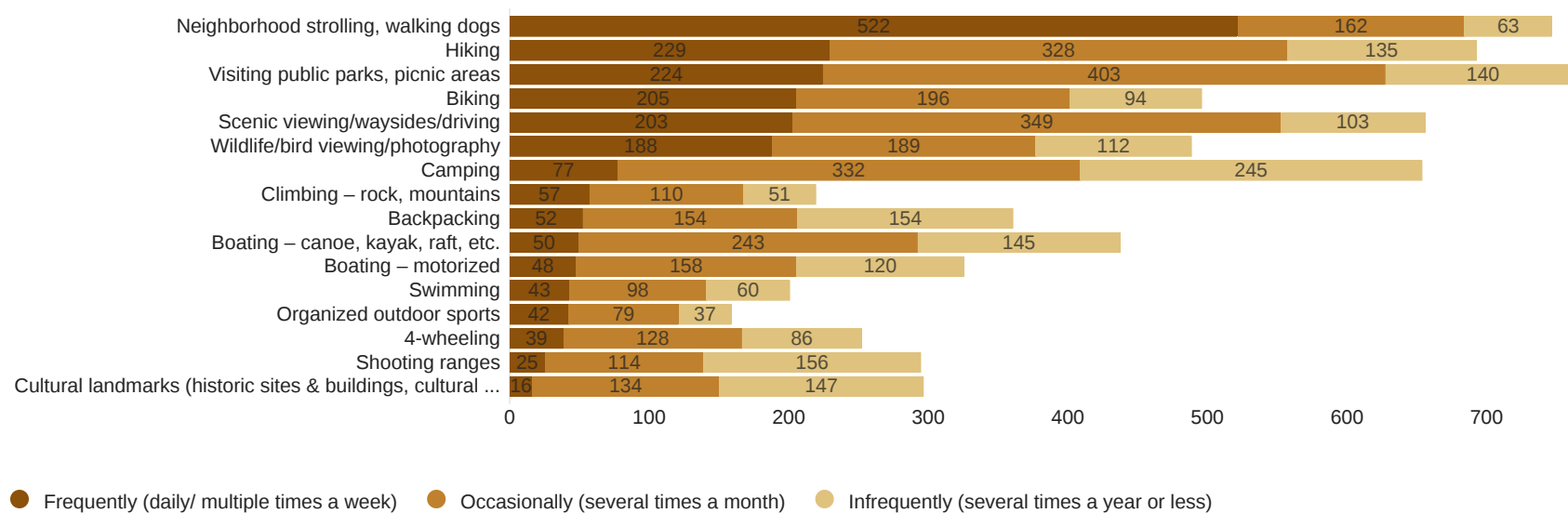


Q10 - Select all consumptive outdoor activities you have done in the past year:

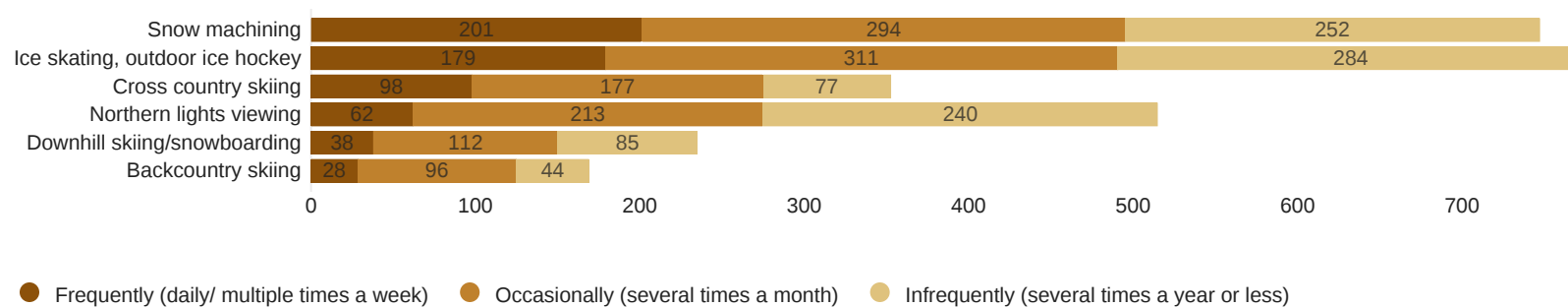




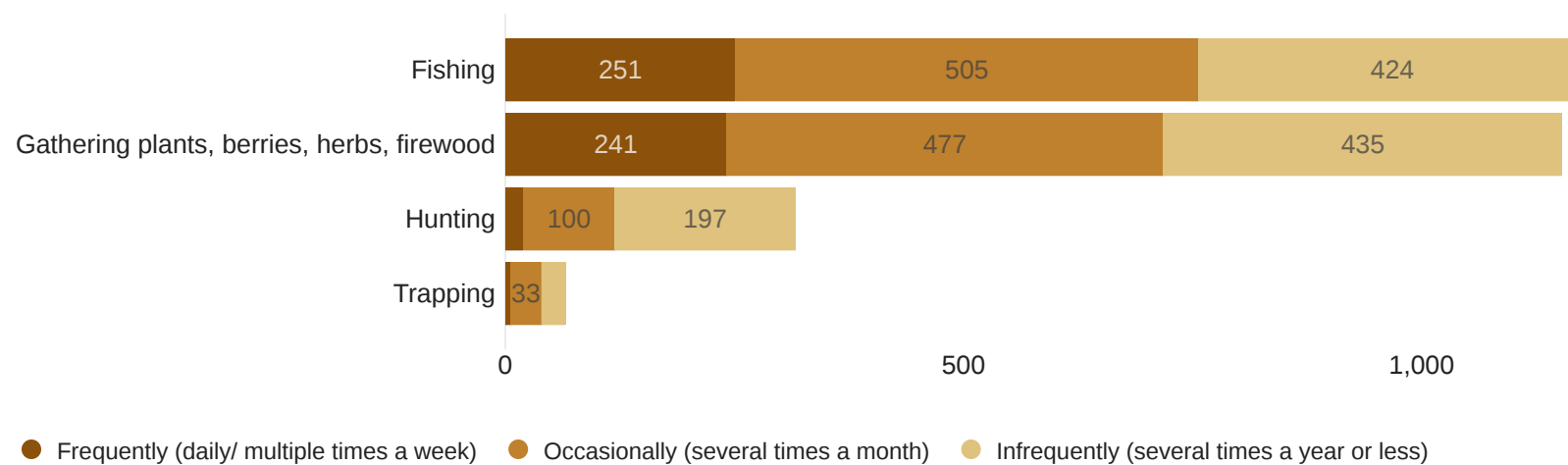
## Q11 - Please tell us how often you participate in these activities.



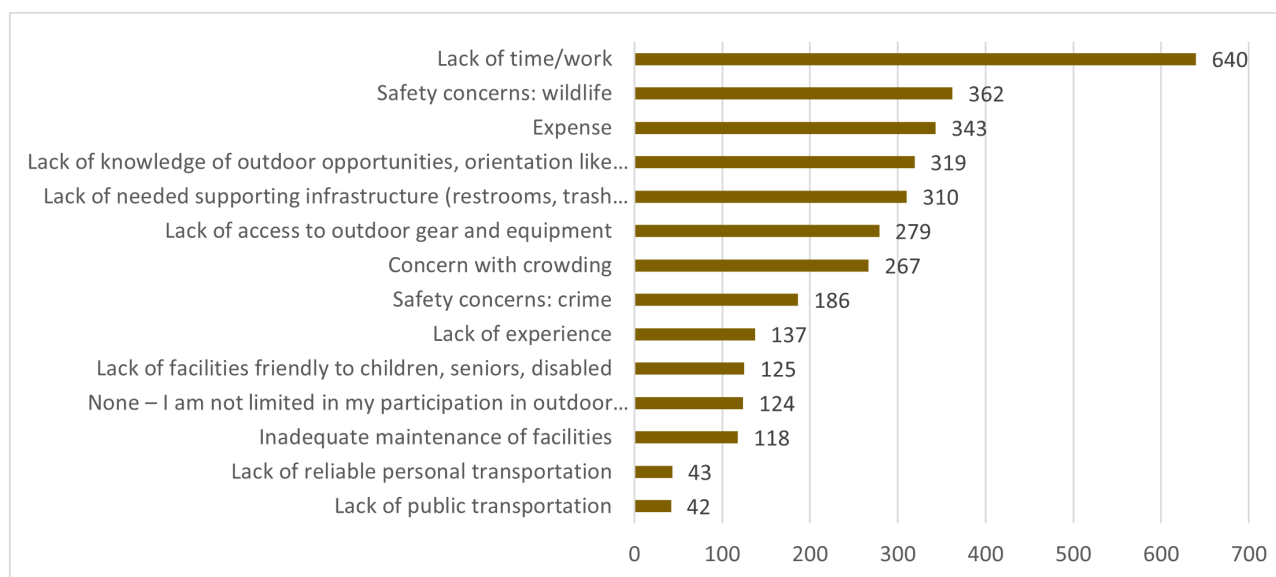
## Q12 - Please tell us how often you participate in these activities.



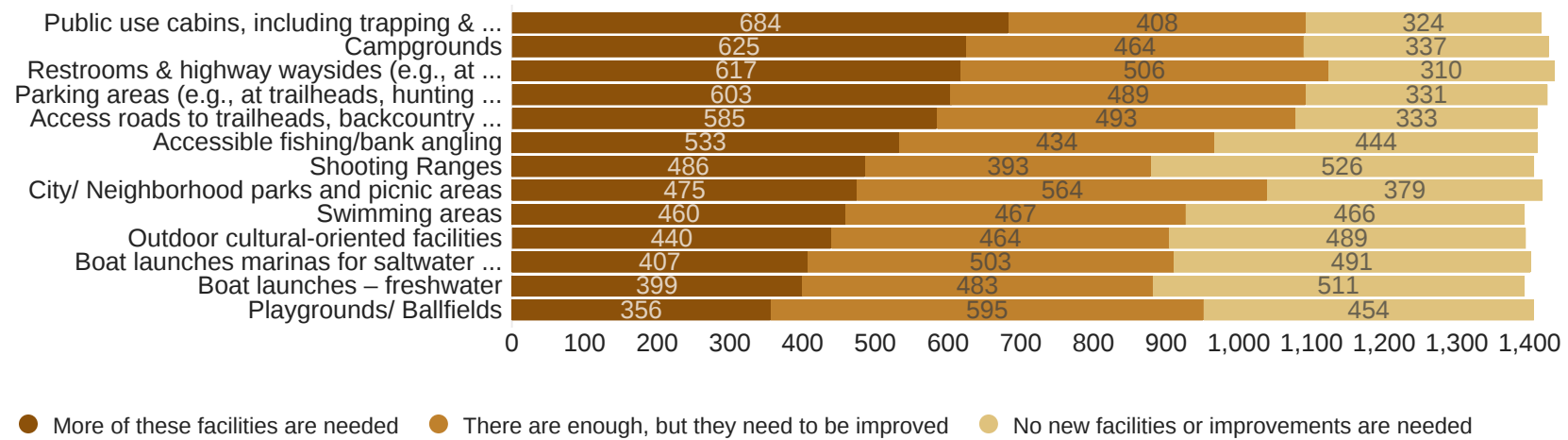
Q13 - Please tell us how often you participate in these activities.



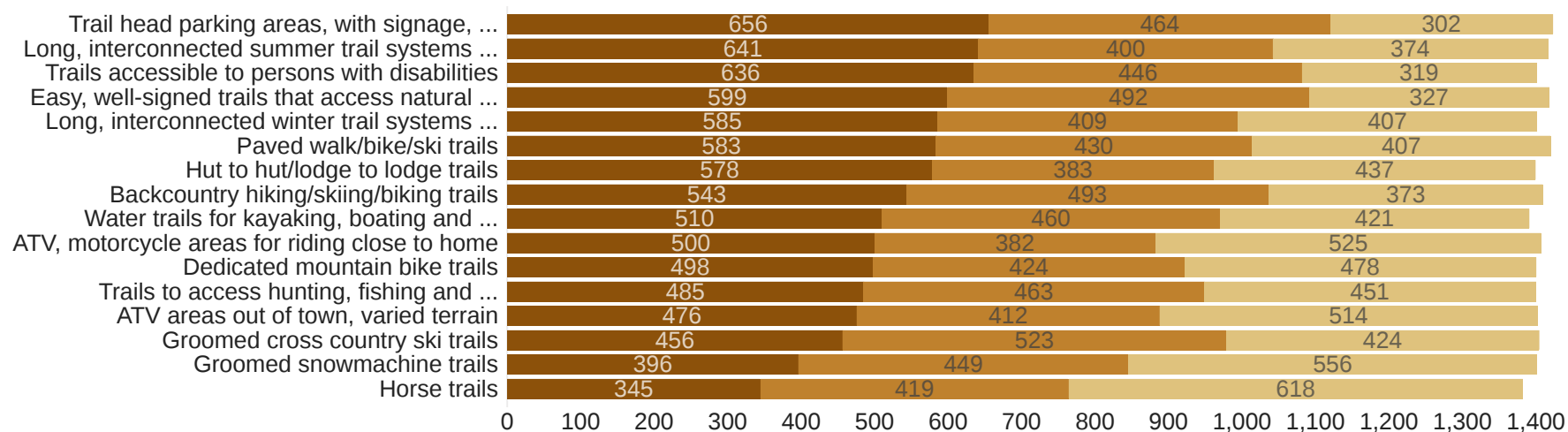
Q14 - What most limits your participation in outdoor recreation activities? Please select up to five.



## Q15 - What categories of improved or new developed outdoor recreation facilities are most needed in Alaska?

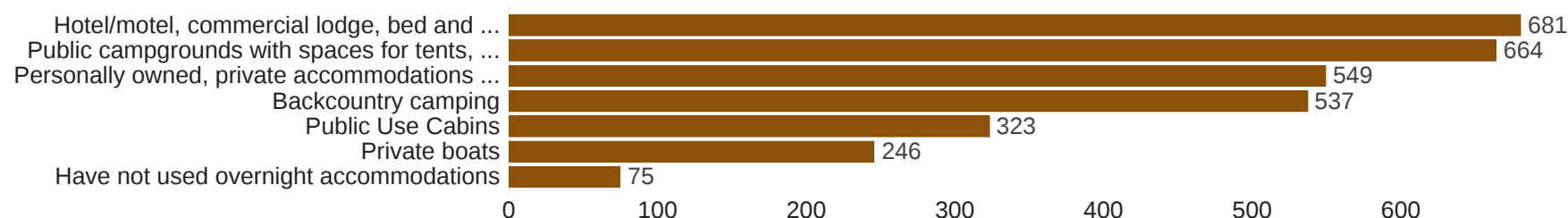


Q16 - Please rate the need for more improved and newly developed trails and trails-related infrastructure in Alaska.

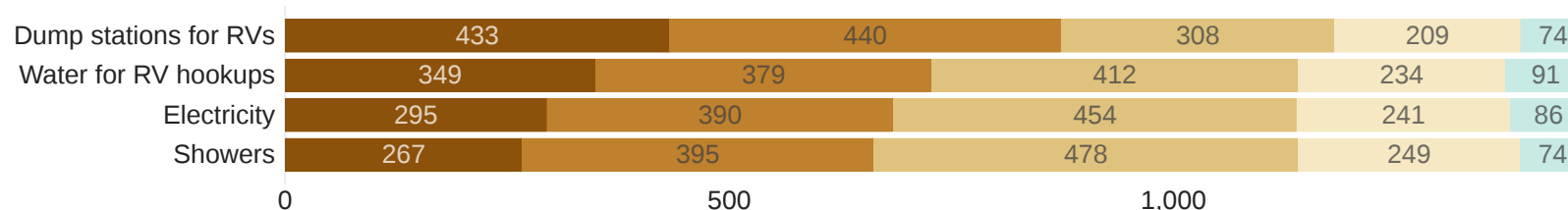


● More of these trails are needed 
 ● There are enough of these trails, but they need to be improved 
 ● No more of these trails or improvements are needed

Q17 - Please select the types of overnight accommodations you have used when pursuing outdoor recreation activities in Alaska over the past two years. (Please select all that apply)



Q18 - Regarding campground facilities, how important is the option for:



● Very important 
 ● Important 
 ● Neutral 
 ● Not Important 
 ● Definitely not Important

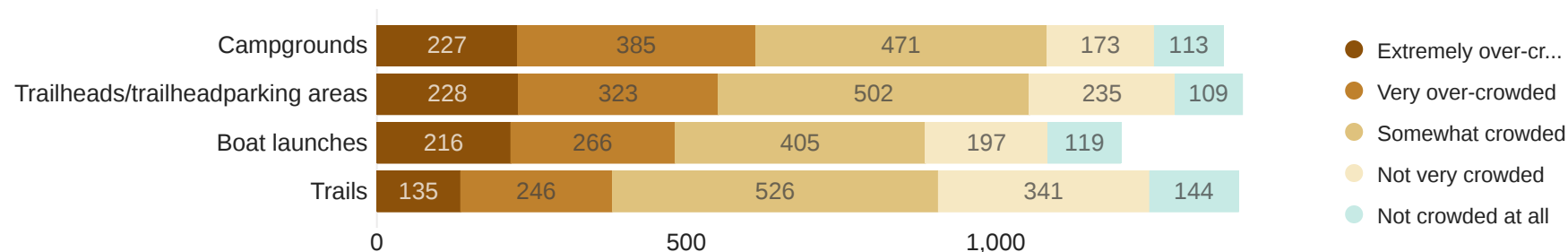
Q19 - At campgrounds without power, do you bring a generator for power?



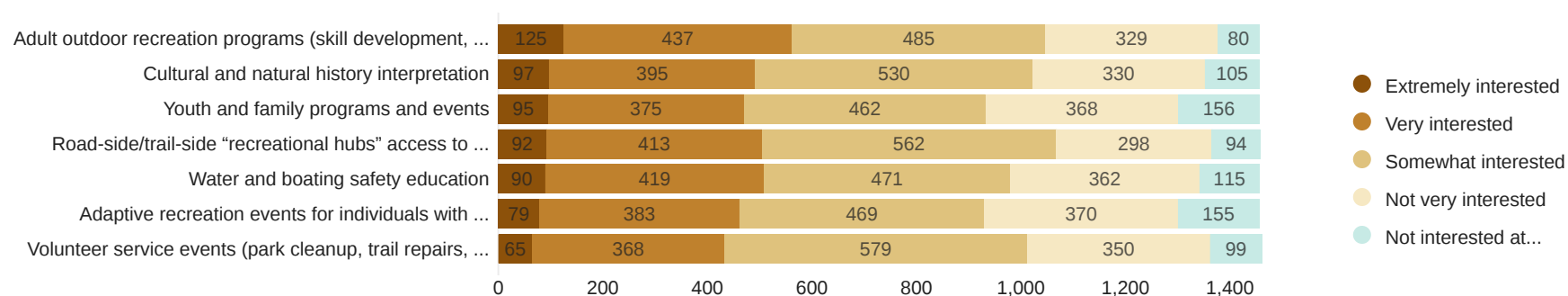
Q20 - Should campgrounds have limits on hours of operation for generators?



Q21 - In the past two years, have you found outdoor recreation facilities in your area are to be more or less crowded?



Q22 - Please rate how much you are interested in the following types of outdoor-related cultural, training, educational programs and forms of communication:

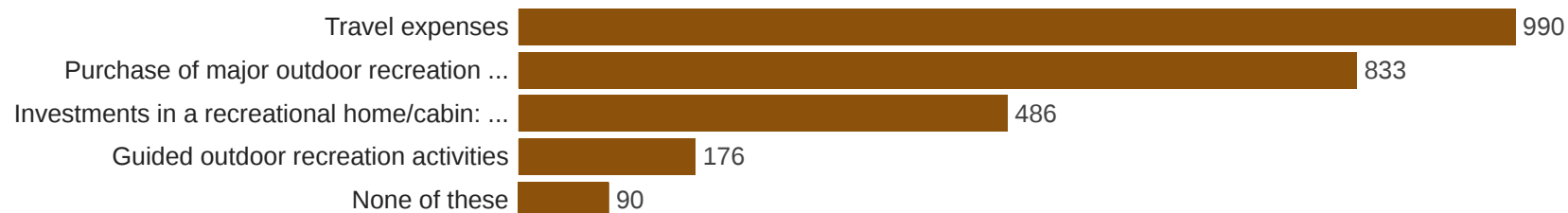




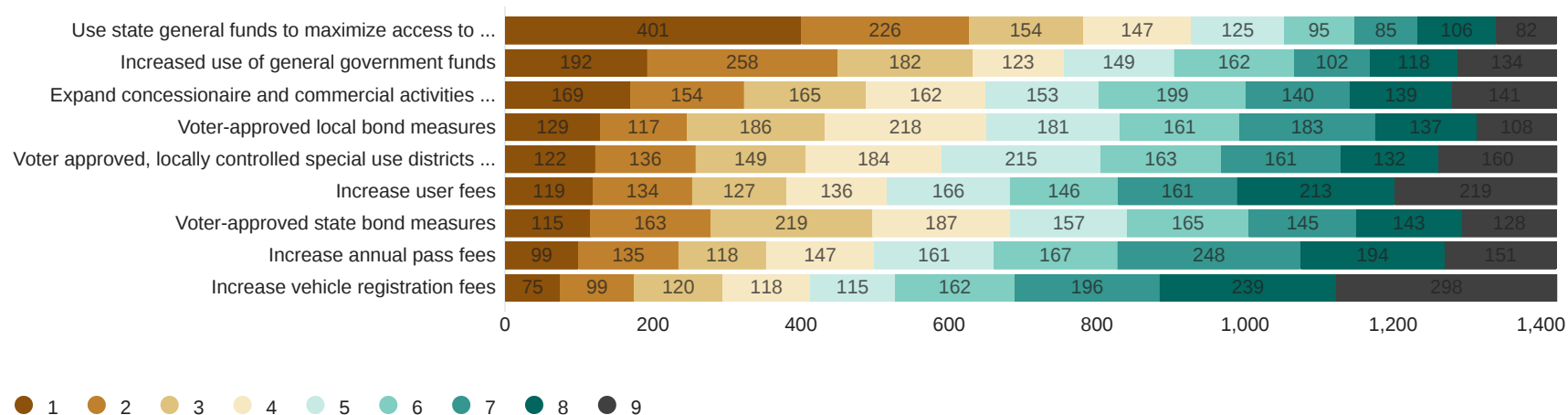
Q23 - About how much do you spend on outdoor recreation in Alaska each year, in total including gear and equipment, guided activities, travel including food and lodging, second homes/cabins?



Q24 - Please select all the categories that apply regarding your annual outdoor recreation spending. Please select all that apply.



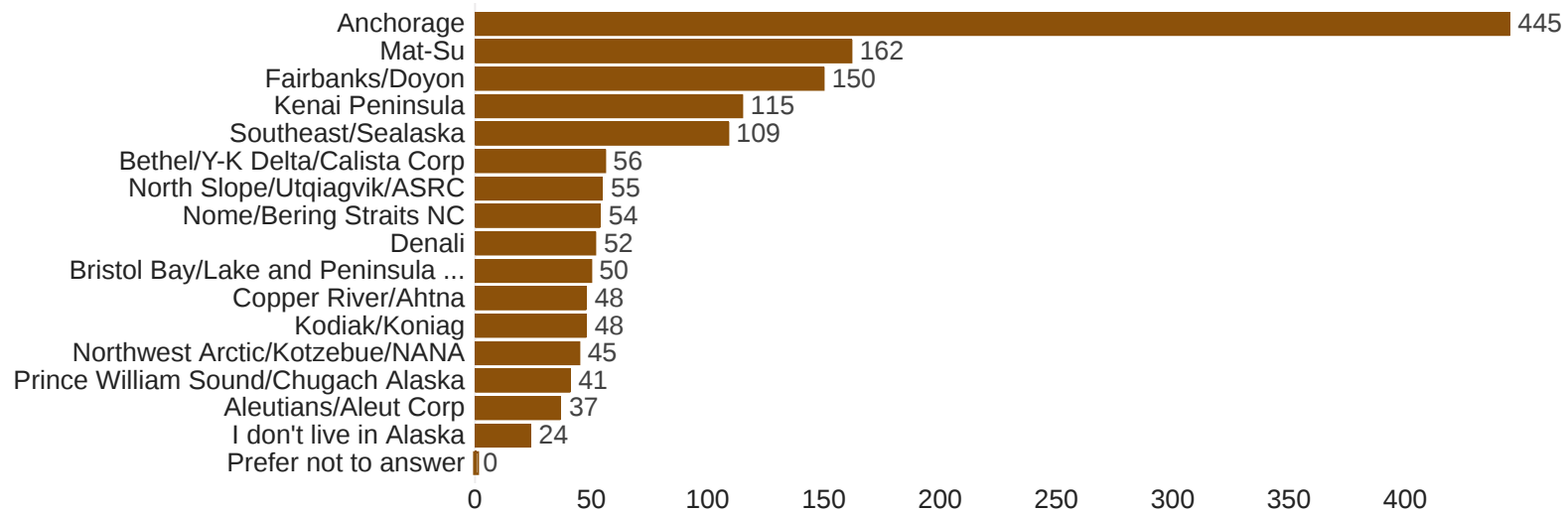
Q26 - Alaska is facing growing demand for outdoor recreation with limited budgets. What strategies would you support to grow stable, sustainable funding for new facilities and maintain existing facilities? Please rank your options by dragging your top options to the top of the list.



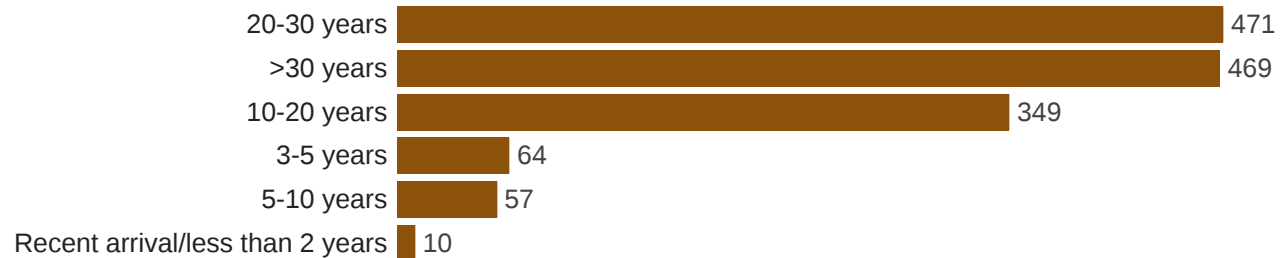
Q27 - Please indicate your Alaska residency status:



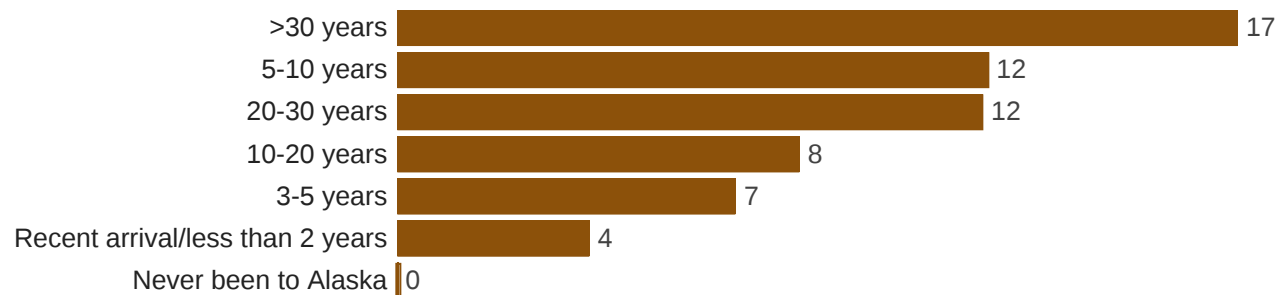
Q28 - Where in Alaska is your primary home?



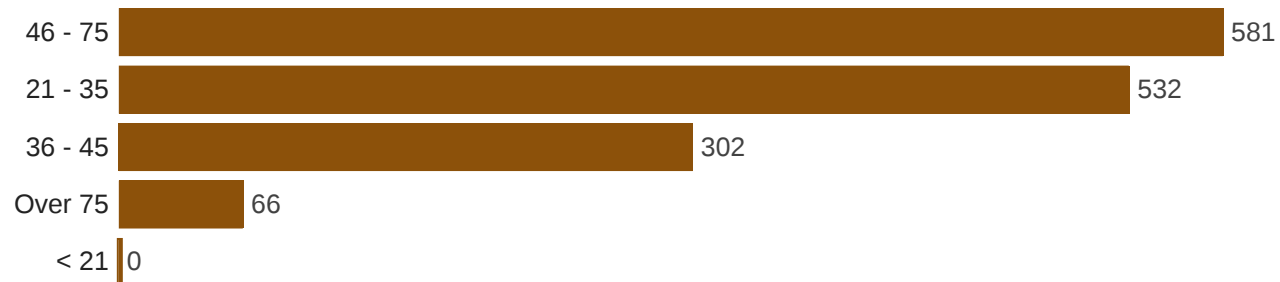
Q29 - Please indicate how many years you have continuously lived as a full-time resident of Alaska:



Q30 - Please indicate how many years you have been a seasonal resident or visitor to Alaska:



Q31 - Please indicate your age range:



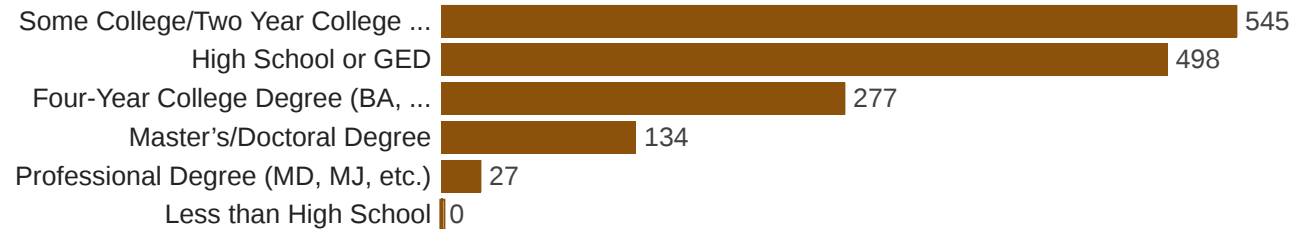
Q32 - Which of the following do you most identify with?



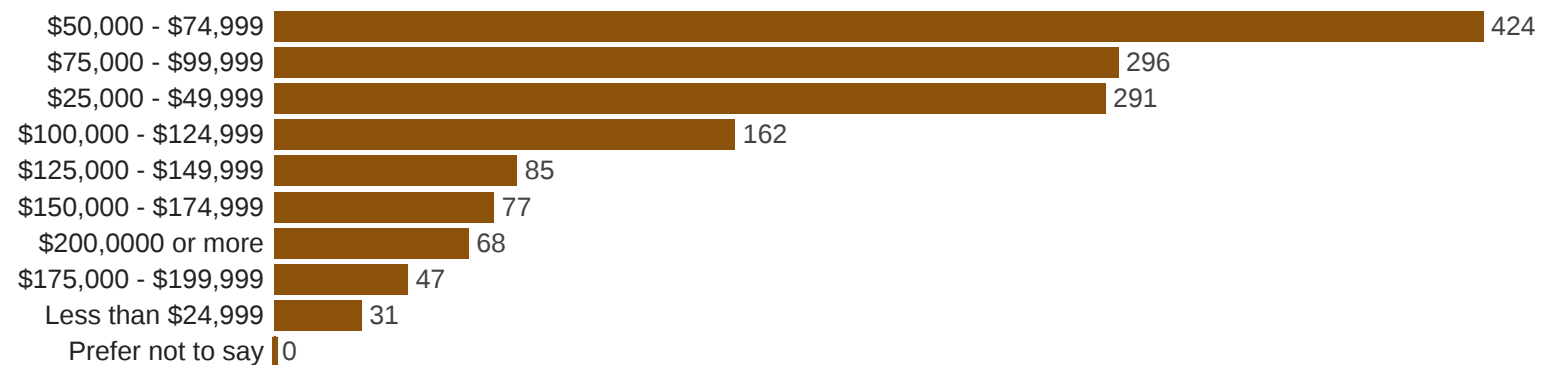
Q33 - Which of the following best describes your political affiliation?



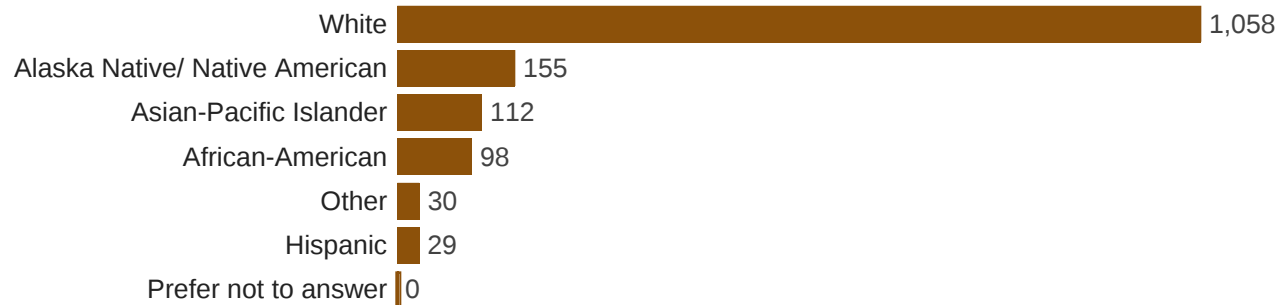
Q34 - What is the highest level of education that you have completed?



Q35 - Please indicate your approximate household annual income.



### Q36 - What is your race?



### Q37 - Please provide any final comments you may have about outdoor recreation in Alaska.

Please provide any final comments you may have about outdoor recreation in Alaska.

Education for people to understand importance of taking care of natural spaces - protect wild areas -

I love Alaska and being in the outdoors. Thank you for protecting our public lands.

I have seen many other states and nothing comes close too Alaska!

Amazing to have such great outdoor opportunities so close by! And many are free!

Alaska does a great job of providing outdoor oppoortunities for Alaskans. With the high price of gas & other inflation, this year's planning looks a lot different!!!!



# APPENDIX 3: Public Survey Results

## PART 2 DATA (FOR THE TOTAL SAMPLE AND BY REGION)

### ARCTIC:

1. North Slope/Utqiagvik/ASRC
2. Northwest Arctic/Kotzebue/NANA

### INTERIOR:

1. Denali
2. Fairbanks/Doyon
3. Copper River/Ahtna

### WESTERN:

1. Nome/Bering Straits NC

### SOUTHEAST:

1. Southeast

### SOUTHWEST:

1. Bristol Bay/Lake and Peninsula Borough/BBNC
2. Aleutians/Aleut Corp Kodiak/Koniag

### SOUTHCENTRAL:

1. Prince William Sound/Chugach Alaska
2. Kenai Peninsula
3. Anchorage

		REGION						
		Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q2: Do you engage in outdoor activities in Alaska? Please consider everything from hiking, skiing, hunting and fishing to	Unweighted Total Count (All)	1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Yes	99.2%	100.0%	98.5%	99.3%	98.7%	100.0%	100.0%
	No	0.8%	0.0%	1.5%	0.7%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%
		REGION						
		Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q3: Do you engage in outdoor activities in Alaska in the summer?	Unweighted Total Count (All)	1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Yes	98.9%	100.0%	98.5%	99.1%	98.7%	99.4%	98.7%
	No	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.6%	1.3%
		REGION						
		Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q4: Do you engage in outdoor activities in Alaska in the winter?	Unweighted Total Count (All)	1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Yes	90.4%	91.4%	92.7%	87.2%	96.0%	99.5%	97.5%
	No	8.8%	8.6%	5.8%	12.1%	2.7%	0.5%	2.5%
		REGION						
		Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q5: What are the main reasons you spend time outdoors in Alaska? Please check up to five. - Selected Choice	Unweighted Total Count (All)	1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Health/exercise	49.5%	26.2%	35.9%	58.6%	49.5%	30.0%	26.0%
	Access to secluded places, away from people	25.0%	8.3%	18.1%	30.9%	27.3%	6.2%	7.3%
	Experience of wild, natural environments	43.2%	29.1%	38.6%	47.5%	34.6%	33.5%	42.0%
	Access to trails	20.3%	0.8%	10.7%	26.7%	19.7%	3.1%	8.7%
	Numerous and varied wildlife	15.7%	3.3%	11.0%	19.3%	12.2%	5.5%	13.4%
	Spending time with friends/family	43.5%	35.3%	31.7%	49.6%	45.7%	33.7%	26.1%
	Mental well-being, break from regular life	44.4%	23.2%	38.8%	48.6%	43.8%	31.5%	39.6%
	Enjoying the scenery	48.5%	34.1%	40.8%	52.7%	54.6%	44.5%	30.2%
	Celebrating, preserving my cultural heritage	3.8%	12.4%	2.4%	4.0%	1.4%	4.2%	5.8%
	Teaching my children important life lessons	10.7%	9.4%	8.4%	11.3%	12.5%	7.4%	11.8%
	Necessary travel (such as walking, snowmachining, dog sledding, etc. to pick up supplies or visit)	15.0%	26.2%	22.2%	11.1%	14.9%	22.2%	21.6%
	Hunting/fishing/subsistence	40.0%	20.1%	35.2%	43.2%	40.4%	26.5%	40.2%
	Other	1.8%	0.0%	0.5%	2.3%	2.0%	0.0%	1.3%

			REGION						
			Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q6: How frequently do you typically travel for SUMMER outdoor activities?	Unweighted Total Count (All)		1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Directly from home	Frequently daily/multiple times a week	44.6%	27.5%	37.5%	48.2%	55.3%	35.0%	28.9%
		Occasionally several times a month	35.3%	47.7%	35.7%	34.8%	28.1%	38.2%	42.1%
		Infrequently – several times a year or less	18.6%	24.8%	25.0%	15.7%	15.2%	26.2%	26.6%
		Do Not Participate	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%
	Nearby (< 1 hour from home)	Frequently daily/multiple times a week	25.3%	20.2%	12.2%	31.1%	29.0%	12.4%	11.9%
		Occasionally several times a month	41.7%	36.3%	46.0%	42.4%	35.5%	31.9%	43.5%
		Infrequently – several times a year or less	20.0%	20.6%	23.1%	17.1%	25.5%	29.4%	22.1%
		Do Not Participate	12.0%	22.9%	17.2%	8.4%	8.7%	25.8%	21.1%
	Day Trip	Frequently daily/multiple times a week	19.8%	34.9%	19.6%	17.8%	22.3%	26.1%	23.0%
		Occasionally several times a month	46.0%	34.1%	41.5%	50.0%	39.4%	39.7%	41.1%
		Infrequently – several times a year or less	31.6%	26.5%	36.5%	29.9%	33.8%	33.1%	33.4%
		Do Not Participate	1.5%	4.5%	0.9%	1.4%	3.2%	0.5%	1.2%
	Overnight or longer	Frequently daily/multiple times a week	2.5%	1.8%	1.8%	2.9%	2.3%	0.0%	2.4%
		Occasionally several times a month	34.0%	42.4%	29.1%	34.6%	24.5%	35.2%	50.7%
		Infrequently – several times a year or less	47.7%	33.7%	48.7%	50.7%	49.6%	39.8%	27.4%
		Do Not Participate	14.8%	22.1%	18.9%	10.9%	22.3%	24.4%	18.1%

			REGION						
			Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q7: How frequently do you typically travel for WINTER outdoor activities?	Unweighted Total Count (All)		1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Directly from home	Frequently daily/multiple times a week	22.8%	3.8%	13.0%	27.9%	29.3%	10.2%	8.7%
		Occasionally several times a month	32.1%	46.5%	31.6%	30.0%	30.5%	39.9%	43.2%
		Infrequently – several times a year or less	22.3%	20.6%	28.7%	20.6%	20.2%	26.8%	22.7%
		Do Not Participate	13.1%	20.4%	19.3%	8.7%	16.0%	22.7%	22.9%
	Nearby (< 1 hour from home)	Frequently daily/multiple times a week	14.7%	10.3%	6.2%	17.2%	19.9%	7.2%	13.0%
		Occasionally several times a month	35.0%	27.8%	37.6%	33.9%	31.4%	39.5%	43.9%
		Infrequently – several times a year or less	26.9%	21.8%	27.8%	28.0%	25.2%	27.2%	19.6%
		Do Not Participate	13.7%	31.5%	21.1%	8.1%	19.4%	25.6%	21.0%
	Day Trip	Frequently daily/multiple times a week	4.2%	2.3%	1.4%	4.9%	6.6%	2.8%	3.4%
		Occasionally several times a month	36.1%	40.8%	35.4%	36.5%	30.8%	30.4%	45.0%
		Infrequently – several times a year or less	35.9%	28.4%	38.1%	35.2%	39.8%	37.0%	33.3%
		Do Not Participate	14.2%	19.8%	17.7%	10.7%	18.9%	29.3%	15.8%
	Overnight or longer	Frequently daily/multiple times a week	1.2%	0.0%	0.8%	1.0%	1.5%	1.7%	3.8%
		Occasionally several times a month	23.4%	37.1%	25.9%	20.4%	20.1%	36.9%	33.5%
		Infrequently – several times a year or less	45.0%	24.7%	44.7%	47.3%	47.0%	28.7%	42.0%
		Do Not Participate	20.8%	29.5%	21.2%	18.5%	27.4%	32.2%	18.2%

		REGION						
		Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q8: Select all year-round outdoor activities you have done in the past year: - Selected Choice	Unweighted Total Count (All)	1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Hiking	46.7%	20.7%	33.4%	55.7%	49.5%	25.6%	21.6%
	Biking	33.6%	27.8%	24.9%	37.5%	33.4%	28.4%	26.3%
	Cultural landmarks (historic sites & buildings, cultural sites, memorial sites, etc.)	20.1%	7.3%	12.6%	24.5%	22.5%	6.5%	11.1%
	Camping	44.0%	18.4%	42.2%	50.1%	36.6%	24.8%	30.2%
	Backpacking	24.2%	26.2%	23.3%	25.2%	26.9%	14.9%	19.1%
	Climbing – rock, mountains	14.7%	22.5%	12.5%	11.5%	18.2%	28.3%	30.4%
	4-wheeling	16.9%	2.3%	18.9%	20.4%	10.9%	2.9%	7.0%
	Organized outdoor sports	10.8%	12.6%	7.4%	12.0%	10.0%	6.3%	12.0%
	Visiting public parks, picnic areas	51.9%	28.7%	39.9%	59.1%	51.8%	34.6%	39.3%
	Neighborhood strolling, walking dogs	50.8%	23.9%	40.0%	60.8%	49.9%	20.3%	23.4%
	Scenic viewing/waysides/driving	44.6%	17.1%	28.7%	57.9%	34.8%	11.5%	15.3%
	Wildlife/bird viewing/photography	33.0%	21.7%	26.9%	36.5%	39.6%	22.8%	19.4%
	Shooting ranges	19.9%	6.7%	16.5%	23.8%	15.5%	5.4%	15.8%
	Swimming	13.5%	17.3%	9.2%	15.2%	13.6%	9.0%	9.8%
	Boating – motorized	22.0%	12.3%	16.0%	24.6%	31.2%	8.4%	13.8%
	Boating – canoe, kayak, raft, etc.	29.4%	15.2%	16.1%	35.7%	33.7%	7.8%	20.5%
	Other (please specify)	4.6%	0.9%	2.5%	5.9%	3.7%	1.8%	2.9%
		REGION						
		Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q9: Select all winter outdoor activities you have done in the past year: - Selected Choice	Unweighted Total Count (All)	1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Snow machining	50.3%	68.2%	74.5%	38.5%	47.5%	84.8%	67.7%
	Downhill skiing/snowboarding	15.9%	14.6%	7.2%	19.8%	13.1%	6.9%	13.4%
	Cross country skiing	23.7%	8.0%	12.6%	28.5%	28.5%	9.1%	17.7%
	Backcountry skiing	11.4%	15.4%	4.5%	12.8%	12.0%	7.5%	16.6%
	Ice skating, outdoor ice hockey	52.0%	77.8%	65.7%	41.0%	52.7%	80.9%	83.0%
	Northern lights viewing	34.7%	9.9%	24.6%	42.4%	35.0%	12.4%	17.6%
	Other (please specify)	16.2%	0.2%	6.4%	21.5%	20.9%	4.3%	0.9%
		REGION						
		Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q10: Select all consumptive outdoor activities you have done in the past year: - Selected Choice	Unweighted Total Count (All)	1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Hunting	21.2%	13.1%	19.2%	24.7%	15.3%	12.0%	14.8%
	Fishing	79.6%	89.4%	84.9%	76.0%	84.0%	94.0%	78.0%
	Gathering plants, berries, herbs, firewood	77.7%	87.0%	87.6%	71.9%	83.1%	92.3%	81.7%
	Trapping	4.4%	3.6%	3.6%	3.9%	4.4%	1.2%	13.7%
	Other (please specify)	2.1%	0.0%	1.5%	2.4%	1.9%	1.0%	2.4%
	None	6.2%	0.0%	2.3%	9.3%	2.3%	0.6%	0.0%

			REGION						
			Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q11: Please tell us how often you participate in these activities.	Unweighted Total Count (All)		1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Hiking	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	15.4%	4.4%	8.7%	17.8%	20.6%	8.6%	13.0%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	21.9%	7.1%	16.2%	27.2%	22.5%	8.1%	4.3%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	9.3%	9.1%	8.4%	10.7%	6.3%	8.9%	4.4%
	Biking	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	13.9%	7.7%	10.6%	15.6%	13.2%	8.5%	14.3%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	13.2%	18.5%	8.5%	14.6%	14.4%	12.4%	9.0%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	6.5%	1.6%	5.9%	7.3%	5.8%	7.5%	3.1%
	Cultural landmarks (historic sites & buildings, cultural sites, memorial sites, etc.)	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	1.1%	0.9%	0.7%	0.8%	0.0%	1.5%	5.6%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	9.2%	5.8%	6.5%	10.8%	11.3%	3.5%	4.2%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	9.8%	0.5%	5.4%	12.9%	11.1%	1.4%	1.3%
	Camping	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	5.2%	8.7%	6.5%	4.2%	3.5%	2.4%	13.1%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	22.2%	4.5%	19.4%	26.3%	19.9%	15.9%	9.0%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	16.6%	5.2%	16.3%	19.6%	13.2%	6.5%	8.1%
	Backpacking	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	3.5%	8.8%	4.5%	2.6%	5.0%	4.4%	4.3%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	10.3%	11.1%	10.8%	10.1%	12.1%	6.4%	11.3%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	10.3%	6.2%	8.0%	12.6%	9.8%	4.1%	3.5%
	Climbing – rock, mountains	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	3.8%	8.8%	3.6%	2.5%	2.9%	6.2%	13.6%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	7.4%	8.9%	5.9%	5.8%	11.5%	16.7%	12.7%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	3.4%	4.7%	3.0%	3.2%	3.8%	5.5%	4.1%
	4-wheeling	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	2.6%	0.9%	3.6%	2.5%	3.4%	0.0%	2.4%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	8.6%	1.4%	11.5%	10.0%	4.3%	1.6%	4.1%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	5.7%	0.0%	3.7%	8.0%	3.3%	1.3%	0.4%
	Organized outdoor sports	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	2.8%	3.7%	2.1%	3.3%	1.7%	1.4%	2.7%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	5.4%	7.0%	3.6%	5.8%	4.6%	4.0%	8.0%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	2.5%	1.9%	1.7%	2.8%	3.7%	0.8%	1.3%
	Visiting public parks, picnic areas	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	15.0%	13.6%	10.2%	16.7%	14.7%	13.7%	13.7%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	27.3%	10.7%	17.7%	32.1%	31.6%	12.3%	19.4%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	9.4%	4.4%	12.0%	10.1%	5.5%	8.6%	6.2%
	Neighborhood strolling, walking dogs	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	35.4%	15.0%	24.7%	43.9%	37.0%	11.0%	10.2%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	10.9%	5.8%	11.1%	12.1%	9.1%	4.4%	8.3%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	4.2%	3.1%	4.2%	4.2%	3.8%	4.9%	4.9%
	Scenic viewing/waysides/driving	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	13.9%	6.5%	7.6%	17.2%	17.0%	3.7%	5.6%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	23.7%	7.2%	15.0%	31.5%	15.4%	5.9%	8.4%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	6.9%	3.4%	6.1%	9.1%	2.4%	1.9%	1.2%
	Wildlife/bird viewing/photography	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	12.6%	7.4%	10.0%	12.7%	21.8%	5.1%	11.5%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	12.9%	10.7%	9.6%	15.4%	10.7%	10.3%	5.0%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	7.5%	3.6%	7.3%	8.3%	7.1%	7.4%	3.0%
	Shooting ranges	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	1.7%	0.0%	1.0%	2.1%	1.8%	0.5%	1.3%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	7.6%	4.3%	8.5%	7.3%	5.7%	4.5%	14.4%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	10.6%	2.4%	7.0%	14.4%	8.1%	0.4%	0.0%

Q11 Continued	Swimming	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	2.9%	7.6%	2.6%	3.2%	0.3%	6.4%	0.4%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	6.6%	8.6%	3.8%	7.0%	8.7%	1.8%	9.4%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	4.0%	1.0%	2.8%	5.1%	4.7%	0.8%	0.0%
	Boating – motorized	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	3.3%	2.7%	1.7%	3.7%	5.1%	1.8%	1.9%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	10.5%	8.8%	8.9%	10.6%	15.9%	4.8%	10.8%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	8.1%	0.8%	5.3%	10.2%	10.1%	1.7%	1.1%
	Boating – canoe, kayak, raft, etc.	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	3.3%	0.9%	2.4%	3.8%	2.7%	1.5%	4.4%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	16.4%	4.9%	9.1%	18.7%	22.8%	5.4%	16.1%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	9.7%	9.4%	4.6%	13.2%	8.3%	0.9%	0.0%
	Other (please specify)	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	1.6%	0.9%	0.1%	2.1%	2.1%	0.0%	1.0%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	1.0%	0.0%	1.2%	0.8%	1.6%	1.4%	1.9%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	1.0%	0.0%	0.8%	1.4%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%

			REGION						
			Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q12: Please tell us how often you participate in these activities.	Unweighted Total Count (All)		1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Snow machining	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	13.5%	18.1%	23.0%	8.4%	9.5%	30.7%	26.6%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	19.7%	17.6%	27.5%	15.4%	21.2%	35.1%	25.9%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	17.0%	32.5%	23.9%	14.6%	16.0%	19.1%	15.1%
	Downhill skiing/snowboarding	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	2.5%	2.4%	0.9%	3.2%	2.9%	2.1%	0.0%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	7.6%	10.8%	3.8%	8.4%	8.5%	3.9%	9.3%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	5.7%	1.5%	2.4%	8.0%	1.7%	0.9%	4.1%
	Cross country skiing	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	6.5%	0.0%	3.1%	9.1%	4.5%	3.0%	0.7%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	11.9%	6.2%	6.8%	12.9%	17.8%	5.6%	13.8%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	5.2%	1.8%	2.6%	6.6%	6.1%	0.4%	3.2%
	Backcountry skiing	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	1.9%	6.2%	0.2%	2.0%	2.2%	0.4%	4.1%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	6.5%	6.3%	2.4%	7.2%	6.0%	5.7%	11.0%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	3.0%	2.9%	1.9%	3.5%	3.9%	1.4%	1.6%
	Ice skating, outdoor ice hockey	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	12.0%	22.9%	15.5%	8.4%	7.4%	27.1%	26.9%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	20.9%	20.0%	30.2%	16.3%	18.9%	28.6%	35.3%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	19.0%	34.9%	20.0%	16.1%	26.4%	25.2%	20.8%
	Northern lights viewing	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	4.1%	3.4%	5.9%	4.0%	3.9%	0.0%	4.7%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	14.3%	2.7%	10.5%	16.5%	16.3%	7.9%	11.1%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	16.1%	3.9%	8.3%	21.8%	13.9%	4.5%	1.8%
	Other (please specify)	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	3.1%	0.0%	0.9%	4.2%	2.9%	1.5%	0.9%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	4.0%	0.0%	2.7%	4.9%	6.1%	1.0%	0.0%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	4.8%	0.2%	1.6%	6.2%	7.1%	1.9%	0.0%

			REGION						
			Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q13: Please tell us how often you participate in these activities.	Unweighted Total Count (All)		1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Hunting	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	1.3%	2.1%	0.7%	1.5%	1.7%	1.2%	0.7%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	6.7%	7.6%	6.8%	5.6%	9.8%	7.7%	11.3%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	13.2%	3.5%	11.7%	17.6%	3.8%	3.1%	2.9%
	Fishing	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	16.9%	29.8%	22.3%	12.3%	14.9%	28.2%	34.3%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	33.9%	38.2%	31.3%	33.4%	43.2%	41.9%	24.1%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	28.6%	21.5%	31.3%	30.0%	25.9%	23.9%	19.1%
	Gathering plants, berries, herbs, firewood	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	16.2%	27.9%	27.3%	10.1%	20.6%	29.0%	22.3%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	32.0%	31.3%	29.2%	32.1%	31.2%	38.8%	35.1%
		Infrequently (several times a year or less)	29.3%	27.8%	31.0%	29.6%	31.3%	24.4%	23.7%
	Trapping	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	0.4%	0.9%	1.6%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
		Occasionally (several times a month)	2.2%	2.8%	0.7%	1.8%	1.8%	0.4%	11.6%
Infrequently (several times a year or less)		1.8%	0.0%	1.2%	2.0%	2.6%	0.8%	1.3%	
Other (please specify)	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	0.6%	0.0%	0.5%	0.8%	0.0%	1.0%	1.0%	
	Occasionally (several times a month)	0.5%	0.0%	0.9%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%	
	Infrequently (several times a year or less)	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	
None	Frequently (daily/ multiple times a week)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
	Occasionally (several times a month)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
	Infrequently (several times a year or less)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	

			REGION						
			Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q14: What most limits your participation in outdoor recreation activities? Please select up to five. - Selected Choice	Unweighted Total Count (All)		1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Lack of time/work		42.9%	33.9%	39.1%	45.6%	45.0%	28.7%	38.6%
	Expense		23.0%	8.7%	16.1%	29.7%	13.2%	10.1%	11.6%
	Concern with crowding		17.9%	12.4%	10.9%	23.0%	11.6%	8.1%	9.3%
	Lack of facilities friendly to children, seniors, disabled		8.4%	11.5%	6.7%	7.9%	7.8%	11.0%	14.9%
	Lack of experience		9.2%	1.4%	3.2%	11.7%	5.1%	5.7%	13.0%
	Safety concerns: wildlife		24.3%	34.3%	30.0%	21.5%	22.3%	38.8%	23.9%
	Safety concerns: crime		12.5%	11.6%	6.0%	16.2%	3.2%	7.9%	13.5%
	Lack of access to outdoor gear and equipment		18.7%	34.0%	19.8%	14.6%	9.0%	41.2%	45.0%
	Lack of needed supporting infrastructure (restrooms, trash cans, parking, warming huts, etc.)		20.8%	33.1%	23.9%	18.0%	25.6%	28.4%	20.5%
	Inadequate maintenance of facilities		7.9%	7.6%	3.7%	9.3%	3.8%	3.7%	14.7%
	Lack of reliable personal transportation		2.9%	11.6%	1.8%	2.4%	1.1%	3.9%	8.3%
	Lack of public transportation		2.8%	9.2%	0.8%	3.2%	0.5%	1.4%	5.8%
	Lack of knowledge of outdoor opportunities, orientation like maps and signage		21.4%	29.4%	30.7%	15.9%	23.0%	35.7%	31.6%
	Other (please specify)		6.8%	0.0%	4.8%	8.5%	8.9%	1.9%	0.0%
None – I am not limited in my participation in outdoor activities		8.3%	0.7%	4.6%	11.0%	8.5%	0.9%	2.5%	

			REGION							
			Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN	
Q15: What categories of improved or new developed outdoor recreation facilities are most needed in Alaska?	Unweighted Total Count (All)		1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0	
	Parking areas (e.g., at trailheads, hunting & fishing areas)	More of these facilities are needed	41.0%	40.1%	36.9%	44.8%	34.9%	38.8%	28.2%	
		There are enough, but they need to be improved	32.7%	34.1%	33.6%	31.7%	31.2%	33.7%	40.4%	
		No new facilities or improvements are needed	22.3%	25.8%	26.1%	18.8%	27.1%	27.5%	31.0%	
	Restrooms & highway waysides (e.g., at roadside rest stops)	More of these facilities are needed	42.0%	37.4%	45.0%	44.9%	36.8%	32.5%	25.6%	
		There are enough, but they need to be improved	34.1%	38.7%	27.9%	34.6%	30.0%	34.6%	47.9%	
		No new facilities or improvements are needed	20.8%	23.8%	24.5%	17.4%	25.0%	32.4%	26.5%	
	Campgrounds	More of these facilities are needed	42.2%	32.1%	36.1%	47.5%	36.1%	30.7%	32.8%	
		There are enough, but they need to be improved	31.1%	41.6%	34.5%	25.8%	41.1%	43.9%	40.7%	
		No new facilities or improvements are needed	22.8%	26.3%	26.7%	21.9%	17.5%	24.7%	26.5%	
	Public use cabins, including trapping & hunting cabins	More of these facilities are needed	46.2%	44.9%	39.6%	49.8%	44.2%	30.5%	44.7%	
		There are enough, but they need to be improved	27.4%	33.2%	31.8%	24.6%	23.7%	38.5%	36.3%	
		No new facilities or improvements are needed	21.9%	22.0%	25.7%	19.7%	26.0%	30.3%	19.0%	
	Playgrounds/ Ballfields	More of these facilities are needed	23.9%	39.6%	24.6%	21.2%	27.2%	25.1%	33.4%	
		There are enough, but they need to be improved	40.4%	33.5%	45.0%	40.1%	35.1%	43.3%	40.7%	
		No new facilities or improvements are needed	30.5%	26.9%	26.9%	32.3%	30.0%	30.9%	25.9%	
	City/ Neighborhood parks and picnic areas	More of these facilities are needed	32.0%	44.9%	32.2%	30.2%	36.3%	34.4%	34.9%	
		There are enough, but they need to be improved	38.0%	30.1%	33.1%	39.7%	34.7%	40.5%	42.2%	
		No new facilities or improvements are needed	25.5%	24.9%	30.2%	25.3%	21.2%	25.1%	23.0%	
	Access roads to trailheads, backcountry destinations and boat put-ins	More of these facilities are needed	39.5%	42.8%	35.0%	41.8%	37.3%	34.1%	35.7%	
		There are enough, but they need to be improved	33.3%	36.3%	36.0%	31.1%	29.1%	43.0%	43.8%	
		No new facilities or improvements are needed	22.4%	20.9%	25.3%	21.2%	26.3%	22.4%	20.0%	
	Outdoor cultural-oriented facilities	More of these facilities are needed	29.8%	27.0%	28.0%	28.6%	32.3%	37.9%	35.8%	
		There are enough, but they need to be improved	31.2%	49.0%	37.1%	27.8%	27.8%	34.2%	41.2%	
		No new facilities or improvements are needed	33.0%	24.0%	29.9%	36.0%	32.9%	27.2%	23.0%	
	Swimming areas	More of these facilities are needed	31.2%	25.6%	31.7%	31.6%	28.7%	33.9%	31.9%	
		There are enough, but they need to be improved	31.4%	47.5%	32.0%	28.3%	23.8%	45.2%	51.6%	
		No new facilities or improvements are needed	31.3%	26.9%	32.0%	33.1%	35.2%	20.9%	16.4%	
	Shooting Ranges	More of these facilities are needed	32.7%	44.9%	32.9%	34.5%	25.4%	28.8%	26.1%	
		There are enough, but they need to be improved	26.7%	32.6%	28.3%	21.9%	26.9%	43.5%	50.1%	
		No new facilities or improvements are needed	35.3%	22.5%	35.2%	37.1%	39.9%	27.2%	23.5%	
	Accessible fishing/bank angling	More of these facilities are needed	36.2%	35.5%	39.5%	37.7%	26.2%	29.1%	34.4%	
		There are enough, but they need to be improved	29.2%	44.6%	29.3%	26.7%	28.4%	39.8%	38.4%	
		No new facilities or improvements are needed	29.7%	19.8%	27.5%	29.7%	37.9%	30.5%	26.7%	
	Boat launches – freshwater	More of these facilities are needed	27.2%	35.7%	33.9%	25.3%	16.6%	33.6%	35.2%	
		There are enough, but they need to be improved	32.5%	45.8%	32.8%	30.3%	31.8%	35.5%	44.4%	
		No new facilities or improvements are needed	34.4%	18.6%	29.0%	37.2%	43.1%	30.4%	19.9%	
	Boat launches marinas for saltwater recreational boats	More of these facilities are needed	28.1%	25.6%	32.3%	27.2%	27.5%	32.0%	24.1%	
		There are enough, but they need to be improved	33.7%	48.7%	32.1%	30.1%	41.4%	38.1%	49.2%	
		No new facilities or improvements are needed	32.9%	25.8%	31.5%	35.4%	28.1%	29.6%	26.3%	

			REGION						
			Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q16: Please rate the need for more improved and newly developed trails and trails-related infrastructure in Alaska.	Unweighted Total Count (All)		1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Paved walk/bike/ski trails	More of these trails are needed	39.6%	32.9%	38.1%	41.1%	41.0%	31.4%	36.3%
		There are enough of these trails, but they need to	28.8%	48.4%	30.3%	27.3%	20.0%	33.2%	40.8%
		No more of these trails or improvements are neec	27.3%	18.7%	28.6%	26.2%	33.5%	34.6%	22.9%
	Easy, well-signed trails that access natural settings	More of these trails are needed	40.6%	37.8%	35.8%	42.3%	45.7%	29.5%	38.8%
		There are enough of these trails, but they need to	33.0%	34.7%	38.2%	30.6%	30.5%	38.9%	41.2%
		No more of these trails or improvements are neec	21.9%	27.4%	23.0%	21.6%	17.6%	31.4%	20.0%
	Backcountry hiking/skiing/biking trails	More of these trails are needed	36.7%	38.1%	38.0%	36.0%	42.9%	29.0%	35.9%
		There are enough of these trails, but they need to	33.2%	35.2%	37.5%	31.3%	26.1%	39.4%	44.8%
		No more of these trails or improvements are neec	25.1%	26.7%	21.0%	26.1%	26.5%	30.8%	19.3%
	Dedicated mountain bike trails	More of these trails are needed	33.4%	34.4%	29.8%	32.6%	41.4%	31.2%	38.9%
		There are enough of these trails, but they need to	28.9%	30.8%	31.3%	27.0%	28.5%	23.3%	43.6%
		No more of these trails or improvements are neec	32.0%	34.8%	35.2%	32.8%	25.1%	45.3%	17.5%
	Hut to hut/lodge to lodge trails	More of these trails are needed	39.0%	37.4%	41.1%	38.9%	43.9%	27.7%	36.3%
		There are enough of these trails, but they need to	25.8%	33.3%	29.7%	23.2%	14.3%	43.2%	40.6%
		No more of these trails or improvements are neec	29.5%	29.3%	25.6%	30.4%	35.6%	28.3%	23.1%
	Water trails for kayaking, boating and associated on land infrastructure	More of these trails are needed	34.6%	37.3%	35.9%	34.1%	36.6%	27.0%	35.9%
		There are enough of these trails, but they need to	31.0%	27.5%	32.3%	28.6%	29.9%	42.0%	44.7%
		No more of these trails or improvements are neec	28.1%	35.2%	28.1%	29.1%	25.5%	30.5%	19.4%
	Trails accessible to persons with disabilities	More of these trails are needed	43.1%	31.4%	39.7%	45.8%	53.4%	34.0%	23.0%
		There are enough of these trails, but they need to	29.9%	43.1%	29.5%	26.7%	25.2%	34.7%	56.3%
		No more of these trails or improvements are neec	21.5%	25.5%	27.7%	20.1%	14.7%	30.5%	20.7%
	Horse trails	More of these trails are needed	23.1%	37.2%	31.4%	20.6%	16.9%	30.3%	23.3%
		There are enough of these trails, but they need to	28.4%	35.8%	27.7%	26.0%	22.9%	34.3%	51.8%
		No more of these trails or improvements are neec	41.7%	27.0%	37.2%	44.5%	51.5%	34.7%	24.9%
	ATV, motorcycle areas for riding close to home	More of these trails are needed	33.9%	44.8%	37.0%	31.2%	40.6%	35.8%	34.1%
		There are enough of these trails, but they need to	25.7%	39.3%	30.4%	23.1%	15.1%	39.4%	37.4%
		No more of these trails or improvements are neec	35.3%	16.0%	29.4%	38.6%	40.6%	24.0%	28.5%
	ATV areas out of town, varied terrain	More of these trails are needed	32.3%	52.7%	33.1%	31.0%	32.8%	38.8%	28.1%
		There are enough of these trails, but they need to	27.7%	31.9%	32.5%	23.1%	26.2%	39.0%	48.4%
		No more of these trails or improvements are neec	34.5%	15.4%	31.3%	38.5%	35.5%	21.4%	23.4%
	Long, interconnected summer trail systems linking communities	More of these trails are needed	43.5%	28.4%	38.3%	47.7%	40.0%	34.4%	38.1%
		There are enough of these trails, but they need to	26.8%	48.0%	29.7%	23.0%	25.1%	34.7%	41.2%
		No more of these trails or improvements are neec	25.1%	23.6%	29.0%	23.2%	30.5%	31.0%	20.7%
	Trail head parking areas, with signage, restrooms	More of these trails are needed	44.5%	30.7%	40.6%	50.4%	37.7%	31.5%	27.8%
		There are enough of these trails, but they need to	31.2%	46.3%	35.4%	28.4%	26.2%	36.0%	43.2%
		No more of these trails or improvements are neec	20.2%	22.4%	21.0%	16.0%	31.3%	32.0%	29.0%
	Groomed snowmachine trails	More of these trails are needed	27.0%	28.6%	32.5%	25.0%	24.6%	33.5%	28.9%
		There are enough of these trails, but they need to	30.1%	46.0%	32.7%	27.4%	21.5%	43.5%	44.3%



Q16 Continued		No more of these trails or improvements are neec	37.5%	25.4%	32.0%	40.2%	47.2%	23.0%	26.8%
	Groomed cross country ski trails	More of these trails are needed	30.7%	37.7%	27.7%	30.4%	30.2%	33.9%	35.7%
		There are enough of these trails, but they need to	35.5%	35.6%	39.1%	33.8%	33.8%	36.3%	43.3%
		No more of these trails or improvements are neec	28.4%	26.7%	29.5%	28.9%	29.3%	29.1%	21.0%
	Long, interconnected winter trail systems linking communities	More of these trails are needed	39.6%	47.3%	36.7%	40.9%	39.4%	33.1%	37.8%
		There are enough of these trails, but they need to	27.5%	28.1%	29.5%	24.1%	25.6%	39.5%	47.1%
		No more of these trails or improvements are neec	27.3%	24.6%	30.8%	27.6%	29.1%	27.4%	15.0%
	Trails to access hunting, fishing and subsistence areas	More of these trails are needed	32.8%	37.8%	30.8%	32.6%	37.5%	36.6%	27.0%
		There are enough of these trails, but they need to	31.1%	37.8%	33.7%	29.3%	27.6%	35.5%	40.2%
		No more of these trails or improvements are neec	30.3%	24.4%	31.9%	30.5%	28.0%	27.4%	32.8%

		REGION						
		Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q17: Please select the types of overnight accommodations you have used when pursuing outdoor recreation activities in Alaska over the past two years. (Please select all that apply) - Selected Choice	Unweighted Total Count (All)	1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Public campgrounds with spaces for tents, RV's, cars, and/or walk-in camping	45.0%	16.6%	30.5%	58.2%	27.8%	10.2%	26.6%
	Public Use Cabins	22.0%	9.8%	14.9%	25.0%	33.6%	5.3%	12.9%
	Backcountry camping	36.0%	37.3%	36.7%	34.6%	43.5%	37.5%	33.9%
	Personally owned, private accommodations (cabin, lake house, etc.)	37.1%	29.6%	33.2%	38.9%	38.8%	39.8%	29.2%
	Hotel/motel, commercial lodge, bed and breakfast	45.9%	37.0%	39.1%	51.8%	36.2%	25.6%	43.8%
	Private boats	16.4%	6.8%	11.8%	19.0%	21.6%	5.5%	9.4%
	Other (please specify)	1.4%	0.2%	0.7%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Have not used overnight accommodations	5.1%	2.6%	3.1%	6.0%	7.6%	4.0%	0.0%

			REGION						
			Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q18: Regarding campground facilities, how important is the option for:	Unweighted Total Count (All)		1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Water for RV hookups	Very important	23.9%	42.8%	17.2%	25.1%	21.5%	29.0%	22.7%
		Important	25.4%	20.7%	26.8%	25.9%	17.9%	32.1%	26.1%
		Neutral	27.6%	16.6%	26.4%	27.4%	28.3%	19.1%	40.7%
		Not Important	15.6%	19.9%	25.4%	12.4%	19.6%	18.4%	10.0%
		Definitely not Important	6.1%	0.0%	2.8%	7.5%	11.3%	1.4%	0.5%
	Showers	Very important	18.2%	27.4%	17.7%	16.5%	22.4%	20.3%	22.5%
		Important	26.7%	21.0%	25.2%	26.1%	28.0%	30.4%	33.9%
		Neutral	32.1%	32.7%	30.7%	34.6%	24.0%	29.5%	26.3%
		Not Important	16.6%	18.9%	22.5%	14.7%	16.8%	18.4%	16.9%
		Definitely not Important	5.0%	0.0%	2.4%	6.4%	7.5%	1.4%	0.5%
	Dump stations for RVs	Very important	29.4%	26.8%	27.4%	30.8%	27.4%	27.3%	28.7%
		Important	29.6%	31.9%	29.8%	30.0%	33.0%	18.7%	26.5%
		Neutral	20.7%	22.4%	17.0%	20.2%	17.3%	36.8%	27.2%
		Not Important	14.0%	18.9%	21.7%	11.4%	12.2%	15.8%	17.2%
		Definitely not Important	5.0%	0.0%	2.6%	6.1%	8.8%	1.4%	0.5%
	Electricity	Very important	19.8%	41.2%	15.3%	18.0%	25.3%	24.3%	27.3%
		Important	26.5%	13.3%	22.9%	28.5%	30.7%	27.3%	16.3%
		Neutral	30.5%	34.6%	34.4%	31.0%	19.9%	27.4%	33.1%
		Not Important	16.2%	10.9%	22.4%	14.1%	13.3%	19.5%	22.9%
		Definitely not Important	5.7%	0.0%	3.4%	6.9%	9.6%	1.4%	0.5%

			REGION						
			Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q19: At campgrounds without power, do you bring a generator for power?	Unweighted Total Count (All)		1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Yes		29.9%	22.9%	21.7%	36.7%	12.4%	15.9%	29.6%
	No		58.8%	75.4%	70.5%	49.5%	73.3%	79.7%	68.3%
			REGION						
			Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q20: Should campgrounds have limits on hours of operation for generators?	Unweighted Total Count (All)		1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Yes		86.5%	88.0%	89.7%	85.1%	86.6%	92.5%	85.5%
	No		12.2%	11.5%	8.8%	13.4%	12.1%	7.5%	14.5%
			REGION						
			Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q21: In the past two years, have you found outdoor recreation facilities in your area are to be more or less crowded?	Unweighted Total Count (All)		1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Campgrounds	Extremely over-crowded	15.2%	10.8%	14.1%	16.6%	8.1%	18.7%	14.6%
		Very over-crowded	25.9%	25.8%	23.3%	29.0%	23.1%	16.9%	16.4%
		Somewhat crowded	31.7%	28.4%	30.7%	31.4%	32.1%	30.3%	38.3%
		Not very crowded	11.6%	15.3%	13.2%	9.0%	17.2%	13.9%	19.2%
		Not crowded at all	7.6%	18.8%	13.4%	3.6%	13.4%	17.4%	8.1%
	Trailheads/trailheadparking areas	Extremely over-crowded	15.3%	15.5%	14.1%	16.7%	9.7%	17.2%	12.6%
		Very over-crowded	22.0%	22.6%	17.1%	25.0%	11.9%	24.1%	20.8%
		Somewhat crowded	33.7%	25.3%	31.9%	33.5%	41.8%	23.3%	39.1%
		Not very crowded	15.7%	20.1%	21.5%	13.2%	19.9%	15.0%	16.4%
		Not crowded at all	7.3%	16.2%	9.2%	4.2%	15.4%	18.1%	6.1%
	Trails	Extremely over-crowded	9.0%	8.9%	9.1%	7.1%	9.7%	24.0%	14.2%
		Very over-crowded	16.4%	18.6%	13.3%	18.4%	12.1%	9.1%	17.5%
		Somewhat crowded	35.5%	30.4%	32.5%	39.8%	23.8%	32.5%	27.7%
		Not very crowded	23.0%	23.8%	24.1%	20.7%	39.6%	19.9%	17.9%
		Not crowded at all	9.7%	18.0%	15.1%	5.6%	12.7%	13.1%	21.7%
	Boat launches	Extremely over-crowded	14.4%	16.3%	13.2%	12.3%	26.1%	13.2%	18.9%
		Very over-crowded	17.8%	27.9%	14.7%	17.9%	16.7%	15.4%	23.4%
		Somewhat crowded	27.2%	21.7%	30.8%	27.4%	21.2%	33.2%	24.2%
		Not very crowded	13.2%	26.7%	16.2%	10.4%	16.0%	16.9%	18.7%
Not crowded at all		8.0%	7.2%	15.6%	4.7%	7.3%	19.1%	11.6%	

			REGION						
			Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q22: Please rate how much you are interested in the following types of outdoor-related cultural, training, educational programs and forms of communication:	Unweighted Total Count (All)		1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Adult outdoor recreation programs (skill development, safety, orientation, hunting & fishing proficiency)	Extremely interested	8.4%	9.1%	3.9%	10.6%	8.3%	4.1%	3.8%
		Very interested	29.5%	32.9%	27.5%	27.7%	36.6%	26.3%	40.0%
		Somewhat interested	32.5%	37.1%	35.0%	30.7%	28.7%	41.2%	39.8%
		Not very interested	22.3%	20.9%	30.4%	21.0%	19.6%	27.0%	15.4%
		Not interested at all	5.4%	0.0%	1.8%	7.6%	4.8%	1.4%	0.7%
	Youth and family programs and events	Extremely interested	6.5%	10.4%	5.7%	7.0%	6.8%	1.7%	4.4%
		Very interested	25.1%	31.6%	26.5%	22.6%	22.3%	35.8%	38.0%
		Somewhat interested	31.2%	33.7%	29.3%	30.5%	35.6%	33.8%	32.5%
		Not very interested	24.9%	24.3%	31.0%	23.4%	23.6%	27.3%	23.5%
		Not interested at all	10.5%	0.0%	6.0%	14.2%	9.8%	1.4%	1.1%
	Cultural and natural history interpretation	Extremely interested	6.7%	7.2%	5.5%	7.6%	6.5%	2.9%	4.9%
		Very interested	26.6%	26.1%	27.1%	24.8%	31.6%	32.3%	29.7%
		Somewhat interested	35.6%	50.9%	31.5%	35.5%	32.7%	39.5%	42.3%
		Not very interested	22.1%	15.8%	31.4%	19.6%	21.7%	25.3%	22.6%
		Not interested at all	7.1%	0.0%	2.9%	10.2%	5.4%	0.0%	0.0%
	Adaptive recreation events for individuals with disabilities	Extremely interested	5.3%	9.3%	4.7%	5.2%	6.4%	2.9%	5.6%
		Very interested	26.1%	24.7%	33.8%	23.4%	20.1%	30.8%	36.9%
		Somewhat interested	31.4%	42.0%	29.5%	31.1%	30.9%	32.3%	35.7%
		Not very interested	24.8%	24.0%	26.2%	23.5%	30.2%	30.6%	21.4%
		Not interested at all	10.5%	0.0%	4.4%	14.5%	10.4%	3.4%	0.0%
	Volunteer service events (park cleanup, trail repairs, etc.)	Extremely interested	4.3%	4.0%	3.9%	4.6%	5.1%	1.3%	4.4%
		Very interested	24.6%	36.5%	26.7%	23.5%	18.1%	30.3%	30.5%
		Somewhat interested	39.3%	42.9%	37.1%	37.8%	53.3%	40.6%	34.5%
		Not very interested	23.4%	16.6%	26.1%	22.6%	20.7%	24.9%	29.6%
		Not interested at all	6.8%	0.0%	4.7%	9.7%	0.8%	2.9%	0.5%
	Road-side/trail-side “recreational hubs” access to services, rentals, shelter, food and information	Extremely interested	6.2%	7.4%	4.0%	7.0%	9.8%	1.7%	1.8%
		Very interested	27.8%	31.4%	31.3%	25.1%	35.1%	28.1%	30.7%
		Somewhat interested	38.0%	34.5%	38.1%	39.7%	24.0%	37.0%	45.9%
		Not very interested	20.0%	24.9%	22.3%	18.0%	20.5%	31.3%	20.8%
		Not interested at all	6.3%	1.8%	2.8%	8.1%	8.7%	1.9%	0.5%
	Water and boating safety education	Extremely interested	6.1%	12.9%	3.0%	7.1%	6.9%	3.7%	2.4%
		Very interested	28.1%	28.7%	27.6%	25.7%	32.8%	29.1%	42.0%
		Somewhat interested	31.8%	35.8%	38.2%	30.7%	28.2%	34.8%	27.6%
		Not very interested	24.5%	22.6%	27.0%	22.6%	27.2%	30.5%	27.6%
		Not interested at all	7.7%	0.0%	2.7%	11.7%	2.8%	2.0%	0.0%

		REGION						
		Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q23: About how much do you spend on outdoor recreation in	Unweighted Total Count (All)	1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
Alaska each year, in total including	Less than \$1,000	29.8%	33.6%	36.7%	25.0%	39.2%	35.2%	35.6%
gear and equipment, guided	\$1,000-\$4,999	50.3%	57.4%	47.9%	50.6%	46.1%	54.6%	54.7%
activities, travel including food	\$5,000-\$9,999	13.6%	6.0%	11.1%	16.6%	9.3%	6.3%	7.7%
and lodging, second	\$10,000-20,000	3.2%	2.7%	0.5%	4.4%	3.3%	3.0%	0.0%
homes/cabins?	More than \$20,000	2.3%	0.3%	2.4%	2.8%	0.7%	0.9%	2.0%

		REGION						
	Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN	
Q24: Please select all the categories that apply regarding your annual outdoor recreation spending. Please select all that apply.	Unweighted Total Count (All)	1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Guided outdoor recreation activities	12.1%	10.1%	6.9%	15.4%	5.2%	4.1%	11.8%
	Purchase of major outdoor recreation equipment costing more than \$5000 (snow machine, 4- wheeler, boats/kayaks, etc.	56.1%	87.3%	72.5%	45.2%	57.9%	84.8%	76.8%
	Investments in a recreational home/cabin: include annual expenses such as purchase, taxes, mortgage, improvements	32.6%	36.8%	37.1%	29.3%	32.9%	46.6%	38.2%
	Travel expenses	66.9%	48.1%	61.6%	74.0%	57.8%	51.3%	49.4%
	None of these	6.2%	0.0%	4.0%	7.2%	12.2%	0.0%	0.7%

		REGION							
		Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN	
Q25: Alaska is facing growing demand for outdoor recreation with limited budgets. What strategies would you support to grow stable, sustainable funding for new facilities and maintain existing facilities? Please rank your options by dragging your top options to the top of the list.	Unweighted Total Count (All)	1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0	
	Increase user fees	1	8.0%	17.1%	7.8%	7.4%	6.1%	12.4%	10.0%
		2	8.9%	11.9%	6.4%	9.3%	12.9%	3.6%	8.7%
		3	8.6%	7.4%	11.4%	8.5%	5.7%	10.9%	5.6%
		4	9.2%	8.1%	11.0%	7.9%	13.2%	9.4%	10.0%
		5	11.1%	11.1%	14.2%	9.9%	8.6%	12.1%	17.3%
		6	9.8%	8.5%	8.0%	10.0%	9.2%	10.5%	13.9%
		7	10.9%	15.7%	13.1%	10.8%	10.5%	10.4%	5.6%
		8	14.7%	5.4%	9.2%	17.8%	11.4%	15.9%	9.2%
		9	14.7%	11.5%	15.6%	13.8%	18.0%	13.0%	17.9%
	Increase annual pass fees	1	6.6%	9.3%	9.5%	5.4%	7.9%	10.2%	4.8%
		2	9.0%	8.9%	10.0%	8.2%	5.0%	14.2%	16.6%
		3	7.9%	8.1%	6.4%	8.4%	3.1%	6.3%	16.0%
		4	9.9%	12.7%	14.0%	8.7%	9.8%	11.6%	8.4%
		5	10.8%	7.7%	10.4%	10.4%	10.6%	13.2%	15.2%
		6	11.4%	16.2%	15.1%	9.8%	13.2%	12.5%	11.2%
		7	16.7%	17.0%	14.7%	17.3%	23.5%	11.9%	9.6%
		8	13.0%	11.0%	8.8%	14.8%	12.9%	7.4%	13.1%
		9	10.5%	5.7%	7.8%	12.5%	9.4%	10.8%	3.2%
	Increase vehicle registration fees	1	5.0%	5.0%	7.2%	3.0%	3.6%	11.2%	14.9%
		2	6.7%	12.3%	11.5%	5.6%	4.1%	7.9%	4.6%
		3	8.0%	9.9%	9.3%	6.1%	11.0%	12.6%	13.6%
		4	8.0%	12.9%	7.9%	7.1%	6.4%	10.5%	14.7%
		5	7.7%	6.4%	4.3%	7.2%	10.8%	17.2%	9.8%
		6	10.8%	10.4%	12.5%	11.1%	10.6%	3.4%	10.5%
		7	13.3%	10.2%	12.7%	16.3%	5.7%	5.7%	6.8%
		8	16.2%	14.7%	15.1%	16.8%	15.6%	15.7%	15.1%
		9	20.3%	15.0%	16.2%	22.3%	27.7%	13.8%	8.2%
	Expand concessionaire and commercial activities (collect increases permitting revenues/reduce government costs)	1	11.3%	11.0%	14.4%	11.1%	6.8%	9.5%	14.0%
		2	10.3%	9.4%	10.6%	9.7%	10.9%	10.6%	14.0%
		3	11.4%	15.2%	12.6%	10.0%	13.5%	9.9%	16.3%
		4	11.0%	18.5%	9.6%	11.5%	10.6%	9.5%	8.8%
		5	10.5%	14.9%	11.0%	10.5%	9.0%	15.7%	6.3%
		6	13.3%	6.7%	9.7%	14.8%	11.5%	14.1%	14.7%
		7	9.4%	9.7%	9.3%	7.7%	17.1%	10.5%	11.3%
		8	9.3%	9.1%	13.5%	8.7%	9.3%	11.7%	2.8%
		9	9.4%	2.1%	6.0%	11.4%	6.8%	6.5%	10.0%

## Q25 Continued

Increased use of general government funds	1	13.0%	13.6%	12.0%	12.5%	20.0%	8.5%	12.5%
	2	17.3%	13.7%	14.0%	19.9%	15.3%	17.1%	7.9%
	3	12.4%	9.2%	13.2%	11.7%	15.5%	16.1%	9.9%
	4	8.4%	7.3%	8.9%	7.8%	4.8%	11.9%	15.2%
	5	10.0%	1.1%	12.9%	9.4%	10.7%	7.4%	11.6%
	6	10.9%	20.9%	8.0%	11.1%	14.1%	11.6%	7.7%
	7	7.1%	6.4%	6.0%	7.7%	3.0%	6.1%	11.5%
	8	7.9%	8.6%	9.9%	7.3%	6.9%	8.0%	9.0%
	9	9.0%	15.8%	11.6%	8.0%	5.1%	11.4%	12.7%
Voter-approved local bond measures	1	8.7%	11.8%	8.7%	8.9%	5.5%	12.7%	7.4%
	2	8.1%	10.5%	6.1%	7.4%	10.9%	10.1%	11.9%
	3	12.5%	13.2%	12.6%	12.5%	13.9%	10.1%	11.5%
	4	14.6%	8.0%	12.9%	16.4%	17.5%	5.0%	7.9%
	5	12.3%	12.9%	13.8%	12.0%	12.8%	9.5%	11.9%
	6	11.0%	12.8%	10.4%	11.4%	7.5%	13.5%	11.6%
	7	12.4%	10.2%	10.4%	12.7%	11.5%	19.0%	11.7%
	8	9.2%	5.9%	12.9%	8.1%	6.6%	11.6%	12.5%
	9	7.4%	11.3%	8.8%	6.0%	9.3%	6.6%	11.7%
Voter-approved state bond measures	1	7.7%	5.1%	6.6%	8.5%	3.5%	9.8%	9.5%
	2	11.3%	11.3%	12.4%	10.9%	11.6%	16.0%	8.6%
	3	14.6%	16.5%	12.9%	16.2%	17.2%	10.7%	3.4%
	4	12.7%	12.2%	17.1%	11.8%	8.0%	13.2%	16.1%
	5	10.7%	9.0%	9.0%	11.6%	13.7%	6.8%	6.1%
	6	11.1%	6.8%	9.7%	11.2%	12.8%	13.3%	11.5%
	7	9.7%	8.5%	12.3%	8.4%	8.1%	12.5%	15.4%
	8	9.6%	14.8%	6.4%	9.2%	11.0%	6.7%	18.4%
	9	8.6%	12.3%	10.3%	7.7%	9.5%	9.0%	9.1%
Voter approved, locally controlled special use districts (like water/sewer, road districts)	1	8.2%	9.4%	10.6%	6.0%	14.6%	7.8%	10.9%
	2	9.2%	9.2%	8.4%	9.2%	8.9%	8.6%	12.7%
	3	10.1%	8.4%	10.4%	10.0%	7.8%	12.0%	13.2%
	4	12.5%	7.2%	8.7%	13.1%	18.0%	13.0%	10.6%
	5	14.5%	14.1%	13.7%	16.1%	11.3%	9.1%	11.2%
	6	11.1%	10.7%	13.5%	11.6%	5.3%	8.8%	11.6%
	7	10.8%	7.8%	7.8%	11.1%	11.3%	14.7%	13.2%
	8	8.9%	15.7%	10.0%	8.8%	10.2%	6.2%	4.3%
	9	10.7%	14.1%	13.5%	9.6%	8.1%	17.9%	10.4%
Use state general funds to maximize access to matching federal recreation dollars	1	27.4%	14.4%	19.9%	32.6%	27.4%	15.8%	14.2%
	2	15.1%	9.5%	17.1%	15.3%	15.9%	10.0%	13.1%
	3	10.5%	8.6%	7.9%	12.0%	7.8%	9.7%	8.6%
	4	9.8%	9.7%	6.5%	11.2%	7.2%	14.0%	6.5%
	5	8.4%	19.4%	7.3%	8.3%	8.1%	7.0%	8.8%
	6	6.4%	3.7%	9.8%	4.5%	11.3%	10.5%	5.3%
	7	5.7%	11.1%	10.3%	3.4%	4.7%	7.2%	13.0%
	8	7.2%	11.4%	11.0%	3.9%	11.5%	14.8%	13.7%
	9	5.5%	8.7%	6.8%	4.3%	1.4%	9.2%	14.9%

		REGION						
		Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q27: Please indicate your Alaska residency status:	Unweighted Total Count (All)	1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Full-time resident	95.9%	95.9%	96.6%	95.5%	95.1%	98.8%	96.6%
	Part-time resident (do not qualify PFD)	3.9%	4.1%	3.4%	4.2%	4.9%	1.2%	3.4%
	Not a resident	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
		REGION						
		Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q28: Where in Alaska is your primary home?	Unweighted Total Count (All)	1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	North Slope/Utqiagvik/ASRC	1.6%	56.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Northwest Arctic/Kotzebue/NANA	1.2%	43.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Nome/Bering Straits NC	3.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	51.2%
	Bethel/Y-K Delta/Calista Corp	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	48.8%
	Bristol Bay/Lake and Peninsula Borough/BBNC	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	37.7%	0.0%
	Aleutians/Aleut Corp	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	28.0%	0.0%
	Kodiak/Koniag	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	34.3%	0.0%
	Prince William Sound/Chugach Alaska	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%	7.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Kenai Peninsula	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	17.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Anchorage	32.2%	0.0%	0.0%	54.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Mat-Su	12.6%	0.0%	0.0%	21.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Denali	3.8%	0.0%	23.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Fairbanks/Doyon	9.5%	0.0%	57.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Copper River/Ahtna	3.2%	0.0%	19.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Southeast/Sealaska	10.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	I don't live in Alaska	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Prefer not to answer	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
		REGION						
		Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q29: Please indicate how many years you have continuously lived as a full-time resident of Alaska:	Unweighted Total Count (All)	1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Recent arrival/less than 2 years	0.7%	2.5%	0.7%	0.5%	1.0%	0.0%	1.3%
	3-5 years	4.3%	15.4%	3.0%	2.7%	0.0%	7.9%	20.3%
	5-10 years	3.8%	2.5%	2.6%	4.1%	4.4%	4.5%	3.4%
	10-20 years	23.4%	25.6%	28.5%	18.9%	26.3%	39.6%	33.8%
	20-30 years	31.5%	46.5%	40.1%	27.3%	33.0%	40.2%	32.9%
	>30 years	32.3%	3.4%	21.8%	42.0%	30.4%	6.7%	4.9%
		REGION						
		Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q30: Please indicate how many years you have been a seasonal resident or visitor to Alaska:	Unweighted Total Count (All)	1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Recent arrival/less than 2 years	0.3%	2.7%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	1.0%	1.3%
	3-5 years	0.5%	0.9%	0.8%	0.4%	0.9%	0.2%	0.0%
	5-10 years	0.8%	0.6%	0.0%	1.2%	0.5%	0.0%	0.7%
	10-20 years	0.6%	0.0%	1.1%	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%	1.3%
	20-30 years	0.8%	0.0%	0.3%	0.9%	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%
	>30 years	1.2%	0.0%	1.2%	1.5%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Never been to Alaska	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

		REGION						
		Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q31: Please indicate your age range:	Unweighted Total Count (All)	1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	< 21	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	21 - 35	35.9%	61.7%	43.9%	27.4%	34.8%	58.2%	66.0%
	36 - 45	20.3%	35.8%	26.5%	15.1%	24.9%	33.3%	28.0%
	46 - 75	39.1%	2.5%	26.1%	50.9%	38.1%	8.5%	6.0%
	Over 75	4.8%	0.0%	3.5%	6.7%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%
		REGION						
		Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q32: Which of the following do you most identify with?	Unweighted Total Count (All)	1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Male	54.0%	66.4%	53.1%	53.6%	49.2%	53.5%	62.5%
	Female	45.9%	33.6%	46.9%	46.3%	50.8%	46.5%	37.5%
	Prefer not to say	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
		REGION						
		Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q33: Which of the following best describes your political affiliation?	Unweighted Total Count (All)	1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Republican	42.0%	45.5%	40.3%	43.0%	36.9%	41.6%	43.4%
	Democrat	32.6%	49.0%	39.5%	25.5%	36.6%	49.8%	53.2%
	Independent/not registered	24.7%	5.5%	20.1%	30.2%	26.5%	8.6%	3.4%
		REGION						
		Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q34: What is the highest level of education that you have completed?	Unweighted Total Count (All)	1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Less than High School	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	High School or GED	33.6%	49.8%	47.8%	23.5%	35.4%	56.4%	61.9%
	Some College/Two Year College Degree (Associates)	36.9%	36.7%	33.2%	40.3%	32.1%	29.9%	27.6%
	Four-Year College Degree (BA, BS)	18.7%	12.4%	11.3%	22.4%	22.0%	11.8%	7.3%
	Master's/Doctoral Degree	9.0%	0.5%	6.7%	11.4%	8.8%	1.9%	2.7%
	Professional Degree (MD, MJ, etc.)	1.8%	0.7%	1.0%	2.4%	1.7%	0.0%	0.5%
		REGION						
		Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q35: Please indicate your approximate household annual income.	Unweighted Total Count (All)	1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	Less than \$24,999	2.0%	3.3%	2.7%	2.1%	1.6%	0.4%	1.0%
	\$25,000 - \$49,999	19.5%	28.7%	21.7%	17.8%	20.2%	24.8%	20.5%
	\$50,000 - \$74,999	28.5%	45.5%	38.5%	22.3%	28.6%	47.5%	38.4%
	\$75,000 - \$99,999	19.9%	10.4%	21.6%	19.6%	23.4%	17.0%	17.8%
	\$100,000 - \$124,999	11.1%	5.9%	8.8%	11.8%	11.4%	6.4%	15.8%
	\$125,000 - \$149,999	5.9%	2.8%	2.6%	8.0%	5.0%	2.1%	1.3%
	\$150,000 - \$174,999	5.2%	0.2%	1.1%	7.4%	3.9%	0.2%	3.2%
	\$175,000 - \$199,999	3.1%	1.5%	1.8%	4.3%	2.5%	0.0%	0.5%
	\$200,000 or more	4.6%	1.8%	1.1%	6.6%	3.5%	0.2%	1.5%
	Prefer not to say	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

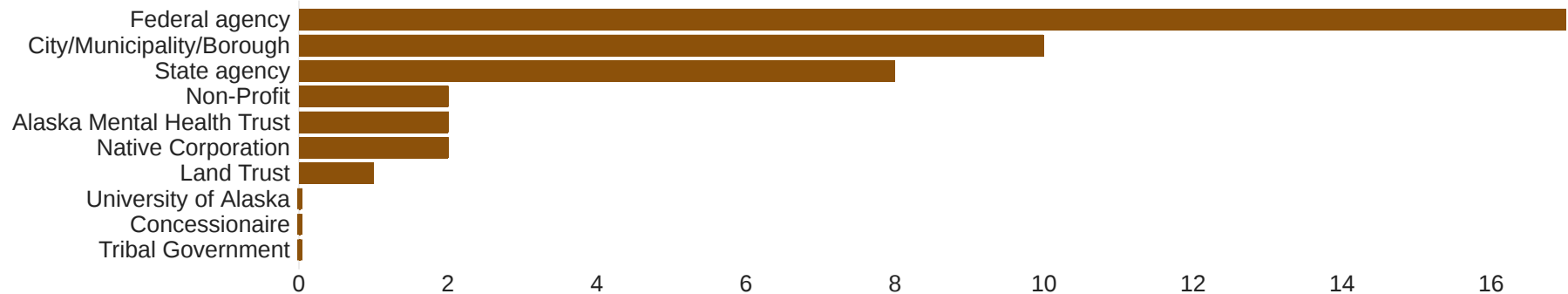
		REGION						
		Total	ARCTIC	INTERIOR	SOUTHCENTRAL	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WESTERN
Q36: What is your race? - Selected Choice	Unweighted Total Count (All)	1,491.0	102.0	252.0	777.0	110.0	139.0	111.0
	African-American	6.6%	10.4%	6.7%	4.9%	10.7%	16.6%	6.0%
	Alaska Native/ Native American	10.6%	18.9%	11.4%	7.9%	16.4%	18.6%	15.5%
	Asian-Pacific Islander	7.5%	8.9%	8.1%	5.5%	9.5%	16.5%	13.2%
	Hispanic	2.0%	1.5%	1.8%	1.5%	3.2%	0.2%	6.3%
	White	71.0%	60.2%	70.5%	76.8%	60.3%	46.3%	59.0%
	Other	2.0%	0.2%	1.6%	2.8%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%
	Prefer not to answer	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%



## APPENDIX 4: Land Managers' Survey Results

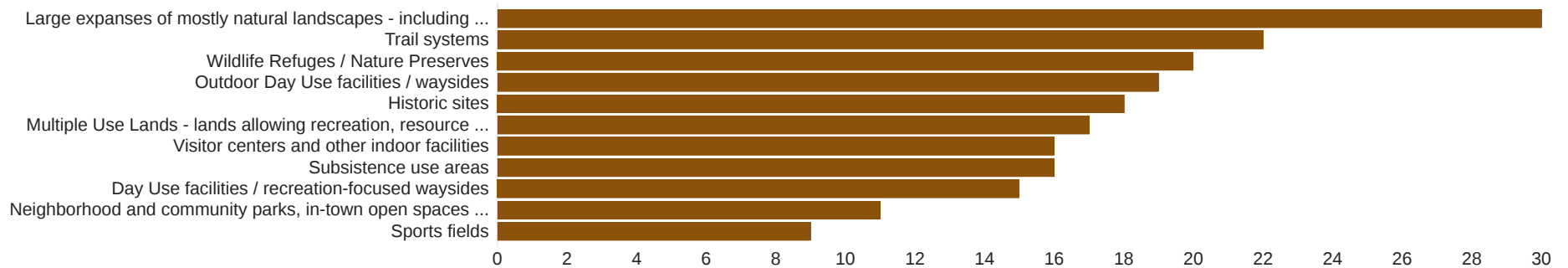
Results from survey questions will be referenced by their question numbers (e.g., results from survey Question 1 is referenced as Q1). Any questions requesting personal or affiliation data have been removed from this publication (e.g., Q2 and Q3).

Q1 - Please indicate which type of organizations/agencies you work for:



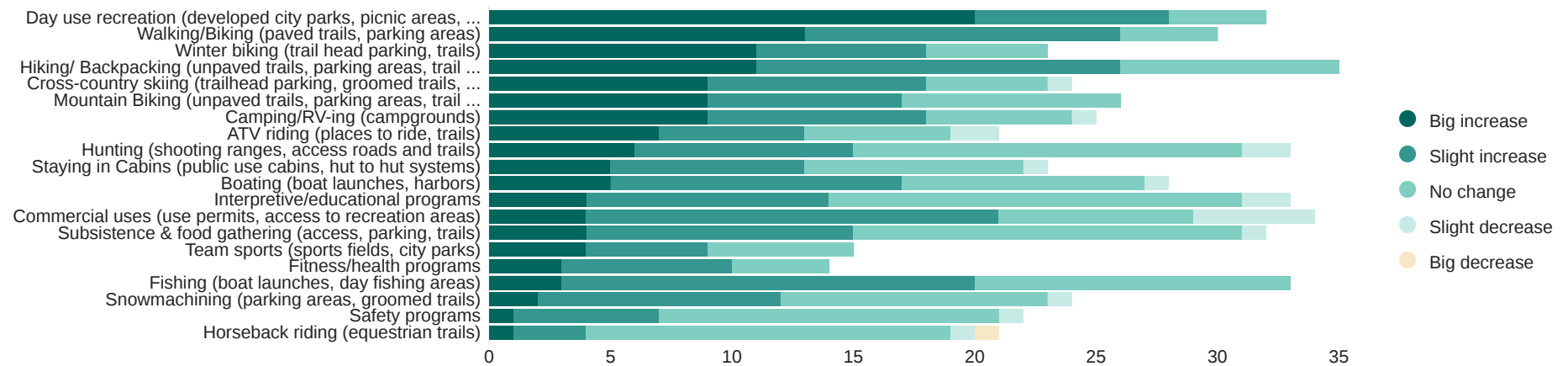
Field	Choice Count
Federal agency	17
City/Municipality/Borough	10
State agency	8
Non-Profit	2
Alaska Mental Health Trust	2
Native Corporation	2
Land Trust	1
University of Alaska	0
Concessionaire	0
Tribal Government	0
Total	45

Q4 - Please identify the type(s) of land(s) and/or facilities your position is responsible for managing. Check all that apply.



Field	Choice Count
Large expanses of mostly natural landscapes - including frontcountry and backcountry areas	30
Trail systems	22
Wildlife Refuges / Nature Preserves	20
Outdoor Day Use facilities / waysides	19
Historic sites	18
Multiple Use Lands - lands allowing recreation, resource extraction, and other uses	17
Visitor centers and other indoor facilities	16
Subsistence use areas	16
Day Use facilities / recreation-focused waysides	15
Neighborhood and community parks, in-town open spaces and greenbelts	11
Sports fields	9
Total	199

Q5 - Please estimate how demand for the outdoor recreation services and facilities under your jurisdiction has changed from 2019 to the present. (You can skip activities that are not applicable to you)



Field	Big increase	Slight increase	No change	Slight decrease	Big decrease	Total
Day use recreation (developed city parks, picnic areas, group event spaces, scenic viewing/waysides)	20	8	4	0	0	32
Walking/Biking (paved trails, parking areas)	13	13	4	0	0	30
Winter biking (trail head parking, trails)	11	7	5	0	0	23
Hiking/ Backpacking (unpaved trails, parking areas, trail heads)	11	15	9	0	0	35
Cross-country skiing (trailhead parking, groomed trails, open space)	9	9	5	1	0	24
Mountain Biking (unpaved trails, parking areas, trail heads, open space parks)	9	8	9	0	0	26
Camping/RV-ing (campgrounds)	9	9	6	1	0	25

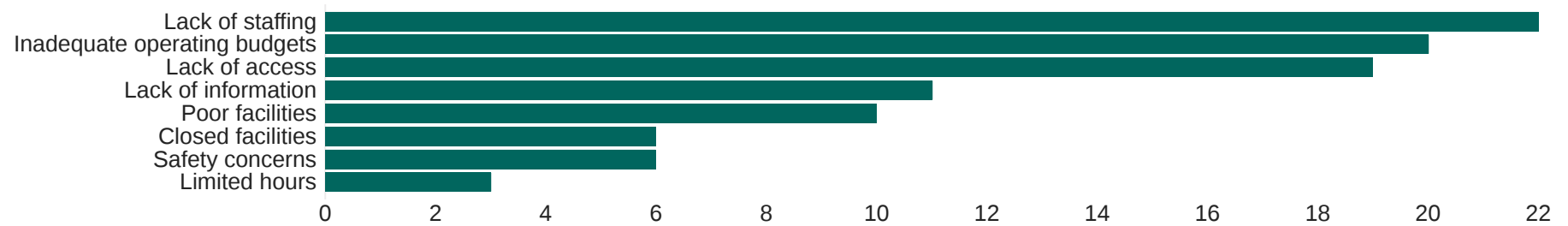
ATV riding (places to ride, trails)	7	6	6	2	0	21
Hunting (shooting ranges, access roads and trails)	6	9	16	2	0	33
Staying in Cabins (public use cabins, hut to hut systems)	5	8	9	1	0	23
Boating (boat launches, harbors)	5	12	10	1	0	28
Interpretive/educational programs	4	10	17	2	0	33
Commercial uses (use permits, access to recreation areas)	4	17	8	5	0	34
Subsistence & food gathering (access, parking, trails)	4	11	16	1	0	32
Team sports (sports fields, city parks)	4	5	6	0	0	15
Fitness/health programs	3	7	4	0	0	14
Fishing (boat launches, day fishing areas)	3	17	13	0	0	33
Snowmachining (parking areas, groomed trails)	2	10	11	1	0	24
Safety programs	1	6	14	1	0	22
Horseback riding (equestrian trails)	1	3	15	1	1	21

Q6 - For facilities where you have seen an increase in demand, what do you believe has been the major driver of change since 2019? Please check up to three most important drivers.



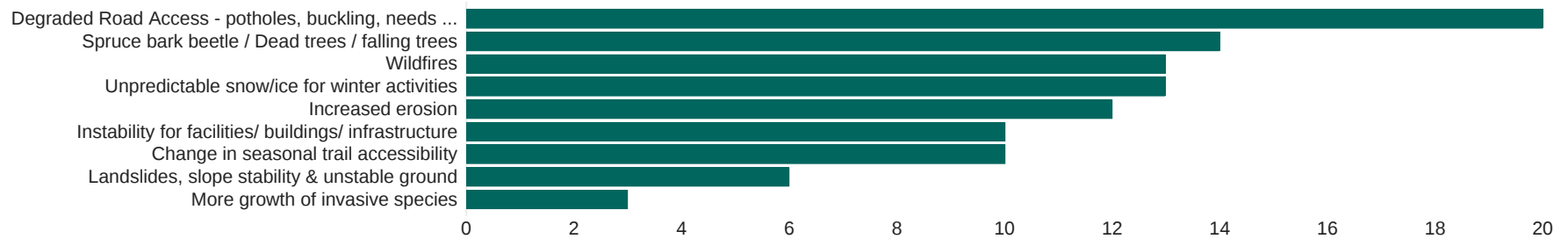
Field	Choice Count
COVID pandemic	31
Increased popularity of activity	26
New information/social media	9
New, improved facilities	9
Better access, open new areas	6
New programs	0
Total	88

## Q7 - What restricts user demand? Check all that apply.



Field	Choice Count
Lack of staffing	22
Inadequate operating budgets	20
Lack of access	19
Lack of information	11
Poor facilities	10
Closed facilities	6
Safety concerns	6
Limited hours	3
Total	105

Q8 - What environmental factors (natural disasters, climate change, etc.) are negatively impacting your capacity to manage and provide O.R. opportunities for the public? Check all that apply.



Field	Choice Count
Degraded Road Access - potholes, buckling, needs brushing, lack of maintenance, washouts	20
Spruce bark beetle / Dead trees / falling trees	14
Wildfires	13
Unpredictable snow/ice for winter activities	13
Increased erosion	12
Instability for facilities/ buildings/ infrastructure	10
Change in seasonal trail accessibility	10
Landslides, slope stability & unstable ground	6
More growth of invasive species	3
Total	104

Q9 - What are the major challenges you are experiencing in addressing these issues? Please check all that apply.



Field	Choice Count
Lack of maintenance / repair staff	30
Lack of dedicated emergency repair funds for unexpected events	18
Increase in frequency and severity of catastrophic events	11
Other (please specify)	6
Slow FEMA response times	5
Total	70

Other (please specify) - Text

Remoteness of units and cost to repair.

NA

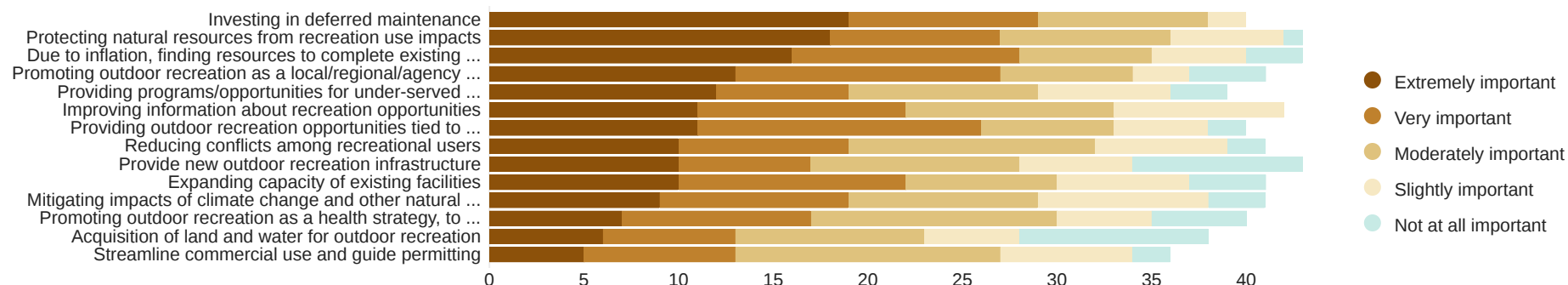
insufficient staff capacity and also political pressures against action

no dedicated funding source

These are natural, no challenges



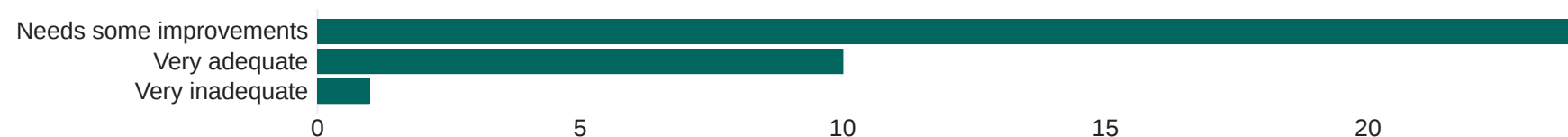
## Q10 - Rank the importance of the objectives presented below for your jurisdiction and serving outdoor recreation users.



Field	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important	Not applicable/ Don't know	Total
Investing in deferred maintenance	0	2	9	10	19	3	43
Protecting natural resources from recreation use impacts	1	6	9	9	18	0	43
Due to inflation, finding resources to complete existing projects	3	5	7	12	16	1	44
Promoting outdoor recreation as a local/regional/agency economic development strategy	4	3	7	14	13	3	44
Providing programs/opportunities for under-served populations and places	3	7	10	7	12	4	43
Improving information about recreation opportunities	0	9	11	11	11	1	43
Providing outdoor recreation opportunities tied to Alaska's diverse cultures and history	2	5	7	15	11	2	42

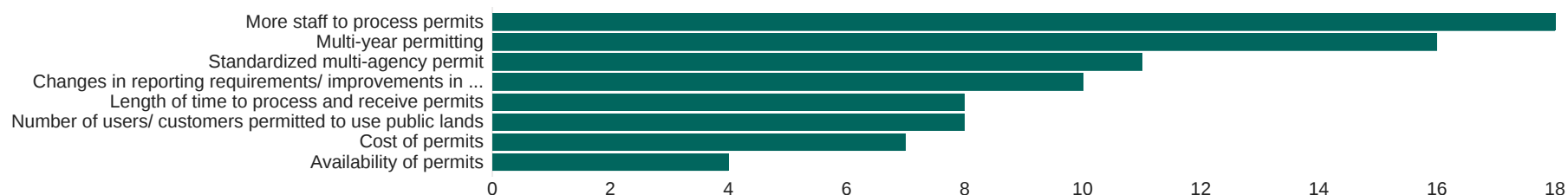
Reducing conflicts among recreational users	2	7	13	9	10	2	43
Provide new outdoor recreation infrastructure	9	6	11	7	10	0	43
Expanding capacity of existing facilities	4	7	8	12	10	3	44
Mitigating impacts of climate change and other natural forces	3	9	10	10	9	1	42
Promoting outdoor recreation as a health strategy, to increase participation in outdoor recreation	5	5	13	10	7	4	44
Acquisition of land and water for outdoor recreation	10	5	10	7	6	5	43
Streamline commercial use and guide permitting	2	7	14	8	5	7	43

# Q11 - How would you rate the efficiency and effectiveness of your unit's permitting capacity for commercial operators / guides / concessionaires?



Field	Choice Count
Very adequate	10
Needs some improvements	24
Very inadequate	1
Total	35

Q12 - What improvements would you recommend to assist staff and permit holders? Please check all that apply.



Field	Choice Count
More staff to process permits	18
Multi-year permitting	16
Standardized multi-agency permit	11
Changes in reporting requirements/ improvements in documenting use trends	10
Length of time to process and receive permits	8
Number of users/ customers permitted to use public lands	8
Other (please specify)	7
Cost of permits	7
Availability of permits	4
Total	89

Other (please specify) - Text

Make it online

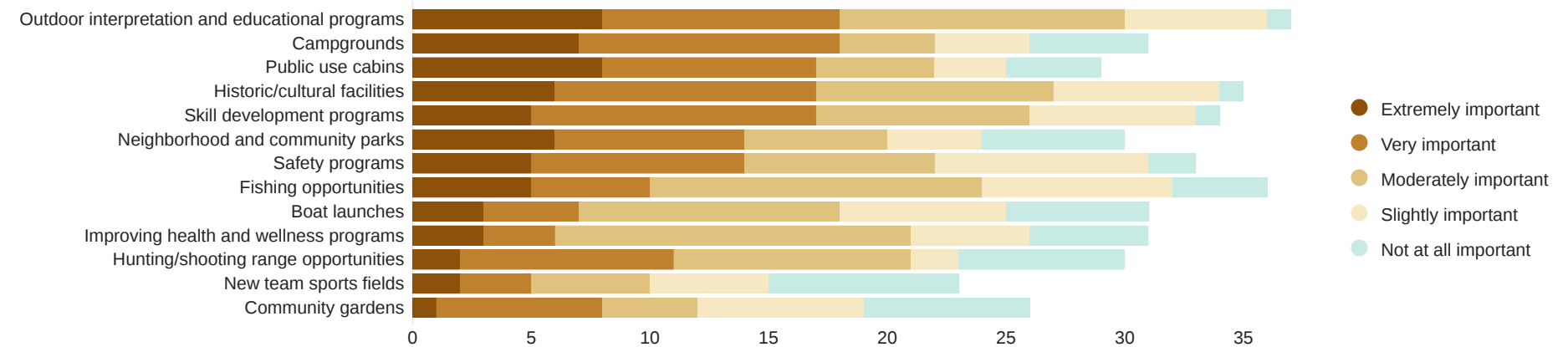
Changing to online currently

We are currently working on establishing an online interface for permit applications, issuance, payments, etc.

Standardize operator training and performance certifications and requirements to improve performance

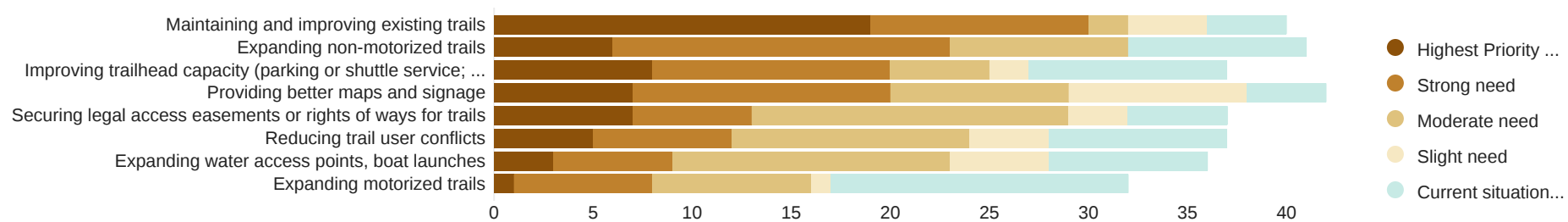
Permit coordination through a return of the Alaska Coastal Management Program.

## Q13 - Please rank the need for expanded, improved or new outdoor recreation facilities and programs below.



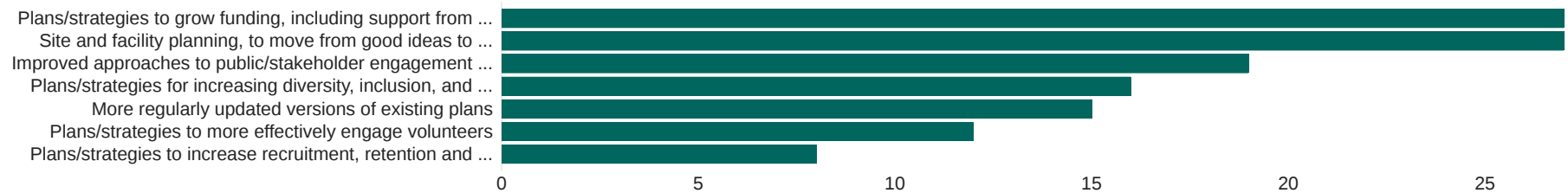
Field	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important	Not applicable/ Don't know	Total
Outdoor interpretation and educational programs	1	6	12	10	8	4	41
Campgrounds	5	4	4	11	7	11	42
Public use cabins	4	3	5	9	8	12	41
Historic/cultural facilities	1	7	10	11	6	5	40
Skill development programs	1	7	9	12	5	8	42
Neighborhood and community parks	6	4	6	8	6	12	42
Safety programs	2	9	8	9	5	9	42
Fishing opportunities	4	8	14	5	5	5	41
Boat launches	6	7	11	4	3	9	40
Improving health and wellness programs	5	5	15	3	3	11	42
Hunting/shooting range opportunities	7	2	10	9	2	11	41
New team sports fields	8	5	5	3	2	18	41
Community gardens	7	7	4	7	1	15	41

## Q14 - Please rank the need for investments in trails, for your agency/agency unit/organization.



Field	Current situation acceptable (Minimal need)	Slight need	Moderate need	Strong need	Highest Priority for investment	Not applicable/ Don't know	Total
Maintaining and improving existing trails	4	4	2	11	19	3	43
Expanding non-motorized trails	9	0	9	17	6	2	43
Improving trailhead capacity (parking or shuttle service; adding amenities like trash or bathrooms)	10	2	5	12	8	6	43
Providing better maps and signage	4	9	9	13	7	1	43
Securing legal access easements or rights of ways for trails	5	3	16	6	7	6	43
Reducing trail user conflicts	9	4	12	7	5	6	43
Expanding water access points, boat launches	8	5	14	6	3	7	43
Expanding motorized trails	15	1	8	7	1	11	43
Other (please specify)	1	0	0	0	0	4	5

## Q15 - What kind of plans/planning process are currently lacking or most needed to help you do your job more effectively? (Please check all that apply)



Field	Choice Count
Plans/strategies to grow funding, including support from non-profit, business, or other partners	27
Site and facility planning, to move from good ideas to “shovel ready” permitted designs and projects	27
Improved approaches to public/stakeholder engagement in facility, management decisions	19
Plans/strategies for increasing diversity, inclusion, and equity in outdoor recreation	16
More regularly updated versions of existing plans	15
Plans/strategies to more effectively engage volunteers	12
Plans/strategies to increase recruitment, retention and reactivation of O.R. users (R3 program)	8
Other important planning needs? (Please specify)	8
Total	132

Other important planning needs? (Please specify) - Text

DNR become proactive in permit processing

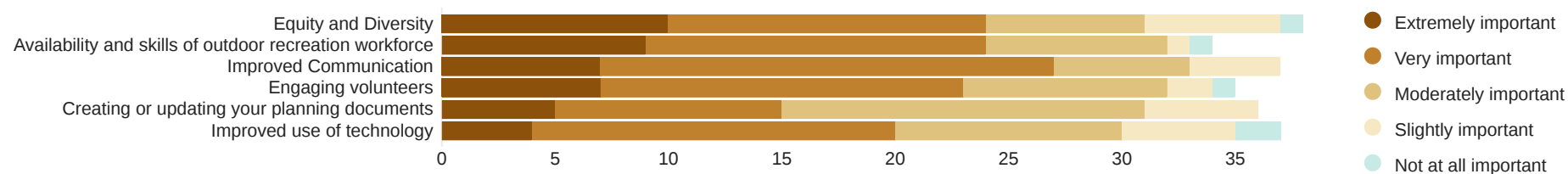
funding

Acquiring more public land.

Plans to address increasing visitation

The biggest need I see is not planning but execution of projects.

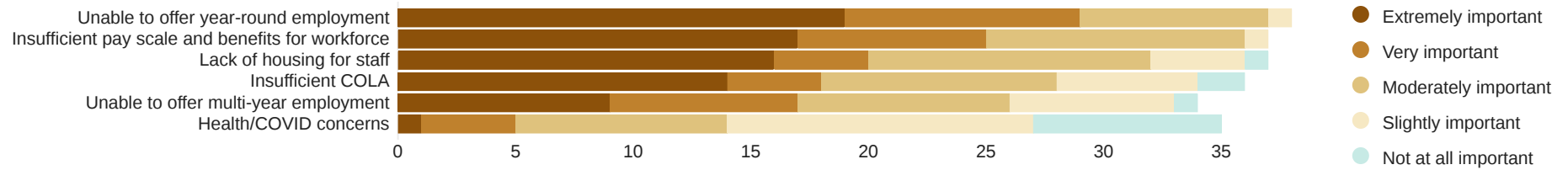
Q16 - For survey respondents in management positions, how important are these objectives under your jurisdiction, using the scale below?



Field	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important	N/A	Total
Equity and Diversity	1	6	7	14	10	3	41
Availability and skills of outdoor recreation workforce	1	1	8	15	9	6	40
Improved Communication	0	4	6	20	7	3	40
Engaging volunteers	1	2	9	16	7	5	40
Creating or updating your planning documents	0	5	16	10	5	4	40
Improved use of technology	2	5	10	16	4	3	40
Other (please specify)	0	0	0	0	2	8	10

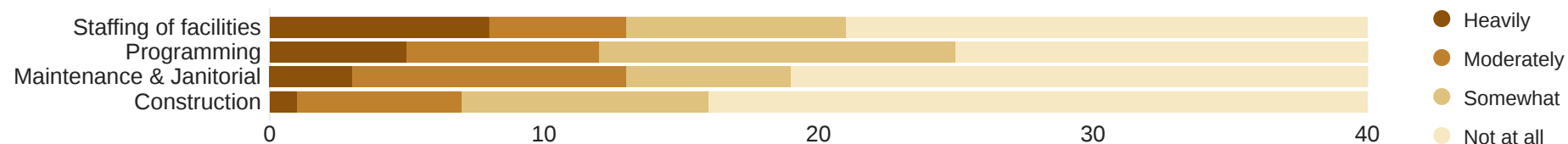


Q17 - What do you see as the biggest challenges for recruiting and retaining the outdoor recreation workforce? Include seasonal and permanent workforce.



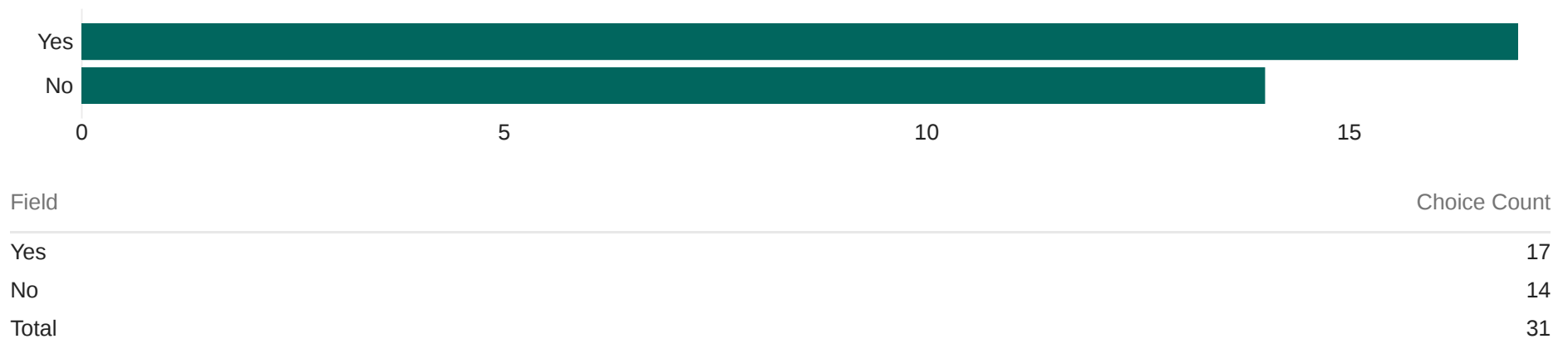
Field	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important	Total
Unable to offer year-round employment	0	1	8	10	19	38
Insufficient pay scale and benefits for workforce	0	1	11	8	17	37
Lack of housing for staff	1	4	12	4	16	37
Insufficient COLA	2	6	10	4	14	36
Unable to offer multi-year employment	1	7	9	8	9	34
Other (please specify)	0	0	0	1	1	2
Health/COVID concerns	8	13	9	4	1	35

Q18 - Under your jurisdiction, to what extent do you use volunteers in meeting your organization's mission work in the following categories?

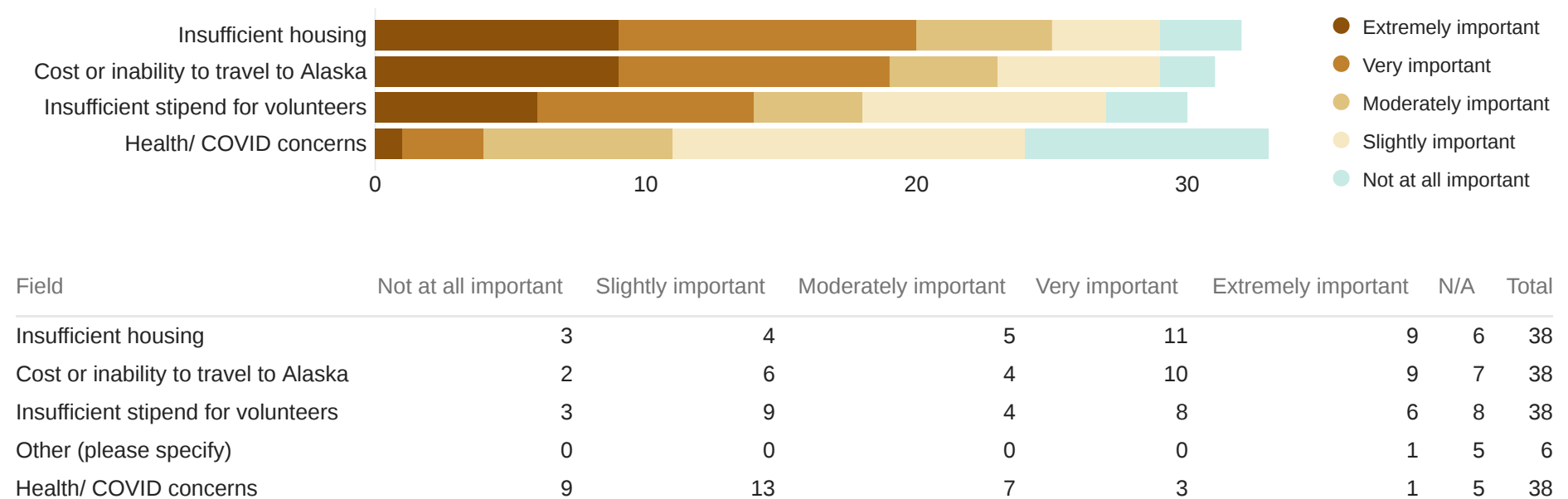


Field	Not at all	Moderately	Heavily	Somewhat	Total
Staffing of facilities	19	5	8	8	40
Programming	15	7	5	13	40
Maintenance & Janitorial	21	10	3	6	40
Construction	24	6	1	9	40

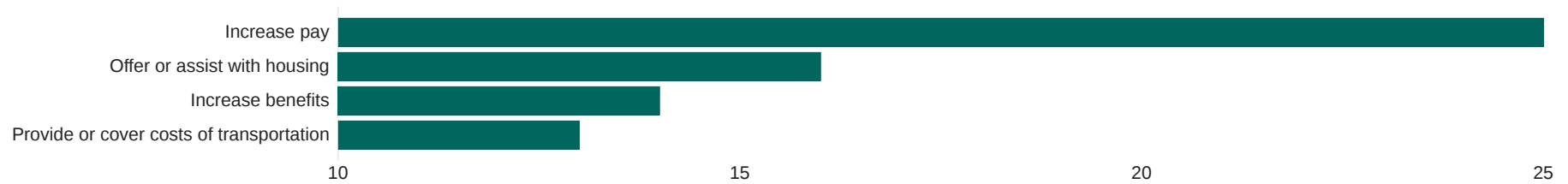
## Q19 - Do you capture volunteer hours for in-kind match for grants?



## Q20 - If you use volunteers or interns, what are your top recruitment issues?



Q21 - Have you identified agency solutions for workforce issues? Please check all that apply.



Field	Choice Count
Increase pay	25
Offer or assist with housing	16
Increase benefits	14
Provide or cover costs of transportation	13
Other incentives (please specify)	6
Total	74

Other incentives (please specify) - Text

more full time positions and room for advancement

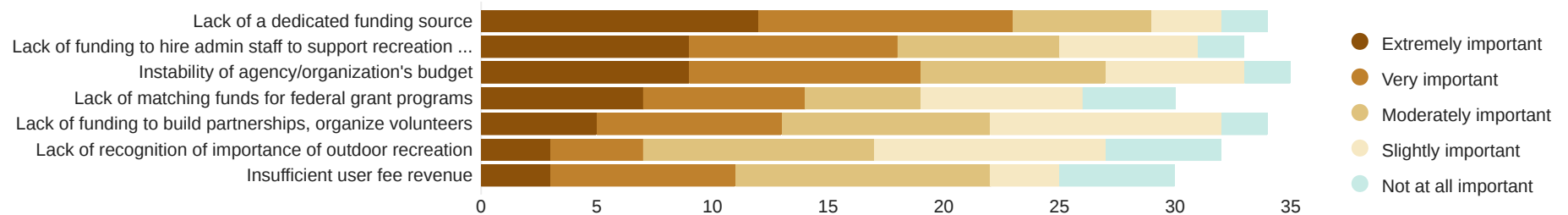
hiring incentive,

Bush locality pay needed

Telework flexibilities, flexible working hours

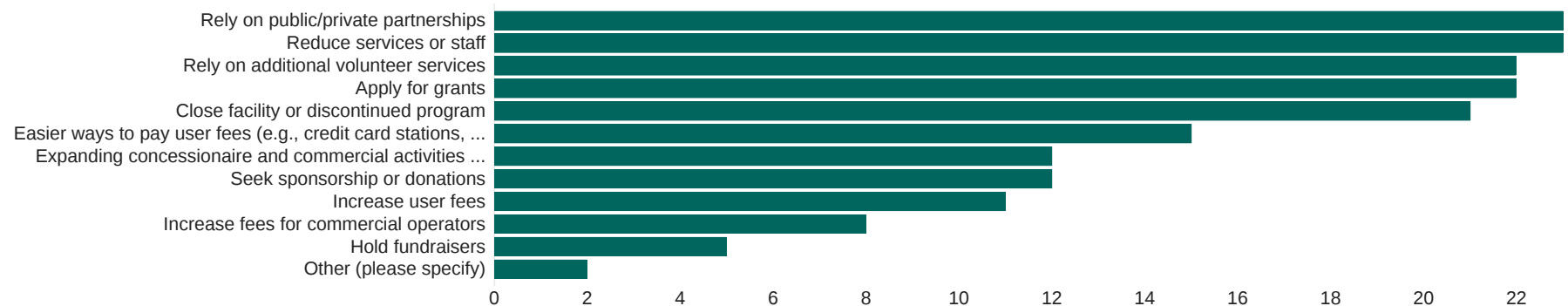
provide year-round employment

## Q22 - For survey respondents in management positions, what are the biggest funding challenges under your jurisdiction?



Field	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important	Total
Lack of a dedicated funding source	2	3	6	11	12	34
Lack of funding to hire admin staff to support recreation activities	2	6	7	9	9	33
Instability of agency/organization's budget	2	6	8	10	9	35
Lack of matching funds for federal grant programs	4	7	5	7	7	30
Lack of funding to build partnerships, organize volunteers	2	10	9	8	5	34
Lack of recognition of importance of outdoor recreation	5	10	10	4	3	32
Insufficient user fee revenue	5	3	11	8	3	30

Q23 - For survey respondents in management positions, where you are responsible for budgets and allocation of resources: in your position, what actions are available to you to increase funding or balance budgets? (Please check all that apply)

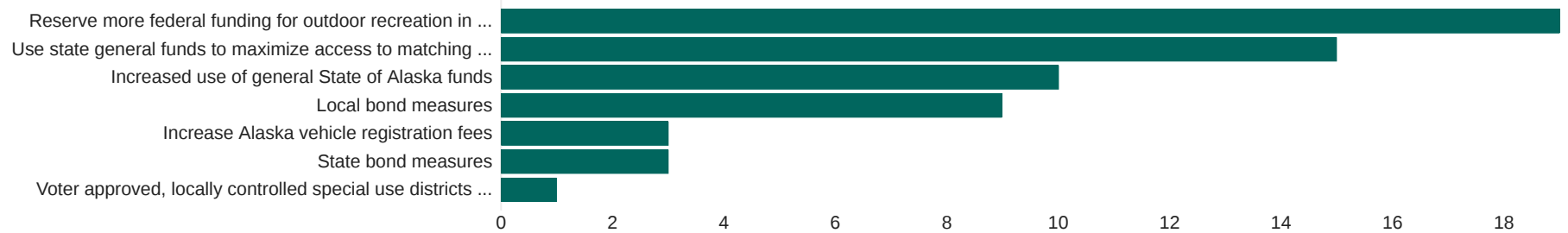


Field	Choice Count
Rely on public/private partnerships	23
Reduce services or staff	23
Rely on additional volunteer services	22
Apply for grants	22
Close facility or discontinued program	21
Easier ways to pay user fees (e.g., credit card stations, smart phone, and online options)	15
Expanding concessionaire and commercial activities (increases revenues/reduces costs)	12
Seek sponsorship or donations	12
Increase user fees	11
Increase fees for commercial operators	8
Hold fundraisers	5
Other (please specify)	2
Total	176

Other (please specify) - Text

Request added funding through budget process

## Q24 - What do you see as the most effective larger-scale potential solutions to your funding challenges? (pick up to three options)



Field	Choice Count
Reserve more federal funding for outdoor recreation in AK on state and local lands	19
Use state general funds to maximize access to matching federal recreation dollars ("Don't leave money on the table!")	15
Increased use of general State of Alaska funds	10
Local bond measures	9
Other (please specify)	6
Increase Alaska vehicle registration fees	3
State bond measures	3
Voter approved, locally controlled special use districts (like water/sewer, road districts)	1
Total	66

### Other (please specify) - Text

Increased federal appropriations for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

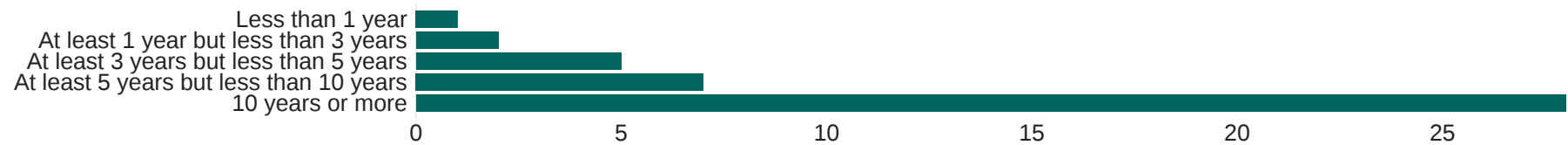
Actually keep a staff member working on LWCF in the state. Hard to accept money from the Feds if we do not have someone filling that role. We lost out on a lot of funding over the past 4 or 5 years because of this.

Improve public support or recognition of the National Wildlife Refuge System

State and fed agencies treating all state/fed relationships as collaborative and beneficial opportunities for all sides rather than an adversarial relationship to be exploited.

small sales tax increase

## Q26 - About how many years have you been professionally involved in outdoor recreation?



Field	Choice Count
Less than 1 year	1
At least 1 year but less than 3 years	2
At least 3 years but less than 5 years	5
At least 5 years but less than 10 years	7
10 years or more	28
Total	43



## Q27 - Please use the space provided below to share any additional thoughts or comments with us about ways to improve outdoor recreation opportunities in Alaska.

Please use the space provided below to share any additional thoughts or comments with us about ways to improve outdoor recreation opportunities in Alaska.

SOA is doing a poor job in funding current park/trail/facility maintenance needs while they discuss adding new amenities. Overall, SOA investment in outdoor rec is anemic and does not recognize the positive economic impacts of such investment

Let's use those Federal funds to connect the Alaska Long Trail!

### Connectivity

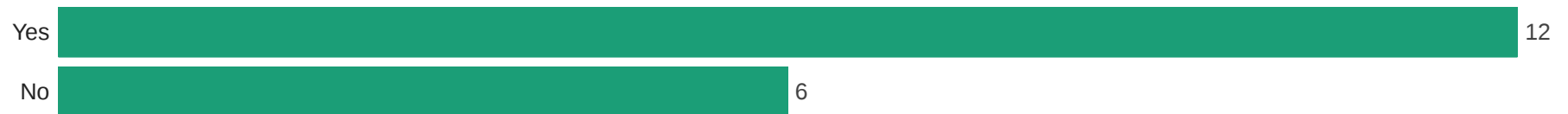
Acquire more public land for State Parks like Kodiak. Better maintenance facilities.

The Alaska Long Trail is a great start, coupled with matching funds from the LWC fund, will be the big step forward for Alaska. The state needs to fund a bureau of tourism and outdoor recreation.

## APPENDIX 5: Tribal Survey Results

Results from survey questions will be referenced by their question numbers (e.g., results from survey Question 1 is referenced as Q1). Any questions requesting personal or affiliation data have been removed from this publication (e.g., Q2 and Q3).

Q3 - Does your organization manage outdoor recreation services, facilities, programs, and/or lands?



Q4 - To provide outdoor recreation services, have you partnered with any of the following for funding? Please check all that apply.



## Q5 - Do you use grants to provide outdoor recreation services?

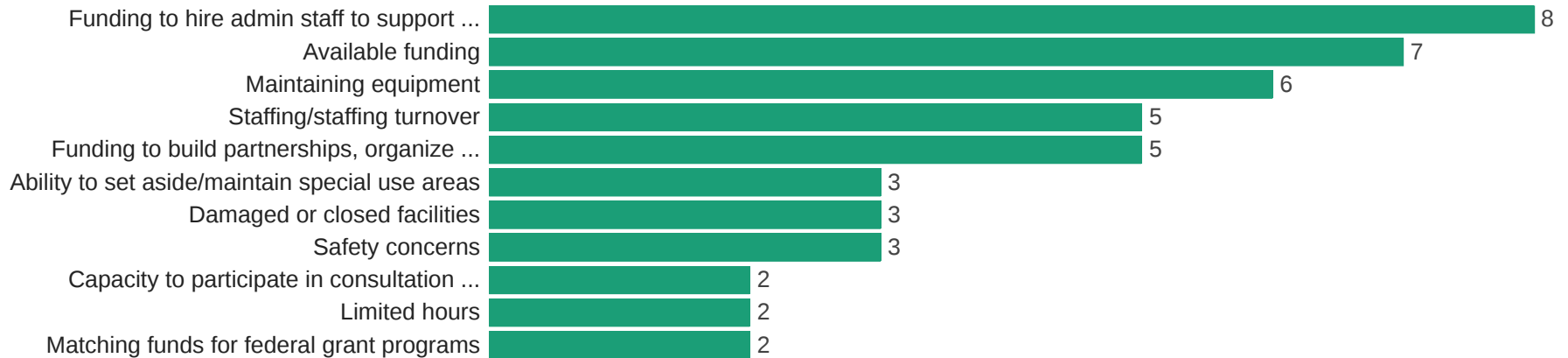


Q6 - Have you accessed any of the following funding sources for outdoor recreation? Please check all that apply.



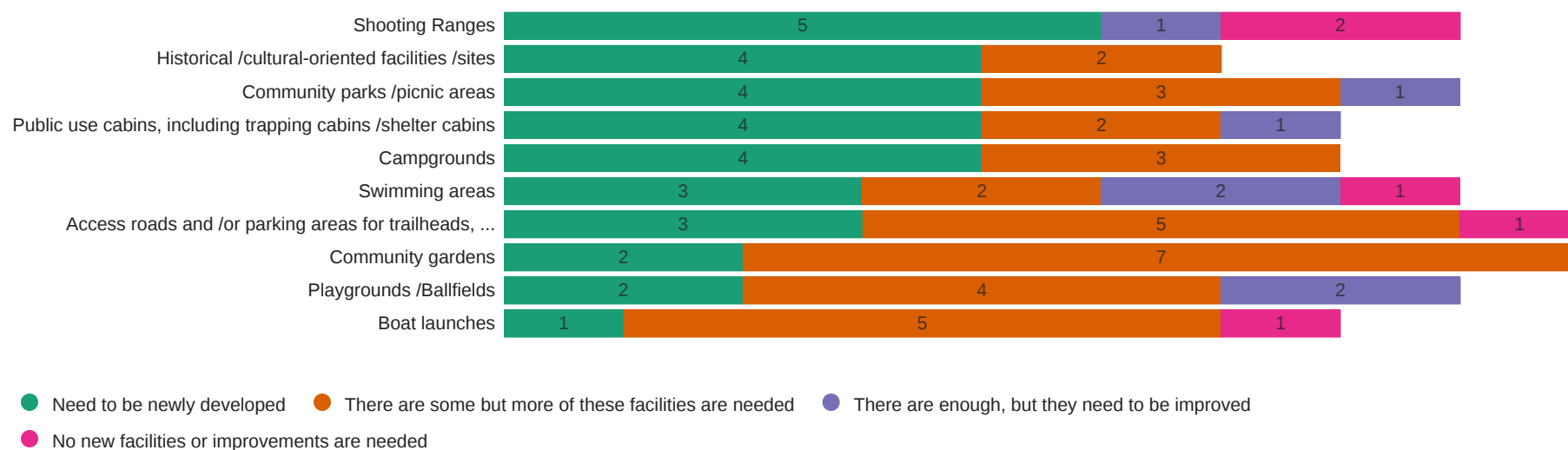
Field	Count
Land and Water Conservation Fund	0
Recreational Trails Program	0
SnowTRAC program	0
Office of Boating Safety	1
Office of History and Archaeology/Historic Preservation Fund	0
Other state funding/grant sources	1
Health grants available to tribes for outdoor recreation	1
Transportation grants available to tribes for outdoor recreation	1
Education grants available to tribes for outdoor recreation	2
BIA grants for outdoor recreation	1
National Park Service tribal historic preservation grants	0
Public safety grants for outdoor recreation	0
Transportation grants for outdoor recreation	0
Economic development grants for outdoor recreation	1
Other (please specify)	0
Alaska Native Corporations	2
Businesses	0
Foundations	1
Non-profits	1

Q7 - What affects your ability to offer outdoor recreation? Please check all that apply.



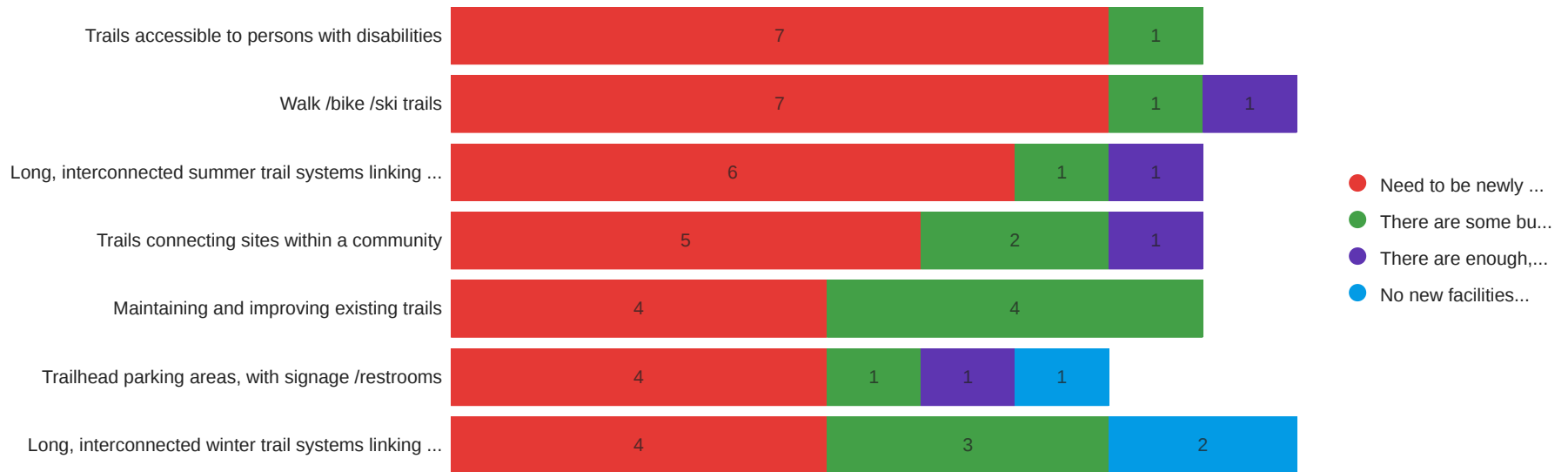
Field	Count
Available funding	7
Funding to hire admin staff to support recreation activities	8
Matching funds for federal grant programs	2
Funding to build partnerships, organize volunteers	5
Staffing/staffing turnover	5
Safety concerns	3
Damaged or closed facilities	3
Maintaining equipment	6
Limited hours	2
Ability to set aside/maintain special use areas	3
Capacity to participate in consultation processes	2
Other, please specify	0

## Q8 - What outdoor recreation facilities are most needed to be improved or newly developed?



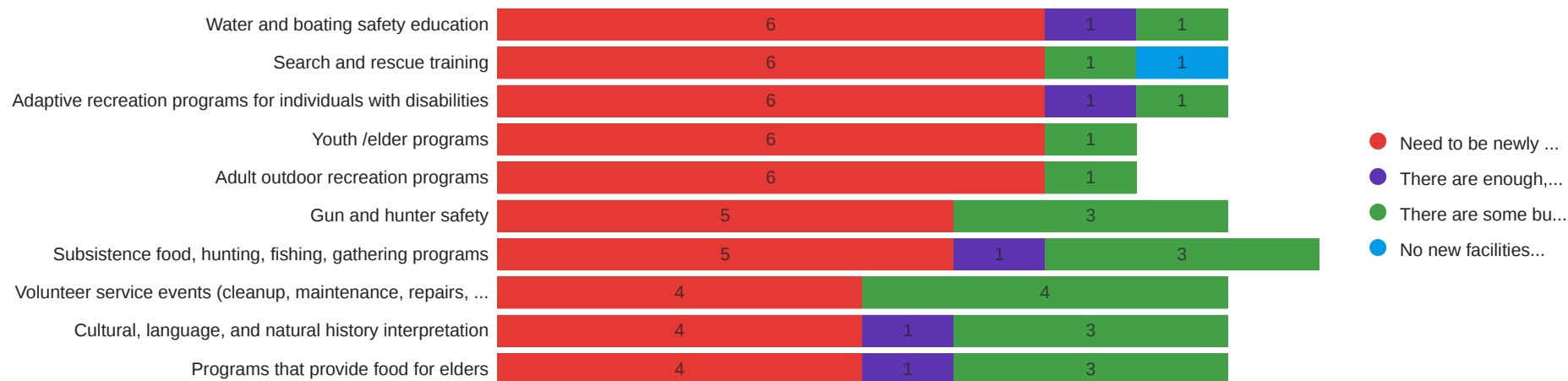
Field	Need to be newly developed	There are enough, but they need to be improved	No new facilities or improvements are needed	Are some but more of these facilities are needed
Count (Access roads and/or parking areas for trailheads, boating, hunting, fishing areas)	3	0	1	5
Count (Campgrounds)	4	0	0	3
Count (Public use cabins, including trapping/shelter cabins)	4	1		2
Count (Playgrounds/Ballfields)	2	2	0	4
Count (Community parks/picnic areas)	4	1	0	3
Count (Community gardens)	2	0	0	7
Count (Historical /cultural-oriented facilities/sites)	4	0	0	2
Count (Swimming areas)	3	2	1	2
Count (Shooting Ranges)	5	1	2	0
Count (Boat launches)	1	0	1	5
Count (Other (please specify))	0	0	0	0

## Q9 - What types of trails are most needed to be improved or newly developed?



Field	Need to be newly developed	There are enough, but they need to be improved	No new facilities or improvements are needed	There are some but more of these facilities are needed	Total
Trails accessible to persons with disabilities	7	0	0	1	8
Walk /bike /ski trails	7	1	0	1	9
Long, interconnected summer trail systems linking communities /ATV	6	1	0	1	8
Trails connecting sites within a community	5	1	0	2	8
Maintaining and improving existing trails	4	0	0	4	8
Trailhead parking areas, with signage /restrooms	4	1	1	1	7
Long, interconnected winter trail systems linking communities /snowmachines /dogsled	4	0	2	3	9

Q10 - Please indicate which of the following types of outdoor-related cultural, training, educational programs need improvements or new development:



Field	Need to be newly developed	There are enough, but they need to be improved	No new facilities or improvements are needed	Are some but more of these facilities are needed
Count (Adult outdoor rec. programs)	6	0	0	1
Count (Youth/elder programs)	6	0	0	1
Count (Programs that provide food for elders)	4	1	0	3
Count (Subsistence/food hunting, fishing, gathering programs)	5	1	0	3
Count (Cultural, language, and natural history interpretation)	4	1	0	3
Count (Adaptive rec. programs for individuals with disabilities)	6	1	0	1
Count (Volunteer events (cleanup, maintenance, repairs, etc.))	4	0	0	4
Count (Search and rescue training)	6	0	1	1
Count (Gun and hunter safety)	5	0	0	3
Count (Water and boating safety education)	6	1	0	1
Count (Other (please specify))	1	0	0	0



Q11 - What environmental factors (natural disasters, climate change, etc.) are negatively impacting your capacity to manage and provide outdoor recreation opportunities? Check all that apply.



Field	Count
Change in seasonal trail accessibility	4
Unpredictable snow /ice for winter activities	5
Increased erosion /flooding	5
Slope stability /unstable ground	3
Dead trees /falling trees	5
Buckling access roads	4
Unstable or damaged facilities/buildings /infrastructure	6
Growth of invasive species	5
Other (please specify)	1

Q12 - What major challenges are you experiencing in addressing these issues? Please check all that apply.



Field	Choice Count
Lack of maintenance /repair staff	7
Lack of dedicated emergency funds to repair unexpected events	7
Damage due to unexpected events	4
Slow FEMA response time	0
Total	19

Q13 - Do you have staff dedicated to outdoor recreation services and/or grant administration for outdoor recreation?

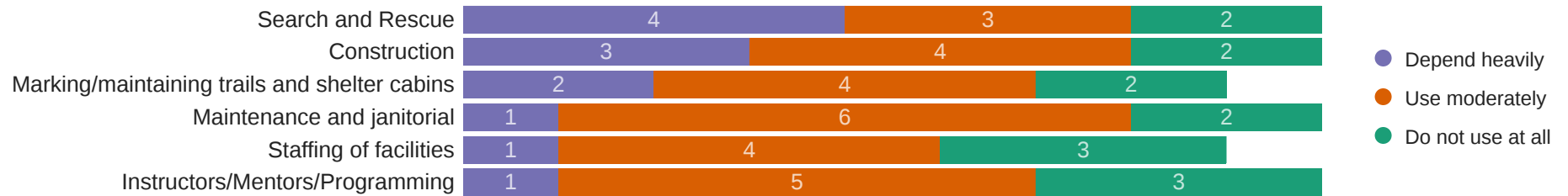


Q14 - What are your biggest challenges for recruiting and retaining the outdoor recreation workforce? Please include seasonal and permanent workforce.



Field	Not at all important	Moderately important	Very important	Total
Lack of staff training	0	0	1	1
Lack of staff housing	1	0	1	2
Other (please specify)	0	0	0	0
Unable to offer year-round employment	1	1	0	2
Insufficient pay and benefits for workforce	0	1	0	1

## Q15 - To what extent do you use volunteers in meeting your mission in the following categories?

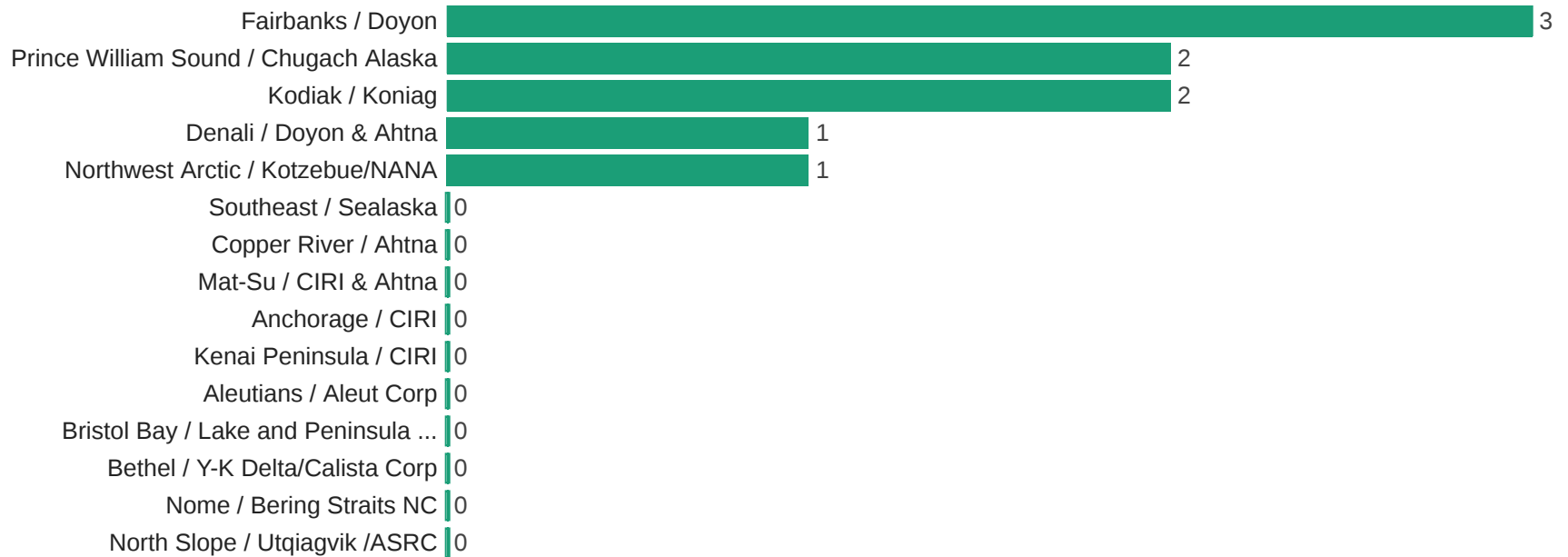


Field	Do not use at all	Use moderately	Depend heavily	Total
Instructors/Mentors/Programming	3	5	1	9
Staffing of facilities	3	4	1	8
Maintenance and janitorial	2	6	1	9
Search and Rescue	2	3	4	9
Marking/maintaining trails and shelter cabins	2	4	2	8
Construction	2	4	3	9

## Q16 - Do you capture volunteer hours for in-kind match for grants?



## Q17 - Where is the geographic area under your jurisdiction?



Field	Count
North Slope / Utqiagvik /ASRC	0
Northwest Arctic / Kotzebue/NANA	1
Nome / Bering Straits NC	0
Bethel / Y-K Delta/Calista Corp	0
Bristol Bay / Lake and Peninsula Borough/BBNC	0
Aleutians / Aleut Corp	0
Kodiak / Koniag	2
Prince William Sound / Chugach Alaska	2
Kenai Peninsula / CIRI	0
Anchorage / CIRI	0
Mat-Su / CIRI & Ahtna	0
Denali / Doyon & Ahtna	1
Fairbanks / Doyon	3
Copper River / Ahtna	0
Southeast / Sealaska	0

Q18 - Thank you for your time. Please use the space provided below to share any additional thoughts or comments with us about ways to improve outdoor recreation opportunities in Alaska.

Thank you for your time. Please use the space provided below to share any additional thoughts or comments with us about ways to improve outdoor recreation opportunities in Alaska.

We have some trails for hiking and ATV use, 2 small children's playgrounds, and a boat launch ramp, but we struggle to maintain the trails, and have no outdoor planned/scheduled outdoor activities to speak of. We need help developing these types of activities and the facilities to host them.

Thank you for taking the time to assist with gathering this information. I would love to get more information and resources if available.

A mass e-mail sent out to Tribes on a monthly basis with available funding opportunities in relation to Outdoor Recreational Programs so Tribe's may initiate outdoor recreational programs within their communities.

Question on major challenges only allows for one answer...



# APPENDIX 6: Review Draft Public Comments

## PART 1: COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA ONLINE SURVEY

## PART 2: COMMENTS SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL

## PART 3: LETTERS

### SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENT

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) wants to express our sincere gratitude for the comments submitted on the public review draft of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (Alaska SCORP 2023 – 2027). The draft plan was online for review Nov 1-28, 2022. Over 300 comments came in from all over Alaska, with many thoughtful ideas about how to improve and sustain outdoor recreation in Alaska. Common themes included heartfelt support for outdoor recreation, support for the broad direction set out by the SCORP, and agreement on the need to upgrade existing facilities and expand new outdoor recreation opportunities.

The official SCORP is posted publicly after approval by the National Park Service in January 2023. DPOR carefully reviewed feedback on the Draft Plan. DPOR made many adjustments in response to the substantive and technical comments received. This appendix includes this summary, followed by the full set of public comments, organized by submission mode (on-line, email, and letters).

### MAJOR CATEGORIES OF FEEDBACK AND/OR CRITICISMS

- Funding existing State Park facilities and new facilities. A continuing theme in many comments is the need to expand funding to better maintain and operate existing State Parks. “The number one priority for the state should be fully fund existing facilities.” An equal number called for new projects, to respond to growth and increase recreation benefits.
- Some parts of Alaska were missed/need more support, particularly rural areas. Some comments expressed the need for more attention for specific locations in Alaska. Examples include Haines, Seward, and Valdez, along with a concern for more focus on rural Alaska: “Develop and make a functioning outdoor recreation model in remote/rural Alaska.”
- Need for greater emphasis on specific trail objectives. Trails and access issues generated more comments than any other topic. Some comments requested greater emphasis on mountain bike trails, others for more trails for motorized use, winter, aquatic or equestrian. Many comments called for new trails; some argued for a focus on repairing poorly maintained existing trails.
- Some specific recreation activities did not receive sufficient attention. Comments asked for more support for specific recreation uses, including boating, equestrian activities, paddle sports, dog mushing and outdoor recreation for people with mobility constraints.
- Over-emphasis on economic benefits. The great majority of comments strongly support the SCORP’S economic development goal, but a few voices urged caution. One example: “Overall, it feels far too much like you’re trying to capitalize off nature, which is fundamentally contradictory to the heart of why people love being outdoors. Focus on other things, health, subsistence, etc., and stop thinking about money.”
- The document is big and complex. A few commentators believe the plan is too big and too detailed. One example: “It’s long, arduous, and extensive when you expect the average Alaskan to read, reflect, and respond. Perhaps make a Tik-Tok? Ha!”

## OVERVIEW OF SCORP FEEDBACK: ILLUSTRATIVE RECURRING COMMENTS BY CHAPTER AND ON EACH STATEWIDE GOAL

The remainder of this summary presents illustrative examples of major themes that recurred in the comments, arranged by chapter.

### Ch 1: Introduction

- One of many comments by the Back Country Horsemen of Alaska organization, asking for more explicit inclusion of equestrian uses, images in the SCORP.

### Ch 2: Trends and Statistics

- “SCORP cell data is likely underestimating use at remote trailheads. Some of our groomed Nordic ski trails have spotty or no cell coverage so that usage would be underestimated.”
- “It is unfair to use data showing frequency of use data to identify where to focus resources for more access because places like the interior have very few publicly maintained hiking trails that would even compare to what’s available in Anchorage area. Use would increase if there were better maintained trails.
- SCORP projects growth in the future but cites 9 years of out-migration.
- “This section is too silent on climate change. The evolution of Alaska outdoor recreation and tourism will be greatly affected by climate change. Infographics and analysis should be added projecting the types of changes.”

### Ch 3: Regional Overview

- Helpful comments were submitted regarding outdoor recreation needs in different Alaska regions. For reading convenience, select illustrative examples are included with Chapter 4 material below.

### Ch 4: Statewide Goals

- Commentors were asked to rank their support for these goals, and in every category virtually all the commentors ranked goals as strongly supported. The few exceptions were “somewhat support.”
- The illustrative examples of major themes that recurred in each goal in chapter 4 follow:

#### Goal 1: Outdoor Recreation Life

- Need for more facilities – “We own a home and both of our children, and their spouses live and/or work in Girdwood and Anchorage. We spend a lot of time mountain biking, and skiing, both lifts and back country. Given the clearly increased demand for all Southcentral has to offer, expanding opportunities for all outdoor activities will only enhance the enjoyment of visitors and residents. For example, the new bridges over Eddies and Ingram Creeks are SUCH game changers; these types of projects open more stunning terrain for mountains bikers and hikers.” (Qualtrics – Ch 3)
- Location of recreational investments – “I particularly like the focus on expanding outdoor recreation opportunities in town and next to town. The simple reason is this is a resource we can use daily to support healthy lifestyles. I’d particularly like to see connectivity between trails and safe, non-motorized access to town central and to the schools.” (Qualtrics Ch 4 – Goal 1)
- More mountain bike trails – many comments like this one: “Please, please consider more support for mountain bikes and mountain bike trail systems. It is an extremely popular sport. Alaska is the perfect place to build world class trails.” (Qualtrics – General)

- More emphasis on expanding recreational boating – need for additional boat launch facilities and boating promotion. (Formal letter from representatives of National Marine manufacturers and Retail Associations, Personal Watercraft Association)
- Solutions to Vandalism – Parties in several locations stated the need for solutions for trail head vandalism and theft. (Formal letters from Fairbanks Nordic Ski Club, Editor of Interior Trails Newsletter, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council)

## Goal 2: Stronger Economy

- Access and trails – “We need trails, trails, trails. This is an absolute must for a vibrant economy and steadfast job market that portrays Alaskan heritage. State Land needs to be opened for recreation/hunting/fishing/harvesting opportunities through well thought out trails and access points. Recreation is a robust part of our economy and can be a cornerstone going forward. A state sponsored trail system, lodging, ski network, bike trail system can vastly improve Alaska as a recreation capital. An investment now can provide future generations many opportunities.” (Qualtrics – General comments)
- Economic development – “Southcentral is one of the fastest growing areas in AK, outdoor recreation is extremely important to the economic stability of the area, and demand has grown for non-motorized trail access to various natural areas.” (Qualtrics – Ch 3) “Any and all investments will have a HUGE payoff.” (Qualtrics – Ch 4, Goal 2)

## Goal 3 – Workforce

- Retaining a workforce is key – “Selfishly I support the plan as an outdoor user. Unselfishly, I support the plan as the outdoors is Alaska’s strategic advantage to retain skilled workers, especially remote workers, (our daughter has left the state) and to provide economic opportunities in the tourism industry especially since as the recent ADN article showed, we are at the bottom when compared to other states.” (Qualtrics – general); “You cannot succeed in any endeavor without a dedicated, well-trained, and well-paid workforce.... The next hard part is finding a place in which they can afford to live.” (Qualtrics – Ch 4, Goal 3)
- Alaska as the draw – “Having worked in the health care, ALL travel workers I met took assignments here for one reason: to DO Alaska...hike, hunt, snow machine, fish, dog sled...you name it, whatever the cliché of this place they held in mind. Oh, and on top of that, being paid TOP dollar is also a draw. Our sister state of Hawaii is opposite...it IS paradise and so that is the reward. Pay is relatively very low, housing is ridiculous, work can be very difficult/ long/ bad assignments and there are no apologies...workers still flock to go because it's Hawaii.” (Qualtrics – Ch 4, Goal 3)
- Need for improvements – “Let’s face it, Alaska can be a very challenging place to live, even when the living is good. I’m all for enhancing the best of what Alaska has to offer to offset some of the natural challenges of living up here. Improve, enhance, and continue to improve... rest areas with year-round toilets, regular sidewalk clearing, more trail access.” (Qualtrics – Ch 4, Goal 3)

## Goal 4 – Healthy Activities for Everybody

- Health is critical – “This is perhaps the most important goal of the plan.” (Qualtrics – Ch 4, Goal 4); “Recreating and being outside is a key to keeping your mental health status in the long, cold, and dark of winter. It is a critical concern in the Denali Borough area. We live in an area with no open public gym, no indoor rink, very few ski trails. Getting families outside is imperative.” (Qualtrics – Ch 4, Goal 4)
- Access for all – “This document is very well put together and thorough. However, I have reservations about how fully it represents lower socio-economic interests. The ‘white and wealthy’ can recreate when and where they want because they can afford it and make the time. Many of these folks live in areas that border the STATE park lands, some even blocking historical trail access. We need simple, close by, multi-use areas that allow for YEAR-ROUND safe and accessible SIMPLE recreation for all ages, financial status, and abilities. We sorely lack safe routes to commute to work, shop, etc., year-round.” (Qualtrics – General)

### **Goal 5 – Balancing Stewardship and Growth**

- Need for balance – “I strongly support stewardship, and I recognize that many live here specifically because not many others do. We need to plan for areas to remain untouched, while compromising with other areas that are well planned and offer stellar options that few can complain about.”
- Improve trails/reduce environmental impacts – “Wetland protection should be top of the list for trail design. Too many local Kenai Peninsula trails are poorly designed and damage wetlands and riparian areas (like Anchor River drainages, Caribou Lake trail). Snomads are a good group to work with about these issues. New trails are important here, but restoration and improvement are the most important.”
- Sustainable facilities – “I like the sustainable piece to these goals - if they are built and not maintained, we will have bigger problems than before - for instance; outhouses or garbage facilities that are not maintained well. Many state campgrounds already need sprucing up.” (3 quotes from Qualtrics – Ch 4, Goal 5)

### **Goal 6 – Stable and Sustainable Funding**

- Funding Needed for Improvements – “Need more trailhead parking in Chugach State Park Eagle River!” “The South Fork Valley parking lot is already too small on busy days and that will get even worse with the new trail over to Arctic Valley. OK to raise my taxes!” (Qualtrics – Ch 3)
- Funding for maintaining trails – “Have everyone purchase a trail pass. The proceeds would go towards trail maintenance or improvements. I would have no issue purchasing some sort of pass to use public trails.” (Qualtrics – general)
- More Funding for State Parks – “The biggest opportunity missed in this document is to fully fund Alaska's State Park System. New ideas are needed for additional funding mechanisms and better partnerships. Consider paid mooring balls in the State Marine Parks, more enforcement of un-permitted commercial guiding and those ignoring boat ramp fees and parking fees. Build more public use cabins. Build more remote trails and docks to support small-scale charter boat use. Rebuild the refuge docks in SE Alaska and charge for their use.” (Qualtrics – general)

### **Goal 7 – Improved Leadership, Marketing & Information**

- Support for a State Office of Outdoor Recreation – “I strongly support the recommendation for a State Office of Outdoor Recreation to manage the SCORP, grants and funding to execute plan recommendations, including: 1) Alaska State Parks are badly understaffed, resulting in poor management of recreational areas 2) Housing, managing, storing, and sharing GIS data is a growing statewide need that needs to be addressed at the inter-agency level 3) More year-round roadside rest stop/restroom facilities along state highways.”
- Better Trail Information – “I want to explore Alaska, but I have trouble locating trails. I want more specific trail information: names, location, length, and terrain. I do not want to drag my snowmachine 100 plus miles for a simple 10-mile trail system.” (Qualtrics – General) “Expand in-field trail signs and mileage markers. These are often absent in Alaska but present and appreciated in competing destinations around the world.” (Qualtrics – Ch 4, Goal 7)
- Support for Rural/Small Communities/Small Non-Profits – More should be done so small groups, small communities and outdoor recreation non-profits can more easily apply for Recreation Trails Program funding (Formal letters from by several organizations and non-profits, including community cycle clubs, and Native Tribal organizations)

**APPENDIX 6:**

**Public Comments**  
**on the SCORP 2023-2027 Public Review Draft**

**PART 1: COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA ONLINE SURVEY**

# GENERAL COMMENTS

## 1. Have feedback on the entire SCORP draft? Please share here.

Glad to see you included the tribal survey.

Increased focus for door-to-door safe, convenient access to trails. I.e., roads unsafe (real or perceived) for pedestrians, bikes are an impediment for trail access. Ensure interconnectedness for trails to ensure safe, convenient access between trail clusters. Ideally, trails are elevated to the same level of importance to roads in our transportation planning and expenditures--we have way too much focus on roads and not on reasonable alternatives, of which trails are a very important part. Thank you

This is a very thorough and well written draft. I would like to add that recreational non-motorized commuting is growing in popularity as an option for recreation on the go. Unfortunately many areas around the state are lacking functional paths to get to work or school and only the bravest attempt to do so on roads lacking even a safe bike lane. It is also very concerning that so many people attempt to recreationally bike and commute along the highways and are literally risking their necks to do so. There are just too many areas with zero bike lanes. So many people use their commuting as recreation time as well as a way of saving gas and looking out for the environment. This in turn leads to greater benefits such as greater mental health, physical health, and a healthier community.

I am a HUGE outdoor enthusiast, and have lived in AK for over 60 years...grew up in Anchorage and have lived in Fairbanks since late '70s. As most survey responders said, I go outside for my physical and mental health, to exercise, and to enjoy the beautiful scenery surrounding my home. I don't get the lack of time excuse; I MAKE time every day. It is a top priority! What a thorough piece of work. I look forward to reading more of it. Alaska has so much to offer residents and visitors, and we need to encourage all to get out to discover that for themselves. It is so hard to believe that over 60% of Alaskans are overweight-obese. Just going out for a walk each day would help, let alone a bike ride, paddle, run or ski. Thanks for all your research!

I encourage more funding for outdoor recreation. Specifically, the Haines area, which has a variety of state public land managers, is especially lacking in limited trails and no dedicated public use cabins. Improving outdoor recreation infrastructure for both trails and cabins is long overdue for this area.

This is clearly the result of a long and detailed process, however it is only the first and possibly easiest step in a process to improve, develop and advance outdoor recreation in Alaska, especially as a part of both an economic and population health value. Here in Wrangell as in other long standing rural communities with multi-generational families, we are a part of our outdoor environment and have learned to recreate as best we can with what we have. This creates a vacuum of information for standard databases and is evidence by the number of survey respondents listed. This said, please strive to find new avenues through which to reach Alaskans and consolidate data such that all are represented.

Very ambitious plan. Would assume a considerable number of Alaskans will see increased outdoor recreation visitors as competitors for recreation resources, even solitude. Mostly those viewpoints choose not to be involved in the planning process. They will tell State legislators their objections in budget deliberations. ADPORA is critically underfunded. If this were an earlier planning stage my advice would be set this plan as the guiding document for future SCORP plans. In that case it would be better to focus on fewer goals at this time. Even if funding were no issue, this plan couldn't be implemented in ten years, perhaps in 20 years. This plan is important. But Alaska is in world of fiscal hurt currently.

Selfishly I support the plan as an outdoor user. Unselfishly, I support the plan as the outdoors is Alaska's strategic advantage to retain skilled workers, especially remote workers, (our daughter has left the state) and to provide economic opportunities in the tourism industry especially since as the recent ADN article showed, we are at the bottom when compared to other states.

<p>Haines is a stunning locale that would benefit greatly from increased outdoor infrastructure. More trails, and continued maintenance of existing trails allow for both summer and winter recreation. As winter snow becomes more scarce at sea levels, trails are increasingly necessary for skiers, snowshoers and other recreationalists to pass through the snowless and brushy elevations to access snow at high elevations. Haines is truly the adventure capital of Alaska. It has the right terrain for all manner of recreation, and is home to a dedicated community of skiers, bikers, hikers, runners, and boaters who would all benefit from thoughtful and engaged recreational development.</p>
<p>Please support all State Parks and recreational trails. All trails here in Haines are hugely used by locals and non residents. Maintaining our trail system is vital to those of us who love the outdoors. It is also important to keep funding State Parks which sets a nice example for those visiting to be able to enjoy Alaska and have safe places to camp and hike.</p>
<p>We support public use cabins and trails in Haines. Thank you! Chip and Heather Lende</p>
<p>Haines and upper Lynn canal needs recreation infrastructure!</p>
<p>The report makes a lot of good points, particularly that recreation is a great economic opportunity that suffers from under-investment by the State of Alaska. The State should start in Haines by improving Mosquito Lake Campground (which needs an outhouse and new signs and picnic tables), improving Chilkat State Park (by improving the road into the park, which is so rutted as to be nearly undriveable) and by not abandoning the campground for walk-ins at Portage Cove (as the state is planning to do). Also, trails on state land in Haines need major work, (including Mount Ripinsky Trail and the trail along the eagle preserve) and the state should start investing in public-use cabins in the Haines area. Haines Borough is bigger than Rhode Island but has only 1 (seasonal) public use cabin.</p>
<p>My primary feedback is this: Alaska State Parks should place a priority on properly maintaining the trails and other facilities already in place. In both Chugach and Denali State Parks, several existing trails are in shamefully poor condition. Before new trails are constructed, existing ones should be improved; examples in Chugach State Park include the trail to Hidden Lake and Falls Creek Trail; in Denali SP, the Byers Lake Loop badly needs repair. Also at Byers Lake, the outlet bridge has been damaged and "out of commission" for more than three years. This is unacceptable. Please use funds and staff to fix existing problems.</p>
<p>The SCORP draft reflects thorough and diverse topics, research, and goals, as well as collaborative work. I'm glad to see a goal dedicated to growth and stewardship for outdoor recreation. This is especially important in the Denali region, which has yearly increasing visitation that is outpacing the limited capacity of front country OR opportunities.</p>
<p>This is a great way to develop our recreational potential and should be considered an asset to our state. Overall I found the draft informative but lacking somewhat when including all user groups. Except for in the introduction I did not see equestrians represented within the entirety of the plan when there are in fact several regions that horseback trail riding businesses make use of the parks and trails, generating income for the state and providing tourism opportunities. There are also many equestrian users that use trail systems all over the state for personal enjoyment and hunting access. Please consider and include equestrians in your plans and in the designing of trail heads and overall inclusion of recreation in Alaska.</p>
<p>1. I strongly support the recommendation that the State form/open a new department – State Office of Outdoor Recreation to manage the SCORP, grants/funding and to execute recommendations within. 2. Alaska State Parks are badly understaffed, resulting in poor management and oversight of recreational areas. 3. Housing, managing, storing and sharing GIS data is a growing statewide need that needs to be addressed at the inter-agency level. 4. Is cell phone/ping data included for users in non-cell accessible areas once they return to an area with service? 5. Who makes up the Fairbanks Outdoor Recreation Working Group? 6. Strongly support the need for additional year-round roadside rest stop/restroom facilities along state highways.</p>
<p>Please see attached letter.</p>
<p>Haines needs trail funding! Our trails are a mess. Huge rains have eroded many trails. Seems Parks only works on the Battery Point trail- thank you but please fund the additional trails!</p>

I would like to encourage more trails for rural areas, particularly in Southeast, as that is where I am, but for everyone. Trails are a draw for visitors, yes, but I think they are vital to the mental health of Alaskans. And if they are easy to access, easy to use, and not just for those who are already of the Extreme Sports lifestyle, they will draw out people to spend time outdoors, bring their family, and increase quality of life so much for those of us who can get caught up in the isolation, cold, and dark. Trails and outdoor recreation that is accessible for ALL is the key. and then promote them!

I support increased funding for new trails, trail improvements and public recreation huts in the Haines Borough of Southeast Alaska.

I support this plan.

I generally support the full SCORP framework plan. I urge the state of Alaska to work with agencies and communities to develop local, regional, and statewide recreational opportunities/facilities/funding that provide year round recreation and link trails for nonmotorized and light motor mobility statewide. I believe Alaska has so much potential that year round recreation planning and implementation, and keeping public access on all waterfronts, is critical for the state's economic future.

Thank you for putting this together! A very comprehensive document, that I'm excited to see expanded into the future. In addition to GPS tracking data, I feel like expanding input from Tribes would lead to more beneficial inclusion of all Alaskans. While there was limited responses, it seems like connecting with social scientists with USFWS and ADF&G for subsistence surveys, along with the UA system and their social science departments would lead to additional data sources. Considering the connection between education and aerobic activity, as well as the high rate of obesity in Alaska and the multiple documented benefits of being outdoors on mental and physical health, increasing funding and emphasis on outdoor education in public schools seems like it would lead to multiple benefits.

South Central Alaska is desperately lacking proper mountain bike trails. We've seen the sport expand and grow exponentially since the start of COVID, and with the vast landscape we have available in the area it really is a shame there are so few well built mountain bike trails. We have an entire front range in anchorage but there are only a few poorly built trails at hillside.

I am submitting my comments via USPS. There is not enough room here to submit a full letter.

I live in Southcentral, Girdwood to be specific, and have a few thoughts on the SCORP plan and needs for the community. We should be looking at role model communities in BC and Europe to see how their trails systems are multiuse (mountain bike and hike) and try to simulate that in our terrain. Especially if Girdwood is trying to be an outdoor recreation community that brings people in to support our economy, we need higher quality trails that bring people to the alpine terrain, provide loops and a challenge. Specifically Southcentral should have mountain bike trails that are gravity focused and utilize the vertical relief of our landscape. Having trails that descend 4000' should be a priority to bring people from out of state as a tourism push.

I live in Southcentral, Girdwood to be specific, and have a few thoughts on the SCORP plan and needs for the community. I think it's important to have equitable recreation, but to distribute the majority of funding towards the populated areas and those surrounding communities. Stay focused on outdoor rec opportunities, and include Heritage experiences, but prioritize outdoor rec. We should be looking at role model communities in BC and Europe to see how their trails systems are multiuse (mountain bike and hike) and try to simulate that in our terrain. Specifically Southcentral should have mountain bike trails that are gravity focused and utilize the vertical relief of our landscape. Having trails that descend 4000' should be a priority to bring people from out of state as a tourism push.

I want to express general appreciation to everyone who has worked on this document and is thinking about the future of outdoor rec in AK. AK has so much potential for more intentional development of outdoor rec to benefit the public, business, and the state economy. I hope the data presented here will impact policies to prioritize the strategic development of outdoor rec. I look forward to this plan being referenced and used in the future, and I will advocate for resources to be allocated towards advancing this plan!

The Juneau Nordic Ski Club supports this effort and our slogan, "JNSC puts more people on skis more often on more kilometers," helps to fulfill the seven goals of SCORP. Winter recreation needs more focus and support as the fourth recreation season (in communities around Alaska). We want to push forward the idea that grooming trails is winter trail maintenance. Also your usage data is likely underestimating use at remote trailheads. Some of our groomed Nordic ski trails have spotty or no cell coverage so that usage would be underestimated.



I love the thoroughness. In Haines the small business I run is directly impacted by influx of tourist recreationists such as heliskiers, hikers, fishermen, and fishing tourists. Haines would benefit greatly from expanded trail networks and backcountry cabins, as well as a ski lift. Resources to make our trails much more accessible would have hugely positive economic impacts, health impacts, and incentivize professionals of all walks to settle here.
Thank you for all the time and effort. For Haines, AK specifically I'd like to see more cooperation between local recreational use and honoring the native traditions and lands. I'd like to see an emphasis placed on 4 season trails, multi-use cabins and huts, through hikes and sustainability of the wild spaces.
More public cabins around the state. Multi use recreation areas. Backcountry cabins keep people warm, happy and safe so they can enjoy the wilderness and inclement weather. They bring tourism and are important for locals as well.
South central Alaska needs more multi-use (hiking and biking) trail that access the alpine. Specifically trails that provide the opportunity to gain thousands of vertical feet with steeper grades. South central Alaska (Anchorage/Girdwood/Seward) should use models such as areas of British Columbia, and Europe where the relief of the peaks and landscape is comparable. As a community we should think bigger and fulfill the potential AK has to be a recreation destination providing healthy economic growth in our declining economy.
Seward is inadequately represented in SCORP, although Resurrection Bay Area is the sixth most visited area in the State of Alaska according to data from the report. An Eastern Kenai Peninsula Borough Trails Commission position should be added at the Borough level, separate from a Kenai Peninsula Borough Trails Commission. The employee should be based in the Seward-Moose Pass near three major parks: Kenai Fjord National Park, Chugach National Forest Service and Caine's Head State Park. In general recognition and inclusion of the Kenai Peninsula and Turnagain Arm ski clubs should be included in the potential partnerships of the initiatives. Ski Clubs of the Kenai Peninsula and Turnagain Arm are generally volunteer run clubs that groom trails and roads for winter access by skiers/snowshoers/b
Outdoor recreation is why I live in Alaska and is my way of life! It is also the reason most people come to Alaska. We live in one of the last true wilderness areas in the world. Our health and wellness depends on being outside and having safe places to recreate. A group of us created The Homer Trails Alliance 1.5 years ago to promote trails in our area and to link with other communities in Alaska. Everything that is highlighted in SCORP draft is relevant to our mission! I have led many groups in the outdoors over the years, including tourists that come to our lodge here in Homer. Many of the young people coming into Homer are drawn here because of job opportunities within the outdoor recreation field as well. Trails and outdoor recreation is LIFE!
The horse community feels under represented in the SCORP draft. We would appreciate being acknowledged on regulatory signage for multi-use trails and included in data collection surveys.
Always include Restrooms and waste disposal at each trailhead. Too frequently the rest areas become trashy and gross. 2. It would be nice to hear about Eco Tourism. Thoughts and concepts that were there, but not labeled as such. Responsible visitation, respectful of the natural environment, and remembering the wellbeing of local Alaskans. 3. In 8.1 - Action B- Making outdoor rec more accessible to and marketing representative. The inclusivity of all Alaskans is important, even in your plan most of the photos of people are white. The plan should represent all cultures of people living in Alaska. This includes Alaska Natives, and other minority groups that are present in Alaska. What I saw was white people are coming and they are the only people doing outdoorsy activities.
Long trails, from the kenai to fairbanks for instance, are increasingly popular with visitors who want a lifetime experience hiking, skiing, biking, mushing, snow machining etc. Emphasis on this type of trail should be on non-motorized, though not exclusive when appropriate. Long trails have been envisioned for decades and there are groups on the southern kenai peninsula (homer trail alliance) that are working to identify existing infrastructure and right of ways that can help achieve this vision. Birding and wildlife viewing areas will be increasingly in demand, protection of areas important to birds, fish and wildlife need to be part of any trail plan. Controlled use of all areas is vital to protect resources, so paying attention to visitor numbers is important.

<p>Thank you for this excellent draft. The biggest limitation that we Alaskans face in exploring the diverse and stunning landscapes of our beautiful state is access. A few specific requests in the Anchorage area: consider adding one or two long mountain biking loops in the Chugach (similar to the Kenai biking routes). E.g., Prospect to Williwaw Pass to Long Lake to the pass between Wolverine and Near Point to Prospect; Glen Alps to Ship Pass to Indian (with the trail staying along the higher terrain in the Ship Lake valley); Canyon Rd to Rabbit Lake to McHugh Creek. Create feasible access to Ram Valley. Improve parking at Canyon Rd. Establish safeguards to protect the landscape in the southern/eastern Talkeetnas from 4-wheeler damage. Build more trails to access the high country.</p>
<p>As a resident of Haines I would like to express support for the proposed hut on Mt Tugaho, and hope to see more investment in our regions trails which are few, poorly maintained, and often have easement conflicts with UA lands/AK mental health trust lands. I also hope that we will see more support from state agencies to create public use cabins in the upper Lynn Canal.</p>
<p>Please increase the access to the Chugach State Park in the Anchorage bowl. And please increase the amount of single track biking trails - in 17 years this has been the biggest improvement in recreation opportunity in Anchorage there is a vast amount of untapped potential for this use.</p>
<p>It is somewhat unfair to use data showing frequency of use as an indicator to determine where to focus more resources into building more access because places like the interior have very limited publicly maintained hiking trails that would even compare to what's available in Anchorage area. Perhaps use would increase if there were better maintained trails.</p>
<p>Parking improvements needed on "sunny side" approach to Flattop and Rabbit Lakes trailhead. And yes, please, more public use cabins, and more firewood at those cabins, please.</p>
<p>I will have more comments soon, but I wanted to point out a couple of typos I noticed. On Chap 3, page 30 the heading INTERIOR REGION OUTDOOR RECREATION STATISTICS Should read "Southcentral" On Chap 4, page 54-55 Strategies 5.1 to 5.5 for OBJECTIVE 5: EXPAND TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS IN ALL ASPECTS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION are listed twice</p>
<p>The most important way to preserve outdoor recreation is to preserve access to public lands, and seriously punish any landowner/lease adjacent to public land that try to block access to those lands, like they try to do in Eagle River and around Anchorage by buying houses next to a trail and acting like they own everything beyond their property line. The access road to Matanuska Glacier is another area that should be fully taken over by the state and fully opened. Same for Ambler road if it ever gets built.</p>
<p>We need to support the local development of recreational activities through partnerships (e.g. Trail Mix in Juneau). In general, there needs to be better parking and maintenance of trails.</p>
<p>Grow access to parks by: offering Level 2 EV Chargers at the busiest parks (Glen Alps, Eklutna, Nancy Lakes, Hatcher Pass). You can charge users to access them (revenue), and it can support your mission, improve air quality, etc. Not to mention, EV ownership in Alaska has grown most recently by 71%! (According to Chugach Electric) They also have more disposable income than the average car owner, meaning they're likely to spend more time and money at State Parks.</p>
<p>Any plan for outdoor recreation in Alaska, especially the SCORP, should include maintenance of existing infrastructure as a top priority. State outdoor recreation infrastructure close to population centers are being closed because of a lack of funding. It is unrealistic to plan for new outdoor recreation infrastructure when the state cannot fund operation and maintenance of existing outdoor recreation infrastructure.</p>
<p>Alaska desperately needs more mountain bike trails.</p>

The SCORP seems accurate to the 38 years I've lived and recreated in Alaska. There is great potential that needs to be capitalized by the lawmakers in Juneau, if they have the courage and insight to make necessary investments. The Alaska obesity rate information should be enough to get the Alaska Legislature to make investments in recreation if not commensurate to, at least per capita proportional to, what the federal government does. The state hasn't built a new trail in Haines in 50 years. Most of our trails are in lousy shape and our campgrounds are often an embarrassment to their grandiose surroundings. Young people move to this town starry-eyed and ready to make a commitment, but become disenchanted by lack of investment and lack of leadership in recreation. Take some pride, Alaska.

Small communities are suffering, the same ones that provide the services that make access to these edge of the wilderness experiences possible. These communities have endured great economic hardships these past few years. It is very much appreciated when a tour company operating out of these communities, recognizes and promotes local businesses. Please emphasize and encourage that First Nations People be respected and consulted in decisions of land use related to outdoor adventure tourism.

Attention and commitment are needed for accessibility on trails, cabin use, etc. Accessibility for individuals with limited mobility. Lack of accessibility excludes countless recreational users. Lower 48 State and National Parks are actively providing various means, including use of action track chairs which individuals use on trails. Please include actions and commitment to recreational users who may have mobility concerns.

There is no representation for the eastern Kenai Peninsula in this draft! It ignores the City of Seward Park & Recreation Department, and the Seward Nordic Ski Club, which represents the grooming and maintenance from the Y aka north of Moose Pass to the south of the City of Seward for winter skiing activities for these communities. I have supplied comments in the specific sections chosen.

Overall, it feels far too much like you're trying to capitalize off of nature, which is fundamentally contradictory to the heart of why people love being outdoors. Focus on other things, health, subsistence, etc, and stop thinking about money. Nature isn't a resource you can extract like oil, and the approach you're bringing isn't helpful. A minor point, but I'm pretty sure that the term "wilderness" is generally considered inappropriate, as it ignores Indigenous stewardship. Those things being said, the State REALLY needs an official trail system, including winter trails. Thanks from Nome.

I think this SCORP draft is a start in the right direction. I love the outdoors, from non-motorized to motorized. Winter, spring, summer & fall. The draft seems to hit every outdoor activity that is available. A lot of trails are non-motorized which restricts some of us motorized users. There are a lot more non- motorized trails than motorized. I am part of a group that pays to groom trails for all user groups. My other concern is how we monetize trails. It costs a lot to maintain trails.

This is an awesome report which is very informative. I wonder if the number of visitors recorded using cell phone data is accurate because so much of Alaska has limited connectability. For example, I live in Seward and know that there isn't internet 2 miles out of Resurrection Bay, Exit Glacier and at the trail system at and near Lost Lake.

Alaska has the potential to be a mountain biking Mecca. Unfortunately we are decades behind in single track mountain bike specific trails. The amount of tourism generated by mountain biking specific tourism in British Columbia is over 70 million a year. Alaska should aim to increase the number, variety, and difficulty of the available single track mountain biking trails.

I think the draft is great! I'd like to highlight two growing sports in Alaska - mountain biking and disc golf. The popularity of both sports has grown considerably since the pandemic, and in Alaska communities committed to advancing these sports are flourishing. I hope we can keep growing mountain-bike specific trail networks and building more disc golf courses to help these communities thrive.

The access issues for the knik glacier are a major issue. We need state access to the upper knik river area and glacier that isn't owned by a private aggressive business owner trying to get ahead of the state and block access unless you pay. This is an issue in many other areas of the state as well. Good money investment would be to secure long term public access to places that are now becoming used more and will continue to be used even more.

Goal 7. More mountain bike trails please !!

Southcentral desperately needs more mountain bike trail accessibility. It's a sport greatly rising in popularity and Alaska can capitalize on that. Would also love to see hut-to-hut trips like Resurrections expanded within the state. I see it being a big boon for the economy attracting hikers. Chugach state park needs more resources to support summer popularity. Opening up O'Malley as an alternate to flattop was a good step. Also the state park needs some more avalanche forecasting resources, and should be prioritized in the name of safety. If Anchorage is trying to be a hub for remote employees, opening up accessibility in the regions within a 200 mile radius of the city would increase attractiveness for those looking to relocate and have accessible weekend outings.

I would like it if there were more MTB trails around the state.

Consider more support for Mountain Biking and trail systems for mountain bikes. It's an extremely popular sport. Alaska is the perfect place to build world class trails.

This state is in desperate need of single track mountain bike trails.

In general, I found the report compelling and well-done. I was disappointed by what seems like a substantial bias towards South Central Alaska with relatively little space spent Southeast which, according to the report's data, receives some of the heaviest recreational use in the state. I was also dismayed by the almost complete absence of any mention or discussion of boating and especially paddle sports. Widely practiced activities like canoeing, sea and whitewater kayaking, stand up paddleboarding and flat water paddlesports are almost completely ignored. Notable that the user survey calls for much heavier investment in boating access including boat launches but these needs are not recognized by land managers.

Looks appropriate to the settings here in Alaska and ambitious with regard to the scope. To add even more, I'd suggest including development of a more public transportation infrastructure. How are folks to get to the great outdoors? Even some local trailheads are hard to reach if you're a visitor without a car. Reaching many destinations is too automobile dependent let alone reaching remote locations, which are too private charter dependent.

The biggest opportunity missed in this document is to fully fund Alaska's State Park System. New ideas are needed for additional funding mechanisms and better partnerships. Consider paid mooring balls in the State Marine Parks, more enforcement of un-permitted commercial guiding and those ignoring boat ramp fees and parking fees. Charge for commercial fishing/crabbing in SMPs. Build more public use cabins in areas like the SMPs. More remote trails and docks to get small-scale charter boat use. Rebuild the refuge docks in SE Alaska and charge for their use.

This document seems very well put together and thorough. However, I have reservations about its fullness in representing lower socio-economic folks in the State. The "White and Wealthy" have always been able to recreate whenever and wherever they want in this State because they can afford it and make the time. Also Many of these folks live in areas that border the STATE park lands, some even blocking historical trail access. Simple, close by, multi-use areas that allow for YEAR- ROUND safe and accessible SIMPLE recreation for all Ages, financial status and abilities is critical and fair. We lack sorely as well in NON- recreational cycling resources for those that use a bike to commute to work, shop, etc Year round. This is a huge problem.

Trail locations. I want to explore Alaska but I do have trouble locating trails. Every medium I use gets me around the area. Would like to have specifics, Names; Location; Length; Terrain. I do not want to drag my snowmachine 100 plus miles for a simple 10 mile trail system. Maintaining trails - have everyone purchase a pass. The proceeds would go towards trail maintenance or improvements. I would have no issue purchasing some sort of pass to use public trails. Another option, enlist residents across the state to maintain portions of the trail system. I'm retired, I think it would be fun to help maintain different trail systems plus it would give me something to do.

**PARKING PARKING PARKING** Numerous Sections identify the shortage of parking. In particular the heavily utilized Chugach State Park trailheads. (Glen Alps, etc.) Suggest Chapter 4, Goal 1, Objective 1 identify the most frequently filled trailheads. So that resources and efforts can be prioritized to these parking problems. Lost opportunity when people new to the outdoors are discouraged due to lack of parking space.

A heavy bureaucracy, while it seems that common sense would be enough.

We need trails, trails, trails. This is absolute must for a vibrant economy and steadfast job market that portrays Alaskan heritage. State Land needs to be opened for recreation/hunting/fishing/harvesting opportunities through well thought out trails and access points. Recreation is a robust part of our economy and can be a cornerstone going forward. A state sponsored trail system, lodging, ski network, bike trail system can vastly improve Alaska as a recreation capital. An investment now can provide future generations many opportunities.

200 pages for the main doc, and another that many in the appendices. This plan is too long.

Thank you to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources for putting together such a comprehensive plan. As you highlight in the draft-SCORP, outdoor recreation is essential to Alaskans' health and happiness, Alaska communities and businesses' ability to recruit and retain workers, and the economic vibrance of many Alaska businesses and communities. Anchorage Economic Development Corporation recently contracted with national experts on place- making and economic development and is in the process of pulling together a broad, diverse group of stakeholders to finalize and implement a four-pillar strategy to position Anchorage to thrive in coming decades. The four pillars in "Choose Anchorage: A Framework for Revitalization" each have overlap with the draft-SCORP: (cont. in next comment box)

Wow. Thank you for all the work and great graphics. I like how comprehensive the goals and objectives are. Please don't forget public education and outreach as things are developed, especially accessibility. It would be great to have a status update of a rec area like the road conditions website. Thank you again. Great job.

this is huge. just throwing that out there. yet you want comments from the general public? really?

Marine Parks need some help. The SE parks are never patrolled by rangers. Lots of trash, outlaw cabins, and marine debris like abandoned crab pots. More funding is needed for boat -based work. Consider fee-based mooring balls and user fees for camping. Also more funding for climate-change caused damage. More trees come down every year and trails are taking a hit from severe rain and weather. A state park trail condition assement is essential and funding.

Alaska's forests support vital ecosystems and economies, and they provide the backdrop in which Alaskans live, work and play across the Kenai Peninsula. Timber has been harvested in Alaska for thousands of years by Alaska Natives, who relied on traditional uses of available resources for survival. As stewards of our lands, Salamatof Native Association understands forest management. We are focused to maintain forest health and protect it from the threat of wildland fire. We offer fire mitigation services. The Salamatof Wildfire Prevention consits of a fuels management hand crew. We 'd be pleased if you considered Salamatof as part of the local workforce development strategy. Please contact us for a complete list of services.

The appendices listed in the "Table of Contents" on page 1 do not match the appendices listed in the "Annotated Table of Contents" on Page 7. The appendices are also not attached to the whole document and are only accessible by clicking on the direct links.

## 2. What are the top things you found valuable after reading this SCORP?

Details with pictures of things to do in different areas of our state. AK is so diverse! Perhaps, by looking over this, a person could be inspired to try something new outside. Easy to get info...through graphs, pictures, and detailed text.

The most valuable information was that there are more varied users with more time spent in areas that have reliable linked transportation and a larger workforce from which to tap talent. I also see that there is a disconnect between the past and the future potential. Communities like Wrangell with lower population, higher costs (fuel, air, boat repair..) and a wider, though not necessarily more financially beneficial, economic base are not well represented for improvement projects as they rate lower in surveys and data generation. We need to look at potential improvements as a result of specific projects as a data set as well.

This document is well documented and well written. The discussion of the importance of outdoor recreation is important and this plan makes that clear. The role of outdoor recreation businesses and the private sector in outdoor recreation is likely more critical than the public (government) sector in Alaska at this time. This plan would do well to build development of the private sector as a primary source for on site management of many Alaska outdoor recreation resources similar to how commercial fishermen implement fishery managers plans, or how private / NGO vendors operate public facilities, like stadiums, ballfields, public golf courses, Denali National Park transportation / access, tour boats at Kenai Fjords NP and Glacier Bay NP. But sustainability of participating outdoor recreation businesses actively involved in public outdoor recreation management and client use must be a priority, second only to the sustainability of the public outdoor recreation resource.

\*Recreational value in wetlands - but winter recreation not mentioned \*Nearly six out of ten Alaskans say that outdoor recreation opportunities were an important reason for living in the state.

Haines Borough is bigger than Rhode Island but has only 1 (seasonal) public use cabin. There are 15 public-use cabins around Juneau, which is mostly surrounded by federal (Tongass National Forest) lands and very little state lands. Haines has extensive state lands but has been overlooked for construction of public-use cabins.

The section on Land and Water Conservation Fund was informative. I also appreciated reviewing the strategies for how each of the identified goals will be accomplished.

Support and development of recreational opportunities for the whole state and the importance of gaining funding to enhance it.

The Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC) is a statewide federation of clubs and individuals representing thousands of Alaskans who annually hunt, trap, fish, and recreate on public lands/waters in Alaska. AOC has participated in the legislative and regulatory process of land management since statehood. AOC does not support the draft Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for SCORP 2023-27. The Statewide Advisory Group (SWAG) clearly ignored the results of all correspondence gathered for the Alaska SCORP 2016-2023. Instead the Alaska Department of Natural Resources

fund trail work in Haines!

We need more public money put into trails and recreation and less into AK DOT and roads.

SCORP is an amazing resource. Most valuable for me is the interconnectivity of ideas with the resources available and not yet ruined by development and resource extraction. The rest of the US and large parts of the world have an immense task to reclaim public recreational lands. Planning is key to success. Working with the tourism industry and economic development entities to develop community buy-in and support underpins all of the proposals in SCORP.

That there are many struggles with comprehensive outdoor access for all Alaskan's, and not just those that live in Anchorage. Also, the tourism industry in Alaska is a thriving sector of the economy, and among the more sustainable ways to both create better jobs, as well as better places for locals to live, which can lower the rate of emigration from Alaska.

Seeing there is hope for AK outdoors recreation.

<p>Its imperative that we utilize our landscape and build trails that access the alpine for mountain bikes and hikes. An alpine trail for hike/bike from along penguin ridge for example, would be a tourist attraction that would keep people here for "one more day". An alpine trail that brings mountain bikers for a 4000' downhill would also be a middle ground activity that would be a day adventure. Building these trails would also produce jobs for locals, and support out of state tourists and activity to do. Similar to the draw that Whistler and surrounding BC communities see from their trail developments.</p>
<p>Seeing the user group numbers and how many folks get out into the terrain around Southcentral speaks to the demand of more, higher quality trails. Its imperative that we utilize our landscape and build trails that access the alpine for mountain bikes and hikes. An alpine trail for hike/bike from along penguin ridge for example, would be a tourist attraction that would keep people here for "one more day"</p>
<p>I'm in support of all the Goals outlined. The Goals are very intertwined - they need to all be advanced alongside each other.</p>
<p>Outdoor recreation is skyrocketing statewide, and we are seeing the same with our membership increasing to 1000 paid members in the past few years. Our youth ski program enrollment also exploded during the pandemic with over 100 youth. The SCORP mentions that facilities are undersized and overcrowded. The JNSC is experiencing the same with crowding at our groomed Nordic Skiing trailheads and lack of enough trails to disperse skiers. Public-private partnerships are also encouraged, and the Juneau Nordic Ski Club has good working relationships with city, state, USFS, and non-profit trail organizations, and we seek to further collaborate to develop new trails and facilities.</p>
<p>Recognition of the diversity of recreation in the past, present and into the future</p>
<p>Different recreation types and areas.</p>
<p>I agree with SCORP that Alaska needs to recognize that outdoor recreation is vitally important to residents, visitors and the Alaska economy. I found the statistics throughout the report eye opening. The report also shows that government agencies, non-profits and private business are not communicating with common goals in mind.</p>
<p>I haven't read the entire SCORP, quite a document!!! Being part of Homer Trails Alliance, the funding information and how SCORP is an important part of Federal Grants program is what I need to learn more about.</p>
<p>There are many user groups that have the same core beliefs and goals and believe in being good stewards of Alaska's Great Outdoors. It is to Alaska's benefit to have all the user groups equitably represented and acknowledged.</p>
<p>I'd like to see an investment in Sandhill Conservation in Homer, Alaska. Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies has a location called inspiration Ridge which is a feeding ground for hundreds of Sandhill cranes. Protecting surrounding area from development would be a high priority. Their number 907-235-6667. Beth Trowbridge could answer questions about this important trans boundary project. CACS has a 40 year track record of providing coastal enviro ed to thousands of Alaskans and visitors. There are ten miles of trails to maintain in this sanctuary of assembled lands by Nina Faust over her lifetime. She estimates to put a works class virtual and in place sustainable education program to cost approximately \$10 million for a self sustaining endowment to take care of the facilities and trails. Thank you for asking for our recommendations.</p>
<p>1. Gateway communities are very important to include and develop, but only Talkeetna was mentioned. Copper Center and Glennallen are equally important examples. 2. Equitable funding of outdoor infrastructure for rural and remote communities should be available. It would be great to hear examples of funding opportunities. 3. Localizing outdoor workforce is so important. loved example of "sportfish Academy" in Bristol Bay. 4. Ch 4 pg 43- partnerships with tribes-examples? or why you feel they are important. They are original stewards of this land for thousands of years. Native villages should be consulted for ideas of resilient trails, scenic landmarks, heritage sites, wild animal migrations, and collaborations. 5. Trail systems could be of high value near or surrounding school systems. Supports your advocacy of early childhood healthy habits.</p>

The sport of mountain biking has increased in popularity in Alaska, but the mountain bike trails, specifically single track, is lacking. The terrain in Alaska and around Anchorage in particular is suitable to steeper and more technical mountain biking trails that would have the potential to attract cyclists from the lower 48. Alaska has numerous cross country trail networks that offer world class cross country cycling and winter cycling, but the sport of trail mountain biking has progressed rapidly in the past decade and steeper and more technical trails are required to meet the desires of today's mountain bikers. There are many motivated cyclists in Alaska who would help to build and maintain additional trail systems, and word of new trails would spread quickly to out of state cyclists through online mountain bike forums and news websites. There are also well established trail systems in Anchorage (e.g. Hillside) that could be expanded to include steeper and more technical trails.

Focus on increasing backcountry access throughout Alaska, improving trails, building new trails.

In addition to promoting mental and physical health, outdoor recreation connects people to the environment. This infrastructure also helps communities like mine attract visitors and residents alike which is vital to our local economy.

The trail systems are treasured by Alaskans, but resources need to be put into areas of the state other than Anchorage and the valley to promote growth in other areas.

In the face of state outdoor recreation infrastructure closures, operation and maintenance funding did not make the overview of statewide goals in the executive summary. This seems disingenuous. The number one priority for the state should be fully funding the operation and maintenance of existing outdoor recreation infrastructure. Tourists come to Alaska to experience the outdoors - after the oil money, tourism will be a pillar of the state economy. The state is doing a poor job of operating and maintaining its tourism / outdoor recreation infrastructure. The fact that this is not clearly stated in the executive summary suggests its not a priority to be corrected.

I like the emphasis on the "mid-range" activities. That's what most working residents have time for. They want decent trails and parks so they can enjoy their backyards. Chilkat State Park is stunning, with breathtaking views and hikes but residents seldom go, partly because the park road is unmaintained and treacherous. At Chilkoot Lake Wayside, the lakefront campsites are stunning, but banks are eroding where fishermen try to find footholds. Some small boardwalk-type platforms for anglers would make these perfect. It's discouraging to see so much potential attracting so little investment. The Haines Borough is larger than Rhode Island but has no cabins designated for public use. None. (The state thankfully added one winter-only cabin this year.) The state maintains about 80 public use cabins statewide, including 15 in the Juneau area. The US Forest Service has 100s of them. What explains this discrepancy? State parks/trails are diamonds gifted to us by a previous generation.

Impressive amount of data. Data base app development Comprehensive information region by region

The only value I found in this report is how overrepresented the western Kenai Peninsula is and how not mentioned the eastern Kenai Peninsula fails to be represented!

Overall, there is a huge need for more mountain bike trails. I emphasize the need to prioritize trailbuilding for mountain bikers.

The SCORP is for all users. We all share a part in taking care of our beautiful land.

I found the statistics of outdoor recreation use valuable. I plan to use the information when writing grants to fund Nordic ski trails. The report also lead me to the conclusion that outdoor recreation is a huge economic driver for Alaska and needs to be funded at levels to maintain sustainability of our natural resources.

That trail construction and maintenance are emphasized. Thank you for all the strong work. We appreciate it greatly.

Really good at stating the case for why we need more funding, development, and why state recreation is a critical business for Alaska's economy. The sustainability of the recreation development may need more attention in the plan. Well researched. Good references. The summaries are critical because not many are probably going to sit down and read the whole thing cover to cover. The pictures are fantastic and the captions for all of them are excellent and useful.

I'm just happy AK is getting more funding for much needed recreational activities. This can be a difficult state to live in at times and we need our activities to stay happy.

Very comprehensive

I am just thankful for this feedback period and hope that you take into considerations what the people have to say.

This state is in desperate need of single track mountain bike trails.



Clear, comprehensive and optimistic.
The wide variety of use groups/partners. Regional overviews.
I am super glad this out for public review and that folks have an input. Are there meetings I can get to in order to be more informed and involved?? Urban planning with recreation / pedestrian and non-motorized travel options at the CENTER/CORE would improve Anchorage's appeal as a destination and travel City WAY beyond its use as a jumping off place for the "real Alaska". Why not make Anchorage a place that is TRuely livable 12 months of the year rather than just 5.
Very informative draft. A little too much info perhaps for the average person. I do think you are on the right path with this document.
It's long....arduous...and extensive when you expect the average Alaskan to read, reflect, and respond. Perhaps...make a Tik-Tok? Ha!
1. Business vitality ("Basecamp Hospitality" is one of 6 industry clusters highlighted as major growth opportunities in the Business Vitality pillar and would benefit substantially from expanded 'missing middle' opportunities) 2. Talent (recreational opportunities are one of Anchorage's greatest comparative advantages in the national race to attract workforce) 3. Quality of Place (includes recommendations to activate existing urban parks, improve bike/walkability, improve signage/wayfinding, and support ongoing efforts with the Dena'ina people to infuse their culture into Anchorage's built environment) 4. Infrastructure (this section has limited references to outdoor recreation (though it also includes references to bike/walkability) but does speak to possible funding mechanisms for infrastructure priorities, and there has been plenty of ink spilled in recent years about conflicts and crowding at Chugach State Park access points) We look forward to collaborating with you!
The economic impact and potential of outdoor development.
Seeing how little of Alaska is state owned.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Have feedback on the Executive Summary? Please share below.**

Sirs: I was encouraged to comment like this: In meeting the goal of fostering health, more money should go to opportunities for non-motorized recreation... Each community should have a non-motorized trail nearby... The state could help future small businesses by facilitating bird watching... As a person who has lived in every part of the state, I'd like to say this is b.s. There's a concept that ties these trailing thoughts together. Why do people come to Alaska? Wilderness! Why return? They want to see more. Why do they stay? They haven't got their fill yet. What's the future of Alaska long after oil has bought us to a dead-end? Wilderness. There needs to be a "coastal trail" on the beaches between Juneau and Anchorage. An Alaskan Trail = Appalachian Trail X 10! Gordy 399-1010

Where is your editor? "Whether by horse..." is an out-of-touch way to start. Equestrian users are a teeny- tiny percentage of Alaska recreationists. Start with "by boat", or "on foot". Both are common types of recreation access. This Summary is bloated with unnecessary verbiage, like a middle-school essay. Case in point: "Alaska's outdoor way of life is instrumental in how many perceive Alaska." Substitute: Alaska's image is based on the outdoor life. "A primary theme of this goal is to open doors for more people to experience what Alaska has to offer." Don't explain the theme of a goal. And, what goal is referenced? "The objectives aim to shed light on the endless experiences within Alaska's wild places..." Ugh! Objectives are not advertisements: they clarify the goal.

Wherever you have this in the document "cell phone mobility" say anonymous before it. -- "compares to other more prominent economic sectors" maybe add the word perceived, prominent just means important. -- "participation, needs for new or improved facilities" you add the word infrastructure later, may be worth doing throughout, facilities sounds like just buildings. -- Is it worth spelling this out throughout and including (SWAG) which I love. -- We have expand winter in goal 1 & 2 may be fine. -- All the figures will need to be bigger in the document to read and understand.

remove pages 8-9. not needed in the summary as nothing is said under the figures and I don't know what I'm looking at. and since they are in other chapters and explained there, those were just teasers that don't tell me anything until I know what I'm looking at. I feel like I need to have this printed out for when I go to the other sections. this makes me want to read more... but I cliked on the other sections and some are very long. i don't think I can read this whole thing in one, two, or a few sittings. the size makes me wonder how you can implement such a plan. that's a problem really. I'll read more tomorrow.

# CHAPTER 1

**Have feedback on Chapter 1? Please share here.**

Page 17: consider adding the use and maintenance of Alaska's historic trails by equestrian user groups. We would be happy to provide photos if needed.

Chapter 1 Page 17 "Trails construction is a growing business enterprise" The dialogue box statement first sentence could use some edit for sentence structure. Target sentence "There's real art to building trails that both a delight to use, have minimal impact, and are designed to keep down ongoing maintenance costs.

"Recommendation: replace the word "both" with "are".. resulting in "trails that are a delight to use, "

didn't read the photo pages (... blah, blah), makes for a long intro...I read the two up front and the C1 section. Feedback: 1. so you define outdoor recreation on page 2, but don't provide the definition? 2. I missed the survey. Summer fishing... not a lot of time. 3. Page 2, curious - in 2021 why was Alaska Trails on the initial team and not other non-profits? why did DPOR or NPS not do it? Are they planners? they were hired, ...curious 4. Was ORTAB on the SWAG, I hope they were representative experts in the process too. they represent different outdoor recreation sectors across the board. 5. I like that half the funding goes to local communities and half to DPOR projects. 6. Criteria, why #4? I disagree, not grass roots? New? And #5 and 7 are the same really

## CHAPTER 2: SECTION A

**Any general comments on Section A of Chapter 2?**

IMHO, Sections a-e are pretty much on target.

The ranking system doesn't work, ignore those selections. My only comments are there seems to be a lack of data on snowmachining and hunting.

BLM use data is not presented here, but is available. We can provide you with visitation, budget, and staff levels.

growing AND major? I still question the 'major' with middle class shrinking, recreation shrinks too as we have to make choices between recreating and working. (i.e. can I afford gas for my boat?...many parks you have to get to out on the water. ATV riding is #7 on one side, and Boating is#8, but you include 'non-motorized' in the caption above it. that should be removed! boating and getting on the water are huge, especially in rural areas. as I imagine ATV too. Fix Denali & USFS tables, confusing. Next table: The feds have education and tours and the state parks don't. State numbers in that chart are ridiculous!

Good news: curious, I question increased budget even though the state budget is smaller? careful, in broadcasting that or they'll cut it ;P ...missing reference in red. ..

## CHAPTER 2 – SECTIONS B-G

**If you are an agency, non-profit, tribe, business, or citizen with an interest in outdoor recreation policy, how might this information be useful? Please briefly list a few uses:**

Back Country Horsemen of Alaska is a non profit dedicated to preserving access to public lands for stock use. We assist various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of public lands. We do not want to be excluded from our historical use of these trails.

...continued from above: ...more time for tribal surveys, engage earlier + longer time to get responses. Section G...forgot water? boating!? very confusing! lobbying, advocacy, redirecting spending where \$\$ is concerned. show small businesses how they can tap into more spending. Create 1-2 page talking points that you have available to let communities take to their councils and legislators.

### **Any other general comments about these sections?**

Something isn't adding up in Section C. Surveys don't mention skiing as an activity, but the ski trails are high in the percentage of needing improvement and connections between towns

When listing user groups, please include equestrian. Equestrian use needs to be included in signage on all trail heads. Parking and access needs to accommodate horse trailers.

50 pages of data. I tried to skim and see high points but you gotta digest it. Section B. Wow, meaty section. learned a lot. Alaskans do want tourism, people coming to spend \$ and then leaving! haha So WE can recreate up here too. so maybe this is the next 'oil boom' for the state. I kept getting lost. on the page numbers below but CH 2A, CH 2B, Ch 2C...etc.. 2C also had an ABC... confusing

The specific resources section might want to consider featuring the BLM's 730 acre Campbell Tract facility. With 12 miles of trail and nearly 500k visitors, it is an important recreation resource in the Anchorage area.

The cell phone data shows a large increase in state wide usage in late fall/early winter 2021. So much so that it appears that more people were using public lands in November/December 2021 than at the height of summer in 2019 (pre-pandemic). That's well before peak season for snow sports. That result does not pass the smell test and is not explained anywhere. I suspect an artifact.

Equestrian users are a frequent and historical user group on all of areas surveyed but were not included in any of the shown data collection.

The mobile coverage is slowly increasing in the more remote recreational areas. It may not reflect increased uses, but merely increased coverage.

Other comments: pg12. saw same data earlier mobility data, why were these areas chosen over most popular? pg25. high use yet waysides and bird2gird need work/repair, expand trailheads! pg27. boating destinations are popular/need expanded (thumb cove-a favorite) pg33. Use drop due to covid, no cruises. SE needs flights/ferries! ...looks like very trails-focused survey(?) :( you need to provide more

# CHAPTER 3

**This Chapter gives an overview of outdoor recreational resources and issues in each of six Alaska regions: Arctic, Western, Southwestern, Interior, Southcentral, and Southeast. Have feedback on one or more of these sections? Please share here, identifying the region.**

In the Southcentral Region, many photos can be provided of equine trail use. The equestrian community would appreciate being portrayed as a user group. We can provide photos if needed.

Goals for Denali Borough/ Denali National Park - I appreciate that the plan contains the understanding that Denali National Park cannot accommodate all potential demand, however the plan should state that the "front country" tourism development goal must be done to appropriate scale, so that it is truly sustainable and does not disrupt local lifestyles. The challenges are accurately stated: Denali Borough government was not originally formed to manage outdoor recreation, although this mandate could change, housing for tourism is indeed a challenge, and although a group of locals proposed a State Recreation area in the Stampede townships a few years ago, the idea did not obtain sufficient traction in our legislature. Perhaps it could be re-introduced, with adequate support.

Hi, Thank you for the opportunity to comment. My home is in Haines, which is seeing an increase in the use of local trails by tourism businesses. It's the lack of trails that has me writing you as we now see trails that were once used only by locals becoming the basis for daily tourist oriented guided hikes. We have very few trails in which to distribute this increasing interest in hiking. As an avid hiker, I would like to advocate for the development of additional hiking trails in the Haines area. The costs of developing a trail (s) and a method of maintaining them is something I would like to see discussed in your program. Thank you.

Southcentral: Please increase funding and access to mountain biking trails as well as increasing the size of popular trail heads such as Basher, Rabbit Lake, and Baldy.

While there seems to be very nice verbiage in this document, in my 40+years as a resident of SE Alaska, I have seen very little effort expended by the state for recreational activities. As a current resident of Haines there is no Advisory Committee to give input to DPOR regarding the parks and campgrounds in Haines. The current proposal is to close the one campground that is in downtown Haines. The staffing has been inadequate and the world class resource that are the bears of the Chilkoot corridor is hardly monitored at all. While this area was recently "upgraded", I assume this was with federal dollars. Maintenance and staffing is almost nonex While there is a AC for the Bald Eagle Preserve, even when someone applies for membership, there is no action regarding their appointment.

Southeast has so much opportunity for development of more trail systems, as well as to link these to apps that visitors can access to plan their trip. I recently visited Whitehorse from Haines to go fat biking, and was blown away by the trail system in Whitehorse and how easy it was to plan for using the Trailforks app. In Haines, if an outsider were to view trails, the picture seems relatively limited - however living here one understands how to navigate the vast landscape. Making it easier for people to see that from afar, and through more trails, would attract more visitors and longer stays.

Our legal residence is in NH, but have been coming to Alaska since 2009, and bought a place in Girdwood in 2018; both of our children and their spouses live and/or work in Girwood and Anchorage. We spend a lot of time skiing, both lifts and back country and mountain bike. Because of the obvious increased demand in all that the South Central area has to offer, and as that is where we spend 95% of our time, the ideas for providing more opportunities for all of the outdoor actives will only enhance the enjoyment of visitors. The is purely anecdotal, but the improvement with trail access like the new bridge over Eddies and Ingram Creeks (?) is SUCH a game changer - these types of projects are just so MAAVALOUS for opening up more stunning terrain for mountains bikers and hikers.

Southcentral Region: Include equine right of way education on regulatory trail signage to mitigate confrontation on multi-use trail systems using the Trails Are Common Ground approach.

In the Southcentral Region, we can provide pictures of equine use on the trails and would appreciate being portrayed as users.

I run a tourist transportation business in Homer, Southcentral is one of the fastest growing areas in ak, outdoor recreation is extremely important to the economic stability of the area, and demand has grown for non-motorized trail access to various natural areas. Subsistence activities are also important on traditional lands, access during the winter and during the fall requires solid routes and trails built for 4-wheelers and snow machines. Wetland protection should be top of the list for

trail design, too many local kenai peninsula trails are poorly designed and damage wetlands and riparian areas (anchor river drainages, caribou lake trail, snomads are a good group to work with about these issues). New trails are important here, but restoration and improvement are the most important.

Southcentral. Public parking areas are inadequate. In particular, more parking is desperately needed for the trail that goes up the ridge on the north side of McHugh Peak. Presently there are maybe 5 parking spaces in a cul-de-sac. More parking is needed on the south side of Flattop (by the Sunnyside Trail). Additionally, some means of public access needs to be created to access Ram Valley. Also, the South Fork Valley parking lot is already too small on busy days and that will get even worse with the new trail over to Arctic Valley. OK to raise my taxes!

South Central: I would like to see more purpose-built mountain biking trails in Chugach State Park and Chugach National Forest and Far North Bicentennial Park. Expansion of the current Single-track Advocates hillside trail system centered around the current Hemlock Burn Trail. This would provide a world class shuttle capable destination for mountain biking.

pg 1. Don't we already have a state "division of parks and outdoor recreation"? use that division and provide the support for them to do that work. it fits in that structure.

pg. 3-4. I agree pg. 8,12,17...target areas of highest demand in most remote areas first (develop and make a functioning model in remote areas). At a conference, I learned Kodiak has most archeological sites/digs/activity/records. we need more in other areas of the state for educational and cultural history purposes!

Abercrombie should also be on pg. 17

Petersburg has no state parks/marine parks like Ketchikan or Sitka. not sure if that is a pro or con. Pg 39 SE needs flights and ferries to help augment the drop in cruises and keep up tourism to the area without them. pg. 39 quote. agree but in all of SE!

Interior AK. The 1 million acre each Steese National Conservation Area and White Mountains National Recreation Area BLM lands are not displayed. They are a large recreation draw for visitors. Corporate GIS data is available through BLM.

## Chapter 4 - Introduction

**Have feedback on this section? Please share here.**

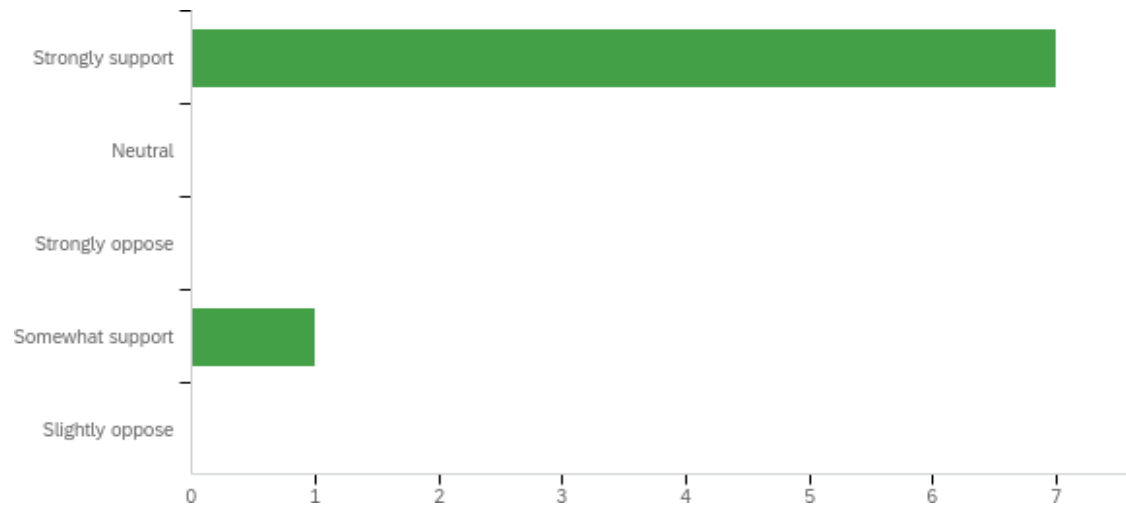
Public health and wellness, economic development, and stewardship of wildlife, habitat, and watersheds, if a well funded priority, are a solid investment in Alaska's future. Funding/subsidizing reliable AMHS mainliner access from Bellingham and Rupert boosts all of this to the entire state. Funding bear monitors at Chilkoot. Funding DOT plowing of pullout access to beaches, rivers, trailheads. Funding berm removal to aid access to same. New trails, quiet trails, non- motorized trails for elders, families, people with dogs. Consider parks & trail requirements/recommendations for new subdivisions. Maintain trails, outhouses (with sanitizer), campgrounds. We live here for quality of life. People visit here for same. Become residents for same. Boost economy for same.

Solid investment.

advisory group is mostly land managers, \*few\* non-profits (not representative), glad inclusive groups were added.

# CHAPTER 4 – GOAL 1

## 1. Rank your support for the overall "Goal 1: Support the Alaska Outdoor Recreation Way of Life."



## 2. Please briefly explain your conclusion, if you wish.

I like the thought process of the "missing middle" as well as the stewardship aspects. One thing that feels like it may be missing is the maintenance portion - which may be addressed elsewhere. For instance, the Byers Lake State Hike around the lake. Although it was a trail that had been established, the lack of maintenance sent us bushwhacking and scrambling over a broken bridge.

You seem to be casting a VERY large net to offer opportunities for as many people as is humanly possible.....tough job...but SO important to folks health, both physical and mental, and offer something for all visitors.

I see this as the gateway to health for our communities. I particularly like the focus on expanding outdoor recreation opportunities in town and next to town. Simple reason is this is a resource we can use on a daily basis to support healthy lifestyles. Particularly I'd like to see connectivity between trails and safe, non-motorized access to town central and to the schools.

Back Country Horsemen of Alaska strongly supports getting out and enjoying all that Alaska has to offer.

YES, YES, YES!! More is needed for local and neighborhood access to the State parks that they border as well as improve and regulate/ make regular the current parks for ALL seasons. Build MORE parks and create access via the Private lands that are currently blocking trail and Park access.

overall, very good. some of the examples are limiting so maybe end with, etc...

**3. If you wish, please express your feedback on one or more of the objective(s) of this Goal in the space below. Please specify the Objective. Goal 1 Objectives: 1. Expand outdoor recreation opportunities 2. Support “stepping stone” programs and facilities 3. Promote winter recreation opportunities Integrate history, heritage, subsistence, culture, education, and the arts 4. Improve information on outdoor recreation options, locations, and activities**

1. Expand outdoor recreation opportunities. We are seeing a great deal of development in my community. As new subdivisions are carved out of large tracks of land, public access is restricted and lost. I remember the Knowles administration's policy that a new road also required a new non-motorized pathway. Alternates to motorized transportation should always be considered and sometimes required, especially in view of non-motorized path connectivity.

4. Include equestrian opportunities on multi-use trail signage.

So many things to say, but most importantly is keeping things local and accessible. Simply clearing sidewalks as a priority in communities is a simple way to help keep people active in Winter. Biking, Dog walking etc is a mainstay during the work week, and yet MOST neighborhoods and paths get blocked making travel on foot or bike for NON-recreational activities and travel unsafe. Not everyone is recreating. Many commute on foot or bike and put their life at risk in the winter months. This is simply wrong and needs to be a part of these talks.

long-winded in some areas. simplify? found simple errors, needs an editor! 1.4...finally waters also included! Case Studies? these are not studies...just examples. change the heading maybe ...lacks "fitness"? really.... better word = ability. 2.1 Children's Forest is not the only model. better stated in Action A just after it. 2.2.B I doubt fed/state funding will fund education programs. resources...yes... but training? Obj. 3 - I thought that the specific projects were not all inclusive in the regional sections, that's what it says in those chapters... so what about missing items or things not yet on the those lists? I don't remember goal 2 having specific strategies/ actions. maybe better guide readers to where those are specified in that goal. 4.1 bravo! agree! and 4.2

#### **4. Any other general comments on this Goal?**

Something that needs to be addressed is the accessibility to many areas that frankly aren't used, because we don't have a bush plane! There is also an infrastructure piece that should be considered.

I LOVE 'EM ALL!!

Consider changing Strategy 1.4, Action A from "Open up new access to these wild areas..." to "Take advantage of the historic horse trails to access these wild areas."

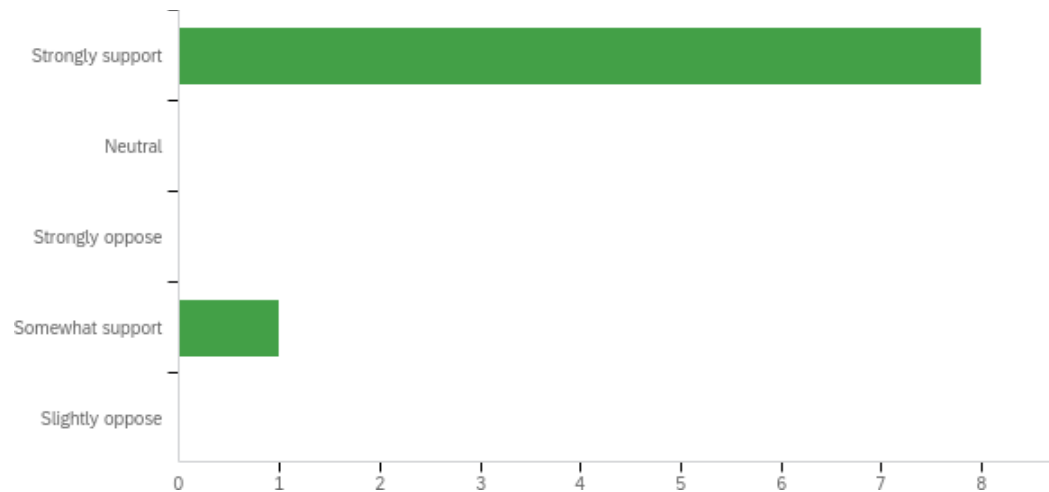
Alaska does many things well: mopping ice ponds, trail grooming, lights for night activities...it just needs to include more neighborhoods and make existing paths and sidewalks clear/ safe/ accessible for pedestrian use year round.

still no solid definition of outdoor recreation in Alaska yet you talk about a definition in the opener.



## CHAPTER 4 – GOAL 2

### 1. Rank your support for the overall "Goal 2: Make Outdoor Recreation a cornerstone of Alaska's economic future."



### 2. Please briefly explain your conclusion, if you wish.

While Anchorage might be tabled as bike friendly I find the lack of routes disappointing. While i enjoy what's there it needs serious improvements including more bridges and underpasses to cross roadways. Also creating more greenbelt trails and connecting sidewalks. I disagree that AK has plenty of safe roads with wide shoulders and little traffic! -I'd like to hear how locals can keep helping!

This chapter could be expanded to include the cross-country non-profits throughout Alaska - especially on Kenai Peninsula...Bird, Girdwood, Whittier, Cooper Landing, Seward, Tsalteshi, Homer that draw tourism year-round on groomed trails funded by user-based donations.

The economic impact is important, but some important types of recreation depend on a lack of development/visitors (i.e., it might have low economic impact).

Any and all investments will have a YUGE payback.

Back Country Horsemen of Alaska strongly making outdoor recreation a cornerstone of Alaska's economic future. The equestrian community would appreciate being represented as a user group.

Would like to see Alaska Long Trail developed ASAP. Separated bike paths from roads or very wide road shoulders. This will attract worldwide attention for active tourism and create economic opportunities in outlying towns/villages.

ITS ABOUT TIME How can I help??

- 3. If you wish, express feedback on one or more objective(s) of Goal 2 in the space below. Please specify the Objective. Goal 2 Objectives: 1. Increase awareness of how outdoor recreation benefits Alaska’s economy 2. Spread the economic benefits of outdoor recreation more broadly across Alaska 3. Balance strategies to grow outdoor recreation economic benefits with stewardship 4. Recognize and take advantage of the varying economic impacts of different types of outdoor recreation use and users. 5. Expand winter outdoor recreation opportunities 6. Expand opportunities for biking, hiking, public use cabins, and hut-to-hut systems 7. Develop travel options with themed itineraries 8. Develop stronger gateway communities 9. Develop accessible, equitable outdoor recreation opportunities**

-stewardship: it is important to include a focus on mitigating pollutants/toxins in AK. Including research on what substances are polluting and toxic and what healthy alternatives there are. This is important to start a clean up and preventative measures. People recreating in AK will appreciate a healthy environment. I know when I'm out drinking, cooking and cleaning with stream or lake water I don't want to ingest harmful substances. -stewardship: implementing research on ticks and tick prevention. And then carrying out prevention plans. We don't want ticks in AK! On the east coast I found ticks a huge detractor from recreating outside. Stories of the many troubling tick born diseases kept me mainly on roads. -winter: single use trails need better signage because it is not always clear especially at intersections what trail is for what activity. -winter: mushing and ice skating should not be forgotten! More mushing trails would be good! -Limits on comment size are annoying!

Number 5. This objective could be expanded to include the cross-country non-profits throughout Alaska - especially on Kenai Peninsula...Bird, Girdwood, Whittier, Cooper Landing, Seward, Tsateshi, Homer that draw tourism year-round. Half of these non-profits already collaborate with live-grooming apps, and weather reporting including weather-cams. All these trails are maintained by volunteers and align with the goals of SCORP.

No 8. As a Healy resident, I see the concern with gateway communities. I can think of around 8 houses that used to house year round families, that have been turned into VRBO rentals and no longer have families that live here in them. Another 4 plex was just purchased by a tour company. It is only a matter of time, until these will be housing seasonal families, and not people who live and go to school and work year round here - so there can be a community! It is negatively impacting as well as positively impacting my community.

Strongly Agree, in particular with these: Goal 2 Objectives: 1. Increase awareness of how outdoor recreation benefits Alaska’s economy 5. Expand winter outdoor recreation opportunities 6. Expand opportunities for biking, hiking, public use cabins, and hut-to-hut systems 7. Develop travel options with themed itineraries 9. Develop accessible, equitable outdoor recreation opportunities

Expand opportunities for equine camping. Alaska needs more public use cabins and campsites for equestrian camping with safe stock enclosures and easy access to water and grazing.

ALL excellent and needed developments. Simply putting in and maintaining REST AREAS with plowed parking lots and safe places to walk pets while on a road trip in any season is needed and sorely missing. Porta- potties and basic rest stop amenities are needed. Relying only on local businesses doesn't cut it, as many have closed down and don't re-open: Richardson Highway between Valdez and Fairbanks, Anchorage South and even The Valley North along the Parks Highway. These are main corridors of travel for all Alaskans. Imagining who else might want to come and spend their Winter dollars here more often if there were actually decent travel options and safe places for people to stop along the way, like most are used to in the STATES.

#### 4. Any other general comment on this Goal?

I like the entry on support close to home outdoor activities! I really want to see parks, trails, and green spaces connected in anchorage and all over AK! These mini quests are really fun to explore, minimal effort, and are accessible by more people both locals and visitors! Plus they might get hooked! I like what's in SCORP and appreciate the effort of making it! I tried to give helpful feedback

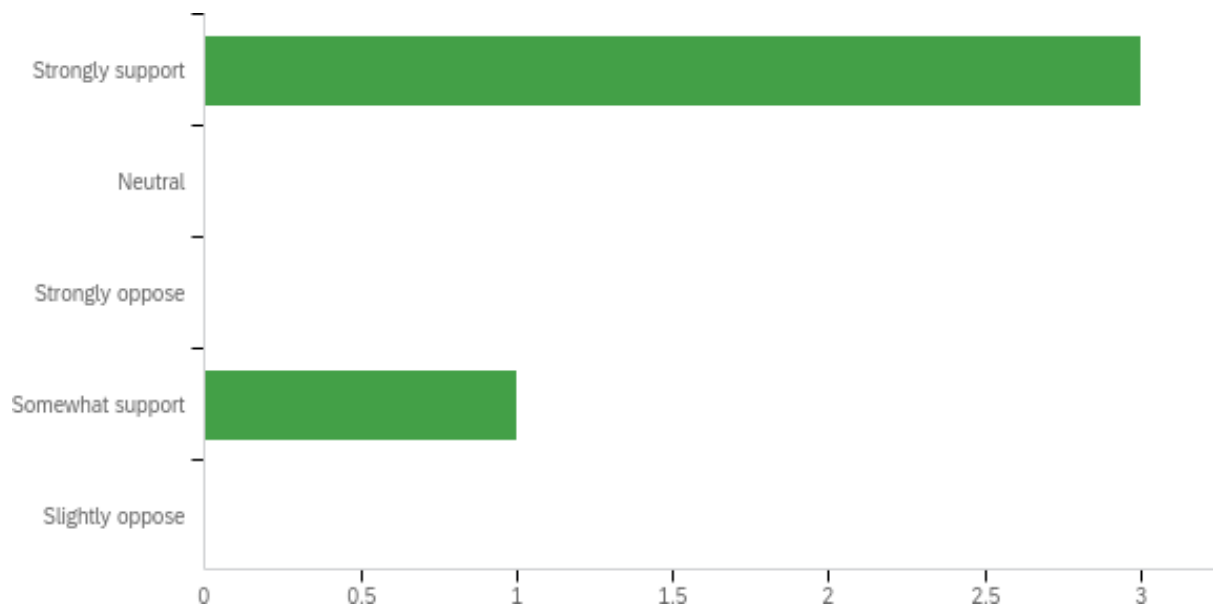
Winter outdoor recreation in Southeast has huge potential. In Haines, we have world class skiing that is only accessible now by Helicopter (too expensive for most people) or by backcountry (tends to cater to a smaller set of individuals, and largely regional individuals that are familiar with the terrain). I support creating spaces that are easier to access for a broader population..

Equestrian right-of-way should be displayed on regulatory trail signs.

Again, I think keeping things basic to start will help a huge amount. Improve on what is already here with long range sustainability and development in mind. Locals need to want to STAY and continue living and working here. Making Alaska that much more attractive without falling for Short term sell out solutions is what will make us match up to places like one of a kind New Zealand!!

## CHAPTER 4 – GOAL 3

### 1. Rank your support for the overall "Goal 3: Grow the Outdoor Recreation Workforce; Use Outdoor Recreation to Attract and Retain Residents And Businesses."



### 2. Please briefly explain your conclusion, if you wish.

You cannot succeed in any endeavor without a dedicated, well trained and well paid workforce. the next hard part is finding a place in which they can afford to live.

Look to the attitudes New Zealanders hold ( its Government and Citizens) about It's natural resources and World renowned beauty and you will find the Answer to Alaska's problem(s). If Alaskans finally SEE what we hold here and strive beyond a quick buck and exploitation, we will reap the abundance that a well thought out and executed Eco-tourism and Eco-lifestyle can/will bring to us all.

- 3. If you wish, please express your feedback on one or more of the objective(s) of this Goal in the space below. Please specify the Objective. Goal 3 Objectives: 1. Invest in outdoor recreation facilities and programs that attract and retain businesses, employees, residents, and retirees. 2. Improve information needed to better understand the outdoor recreation industry's workforce trends and needs. 3. Expand outdoor recreation training and skill development; work to create career tracks. 4. Expand the size of the outdoor recreation workforce to meet growing outdoor recreation demands. 5. Emphasize investments in outdoor recreation, which in turn has an effect on the Alaskan workforce in more jobs for Alaskans.**

**SUPPORT ALL!!**

Having worked in the Health care setting, all travel workers I met took assignments here for one reason: to DO Alaska...hike, hunt, snow machine, fish, dog sled...you name it, whatever the cliché of this place they held in mind. Oh, and on top of that, being paid TOP dollar is also a draw. Our sister State of Hawaii is opposite...it IS paradise and so that is the reward. Pay is relatively very low, housing is ridiculous, work can be very difficult/ long/ bad assignments and there are no apologies...workers still flock to go because it's Hawaii.

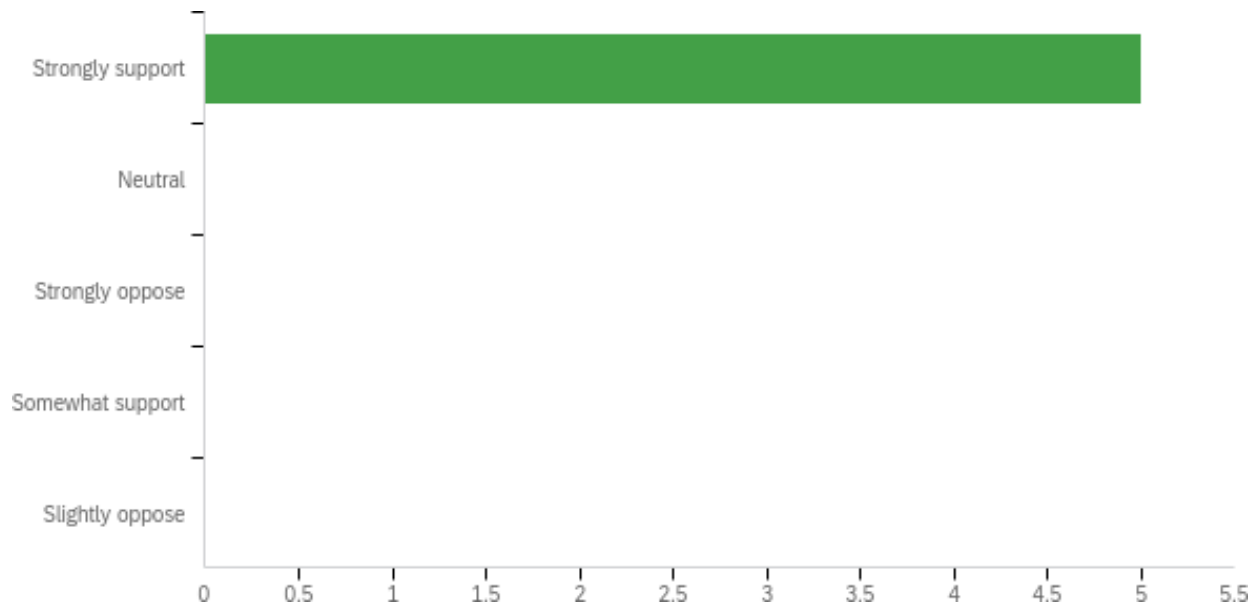
#### **4. Any other general comments on this Goal?**

Before Covid, I had a conversation with a tourist in Denali, who said I was the first Alaskan person that they had met. Most of the people they had met were foreign workers. I was shocked. In the 1980s, most of the "seasonals" were college kids from across America. Now, the J1 workers are allowed to come back - but I see them not being treated well by the large tour companies.

Let's face it, Alaska can be a very challenging place to live, even when the living is good. I'm all for enhancing the Best of what Alaska has to offer in order to offset some of the natural challenges of living up here. Improve, enhance and continue to build on the many good things South Central has to offer...rest areas w YR toilets, Regular and consistent sidewalk clearing, more trail access.

## Chapter 4 - Goal 4

### 1. Rank your support for the overall "Goal 4: Empower and Enable Alaskans to Lead Active, Healthy Lives."



### 2. Please briefly explain your conclusion, if you wish.

This is perhaps the most important goal of the plan.

Recreating and being outside is a key factor into keeping your mental health status in the long, cold and dark of winter. We live in an area with no open public gym, no indoor rink, very few ski trails - only personal ones that are groomed. It is a critical concern in the Denali Borough area. Getting families outside is imperative.

Back Country Horsemen of Alaska strongly supports empowering and enabling Alaskans to lead active, healthy lives.

**3. If you wish, please express your feedback on one or more of the objective(s) of this Goal in the space below. Please specify the Objective. Goal 4 Objectives: 1. Identify new partnerships for planning and funding of outdoor recreation 2. Expand research and improve data collection 3. Invest in outdoor recreation infrastructure that empowers more Alaskans to be active outside 4. Invest in community and regional outdoor health programs 5. Plan for more inclusive, equitable access to outdoor recreation opportunities**

2. Include the equine community in surveys, monitoring, and measurement analysis.

#### **4. Any other general comments on this Goal?**

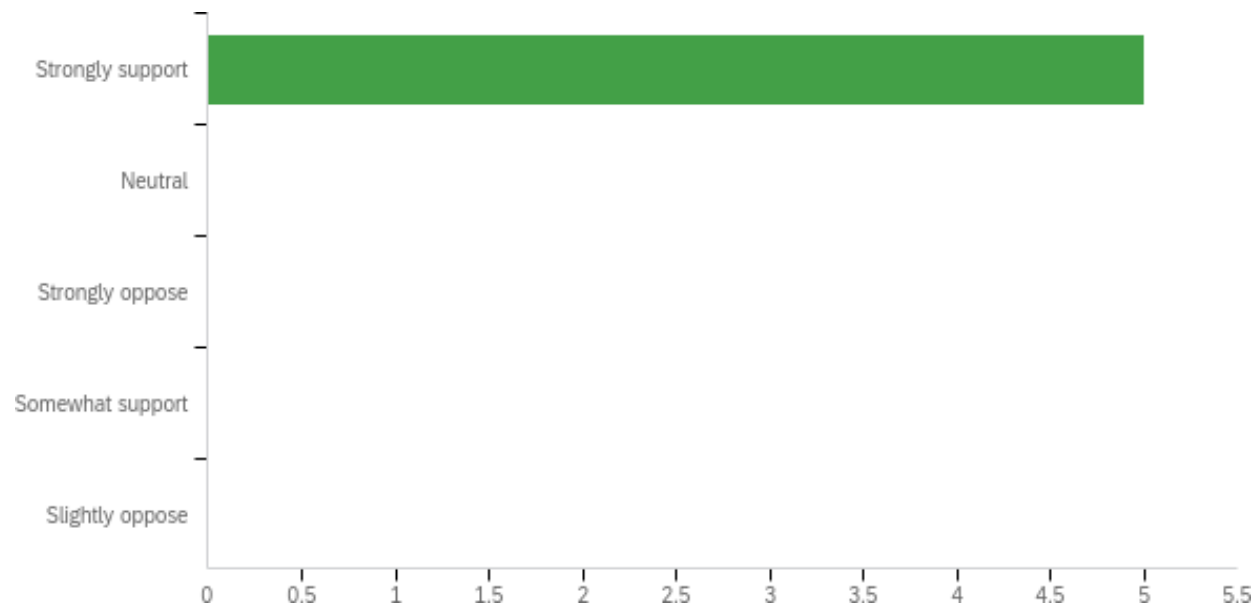
I would love to see more investment in winter activities in the Denali Borough. But as always, it goes back to cost - who will pay for it? Maintain it? Many families are struggling with electric and heat and groceries.

Connected trails that allow access for more residents in a community to move outdoors without motorized vehicles would be a priority to me. An emphasis on establishing and encouraging non-motorized transportation would also address some of the challenges we face in a warming climate.

When identifying the benefits of non-profit outdoor recreation programs, include the Kenai Peninsula Back Country Horsemen of Alaska Kaslof Equestrian Trail System.

## Chapter 4 - Goal 5

### 1. Rank your support for the overall "Goal 5: Balancing Outdoor Recreation Growth and Stewardship."



### 2. Please briefly explain your conclusion, if you wish.

I strongly support the idea of stewardship, and I recognize that many live here specifically because not many others do. We need to plan for areas to remain untouched, while compromising with other areas that are well planned and stellar options that few can complain about.

There will only be more and more people coming to Alaska, so lets provide them with an experience of a lifetime.

Back Country Horsemen of Alaska strongly supports



- 3. If you wish, please express your feedback on one or more of the objective(s) of this Goal in the space below. Please specify the Objective. Goal 5 Objectives: 1. Document challenges and benefits of outdoor recreation growth 2. Invest in sustainable, built-to-last infrastructure 3. Proactively guide growth with inclusive regional and local plans 4. Support growth and stewardship through partnerships**

I like the sustainable piece to these goals - if they are built and not maintained, we will have bigger problems than before - for instance; outhouses or garbage facilities that are not maintained well. Many state campgrounds already are in need of sprucing up.

Objective 4 with Stewardship should explore the ideas of developing disposal of land/[property limited to recreational uses (trail access only, etc) near and around the areas requiring higher levels of stewardship. This will further incentivize individuals or groups (properties that may be owned by non-profits or private owners) to assist more with trail maintenance or similar needs due to a more direct investment or "buy-in" to the area. Proceeds of the disposals can also be designated for use within the area.

SUPPORT!

2. Invest in safe stock enclosures at public use cabins and campsites with easy access to water and grazing.

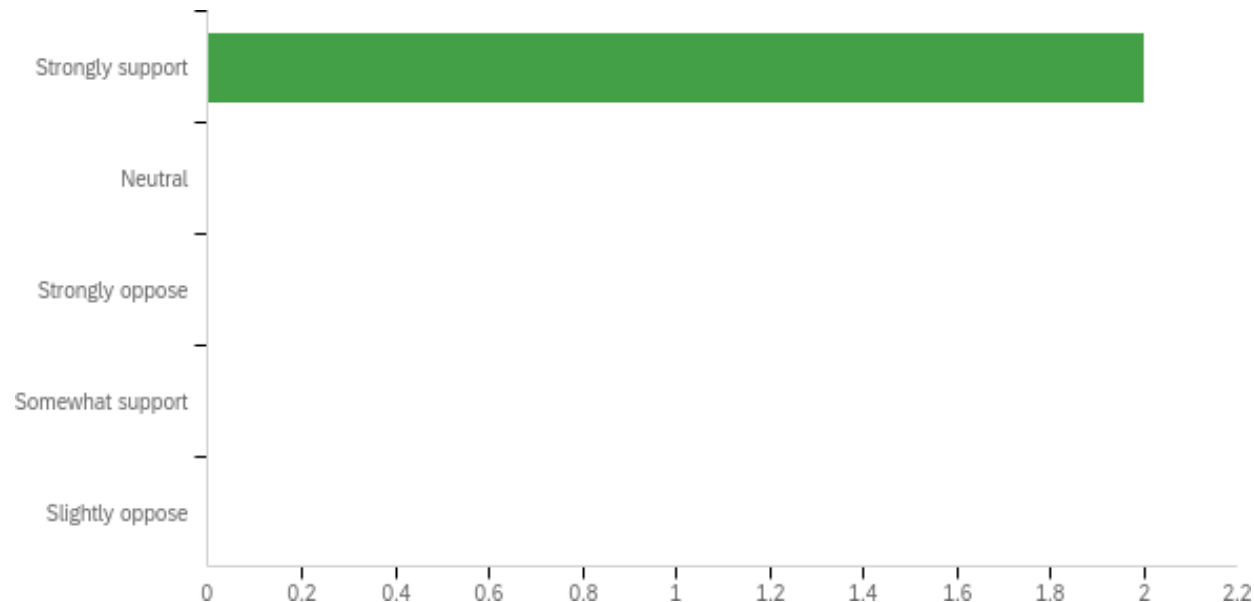
"Projections by the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation show Alaska's population growing in coming years, with the fastest growth occurring in the Anchorage and Mat-Su regions." Elsewhere in the draft SCORP, facts are given about AK's shrinking population, 9 consecutive years of out migration, rendering the above statement seemingly inconsistent.

#### **4. Any other general comments on this Goal?**

Strategy 2.1, Action B: Due to the impacts of wildfires, spruce bark beetles, and other environmental factors, our trails need serious maintenance and reconstruction. Nonprofits such as the Back Country Horsemen of Alaska are hard at work to assist in maintenance and management with Alaska's historic horse trails.

## Chapter 4 - Goal 6

### 1. Rank your support for the overall "Goal 6: Grow Stable and Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Funding ."

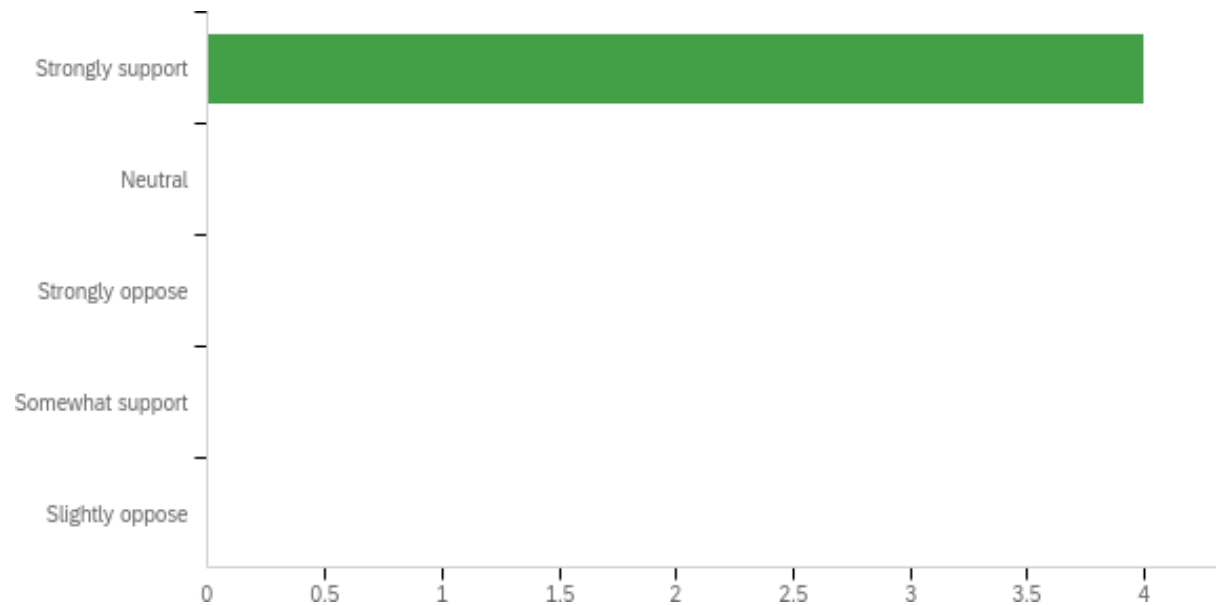


2. If you wish, please express your feedback on one or more of the objective(s) of this Goal in the space below.  
Please specify the Objective. Goal 6 Objectives: 1. Secure funding by focusing on high value projects 2. Maximize use of established and one- time federal funds to increase federal funding 3. Grow and sustain in-state public and private funding 4. Engage new public and private partners to establish shared priorities and expand investment opportunities 5. Provide facts and build a coalition to increase investments in outdoor recreation

SUPPORT!!

## Chapter 4 - Goal 7

### 1. Rank your support for the overall "Goal 7: Strengthen Partnerships to Improve Outdoor Recreation Management."



### 2. Please briefly explain your conclusion, if you wish.

Any and all types of collaboration should be tracked down to ensure once people arrive in Alaska, they will be so thrilled with what they see and do, they will want to stay longer and tell ALL of their friends once they get home. In my last ten years of professional work as the boss, once you learn that...ALL of us is WAY smarter than ONE of us...you quickly learn of endless possibilities.

I would like to see a coordinated effort across the state for multi Borough projects like the proposed Alaska Long Trail plan.

3. If you wish, please express your feedback on one or more of the objective(s) of this Goal in the space below. Please specify the Objective. Goal 7 Objectives: 1. Develop new systems to track outdoor recreation use, trends, and economic impact and leverage the information to make informed decisions 2. Manage federal funding more effectively 3. Reduce hurdles and provide more options for improving outdoor recreation facilities and programs 4. Work with partners statewide to help residents and tourists better understand and enjoy Alaska's outdoor recreational opportunities 5. Expand technological solutions in all aspects of outdoor recreation 6. Adequately fund, facilitate, develop, and update plans

SUPPORRT!!

1. Include the equine community in tracking outdoor use, surveys, trends, and economic impact 4. Include equine right of way education on regulatory trail signage to mitigate confrontation on multi-use trail systems using the Trails Are Common Ground approach.

Alaska Back Country Horsemen, Kenai Peninsula and MatSu Back County Horsemen would like to: 1. Perpetuate the common-sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and Wilderness areas. 2. To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use. 3. To assist the various government, state and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource. 4. To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.

#4 Work with partners statewide. STRATEGY 4.2:Expand in-field trail signs and mileage markers. These are often absent in Alaska but present and appreciated in competing destinations around the world. ACTION A: Minimize trail user conflicts through education, good trail design, signage, special use restrictions, and smart, informed management decisions The Alaska Back Country Horsemen & chapters Kenai Peninsula and MatSu would like to work with other organizations to make this happen.

#### 4. Any other general comments on this Goal?

We would like to work with State, Federal organizations to make sure we have a good standing and positive communication with them.

We would like to see more trail signage to educate and encourage good stewardship off all who participate on our trail systems.

# Chapter 5 - Conclusion

**Have feedback on the Conclusion? Please share below.**

Consider adding photo or written representation of equine trail use. We would be happy to send a photo if needed.

My primary concern is with more access and funding, Alaskans are being crowded out by tourism. While this may help our economy, Alaskans seem to be paying too much for using the areas. Like the 25 dollar launch fee for my boat while I watch guides launch their boats multiple times a day. How about a local discount for residents? (similar to what Hawaii does for its locals)

Use this current data to create advocacy pieces for outdoor recreational investment at all government levels (local, state, feds). i.e. boat launches and parking, signage - the ones like at museums that educate you about where you are, but outdoor ones (not more metal rule signs that get shot up), The GIS data was confusing and I wondered if it included water trails/boating. I'm not sure you can afford to keep all the data up to date, but you can use what you got now to "support data-driven decisions on outdoor recreation investments and management policies" I did not look at chapter 4 yet, it was long another day.

## Appendix 3

**Have feedback on one or more of the Appendix 1 sections? Please share below, identifying the subregion.**

Hello, As an old guy and lifelong skier, backpacker, subsistence hunter and fisherman, homestead builder and rapturous lover of the natural world : I'm totally against Initiative 7.14. The Delta River Hayes Range Access Bridge. I've spent many happy hours at my friend's cabin near Michael Creek. The entire area is a wonder. Would a foot bridge across the Delta river be convenient? Probably. That convenience is virtually always the first step on a slippery slope towards industrial mayhem. San Francisco bay used to have grizzly bears feeding on whale carcasses. It must have been an amazing wilderness! Now the area is a hell of urban congestion and high human population density. This phenomenon has happened all over the USA and ,indeed, across the globe. Once the process begins it almost never stops. Best to not let it start. Can we not just leave a little of Mama Nature totally alone? If folks want to explore the area why not cross on a pack raft? Thanks

In MatSu DOTPF is not listed as a stakeholder - but completing N Birchwood pathway to the Parks/Glenn could be a DOTPF partner effort. Anchorage talks about capturing federal highway funds, but the MatSu does not seem to do that.

In subregion Southeast, there are many development opportunities that may not seem to be directly recreation oriented, but are part of the foundation on which to build opportunities. One of these is the waterfront development ideas that were designed by the City of Wrangell. A more usable and accessible waterfront opens a door into recreation at all levels. It also creates a welcoming area in which to plan additional activities. SE Alaska is a water community and Wrangell especially has some of the most beautiful accessible waterfront areas. This can be especially dramatic if the Alaska Marine Highway scheduling is restored to previous levels. Additionally, in building foundations, investment in affordable housing and expanded training programs is paramount to expanded recreational opportunities. Currently housing costs in SE have skyrocketed as people have built summer cabins and purchased available land. There is no opportunity for local youth.

(Part 6) River access points could be created in conjunction with Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Richardson Highway Corridor plan. Better access could be provided near the following locations: • Near Rainbow Mountain downstream of Phelan Creek • Near Whistler or Boulder Creek upstream of the Black rapids section • Near the NWTC and Black Rapids Lodge downstream of Black Rapids Creek Confluence. • Near Darling Creek opposite of the drainage between Black Rapids and McGinnis Creeks • Near Donnelly Creek Wayside The rapid increase in availability of affordability of lightweight inflatable packrafts, kayaks, and rafts make it reasonable to access lands west of the Delta without compromising the natural the qualities of the area. Please remove the proposed Hayes Range Access Bridge from the SCORP. Also please add improving non-motorized rivercraft access to the Delta River at various locations between Phelan Creek and the Donnelly Wayside.

( Part 5 ) The stretch of the Delta River from Rainbow Mountain near Phelan Creek confluence to Darling Creek is incredibly scenic and offers class II to III+ whitewater boating experiences that are in sections comparable to the popular and commercially run stretches of the Nenana and Matanuska rivers. Unfortunately, public access to put-in and take out locations is difficult on this section, especially for rafts with rowing frames. I believe that creating better access to put-in and take-out points for non-motorized boating is much more cost effective than construction of an access bridge across the Delta and associated parking. This would help meet the plan's objectives of providing increased access recreational opportunities including recreation on the west side of the Delta River valley with considerably less impact on the area's resources. It could also help meet the goal of "Increas(ing) quantity and frequency of roadside rest stops and restroom facilities".

(Part 4) The Delta River flood plain is summer habitat to the bison herd. They regularly utilize the area directly across the Delta river from the proposed bridge site. The western side of the valley also provides extensive habitat for moose, caribou, dall sheep, wolf, coyote and grizzly bear. I do not believe that impacts on these populations or their habitats have been considered at all in the SCORP scoping process or by proponents of the Hayes Range access bridge near Black Rapids. The proximity of the proposed bridge to the Northern Warfare Training Center make it highly likely that the area would be see future use for military training exercises, which would have unavoidable impacts on other users. (Continued...)

(Part 3) The Delta River, from its headwaters all the way to its confluence with the Tanana at Big Delta remains free of bridges over its entire length. I have skied, climbed, and paddled in the Hayes Range west of the Delta, and believe that traditional access by watercraft, ski, and aircraft help to protect and preserve the quality of wild outdoor experiences in that area. I have kayaked, rafted, and packrafted on the Delta River, including the sections from Rainbow Mountain through Black Rapids and to McGinnis Creek. I have also paddled Phelan Creek, McCallum Creek, Black Rapids Creek, & McGinnis Creek. I have skied, snowshoed and snow machined across the Delta at a number of locations between Rainbow Mountain and McGinnis Creek. I have also flown into and skied out from the upper Black Rapids glacier. Traditional access methods to this area are adequate, and help to preserve the wilderness, wildlife, and scenic nature of that section of that section of the range

(Part 2) I have recreated in the eastern Alaska Range extensively over the past four decades that I have lived in interior Alaska. In addition to living in the hills outside of Fairbanks, my family owns and regularly uses a cabin in the Donnelly subdivision opposite McGinnis Creek. I have explored and recreated in and on the mountains, glaciers, valleys and rivers of the Hayes Range and Delta Mountains extensively. In contrast to the highly commercialized and developed “Glitter Gulch” along the Nenana River canyon outside of Denali National Park, the Delta River Valley through which the pipeline and Richardson Highway currently provides access to a much more natural and unspoiled outdoor experience as it passes through the Alaska Range. (To be continued)

I have one major concern that is identified in Appendix 1 – Greater Fairbanks section, Initiative 7.14 “Delta River Hayes Range access bridge”. I am strongly opposed to this particular initiative. Please consider that the proposed Hayes Range Access Bridge be removed from the SCORP. Also please consider improving non-motorized rivercraft access to various locations along the Delta River between Phelan Creek and the Donnelly Wayside. Rather than meeting the stated objective of “Develop(ing) facilities at popular parks, trails and water bodies to improve access and reduce impact”, the proposed bridge will result in significant negative impacts to areas on the west side of the Delta River. Further, I don’t think that there has been any attempt to assess these impacts. The access bridge represents a major and irreversible change to customary and traditional use. (to be continued...)

Objective 8.2 in the Southeast Subregion appendix references the Mendenhall Montana Creek Recreation Area Trail System. That area is the Juneau Nordic Ski Club's primary Nordic skiing area because of the cold temperature and the longevity of the snowpack. We fully support the funding and development of this area for new and improved trails. The Juneau Nordic Trail Development Plan addresses connecting the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area with the Montana Creek road and trail with multi-use multi-season Nordic skiing and biking, hiking trails. New trails and trailheads would also access Spaulding Meadows, McGinnis valley, and possible new rental cabins. Not only would this complete the loop trail through the Mendenhall Valley, but it would also access higher elevation skiing terrain in Spaulding Meadows that would be more insulated from climate changes.

... Teacher/Counselor/Wilderness Enthusiast I strongly oppose initiative 7.14 Delta River Hayes Range access bridge. I am against this project since it will radically change the customary and traditional character and usages of this unique area. I have used the proposed area recreationally for over 30 years. I have enjoyed many adventures with family and friends. I urge all parties involved to strongly reconsider utilizing this area as planned. This is one of the few places that has retained its true wilderness qualities and I would hate to see this gem ruined. For the sake of future generations, I sincerely hope that this area can remain the same. I would propose that a better use of the money designated for this project be spent on improved trail access within the borough or open trails on the east side of the Delta River. Thank you for your time and consideration.

... Business Owner & Wilderness Guide I strongly oppose initiative 7.14 Delta River Hayes Range access bridge. I am against this project since it will radically change the customary and traditional character and usages of this unique area. I have used the proposed area recreationally for over 40 years and have enjoyed many adventures. I urge all parties involved to strongly reconsider utilizing this area as planned. This is one of the few areas that has retained its true wilderness qualities and I sincerely hope for the enjoyment of future generations, that it remains the same. A better use of the money designated for this project can be spent on improved trail access within the borough which is sorely lacking. Thank you for your time and consideration.

After sitting in on zoom meeting with the Girdwood Trail meetings, it seems evident that some of the "Good Ole' Boys" will fight change EVERY step of the way. What they need to is HELP to move the needle forward for the future of the Girdwood valley, and NOT just GET IN TH WAY...or maybe, just GET OUT OF THE WAY. I have been involved with building mountain bike and back country ski trails in and around the Mt. Washington Valley and North Conway NH for the last 25 years, and you may be surprised to hear this, but it is EXACTLY the same here. Luckily, the new blood has just had to ignore the doomsayers, and we have continued to open up riding that is being embraced by all except for the curmudgeons.

Kenai and Turnagain Arm Subregion Objective 5. Guide growth to increase the benefits of outdoor recreation and provide a spectrum of high-quality outdoor recreation experiences Add ski clubs to initiative partnerships 1 and 2 Objective 6 - Improve information on the availability of outdoor recreation resources Add ski clubs to initiative partnerships 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 Objective 7 - Expand and improve the overall supply of quality outdoor recreation opportunities 7.7 Build bridges to connect the INHT - 30 Bridge between Seward and Girdwood Objective Add Seward Nordic Ski Club to partnerships.

Boardwalks/bridges need to be added to the Iditarod Trail and Divide Ski Area sections of the trail for winter access 7.10 Add Seward Nordic Ski Trail as an initiative partnership 7.12 Add Mount Marathon, Mount Alice and Bear Mountain to the protect, upgrade and maintain user-made trails 7.14 Add a parking lot with a pedestrian walkway on Nash Road at the start of the Iditarod Trail. Include S Kenai and Turnagain Arm. Project 7.13 seeks to re-open logging roads across the Kenai Peninsula. This should not be done unless there is also funding, in perpetuity, for maintenance. Logging/mining roads are much harder to maintain than recreational trails designed as trails, due to the thick alder growth in the exposed mineral soil of the roadbed, reliance on bridges and culverts, and location near rivers that can wash the trail out. Trail maintenance in South Kachemak Bay (both inside and outside the park) is largely performed by local volunteers. To be sustainable, trails need to be located where maintenance needs are smaller. A trail to the outer coast could instead be run through mountainous terrain in the Park. Additionally, trails should be created to allow access to public state land along the ridges in and around the greater Seldovia area. Most legal access routes are undeveloped and unused due to thick brush, and most access is across informal trespass trails.

The Seward State Parks Citizen Advisory Board has seven pages of comments on the Kenai Peninsula and Turnagain Arm Subregion. We worked very hard on these comments and are disappointed that this comment section is so limited. The ability to submit a PDF or unlimited number of characters would be helpful. I inserted the whole comment under "Contact Us" and hope the formatting is readable. If possible, please email me to let me know that you received our comments in their entirety.

Anchorage Municipality Subregion, Obj 7, Identified Initiatives 6) & 7). Consider the following addition: Develop world class winter sports venues to attract (and bid) on competition events. As our global winters warm up winter sport organizers will be looking for high latitude and low elevation regions to host winter sports. There is an opportunity to attract these race venues to Anchorage & Alaska. Specific sports venues to develop or improve: biathlon stadium, Nordic ski stadium, speed skating oval, Alpine ski racing, Nordic combined/ski jumping, et.al. Events: Arctic Winter Games, International Military Sports Council (CISM, in coop w/ JBER), World University Games (WUG, FISU), International Biathlon Union (World Cups, IBU Cups, Youth/Jr races), International Ski Federation (FIS, World Cup, et.al.) Lake Placid hosts WUG in 2023. Soldier Hollow hosts Biathlon WC in 2024. Other USA & Canadian venues improving infrastructure to attract international events.

Denali Subregion: Initiative 5.5 Identify Portion of the Ak. Long Trail should be delisted as the different land ownerships (Borough, DENA and Ahtna) are irreconcilable; the pollution and other impacts are chronic and profound, irrevocably changing Nature and usages in the area. Initiative 7.1 for a separate bikepath from Cantwell to Healey is highly ill-advised due to engineering and rockfall/avalanche safety challenges through the Nenana Canyon; the corridor is already overstressed and environmentally and visually degraded in places. Who really wants to ride next to all the truck, bus and RV traffic? The Denali Highway Trail Club proposals for more grooming is so sad because it has degraded the dog mushing and skiing experience on what was once such a scenic, remote wilderness corridor in the off-season. Ruining just one more relatively untouched area.

Mat-Su: Initiative 4.4 for a multiuse snowmachine winter connecting trail between Petersville to Big Lake would be an abomination given the aesthetic, noise and light degradation produced by this activity as seen by the seriously negatively impacted usage in the Caribou Hills in Denali State Pk and Natl Pk. These motorized winter trails lead to illegal off-season use by 4-wheelers that the total lack of enforcement can't stop. This motorized use ruins the trail for human-powered activity. Initiative 4.7 for the AK Long Trail study is a waste because land ownership will never be resolved. Who wants to hike through this urban corridor anyway?

Southeast - Haines area - All of the identified projects for the Haines area would be of great benefit to the community. The identified trails are in dire need of improvement. And the building of the HHAT hut north of Seven Mile Saddle will provide new recreation opportunities and a place of shelter in this unique alpine environment. In addition, the hut will increase the potential for attracting hut oriented recreational tourism. A new type of tourism for Haines area that in my opinion has a lot of potential for growth as more huts are built in the Chilkat Valley and surrounding areas.

Anchorage region Given long term warming trends and related impacts on snow cover, I would like to see more skiing options planned/developed between Hillside and Glen Alps. Some groomed ski trails similar to the Hemlock Burn bike trail would be a great asset to Anchorage and would provide amazing scenic views of the city. These trails would likely remain skiable much more consistently than Kincaid or other trails in town and would greatly expand winter options in Anchorage, especially if developed as multi-use.

Hello, I'd like to comment on the proposed bridge across the Delta River at Black Rapids. Having spent much time in this area I strongly believe a bridge will lead to destruction of the land and natural resources by seeing a large increase in motorized use. The character of the Alaska Range will also be negatively impacted by this. A bridge across the Delta is an expensive project. The river is also easily crossed by wilderness savvy people using boats and packrafts as I have many times. Please allocate the funds for this on something else. Thank you.



Hi there, Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I think the Hayes Range Bridge over the Delta River in the Greater Fairbanks subregion is a bad idea. I'd prefer that the money be spent elsewhere and that users who wish to visit that magnificent part of Alaska do so by packraft, canoe, or some other boat.
Please accept this feedback on "building a bridge across the Delta River near Black Rapids" as a vote against this idea. Let me preface my comments by saying, I am a trails man, I've hunted, fished, and trapped for 50 years while utilizing the Fielding Lake area and beyond all those years. People have hunted, researched Black Rapids Glacier, the Delta River, etc. for years. When they hunted across the Delta River in that area, they have used rafts, etc. to get across for access. The military has accessed that area for years without a bridge. Do they need one now? The State and Federal governments have little money to maintain what access areas they have now without adding more to take care of. How will this bridge add to the conservation of the area? I would be interested in learning more about why this proposal is even being considered. Please forward the specifics of this proposal to me so I can better understand the request. Respectfully...
Greater FRBKS. I have lived here for over 26 years. The identified goals and strategies (engaging as many organizations already existing) makes sense.
Greater Fairbanks subregion: Initiative 7.14, proposed Delta River Bridge. As a mountaineer, I've climbed and skied in the Hayes Range since the late 1980's, and I've crossed the Delta River in this vicinity by canoe and on skis. The bridge would be expensive, offer little benefit, and detract from the exceptional wilderness character of the eastern Hayes Range. It would not support two objectives listed in the introduction: "support the Alaskan outdoor recreation way of life," and "balance outdoor recreation with stewardship." It is quintessentially Alaskan left as is. The Delta Range to the east offers gentler, more accessible terrain. If built, the bridge is likely to increase search and rescue efforts and expense, as well as increase hunting-related law-enforcement costs. Delta Creek offers an obvious packraft circuit that will attract interest and result in trespass on Ft. Greely lands: Delta Creek has dangerous unexploded ordnance and requires special Pentagon clearance.
Greater Fairbanks subregion, objective 7, initiative 14, the Delta River Hayes Range access bridge Please don't make it any easier to access the area to the west of the river with a bridge. That part of the valley to the Alaska Range is spectacular country, naturally limited to people who have the skills to get across the river. If this is part of the new route that some people have been talking about--most notably Mike Hopper--getting across the river is one of the least of the challenges of the route. Will we put bridges everywhere on the route that presents even minimal challenge? If not, then why here? Please don't make it any easier for heavy traffic and use to trash the area or make it even harder to find game and untrammelled places. I urge you to remove initiative 7.14 from the SCORP. Thank you!
Kodiak?? This seems like a major oversight. Because it was not a subregion worked on, now there are no Kodiak initiatives in your 'list', or objectives and strategies for my area. This work should have been more inclusive and far-reaching NOW, since funding decisions are being made with results from the scorp. So for subregions not included, we have to do all that work on or own or point to the main scorp for support of our projects. Did you ask or try? This now actually makes it seem the opposite of what you (it is both exclusive AND prescriptive). Look at all the grey area. I wanted to comment on my subregion but the work does not exist. This is not good enough because it is not going to be included in this published plan: "In the areas of Alaska where working groups did not come together, the subregional processes and products that were produced as a part of this SCORP can provide a template for comparable work in those locations. See Chapter 3 for more information."
Where are the other appendices?
For the Fairbanks area, seems like there should be more investigation of skijoring, mushing and junior mushing, including consideration of the Alaska Dog Musers Association and Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association trail systems in and around Creamers Refuge and for ASPA also their grooming at Isberg Park. Also formal and informal mushing trails in Goldstream, Two Rivers and elsewhere. These trails are a tremendous resource and have had spotty government support over the years. Skijoring especially has become a popular way to get people outside in the winter. ASPA holds yearly beginner clinics that could be expanded. Junior mushers have an active organization that also gets kids out for non-motorized activities. Thanks.
Southeast: SCORP Team had no one from Petersburg (wow. not even on map!), more, smaller communities, or native organization yet the opening page emphasized that (mostly trail groups?) It says they did outreach but had 'issues'. If they started with balanced representation, then outreach/feedback would've been easier (they'd know how to get info needed). excuses? Yes, SE needs flights and ferries to keep up tourism when the cruises can't! Objectives/Strategies seem balanced (i.e. obj. 1), but initiatives seem as unbalanced as the team. i.e. it's SE and there is barely a few boating initiatives there i.e. SEatrails and maybe Shoemaker Bay? Cherry picked top priorities? A quick scan of the lists of potential partners, even objective 3, shows that projects identified are not inclusive of tribal groups except one...did they not participate in outreach efforts?.. probably needed more time. Cabins are a priority in the plan/surveys, but only one listed as initiative in all of SE?

**APPENDIX 6:**

**Public Comments**  
**on the SCORP 2023-2027 Public Review Draft**

**PART 2: COMMENTS SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL**

I finally had the chance to read through the scorp draft. You guys did a great job. My only request would be including horseback/ hike through out the document. We especially need to be on every regulatory sign at trailheads using the trails are common grounds verbiage. If it's posted that we are allowed it helps minimize conflicts among multi user groups. So many of the existing trails were started by horseback and adding the historic perspective is always appreciated. We sent in comments from the Back Country horsemen of Alaska on specific places we could be acknowledged in the draft. The word horseback was used in the opening chapter and referenced again in a study or trend. Basically we would love to be included throughout the entire draft. It keeps us relevant. We partner with many groups working on trails and are a great resource for trail maintenance, building and search and rescue. We have many great pictures if you would have room to put us in the final version.

Thank you so much for reaching out and all your hard work on this. Back country horsemen of Alaska

---

Dear Planning Team, It is great to be able to comment on this SCORP. My comments are: I like your goal of active, healthy outdoor lives. A very good way to promote that is by creating more non-motorized trails. Such trails encourage kids and adults to get on their feet to ski, snowshoe, or hike. They are also cheaper to build and maintain than trails that accommodate motorized use. Also, think about non-motorized waterways to promote rowing, canoeing, and kayaking. Another benefit of non-motorized recreation is that it is free of the emissions that harm health and increase global warming. Each community and each school should have a non-motorized trail nearby. Kids and adults should not have to travel long distances to recreate. I appreciate that the goal of making "outdoor recreation a cornerstone of Alaska's economic future" includes rural communities, many of which struggle to retain residents in the face of few economic opportunities. The state could help existing and future small businesses by facilitating bird watching, which brings in hundreds of millions of dollars to the state per year. (See <https://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/news/birdwatching/study-birders-spent-378-million-in-alaska-in-a-year/>) Viewing platforms, for instance, would be infrastructure that would give birdwatchers better views while creating less disturbance to birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. Importantly, you have made stewardship one of the goals. We must always think about how new infrastructure and its users might impact wildlife, their habitats, and subsistence uses in an era when climate change is impacting all of these. A limit on number of users could perhaps be achieved with thoughtfully-sized parking lots. Certain areas might be closed during especially vulnerable times. Trails could be routed to avoid critical breeding or feeding areas. An Office of Outdoor Recreation deserves consideration. Thanks for this opportunity to comment. ..Kenny Lake, AK

---

**The Juneau Mountain Bike Alliance (JMBA)** congratulates the state for its all-encompassing approach to developing the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. JMBA's mission is to make mountain biking better in Juneau. We promote mountain bike trail development, construction and maintenance, put on race and group ride events, teach rider courses, and bring Juneau's mountain bikers together to grow and support the sport in Juneau.

The draft 2023-2027 plan is dense with data and information that will be useful in strengthening the state's outdoor recreation portfolio. We are excited to see biking participation ranked so highly by the public and recognition by land managers that public demand for bike trails is a top priority. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this plan.

We support the recommendation to create a State Office of Outdoor Recreation. We believe additional staff capacity will give this plan a much better chance of being implemented more fully. We applaud the goal of making outdoor recreation a cornerstone of Alaska's economic future. We believe participation in biking is growing, as is corresponding demand such things as:

Neighborhood bike skills parks. Success story: Juneau Mountain Bike Alliance used CARES Act funding to build a bike skills park in downtown Juneau now heavily used by youth.

Purpose-built singletrack mountain bike trails. Success story #1: Anchorage's Hemlock Burn flow trail - a cooperative venture between nonprofit Singletrack Advocates and Chugach State Park - is proving to be a magnet for riders. Success story #2: Fairbanks' Happy Valley Singletrack Trails - a cooperative effort between the Fairbanks Cycle Club and the Department of Natural Resources - are the most popular mountain biking trails in Fairbanks and also used by others, such as runners and walkers. These are examples of a successful public-private partnership with a robust public process and local economic impact.

Fat bike events boost camaraderie and host venue economies in winter. Fat bike races are growing in popularity and have proven to be mid-winter economic boons to the communities along the race courses. Notable races include the Iditarod Trail Invitational attracts riders from around the world: the Trio Fat Bike World Championships have become a staple of Talkeetna's winter calendar and brings approximately 200 riders to town each March; the Frosty Bottom is an annual winter endurance event held entirely on the multi-use trails through Anchorage; the White Mountains 100 race on BLM land outside Fairbanks White Mountains 100 is one of several events run by Endurance North, Inc., a non-profit organization which oversees several multi-sport events in interior Alaska; capped at 150, the annual Homer Epic is a 50 km or 100 km human-powered winter race in the Caribou Hills that annually has a waiting list of riders hoping to participate. Fairbanks casual riders: Riders can connect to ride almost every day of the week thanks to Fairbanks Cycle Club and local bike retailers hosting regular, weekly social daytime or post-work night rides.

Safe, multi-modal connections between neighborhoods and communities. In progress: Alaska Outdoor Alliance's Active Transportation coalition is working to bring off the shelf recommendations found in the AK DOT Statewide Active Transportation Plan adopted in 2019

Improved winter road maintenance to provide safe travel for cyclists and pedestrians. Street plowing often leaves bike lanes and sidewalks unsafe and unpassable for bicyclists and pedestrians. Recommendation: conduct a study of this issue including cost-benefit analysis of alternatives.

Clear and consistent regulations concerning eBike access to trails, roads and backcountry. Recommendation: codify ebike types and travel regulations.

When planning trailhead facility improvements and parking expansion, please consider incorporating measures to mitigate vandalism and burglaries of personal property. Recommendation: As this problem affects all types of trail users across the state, we urge land managers to collaborate on a public relations campaign to educate trailhead visitors on how best to keep vehicles and possessions safe while they are recreating.

Request for statewide biking study. We recognize these types of improvements and actions come with costs so we ask the SCORP include a recommend the following: the cell phone tracking data falls short on identifying the purpose of recreation outings so we ask the SCORP include a recommendation to study and quantify bicycling in Alaska including establishing baseline data for participation; identify barriers and opportunities; and track economic and quality of life impacts.

With respect to infrastructure funding we ask that the SCORP strengthen messaging around these points:

Optimize opportunities to apply and secure federal funding for active transportation. Ensure the Alaska divisions of natural resources, health and

transportation make it a priority to fully utilize directed federal funding and pursue competitive federal grants to finance infrastructure and safety improvements to enable more active transportation between neighborhoods, communities, and everyday places especially schools and work.

Proactively expand access to outdoor recreation funding. Small, rural, tribal governments and nonprofits often need assistance to even consider applying for grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Federal Highways' Recreation Trails Program. We ask the SCORP to recommend the new State Office of Outdoor Recreation study ways to ensure more communities can benefit from the outdoor recreation economy. We envision examples of actions may include by providing greater awareness of grant availability and timelines, increased access to grant writing technical assistance, creating a fund that may be tapped to help provide non-federal match and short-term cash flow management assistance for federal grants.

Thank you for your consideration.

---

Write a message: Lowell Point (Seward) has terrible parking and trash issues. No enforcement in non-parking areas, createing safety issues for the residents. Residents have been trying to have this issue addressed for YEARS with no improvement.

---

Write a message: Hello, I am in favor of moving forward with scorp. It's goals align with myne as an Alaskan and someone who goes outside alot. Thank you,

---

Write a message: Not sure if this is where you comment on the plan? It was not clear. I support increased funding for the Haines Borough for new trails, trail improvements and public recreation huts.

---

Write a message: First of all, I think it is a great document, that was well written and covers a broad array of subject matter. But, as President of the Kenai Peninsula Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen's Association of Alaska, I would like to see equestrian trail users referenced and focused on more thoroughly. Many trails in Alaska were established by people who used horses for everyday purposes and many are used, and maintained, by recreational horse users today. Equestrian trail users today face issues with loss of trail accessibility, and confusion by other users on the rights and etiquette of trail use as it pertains to horses. As an organization we appreciate the opportunity to make comment and ask that our user group be recognized and considered in all phases of this plan.

---

Write a message: I'd like to send my comments in an e-mail. Will your staff give them full consideration and enter them into the record if I send them via e-mail? To what e-mail address? The automated form is very limited. Does that mean you don't want detailed comments?

---

Write a message: Dear SCORP Team, I am impressed by your amazing document! I am commenting on behalf of private landowners that live directly adjacent to State Forest in the Interior. Specifically, Objective 1 in Appendix 1 for Greater Fairbanks Subregion aims to: "Expand partnerships between different user groups that sometimes have conflicts to meet joint goals (forestry-recreation, for example)." We respectfully ask Bryant Wright, members of DNR Forestry, and

the Greater Fairbanks team to please insert into this Objective, or elsewhere in the text, a plan to communicate, consult with, and solicit feedback from, private landowners and neighborhoods for trails that fall along or near to public-private property boundaries. The reasoning for our request is highlighted by a trail proposal that directly relates to SCORP via the FNSB Updated Comprehensive Trails Plan. Our neighborhood lies adjacent to a proposed motorized connector that will link the borough's Isberg Recreation Area, via State Forest, to trail networks farther west, including the AK Long Trail. What previously was ~4 months of winter-only traffic in our area is proposed to become 12 months of motorized traffic along the State Forest-private property boundary. We also note the borough's "conceptual plan" moves portions of the proposed trail closer to private property, rather than following an existing corridor within State Forest to a point beyond our neighborhood. Residents respectfully ask to be notified and remain involved in the planning and implementation process. We have engaged with the borough over 1.5yrs and would like to engage with statewide subgroup processes on State Forest land as well. Please create mechanisms within SCORP that will facilitate reaching out and providing opportunities for the most-impacted landowners and neighborhoods. We wish to engage in regional planning and implementation efforts near our homes in the State Forest. The future worries us, because it is so full of unknowns. We see potentially high-magnitude impacts for our area, but nothing in the SCORP currently addresses our concern that we might simply be left in the dark. I look forward to hearing from you, so I can communicate back to my neighbors. Thank you, Julie Hagelin (on behalf of the West Isberg Rd neighborhood, Cripple Creek Subdivision, Fairbanks).

---

Write a message: I support the creation of a statewide Office of Outdoor Recreation. With so many agencies in charge of land in this state this seems like a good way to facilitate cooperation. I would like to see monies spent on non-motorized recreation. It will improve the health of our population if there are more opportunities for Hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, and kayaking and the infrastructure to support them. Also, non-motorized recreation contributes far less carbon emissions. And, at least in Homer, non-motorized recreation is a huge driver in tourism-kayaking, bird-watching, hiking, and snowshoeing/skiing all bring tourists here who enjoy quiet time in the outdoors. I'd love to see trails built near schools as this encourages kids to recreate and also makes use of parking areas in the summer when schools are not in session. Alaska's State park campgrounds could also use some funding for upgrades and maintenance. Thanks for your time and consideration!

---

Write a message: I fully support better state organization to promote non-motorized outdoor recreational resources.

---

Write a message: Call me to discuss the backbone of an Alaskan Trail. I've hiked from Cordova to Gustavus twice and found it enchanting and ten times the Appalachian Trail in terms of wilderness and beauty.

---

Write a message: Please call to discuss the backbone of an Alaskan coastal trail. It's like San Fransisco - San Diego must have been 400 years ago (with the addition of glaciers and the tallest mountains in North America)

---

Write a message: The plan seems to focus on hikers and ignores atv trails. The money should be spent equally between both types of trails.

---

---

Write a message: A viable outdoor recreation opportunity that could attract international travelers, big race venues, and athletes to Alaska in the winter months is biathlon. The biathlon sport is the 2nd most popular viewed sport in Europe and is expanding across the globe. Anchorage's consistent snow, low altitude and tourist infrastructure make us an ideal sports venue location. This objective would require additional sport infrastructure improvements.

---

Write a message: Fund ferries, mainliners from Bellingham and Rupert!! Fund snow-plowing of pullouts along coastal beaches, and rivers, and trailheads. Plow berms to allow access to trails and beaches. More trails. Maintain wildlife/habitat/watershed protection. Outdoor recreation a solid investment in Alaska's future.. including wildlife, habitat, watershed protection. Please focus on quiet recreation, wildlife, habitat, watershed protection. Parking, trails accessible to elders, families, people with dogs.

---

First of all, this is a great document. I am, however, extremely disappointed in the lack of attention to Chugiak-Eagle River.

Although technically a part of Anchorage, we have our own Parks and Recreation Department and our own local trail organizations. None of the members of the Anchorage Subregion SCORP Team represent Chugiak-Eagle River, and our priority projects are missing from the SCORP draft.

Potential partners to consider in Chugiak-Eagle River area include Chugiak Dog Musher's Association, Chugach Mountain Bike Riders, Chugiak-Eagle River Nordic Ski Club, Friends of Eagle River Nature Center and the Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce.

The main recreational goal of our community at the moment is to develop a network of greenbelt trails. The only "recreational trail" included in the SCORP is a proposed bike path along the Glenn Highway. While this is important active transportation corridor connecting Anchorage to the Mat-Su, it doesn't connect Chugiak to Eagle River. Currently, the only significant multiuse trails in Chugiak-Eagle River are along roads, and while valuable, these do not provide a high recreational value. In contrast, Anchorage has Chester Creek, Campbell Creek, and Coastal Trails, all separate from roads, along creeks or Cook Inlet.

Please add the "Northern Extension of the Coastal Trail" connecting Eagle River to Eklutna as a priority project for Chugiak-Eagle River. We also would appreciate adding the Eagle River Greenbelt Trail as a project. These two greenbelt trails will follow the historic Iditarod Trail and connect the Eagle River Nature Center to the Native Village of Eklutna. The majority of this route is already in public ownership, or has public access easements. We at Chugach Mountain Bike Riders are in the public process to begin construction on the Northern Extension of the Coastal Trail in 2023.

Thank you. *Chugach Mountain Bike Riders (CMBR)*

---

Write a message: I would like to see more funding of state trails, parks and public-use cabins in the Haines Borough. Thank you.

---

Write a message: Outdoor recreation is important to all citizens and visitors of Alaska. Our stunningly beautiful lands are so valuable and important to our physical and mental health, our economic vitality, and the global welfare of our planet. Maintaining current trails and creating new ones helps sustain the most valuable benefit to life in Haines.

---

Write a message: The plan is smart and inspiring. What is lacks is a financial component that answers the question of how we will fund it. Until the Bureaucracy, the Legislature and the Governor make a commitment to finance the plan, it is a disingenuous process. We cannot pretend to "Make Outdoor Recreation a Cornerstone of Alaska's Economic Future" (Ch 4., Goal 2) without financial commitment. I live in Haines, AK, where the state has closed two parks, limited entry to a third and refuses to maintain road access to a fourth. There is something seriously wrong with how we prioritize and manage our outdoor recreational assets. I have no faith that the current political climate will allow this plan to take shape.

---

Write a message: Dear Planners, I'm going to make only one point, because I want it to be very emphatic: Alaskan public land managers, certainly including State of Alaska land managers, have done a very poor job of providing high quality, accessible opportunities for quiet, muscle powered recreation. The state needs to establish many more accessible trails and areas closed to motorized recreation and the impacts of that recreation on non-motorized users, the soundscape, fish and wildlife and their habitat, soils, vegetation, scenic beauty, and wildlands. Multiple use is not truly multiple, as non-motorized users are displaced from these areas due to the very substantial conflicts and impacts from motorized recreation. More accessible non-motorized trails areas, PLEASE! Thank you for this chance to comment on the 2023-27 SCORP. ... Kenny Lake, AK

---

Write a message: I read and appreciated the summary; very much agree that how we handle our outdoor recreating will have huge impacts. It could/should be one of the new revenue streams we've been saying for decades we desperately need but when you stop on a potholed road at an outhouse that is closed with toilet paper all around, it really gives a negative message that is likely to be passed along as, 'Don't bother with Alaska for a vacation.' People want to see what we love. I figure we know how to do that; what we need is to invest in providing amazing and unique experiences for visitors from AK or Outside. I would also like to promote what I'd like to see as an elder raised by a woman who homesteaded by herself in the 40s and passed on an immense love\* for wild Alaska. I have used a snow-machine for fun, for work, for hunting BUT there should be spaces that do not include these things that are so noisy and stinky that they cancel the wilderness for people to who feel that way. Stretches along roads should be snow-machine free so natural views are plentiful. I'd like quiet places I could go without engine noise. And places that I could take my dogs off-leash. My husband has been a hunter ever since. He has provided his family with meat, and it is our way of living in a rural area. He likes to hunt on foot and goes on incredible adventures, meaning way into the back country. He opts to not kill cows, he is meticulous about the meat and rules. But he is having a harder and harder time getting meat because the game is pushed back so far by 4-wheelers. It'd be nice to provide places for people like this that don't cost too much for someone with this lifestyle. I'm thinking of some of the big, outlandish hunting rigs that come to our area to subsistence hunt -LOLing here. \*The homestead is a nature preserve, and we moved farther out.

---

Write a message: As a business owner/operator with inholding property in The Chugach National Forest, I see firsthand some of the most needed infrastructure needs to support all concerned. Our business is in Hope, Ak. We are literally the backyard playground for most of the Kenai, Seward, and Anchorage. The biggest need is infrastructure. Biking, Biking, mining, fishing, camping, and rafting are ever growing areas of interest from State and out of state visitors. While our highways are receiving updated improvements to fill future needs, we need to look at our byways and backroads leading to trailheads. We also need to consider expanding trailheads and servicing and updating the quality of roads leading to the trailheads. Biking on our trails as well as hiking has received world attention and yet, our byway into Hope is narrow and does not provide for room for people to safely commute with a bike. Our trailhead at Resurrection Pass is lacking room to park and the forestry doesn't have the money to maintain the rd from where borough property ends to where fed rd begins to access a very



popular trailhead. My husband and I spend countless hrs and money maintaining this area. The borough rd is barely maintained, is narrow, most of the gravel is gone and it is down to silt which creates tons of dust in the summer. The entire rd needs to be widened and paved w bike/ Walking paths next to it. The Palmer creek rd and scenic outpost at the top needs a real parking lot expanded for expanded use and bathroom facilities. Palmer creek has become The kenai peninsula's Hatcher Pass. It is a must see when visiting Hope. I am excited about of future as tourism is so ever growing, but I see major infrastructure needs for our ever grown tourism in our small town.

---

Write a message: DOTPF may have additional observations on the MatSu subarea that contrasts with what is written for Anchorage.

---

Write a message: My internet service is too slow to open the doc, but I do have one major comment: Please make sure your plans include adequate parking. So many trailheads do not have adequate parking. Thank you.

---

Write a message: Thank you so much for this effort. There are so many points in this document that are spot on. How can we get the Alaska Legislature to invest in these simplest of ways to boost the state's economy? The rest of the world looks toward Alaska as a refuge of sorts, and why the hell not? We have the animals, the landscape, the wild lands and the opportunities for people to connect with the outdoors in ways unparalleled in the Lower 48. How do we get Alaska's political leaders to appreciate the state's assets for what they are? A money-machine that can pay dividends potentially exponential to what they're paying now, if only our leaders had the courage and foresight to embrace that. Living in Alaska is a great privilege but our generation will be judged by what we did with the opportunities the state afforded us. Unless the State of Alaska starts making dramatic improvements to outdoor recreation and infrastructure, history will treat us harshly. They'll give points to the past generation of leaders who created these parks and facilities, but they're flunk us for abandoning our obligations to maintaining, improving and expanding these treasures.

---

Write a message: I live in Haines where a lack of trails and public use cabins hamper the outdoor enthusiast and deter young people from moving here. Despite our incredible scenery and abundance of wildlife, we are woefully behind in getting access to many areas due to a lack of trails. We have one cabin that can be used seasonally by the public. We need more cabins that are accessible to the general population and not just for those that have boats. Cabins could be built at Battery Point, Seduction Point, Lily Lake, 25 mile Haines Highway, Mosquito Lake, just to name a few possible locations. A trail from Viking Cover at Mud bay around Seduction Point would create an amazing loop trail that would benefit both locals and tourists. There could be spur trails to the ridge for world-class views. A cabin at Seduction Pt would benefit hikers as a rest spot or an overnight stay. The possibilities are endless and Haines deserves the same opportunities as our more affluent neighbors. I fully support more trails and the building of at least two or three public use cabins that are open for year round use. Thanks for your time.

---

Write a message: Please consider the proposed Alaska Long Trail as you develop this plan.

---

Write a message: Submitted SCORP comment. Appendix, Sec 1, MAT-SU

---

Write a message: Hello, I would like to thank those who are working toward improving Alaskan's recreational opportunities! Several things that I think the State should offer are: 1) Maintained bathrooms on the Glenn, Parks and Richardson highways. I know this requires a lot of driving or perhaps hiring locals to clean and maintain these facilities, however can't we allow our citizens (AND GUESTS) the luxury of a toilet seat rather than bearing all at -20F?? 2) My next suggestion is to have more of the federal and state recreational monies go toward important life needs: ACCESS to our homes/cabins/jobs and INCOME to live in and enjoy Alaska. More monies should go to snowmachine clubs and grooming entities. Every snowmobiler spends hundreds of dollars each and many spend thousands of dollars each in purchasing machines, fuel, trailers, winter gear, groceries, and stopping at restaurants and/or paying for accommodations for their trips. The state's snowmobile clubs and others help set trails for residents who live remotely, skiers, walkers, mushers and their own use. The millions and millions of dollars spent by snowmobilers provides for business bases: gasoline stations, restaurants, lodges/hotels, grocery stores and merchants selling products for outdoor activity: snow machines, trailers, fat tire bikes, dog sleds, ski equipment, etc. Please dramatically increase funding for our winter grooming and the snowmachine clubs who allow Alaskans and outside visitors an opportunity to recreate in our great state. The better maintained trails and perhaps new trails will provide a win-win for outdoor enthusiasts and merchants. Thank you.

---

Write a message: Please let me know if I can help or learn more about the program.

---

Write a message: I am completely in favor of this sort of development. I am a birder and appreciate access to birding sites. Planning which facilitates access for birders is very important and also decreases our collective impact on the surrounding habitat area, wilderness. Good trails to birding sites are also important; good access to wetland areas that are not harmful to the wetland itself is especially important. Birders are important economically to communities because they need housing, stores, restaurants, gas, and sometimes guides and/or use of water-taxis, etc.

---

The online form limit of 1000 characters for submitting input on Appendix 1 of SCORP is highly inadequate and frustration. After composing the following comments, I had to create multiple disconnected form submissions to share feedback. Please add the following to Public Comments on Appendix 1 , Greater Fairbanks Subregion, and confirm that my comments have been received and incorporated.

I very much appreciate the work and scope of the SCORP and support the majority of the projects identified within. **I do have one major concern that is identified in Appendix 1 – Greater Fairbanks section, Initiative 7.14 “ Delta River Hayes Range access bridge”. I am strongly opposed to this particular initiative.**

Please consider that the proposed Hayes Range Access Bridge be removed from the SCORP. Also please consider improving non-motorized rivercraft access to various locations along the Delta River between Phelan Creek and the Donnelly Wayside

Rather than meeting the stated objective of “Develop(ing) facilities at popular parks, trails and water bodies to improve access and reduce impact”, I believe that the proposed bridge will result in significant negative impacts to areas on the west side of the Delta River. Further, I don’t think that there has been any attempt to assess these impacts. The proposed access bridge represents a major and irreversible change the customary and traditional nature and use of this area.

I have recreated in the eastern Alaska Range extensively over the past four decades that I have lived in interior Alaska. In addition to living in the hills outside of Fairbanks, my family owns and regularly uses a cabin in the Donnelly subdivision opposite McGinnis Creek. I have explored and recreated in and on the mountains, glaciers, valleys and rivers of the Hayes Range and Delta Mountains extensively.

In contrast to the highly commercialized and developed “Glitter Gulch” along the Nenana River canyon outside of Denali National Park, the Delta River Valley through which the pipeline and Richardson Highway currently provides access to a much more natural and unspoiled outdoor experience as it passes through the Alaska Range.

The Delta River, from its headwaters, through the wild and scenic section and all the way to its confluence with the Tanana at Big Delta remains free of bridges over its entire length. I have skied, climbed, and paddled in the Hayes Range west of the Delta, and believe that traditional access by watercraft, ski, and aircraft help to protect and preserve the quality of wild outdoor experiences in that area. I have kayaked, rafted, and packrafted on the Delta River, including the sections from Rainbow Mountain through Black Rapids and to McGinnis Creek. I have also paddled Phelan Creek, McCallum Creek, Black Rapids Creek, McGinnis Creek and Jarvis Creek. I have skied, skijored, snowshoed and snowmachined across the Delta at a number of locations between Rainbow Mountain and McGinnis Creek. I have also flown into and skied out from the upper Black Rapids glacier. I believe that traditional access methods to this area are adequate, and help to preserve the wilderness, wildlife, and scenic nature of that section of the range.

The Delta River flood plain is summer habitat to the bison herd. They regularly utilize the area directly across the Delta river from the proposed bridge site. The western side of the valley also provides extensive habitat for moose, caribou, dall sheep, wolf, coyote and grizzly bear. I do not believe that impacts on these populations or their habitats have been considered at all in the SCORP scoping process or by proponents of the Hayes Range access bridge near Black Rapids.

The proximity of the proposed bridge to the Northern Warfare Training Center make it highly likely that the area would be see future use for military training exercises, which would have unavoidable impacts on other users.

The stretch of the Delta River from Rainbow Mountain near Phelan Creek confluence to Darling Creek is incredibly scenic and offers class II to III+ whitewater boating experiences that are in sections comparable to the popular and commercially run stretches of the Nenana and Matanuska rivers. Unfortunately, public access to put-in and take out locations is difficult on this section, especially for rafts with rowing frames.

I believe that creating better access to put-in and take-out points for non-motorized boating is much more cost effective than construction of an access bridge across the Delta and associated parking. This would help meet the plan’s objectives of providing increased access recreational opportunities including recreation on the west side of the Delta River valley with considerably less impact on the area’s resources. It could also help meet the goal of “Increas(ing) quantity and frequency of roadside rest stops and restroom facilities”. River access points could be created in conjunction with Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Richardson Highway Corridor plan. Better access could be provided near the following locations:

- Near Rainbow Mountain downstream of Phelan Creek
- Near Whistler or Boulder Creek upstream of the Black rapids section
- Near the NWTC and Black Rapids Lodge downstream of Black Rapids Creek Confluence.
- Near Darling Creek opposite of the drainage between Black Rapids and McGinnis Creeks

- Near Donnelly Creek Wayside

The rapid increase in availability of affordability of lightweight inflatable packrafts, kayaks, and rafts make it reasonable to access lands west of the Delta without compromising the natural the qualities of the area.

Please consider public input urging that the proposed Hayes Range Access Bridge be removed from the SCORP. Also please consider improving non-motorized rivercraft access to the Delta River at various locations between Phelan Creek and the Donnelly Wayside.

---

Write a message: This report is vastly missing the opportunities on the eastern Kenai Peninsula!

---

Write a message: re: Greater Fairbanks Subregion, Delta River Hayes Range access bridge, Please use the money elsewhere to preserve the wilderness character of the Hayes Range without a bridge.

---

Write a message: More biking trails!

---

Write a message: The state needs more mountain bike trails. Trails bring in more tourism and encourage young professionals to move to Alaska. Bikers also clean up and maintain trails.

---

Write a message: Please keep me updated on the SCORP process. I will submit comments in another place.

---

Write a message: Thank you for your hard work on this plan. Anchorage Park Foundation was proud to participate in meetings on the Anchorage portion of the plan. The Chapter 3 Regional Outdoor Recreation Resources Overview; Section B5 Southcentral Alaska; Anchorage Municipality section opens with "more collaboration and improved facilities are needed to reach the area's potential and deliver a more extensive, diverse, and appealing set of year-round outdoor experiences, for both residents and visitors." We strongly believe parks and trails are economic drivers for greater Anchorage and that Chugach State Park access and improvements are critical for Anchorage's economic future. Specifically on the funding shortfalls section it would be great to add support for the creation of a new Municipality of Anchorage service area district that could be placed before Anchorage voters to support improvements to Chugach State Park

in the Municipality of Anchorage. The Anchorage Hillside, Seward Highway from Potter Marsh to Girdwood and Arctic Valley are in the Muni of Anchorage yet they lie outside of the jurisdiction of the AMATS boundary and for the annual parks and recreation bond. Please add this to funding opportunities. Another long-term idea for funding is the creation of Alaska's 2nd National Heritage Area for the Anchorage region. NHA's are congressionally designated for areas that have local stories of national importance that should be told. We are raising funds to get the NPS-approved study for this region completed. If designated, it could be a source for up to \$500,000 of federal funds annually. Lastly, we strongly believe that it's time for Alaska politicians to invest more in parks and trails maintenance. We will continue to advocate for more state and private funding for Alaska State Parks.

---

Write a message: I just heard about this (am traveling). But only received Word from a Denali Borough email that wasn't sent out until Nov. 22nd:). I am bummed there wasn't more information and advertising for this. I really would love wide hiking, bicycle trails for around Healy, beside or just a ways in from the Parks highway and down the Spur road. It is miserable trying to ride a bicycle with narrow shoulder, rocks, etc along highway. I'm in my 60s. Thanks. I don't even mind that in winter snowmobiles carefully go on them as they help with winter walking.

---

Dear Mssrs.,

Thank you Two for answering all my questions. Herein are submitted my comments on Chapter 1; couldn't fit in the little box.

Comments on Appendix 1: Subregional Objectives & Examples- Greater Fairbanks, to be forthcoming.

I'm a retired geologist and field scientist. My wife and I have enjoyed a cabin on Michael Creek, MP 291 Richardson, for over forty years. We are human-powered backcountry users, especially there, in all seasons. That's why we are so concerned re a proposed bridge over the Delta River at Black Rapids. It would dramatically change the customary and traditional nature and usage in the area. As secretary for our group, the Denali Dryads, of local property owners and longtime users of the area, I have ~40 signers to our opposition petition. There is a lot of change in the area with the GVEA power line extension, this bridge suggestion, Highway department realignment and general tourism.

Thanks for your work. SCORP Draft is such a challenge.

---

To SCORP Staff,

The Alaska SCORP Draft 2023-2027 is a polished attempt to seek balance of competing themes. Five of the seven goals are economically driven. Only part of one goal is stewardship. Inevitably, with infrastructure development as espoused in this plan, preservation of natural settings will suffer. Preservation is slighted as a goal.

In particular, Goal 5's stewardship has repeatedly failed in Alaska due to limited management, less maintenance and no enforcement. To propose new building projects without first addressing existing needs of present trails and facilities is poor stewardship.

Though adhering to State law, aggregating authentic subsistence activities with sport fishing and hunting is erroneous. Need, place of residence, frequency and intensity of practices and cultural background make profound differences between the two lifestyles. Lobbying for a verifiable one so as to promote the other elective one is unacceptable.

In this vein, the omission of any Alaska Native/tribal organization in the writing of this document is damning. (Yes, there was a widespread survey, but it was generalized and probably dismissed by strapped Native entities.) Where at least is the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game, Div. of Subsistence input? (Addressing land access and usage in subsistence areas for some of these trails is problematic.)

The recurrent, commercial exploitative tone of the document is unpalatable. Discussion of a philosophy for limited action alternatives which do have economic benefits through modest rehabilitation, serious maintenance and year-round enforcement (the latter aspect unaddressed anywhere in the plan, a serious omission) is absent. Proposal of some of the large projects is self-serving for some of the drafters. (And this raises the confusion over legal applicants vs. non-profits or private entities which are not parks or governmental bodies. How can the latter meet the “long-term custodial “ requirement for the LWCF projects?) Sadly, many of the initiatives will only degrade the natural world aesthetically, environmentally and spiritually, counter to what is an overall, lengthy benefit.

Is there another more equitable way to distribute the appointment of ORTAB members by the head of DPOR other than motorized and human-powered ? No environmental advocates?

It would be helpful to see an actual scoring sheet for proposals and learn the weighting distribution for different criteria. There may not be consensus here.

DPOR or the Governor’s Office has a great deal of leeway in manipulating minimum and maximum amounts of LCWF awards and proportions of 50/50 splits of funds and matching funds. Consideration should be made for a review or appeals process, not only by applicants, but also critics.

Opportunity for public comment on the use of these public funds appears to be limited to two instances; consider expanding .

Calling this plan representative of all Alaskan sectors is fallacious. No hunting (except for one), fishing or trapping organizations; no environmental organizations (such as the Sierra Club Alaskan chapter or the Wilderness Society); nor conservation organizations ( National Parks Conservation Association, the Nature Conservancy Alaska office, the World Wildlife Fund Alaska section or the Audubon Society ) participated in creating this draft.

It is recommended that the SCORP process be delayed; this Draft be rewritten to include the above groups and themes; and that the scope and consequences of the plan be more in keeping with what makes Alaska unique, not trying to make it resemble other models in the world, thereby prostituting it. “Alaska for Alaskans” is not meaningfully met in the current draft document.

[Realistically, however, this recommendation is unlikely to be implemented because the federal funds are slated for distribution, the SCORP process is already behind schedule, the tourism and motorized-vehicle industry lobbies are juggernauts and the State Administration favors it all (“Alaska is open for business”). Only a legal challenge might cause a pause, but this course is uncertain and expensive, to save an entity that can be sacrificed anyway for “progress” in the eyes of the general public.

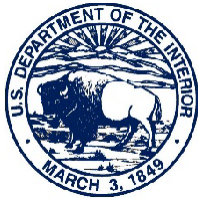
“Sustainable development” is an impossibility due to overpopulation. But readers of this comment are likely to be “ostriches.”]

---

**APPENDIX 6:**

**Public Comments**  
**on the SCORP 2023-2027 Public Review Draft**

**PART 3: LETTERS**



# United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Northern Alaska Fish and Wildlife Field Office  
101 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Room 110  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
November 28, 2022



**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL, NO HARD COPY TO FOLLOW**

Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation  
Attn: [info@alaskascorp.org](mailto:info@alaskascorp.org)  
Atwood Building  
550 West 7th Avenue  
Suite 1380  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Alaska 2023 – 2027 Statewide  
Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan  
(SCORP)

Dear SCORP Feedback Review Team:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) appreciates the opportunity to review and provide comments for the Alaska 2023 – 2027 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). We understand this plan fulfills a requirement for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) project application to qualify for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) opportunities. We also believe the SCORP has the potential to guide outdoor recreation development decisions in the state for the next five years and would like to provide recommendations for how the plan can also be used to promote conservation of fish and wildlife habitat in the great Alaskan outdoors while recreating.

The Service finds the plan itself is very well done and appreciates the wetland section in Chapter 1, Section C2. We would like to contribute thoughts on including recreator and planner BMPs in GOAL 5: Balancing Outdoor Recreation Growth and Stewardship.

Migratory Birds: The Service appreciates any voluntary measures employed to avoid disturbing migratory bird nesting habitat during the nesting season when nests and nestlings are most vulnerable. The most effective BMP to help minimize impacts to nesting birds is to conduct land disturbing activities (e.g., trail maintenance, vegetation clearing, excavation, gravel fill, brush hogging, etc.) before or after the breeding season, which varies across the state.<sup>1</sup> Raptors, such as owls, hawks, and eagles, may nest two or more months earlier than other birds, so late summer through mid-winter activities to make the site unsuitable for breeding birds would be preferred in forests and for cliff ledges.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fws.gov/alaska-bird-nesting-season>



Eagles: Bald and Golden eagles have additional protections under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Their nests, in particular, are protected year-round regardless of nesting activity. Both species are found throughout the state in suitable habitat.<sup>1</sup> The Service recommends locating eagle nests within potential trail development/maintenance areas so they can be avoided during the development/maintenance activities.

The Service offers the following BMPs to help protect eagles during trail development/maintenance activities<sup>2</sup>:

- Activities should be kept as far away from nest trees as possible; loud and disruptive activities should be conducted when eagles are not nesting; and activities between the nest and the nearest foraging area should be minimized.
- Avoid clear cutting or removal of overstory trees within 330 feet of the nest at any time of the year.
- Avoid development/maintenance operations (e.g., chainsaw and clearing) within 660 feet of the nest during the eagle breeding season (March 1 to August 31 in Interior Alaska).
- Selective thinning and other silviculture management practices designed to conserve or enhance habitat, including prescribed burning close to a nest tree, should be undertaken outside the breeding season. The Service should be consulted before any prescribed burning is conducted during the breeding season.

Erosion Control: We do not recommend using synthetic monofilament (plastic) mesh/netted erosion control materials anywhere along trails, especially in or near sensitive wildlife habitat. Prior to degradation, synthetic netting can entangle wildlife, including amphibians, birds, and small mammals. In addition, while some synthetic netting is considered degradable (not biodegradable), once the plastic does degrade (which takes many years, especially in cold climates) it does not decompose into biological components of the soil. Instead, the plastic degrades into small fragments, which are blown or washed into waterways creating a toxic ingestion hazard for aquatic animals for many years. To minimize wildlife entanglement and plastic debris pollution, we recommend using plastic-free erosion and sediment control products such as netting manufactured from 100-percent biodegradable materials like jute, sisal, or coir fiber. Plastic products for erosion control should be avoided when practical.

Invasive Species: Invasive species pose a threat to fish, wildlife, and their habitats by outcompeting and extinguishing native species, resulting in monoculture habitats. Unlike most of the country, the Alaska climate and limited access to remote areas previously minimized the potential for introducing and proliferating invasive species in the state. However, these barriers are no longer as effective due to a warming climate and improved access. Special precautions are now needed to ensure protection from invasive species.

The Service recommends implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) for minimizing the introduction and transport of invasive species into and out of the project area. Prevention is the most critical aspect of invasive species management, including winter months. BMPs can include thoroughly washing recreation equipment before entering a new area to remove dirt and

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fws.gov/office/alaska-migratory-birds/eagles-and-raptors>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>

debris that may harbor invasive plant seeds and propagules, using weed-free straw during winter dog-sled adventures, and removing plant parts from boats prior to leaving the area to reduce propagation of invasives like Elodea. For example, in 2020, the Kenai Peninsula Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) initiated boot brush stations in Homer.<sup>1</sup> Other practices may include using certified weed-free erosion control materials, appropriately disposing of spoil and vegetation contaminated with invasive species and revegetating with local native plant species. Further, BMP's may also include invasive species education for staff and contractors, using weed-free erosion control products, employing management strategies that anticipate and suppress secondary invaders while rapidly restoring native plants to fill the space vacated by invasive species control, and developing a monitoring and treatment plan.

Please refer to <http://aknhp.uaa.alaska.edu/maps/akepic/> for the location of non-native invasive species within the project area, with the understanding that lack of information does not equate to the potential absence of invasives at the location. To enhance on-the-ground knowledge of invasive species management, we recommend project contractors review a free self-paced training course on invasive species control, which can be found at <http://weedcontrol.open.uaf.edu/>. Additional BMPs can be found at the UAF Cooperative Extension Service by searching for “invasive” at <http://cespubs.uaf.edu/publications>.

**Conclusion:** We appreciate this opportunity for comment, and we would welcome an opportunity to discuss our comments with you. Please contact Amal Ajmi at 907-456-0324 or [amal\\_ajmi@fws.gov](mailto:amal_ajmi@fws.gov) should you have any questions concerning these comments.

Sincerely,

**ROBERT  
HENSZEY**

Robert J. Henszey  
Branch Manager,  
Conservation Planning Assistance

Digitally signed by ROBERT  
HENSZEY  
Date: 2022.11.28 12:59:21  
-09'00'

ecc: Zach Babb ([zachary\\_babb@nps.gov](mailto:zachary_babb@nps.gov)), RTCA Program Leader, Anchorage  
Doug Cooper ([douglass\\_cooper@fws.gov](mailto:douglass_cooper@fws.gov)), SAFWFO, Anchorage

<sup>1</sup> <https://kenaiinvasives.org/terrestrial/hikers-prevent-the-spread-with-new-boot-brushes/>

# Seward State Parks Citizen Advisory Board

*The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation provides outdoor recreation opportunities and conserves and interprets natural, cultural, and historic resources for the use, enjoyment, and welfare of the people.*



November 23, 2022

SCORP 2023-2027 Draft Comments  
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation  
<https://www.alaskascorp.org/>

DPOR Director Ricky Gease [ricky.gease@alaska.gov](mailto:ricky.gease@alaska.gov)

RE: Kenai Peninsula and Turnagain Arm Subregion  
[https://www.alaskascorp.org/files/ugd/76c42e\\_0dc7e3e457794b38a4ec55ca560e5f6c.pdf](https://www.alaskascorp.org/files/ugd/76c42e_0dc7e3e457794b38a4ec55ca560e5f6c.pdf)

Dear DPOR Director Gease and Kenai Peninsula Subregion SCORP Team,

The Seward State Parks Citizen Advisory Board reviewed the draft plan for the Seward area at our November 16, 2022 Board meeting. We have several concerns and many comments.

An overall comment is that the Kenai Peninsula is considered Anchorage's playground, as advertised by the Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council. As such, it would be beneficial to seek support from the largest population center through outreach via public radio PSAs, social media, public land websites, newspapers, etc for funding by donations, endowments, PFD contributions, annual pass sales, etc.

Consider using either US Forest Service or Chugach National Forest for consistency, not "Chugach Forest Service".

## **Specific section comments:**

### **Subregional Description and Overarching Priorities**

Paragraph 1:

Suggest deleting "long" beaches as even short beaches can provide satisfying recreation. Suggest adding "ocean" after "fjords" as not all saltwater recreation occurs in fjords.

Paragraph 2:

Public lands, including Alaska State Parks, are an economic engine state-wide, yet the federal government, and especially the state, do not recognize the need to provide funding for adequate staff, maintenance, and infrastructure. Friends groups, where they exist, and local volunteers should not be responsible for major funding. Suggest encouraging lobbying for the federal government and state to step up and support the understaffed and underfunded land managers. Should there be a user fee for users of public lands besides parking? Higher fees for commercial permits? Higher fees for parking and annual passes? Special public lands stamp sales? Dedicated sales tax like that for conservation funding?

Creation of a Kenai Peninsula-wide, or region-wide Friends of Public Lands 501c3 organization with chapters that smaller communities could join would be very helpful. Seward has tried unsuccessfully for many years to create a Friends of Seward Area State Parks group, but the pool of local volunteers is very small and overbooked. Without a Friends group, donations go to the State general fund instead of to our local state park units.

Paragraph 3:

Our Board is interested in more information on the KPB Trails Committee when it reforms. Suggest correcting statewide Goal 7 to Goal 1.

Paragraph 4:

The emphasis on land trails should be expanded to include freshwater river and lake trails, and marine trails (Resurrection Bay and Prince William Sound), and other recreation that may occur on, or away from, trails and throughout the year (see Strengths and Assets.)

Recreational opportunities, economic development, and tourism should include the Seward Highway on the Eastern Kenai Peninsula, an All-American Road, Alaska Scenic Byway, and US Forest Service Scenic Byway. The Sterling Highway is a Scenic Byway. Skilak Lake Road provides an 18-mile scenic alternate and winds through the Skilak Lake Special Management Area providing camping, canoeing, wildlife viewing, and fishing opportunities.

Also consider partnering with the Alaska Railroad to promote public lands and provide interpretation and stewardship messaging from Fairbanks to Anchorage, Whittier, and Seward.

Include the Alaska Marine Highway, an All-American Road since 2005, to experience Alaska by ferry, explore the communities served by the byway, learn about Alaska indigenous and modern culture, fascinating history, spectacular scenery, and see whales, glaciers, rare birds, and sea lions from the deck.

<https://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/scenic/about.shtml>

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/byways/byways/12398>

<https://scenicbyways.info/byway/2347.html>

### **Members of the Kenai Subregion SCORP Team**

For consistency and clarity, correct to Kenai **Peninsula** Subregion.

The Board is very concerned about the lack of representation for the Seward area. The Eastern Kenai Peninsula overall is under-represented. State Parks Superintendent Jack Blackwell is the only member on the Team representing the Seward area, for state parks. Hope and Moose Pass are not represented other than USFS. There are no representatives in the Seward area from Kenai Fjords National Park or the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. Our population may be small, but our extensive public lands are very popular with Alaskans and tourists, overwhelming our infrastructure and small staff.

Whittier and Homer have council member representatives. Homer has their public works supervisor, Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, Friends of Kachemak Bay State Parks, Homer Snomads, and Ground Truth Trekking. Cooper Landing has Cooper Landing Trails. Girdwood has the Girdwood Nordic Ski Club. Even Anchorage has the Municipality and UAA.

The Board is interested to know how Seward representatives could join the team, participate in the process, and provide feedback.

Potential Team members and/or partners in the Eastern Kenai Peninsula and Seward area include the City of Seward, Seward Nordic Ski Club, Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers, the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, Seward Independent Living Center, Seward Senior Center, Seward Boys and Girls Club, local businesses, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, Bureau of Land Management, Iditarod National Historic Trail, State of Alaska (general use land), DOT (Scenic Highways, Byways, All-American Roads), and the Alaska Railroad.

Consider inviting Tsalteshi Ski Trails Association from Soldotna, featuring world-class ski and multi-use trails, the Alaska Trails organization <https://www.alaska-trails.org/area>, Rotary Clubs, Kenai Wildlife Refuge, and the Alaska Marine Highway to participate.

### **Strengths and Assets of Subregional Outdoor Recreation**

Again, the focus is only on trails, mostly land trails. Add waterways, highways and byways, rail and air.

“A variety of 4-season activities” also includes berry-picking, kayaking, paddleboarding, surfing, kite sailing, boating, photography, nature journaling, wildlife viewing, bird-watching, flightseeing, camping, horseback riding, dogsledding, back-country skiing, cross-country skiing, heli-skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, snow-machining, ice skating, ice-fishing, aurora-viewing, etc.

Diverse land **and marine** management resources: add Alaska State Parks, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, Kenai Wildlife Refuge and Bureau of Land Management, Iditarod National Historic Trail, State of Alaska (general use land), DOT (Scenic Highways, By-ways, All-American Roads), Alaska Marine Highway, Alaska Railroad.

The Kenai Peninsula boasts the start of the Iditarod National Historic Trail **and the INHT-Southern Trek stretching 120 miles from Seward to Girdwood.**

Suggest adding bullets here about the Seward Highway, Sterling Highway, Skilak Lake Road, the Alaska Marine Highway (see above), and the Alaska Railroad as strengths and assets.

### **Challenges and Obstacles Impacting Subregional Outdoor Recreation**

Many public lands have exceeded their carrying capacity, leading to destruction of cultural and natural resources. More visitation to these popular and fragile ecosystems is not necessarily a benefit. Instead of focusing on attracting more visitation, ever-larger parking lots that destroy habitat, more toilets, more trash cans, and other expensive infrastructure, discuss how to manage use and visitation within the limits of the resource. The backlog of deferred maintenance of existing trails and public-use cabins

should be tackled before new trails and PUCs are built. Perhaps lower maintenance, lower cost tent platforms would suffice instead of new PUCs.

More user conflicts arise with more visitation. For example, trapping on public lands, especially near trails, discourages many dog owners from using those trails. This is a serious obstacle impacting Chugach National Forest trails and general state land in the Seward area.

Consider implementing a reservation system at the most popular trailheads similar to public-use cabins to protect the cultural and natural resources, and provide a quality experience for users. Update the fee and permit system for commercial users to help defray costs of impacts. Promote use of shuttles to reduce impacts on trailhead parking.

### **Outdoor Recreation Vision**

Include stewardship, sustainability and protection of cultural and natural resources as top priorities.

Include year-round activities, not just summer, ie “...**year-round** adventures...”

### **Outdoor Recreation Objectives, Strategies, and Initiatives**

Add “Peninsula” to the first line, “Kenai **Peninsula** Subregion SCORP Team”...

Suggest adding the federal and state government agencies to the Potential Partners section as often as possible.

Suggest inviting city governments instead of Parks and Recreation Departments as potential partners with decision-making power.

Suggest inviting local tourism companies (kayak, sailing, water taxis, fishing, flightseeing, dog-sledding, etc) as potential partners.

Suggest inviting State Parks Citizen Advisory Boards as potential partners.

### **Objective 1: Partnerships**

Strategies: **Add:** Partner with Alaska Railroad and tour boats to incorporate appreciation and stewardship of public lands and waters in the Turnagain Arm Region and Eastern Kenai Peninsula.

Goal 4) “Engage volunteers in more than manual labor.” Invite Seward Nordic Ski Club as a potential partner.

**Add Goal 6)** Encourage partnerships between Alaska Railroad, US Forest Service and Alaska Huts Association to complete plan for additional Whistle Stops.

### **Objective 2: Funding**

Goal 4) “Establish a bond to address deferred-maintenance projects in Alaska State Parks”

Not sure why the Kenai Peninsula Borough taxpayers should have to pay for this state responsibility.

Goal 5) “Establish regional endowments that can accept contributions from estates to benefit local trails” Consider already established community foundations to manage these funds, such as the Seward Community Foundation, the Homer Foundation, and Anchorage foundations. Mat-Su has a Trails and Park Foundation Fund.

Goal 6) “Incorporate funding for forestry roads in land management that serve multiple-purposes including Outdoor Recreation” Unfortunately forestry roads do not provide the

same kind of outdoor recreation as trails. The destinations and users are different. Allowing miners, timber, and telecommunications developers to use taxpayer-subsidized forestry roads with the promise of recreational trail use is bad incentive. Refer to Chugach National Forest Land Management Plan Update.

**Suggest adding Goal 8)** Establish a PFD option to support public lands with different categories such as Alaska State Parks with specific regional subcategories.

### **Objective 3: Stewardship**

Bullet 1: As noted above, increased visitor use is not necessarily a benefit. A quality visitor experience is more valuable to the user and economy than quantity.

Bullet 4: user etiquette alone will not protect trails or cultural and natural resources in perpetuity. Reservations, permits, user fees, enforcement, etc should be considered as well.

Goal 2) “Prioritize opportunities to connect existing trails and alignments to create longer trails to provide multi-day opportunities” Invite Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance and Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers as potential partners.

Goal 4) “Develop Public Beach Access” Invite City of Seward and other organizations as a potential partner.

Goal 5) “Foster relationships” Invite Seward Nordic Ski Club.

**Add Goal 7)** Integrate stewardship of cultural and natural resources in interpretive programs and advertising including Alaska Railroad, Kenai Fjords National Park, Alaska State Parks, Alaska Marine Highway, tour boats, and other tourist attractions.

**Add Goal 8)** Promote KMTA NHA on-line resources including the Field Trip Guide <https://kmtacorridor.org/field-trip-guide/>, Community Histories <https://kmtacorridor.org/history/>.

### **Objective 4: Equitable Access**

Goal 3) Invite city governments, Independent Living Centers, Boys and Girls Clubs, Senior Centers, as potential partners.

**Add Goat 4)** Promote KMTA NHA Transportation Equity Initiative to expand kids’ access to educational excursions in the Heritage area by providing free or discounted field trip bus transportation. <https://kmtacorridor.org/transportation-equity-initiative/>  
These excursions could include field trips to public lands.

### **Objective 5: Guide Growth**

Invite Tsalteshi Ski Trails Association from Soldotna, world-class ski and multi-use trails.

Invite Rotary Clubs.

Goal 1) “Promote recreational planning, including winter activities, by municipalities.” Invite city governments instead of Parks and Recreation Departments.

Goal 2) “Seek partnerships...” Invite Seward Nordic Ski Club, Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers.

**Add Goal 3b and renumber)** “Develop a multi-use year-round connected trail system on the Eastern Kenai Peninsula.” Invite Alaska Trails, Seward Nordic Ski Club, Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers.



**Add Goal 3c and renumber)** “Develop a multi-modal year-round trail along Herman Leirer Road from the Seward Highway to Exit Glacier.” Invite Alaska Trails, Kenai Fjords National Park, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Chugach National Forest, and Alaska State Parks.

**Add Goal 3d and renumber)** “Repair and install bridges, and maintain trail on the Resurrection River Trail from the south trailhead at Exit Glacier/Herman Leirer Road to the Russian Lakes Trail. Invite US Forest Service and Alaska Trails.

**Add Goal 3e and renumber)** Repair and maintain Resurrection Pass Trail. Invite US Forest Service and Alaska Trails.

## **Objective 6: Improve information**

Strategies:

- Embrace technology such as smart phones to inform and educate
- Use smart phones to collect parking and annual pass fees
- Use on-line resources to reduce waste of paper for brochures and maps, etc
- Incorporate QR codes on interpretive brochures, maps, and signs to provide more information on-line
- Create podcasts of interpretive narratives for public lands
- Improve public land websites to provide accurate and current information
- Promote KMTA NHA Trail Towns website <https://kmtacorridor.org/trail-town/>

Goal 1) Templates: Add Alaska State Parks, Chugach National Forest/US Forest Service, and any other agencies that have an interpretive department, as potential partners.

Goal 2) Education: Add Alaska State Parks, change “Chugach Forest Service” to “Chugach National Forest” or “US Forest Service” for consistency, and any other agencies that have an interpretive/educational department as potential partners.

Goal 7) Trail Towns: Add Alaska State Parks and Kenai Fjords National Park

## **Objective 7: Expansion and Improvement**

Add bullet:

- Fund regular and deferred maintenance for ALL existing trails and infrastructure, including public-use cabins.

The Western Kenai Peninsula is well-supported with 17 Initiatives. The Eastern Kenai Peninsula has only five, plus two for Girdwood, one for Whittier, and one for Prince William Sound which are not in the Kenai Peninsula. The only Initiatives for the Seward area are the critical 7.19 Lowell Point State Recreation Site improvements, and the 7.14 Resurrection Bay Marine Trail, which is already established. Please see added Goals at the end of this section for the critical needs of the popular Seward area state parks.

Note: the USFS recently received funding for more public-use cabins and is seeking public input on locations. Incorporate the need for PUCs into this plan, such as Goal 6) Caribou Hills.

Goal 1) Portage Curve: Invite Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance as a potential partner.

Goal 7) INHT bridges: spell out “Iditarod National Historic Trail”. Invite Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance as a potential partner.



Goal 10) “Promote projects such as Alaska Long Trail **from Seward to Girdwood. Include winter activities such as skiing, biking, and snowshoeing.**” Invite Seward Area State Parks Citizen Advisory Board, Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance and Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers as potential partners.

Correct spelling of “thru” to “through.”

Goal 14) “**Promote and** include the Resurrection Bay Marine Trail in the Alaska Long Trail.” Invite Seward Area State Parks Citizen Advisory Board, Alaska State Parks, Alaska Maritime Wildlife Refuge, and City of Seward as potential partners.

Suggest moving Goal 14 after Goal 10.

Goal 15) Standardized Trail Bridges: suggest adding US Forest Service, Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance and Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers as potential partners.

Goal 18) Spell out “CHS” for those who don’t know what it means.

Goal 19) Lowell Point State Recreation Site parking: **delete** “pedestrian walkway” and add “replace latrines”. Invite Seward Area State Parks Citizen Advisory Board, Lowell Point Community Council as potential partners.

**Add Goal 22)** Address critical maintenance issues, mitigate further erosion, improve drainage, build check dams, water bars, and partial turnpikes, elevate and harden trails with gravel, add treated or natural log puncheon, revegetate erosional social trails, remediate damaged tread, brush and remove fallen trees, and improve long-term sustainability of the trail system in Caines Head State Recreation Area including Tonsina Trail and Lowell Point State Recreation Site.

**Add Goal 23)** Relocate Alaska State Parks Tonsina Public-use Cabin to higher ground away from erosional slope. Move Callisto PUC to higher ground away from flooding stream.

**Add Goal 24)** Fund winter maintenance (plowing and sanding) of Lowell Point State Recreation Site lower parking lot. Include Alaska State Parks.

**Add Goal 25)** Acquire in-town storage site and funding for Seward area State Parks office, workshop, fencing, boat and equipment storage, possibly on DNR property at 707 Fifth Avenue. Invite Alaska State Parks/AK DNR DPOR, as potential partners.

**Add Goal 26)** Build and supply a tsunami shelter with toilets at Lowell Point in partnership with Lowell Point Community Council. Invite Alaska State Parks and Seward State Parks Citizen Advisory Board, and Lowell Point Community Council as potential partners.

**Add Goal 27)** Build parking lot for Iditarod National Historic Trail at Bear Lake. Invite US Forest Service, Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, and Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers as potential partners.

**Add Goal 28)** Develop trailhead and add signage for the Iditarod National Historic Trail at Nash Road. Invite US Forest Service, Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, and Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers as potential partners.

## **Objective 8: Increase outdoor recreation workforce**

**Modify Goal 1)** “Create a standard **for paths between communities and trailheads for year-round use by hikers, bikers, skiers, and snowshoers** as road maintenance and realignment occurs.” Invite US Forest Service, Alaska State Parks, Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, and Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers as potential partners.

Goal 2) “Assist the communities with parking and visitor facilities.” Invite US Forest Service, Alaska State Parks, Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, and Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers as potential partners.

Goal 3) “Train volunteers alongside paid workers to create a highly skilled staff that can do necessary work.” Invite Alaska State Parks, Seward Nordic Ski Club, City of Seward, and Spring Creek Correctional Facility.

Goal 4) “Bolster Kachemak Bay State Park **and Seward area State Parks** trail maintenance to preserve existing trails in the parks.” Invite Spring Creek Correctional Facility as a potential partner.

Goal 5) “Foster local volunteers to take responsibility for the future of trails.” Invite Seward Nordic Ski Club as a potential partner.

Add more Eastern Kenai Peninsula Identified Initiatives to map on last page.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,  
Carol Griswold, Chair  
Seward State Parks Citizen Advisory Board



# Chickaloon Village Traditional Council (Nay'dini'aa Na' Kayax)

## VIA EMAIL

Chief Gary Harrison,  
Chairman/Elder

Philip Ling,  
Vice-Chair

Cheryl Sherman,  
Secretary

Doug Wade,  
Treasurer/Elder

Emily Ling,  
Member

Lisa Wade,  
Executive Director

Serena Martino,  
Executive Assistant

November 28, 2022

info@alaskascorp.org

Re: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2023-2027

Ugheli Dzaen (Good Day):

Chickaloon Village Traditional Council appreciates the highlight that the SCORP has provided in chapter two page 44 on our efforts to maintain and co-manage the Moose Creek Campground. Below are areas of the plan we wish to comment on.

- *Goal 5: balancing outdoor recreation growth with stewardship and Goal 6: growing sustainable and stable outdoor recreation*
  - Alaska has seen a wide variety of growth over the last 40 years with development of roads, ATV, snowmachine, biking, and hiking trails but it has also seen significant issues with security, safety, and maintenance of these facilities. In addition, over-use in some area has caused erosion and other damage to the environment. Lack of funding and personnel has made many areas simply not sanitary or safe to use due to human and canine waste, vehicular damage, and theft while attempting to use the areas. It may be in the best interest to use the proposed funding available through the LCFW to properly maintain, manage, and expand the areas already in use over proposing entirely new facilities that would only open more land to eventual mismanagement and lack of maintenance over time.
  - The data chart on chapter 2 page 10 shows the fisheries are stable according to data up to 2015, the fishing industry crashed on the Yukon in 2022, this needs to be revisited.
- *Section F : Tribal Survey - One survey was mailed to all federally recognized tribe in August and closed approximately 30 days later with only 18 responses In 2022. Showing an emphasis on the need to increase communication and partnerships with Tribes in Alaska.*
  - CVTC would like to point out that your survey was issued in prime fishing, hunting, and gathering season for much of Alaska, therefore a lack of understanding in what is considered an extremely busy time of the year to send a survey with such a short window of opportunity to respond. Additionally, a phone call to ensure the survey was received and deadline noted would be helpful for getting more responses.
- *Objective 4: Integrating history, heritage culture, etc.*
  - Acknowledging the Indigenous peoples is not simply enough. We are stewards of the land and have lived here for millennia, long before the

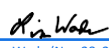
agencies and land managers. Building relationships of collaboration and mutual respect as well as consulting with Tribal Governments before and during planning and implementation of this SCORP would improve the outcomes greatly.

- Stewardship of Alaska's land, water, and communities is imperative! Creating outdoor recreation growth with *active* involvement of community groups, Tribal Governments, and individuals (by repeated invitation) to ensure sustainable and community-approved growth occurs. Suggest changing the title of Goal 2 Objective 3 to Increase Outdoor Recreation Growth and Stewardship.
- Comment: Tribal Governments, Alaska Native organizations, and tribal corporations should be approached for Partnership Opportunities.
- A State Office of Outdoor Recreation is a good idea AND co-management opportunities with Tribal governments should be pursued. Reduce barriers for Tribal Government management or co-management of recreation facilities on state land. Strengthen partnerships and develop stronger relationships with Tribal Governments.
- Stewardship and sustainability actions are essential for long-term success of outdoor recreation. Stewardship and sustainable growth should lead strategies to grow outdoor recreation.
- Separated pedestrian paths must be expanded statewide to provide opportunities for easy-access outdoor recreation for residents and visitors and to connect communities with multi-modal options.
- Edit: Chapter 1 page 14 (document page 25): "These events bring **athletes** and spectators for multiple days..."
- Edit: Chapter 1 (document page 28) "There's **a real art to building trails that are** a delight to use, have minimal impact, and are designed to..."
- (Document page 32) **Comment: Additional wetland-reliant recreation opportunities include: ice skating, snowmachining, Nordic and skate skiing, dog mushing, fat-tire biking, winter transportation, boating (more widely than just canoeing), clamming, hunting (more widely than just duck hunting), and wildlife and bird viewing.**
- Edit (document page 33): Wetlands are **critical breeding habitats for some species. Freshwater wetlands are critical habitats for salmon, other fish, and wildlife. Brackish wetlands (part salt water and part freshwater) serve as a nursery for young salmon until they adapt to salt water.**
- The photo captions with 'places identified' are appreciated.
- (Document page 71) **Comment: The list of categories of Most Needed Outdoor Recreation Facilities did not include paved separated pedestrian paths along roads and within communities. This is a shortcoming of the survey options. Separated, paved paths need to be expanded statewide to provide easy, quick access to outdoor opportunities for health/exercise and would expand options for 'neighborhood strolling' and 'trails accessible to persons with disabilities.'**
- Edits: (document page 77) Tribal Survey: "**Outdoor Recreation for Alaska Tribal Governments**". "In addition to partnering with federal and state agencies as well as school districts, **Alaska Native tribal governments** partner with Alaska Native regional and village corporations....."
- Edit: (document page 89) Overarching Qualities of Regional Outdoor Recreation Resources in the Arctic, Western and Southwest Regions: "Mixed authority for

governance and policy setting: **tribal governments**, tribal organizations, regional non-profits.....”

- Edits: (document page 113) The Cook Inlet Region: “~~The Cook Inlet region of southcentral Alaska represents Cook Inlet Tribal Council’s core service area.~~” While the region approximates the traditional homeland of the Dena’ina **Dene** (Athabascan) peoples, CIRI shareholders reflect the diversity of all Alaska Native cultures. **Tribal governments** Native villages of the Cook Inlet region include Eklutna....” “**One** regional non-profit is Cook Inlet Tribal Council, **Inc.**”
- Edits: (document page 113) The Chugach Region: “The Chugach **Region** includes the tribal governments of ~~communities of~~ Eyak (Cordova), Qutekcak (Seward), Valdez, Port Graham, Chenega Bay, Nanwalek (English Bay) and Tatitlek” ..... “~~The regional non-profit is Copper River Native Association.~~ **One regional non-profit is Chugach Regional Resources Commission.**”
- Edit: (document pages 114 and 115, Maps of Southcentral Region): Consider Adding: **Hatcher Pass State Management Area, Independence Mine State Historic Park, Knik Public Use Area**
- Edit: (document page 117): ~~Interior~~ **Southcentral** Region Outdoor Recreation Statistics
- Edit: (document page 133): Strategy 4.1 Action A: “Develop plans with ANCSA corporations, **tribal governments** ~~local tribes~~, and Alaska Native organizations such as the Alaska Native Heritage Center.
- Edit: (document page 133): Strategy 4.2 Action B: “**In consultation and partnership with tribal governments and in collaboration with Alaska Native organizations**, expand interpretation and education.....”
- Comment: (document page 137): Suggest changing the title of Objective 3 to be **Increase Outdoor Recreation Growth and Stewardship**. It is important that recreation growth is sustainable AND stewards the environment. If negative impacts of growth are anticipated/expected, then mitigations must be developed and implemented (for example isolating impacts to a small footprint by using signs or railings). This objective needs strategies and actions added.
- Comment (document page 143): Suggest adding another Action: work with ADOT&PF to increase road safety and improve accessibility by creating separated, paved bike and pedestrian paths along roads. This will also improve neighborhood walkability and easy-access opportunities for exercise in and between communities.
- Comment: The Long Trail and expanded public use cabins are good investments. And strong support for ‘complete streets’ mentioned on Page 144.
- Lastly, tree brushing, ground disturbing activities and rock-cairn trail markers may impact important and previously-undocumented cultural sites. Please encourage all implementation projects to consult with Tribal Governments about these types of activities.

May Nek’eltaeni (Creator) Guide our Footsteps,

  
Lisa Wade (Nov 28, 2022 17:40 AKST)

Lisa Wade, Executive Director  
Chickaloon Village Traditional Council




# 2022.11.28 CVTC comments on SCORP

Final Audit Report

2022-11-29

Created:	2022-11-29
By:	Jessica Winnestaffer (jewinnestaffer@chickaloon-nsn.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAA1Voj_Mi4WY9uEwB-bWT0TG2utyKeJqSF

## "2022.11.28 CVTC comments on SCORP" History

-  Document created by Jessica Winnestaffer (jewinnestaffer@chickaloon-nsn.gov)  
2022-11-29 - 2:39:19 AM GMT- IP address: 216.137.213.176
-  Document emailed to Lisa Wade (lrwade@chickaloon-nsn.gov) for signature  
2022-11-29 - 2:39:53 AM GMT
-  Email viewed by Lisa Wade (lrwade@chickaloon-nsn.gov)  
2022-11-29 - 2:40:15 AM GMT- IP address: 216.137.250.25
-  Document e-signed by Lisa Wade (lrwade@chickaloon-nsn.gov)  
Signature Date: 2022-11-29 - 2:40:58 AM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 216.137.250.25
-  Agreement completed.  
2022-11-29 - 2:40:58 AM GMT



November 28, 2022

Director Ricky Gease  
Alaska State Parks and Outdoor Recreation  
550 W 7th Ave. Suite 1360, Anchorage, AK 99501-3557  
Nov. 28, 2022

RE: SCORP Public Comment

Dear Director Gease,

We applaud the Alaska DNR's Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation for creating the Alaska 2023-2027 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). From review of the document, it is clear that the development process was comprehensive, and the result is an actionable plan that, if acted on, will improve access to outdoor recreation for residents and visitors alike.

Singletrack Advocates (STA) is a non-profit organization focused on preserving, maintaining, and creating singletrack trails in the Anchorage area. We have constructed and maintain over 36 miles of multi-use trails in the Anchorage bowl and look forward to the opportunity to continue developing projects in partnership with like-minded organizations and local landowners (Municipality of Anchorage, Chugach State Park, etc.) STA's president, Lee Bolling, participated in the Subregional Working Group for the Anchorage area.

We offer the following comments on the 2023-2027 SCORP.

### **1. Create Alpine Trails for Biking (ridgetop and above treeline)**

The SCORP clearly outlines the significant economic impact of outdoor recreation in Alaska and throughout the country and points out that if out-of-state visitors spent 1 more day in Alaska, the annual visitor spending would increase by \$250 million per year! Providing unique recreational opportunities in the mountains behind Anchorage is a great way to encourage visitors to 'spend one more day.' While alpine hikes lead to every major peak in the front range, there is very little opportunity to travel in the alpine areas on bikes. Expanding alpine (ridgetop and above treeline) travel opportunities to bikers should be included as an initiative.

PO Box 221382 Anchorage, AK 99522  
[www.singletrackadvocates.org](http://www.singletrackadvocates.org)    [singletrackadvocates@gmail.com](mailto:singletrackadvocates@gmail.com)  
Singletrack Advocates is a Non-Profit 501(c)3 Organization  
EIN: 26-1437999



## **2. All Alaska Long Trails should be open to Biking**

Alaska Long Trail segments identified in the Anchorage Municipality Subregion and other subregions should be open to biking. Mountain biking has become a major economic engine in Alaska, as well as throughout the entire country. Alaska is becoming a popular mountain biking destination and attracting high-spending bike tourists to our state, which stimulates our economy.

By allowing mountain bike use along the Alaska Long Trail, the economic development goal of the trail can be fully realized. However, as it stands now, there are many segments of the trail where biking is not allowed. By creating a world-class Alaska Long Trail open to hiking, biking and skiing, jobs will be created and the local economy will be stimulated.

A non-exhaustive list of trails that should be open to biking include:

1. Arctic to Indian Traverse
2. Crow Pass
3. Long Trail South (Anchorage to Indian)
4. Kesugi Ridge

## **3. More trails needed due to massive demand for biking**

Alaska land managers surveyed for the SCORP indicated that both winter biking and mountain biking were among the top growth areas in recreation demand between 2019 and 2022. The increased popularity of off-road biking is evident in the Anchorage area. Recreation planning and LWCF proposal evaluations should reflect the reality that demand currently exceeds supply of snow biking and mountain biking opportunities. Additional trails to meet this demand should be developed.

## **4. Improved Parking and Access**

The Anchorage Municipality Subregion appendix identifies improving access (parking) to Chugach State Park as an Initiative. We fully support this initiative.

PO Box 221382 Anchorage, AK 99522  
[www.singletrackadvocates.org](http://www.singletrackadvocates.org)    [singletrackadvocates@gmail.com](mailto:singletrackadvocates@gmail.com)  
Singletrack Advocates is a Non-Profit 501(c)3 Organization  
EIN: 26-1437999





## **5. Bike Skills Areas**

We also recommend the creation of bike skills areas throughout the Anchorage Subregion and other subregions. These are great places for all ages to learn how to ride bikes.

## **6. Seasonal Soft Surface Trail Crew**

Maintenance of soft surface trails is important. We recommend the development of a seasonal soft surface trail crew to perform maintenance on trails.

## **7. Include Mighty Bikes Youth Program**

Objective 4, Initiative 4: Include Mighty Bikes as a youth group stakeholder. This youth mountain biking group that has existed for 23 years. Each year there are 300 kids in the program, and 100 kids are put on the wait list primarily because the trail system can't handle more numbers. We need more trails for youth to be able to spread out and explore.

## **8. Create the Service Singletrack Trail**

Objective 7, Initiative 6: STA would like to connect the Tour of Anchorage Trail at Service High School with the Hillside STA Trails with a stacked-loop singletrack trail that youth groups such as Mighty Bikes, Junior Nordic, and the general public will enjoy. Currently, access from Service H.S. is on ski trails (with very steep grades) and the Abbott multiuse trail.

Sincerely,

The STA Steering Committee

PO Box 221382 Anchorage, AK 99522  
[www.singletrackadvocates.org](http://www.singletrackadvocates.org)    [singletrackadvocates@gmail.com](mailto:singletrackadvocates@gmail.com)  
Singletrack Advocates is a Non-Profit 501(c)3 Organization  
EIN: 26-1437999

November 28, 2022

To: [info@alaskascorp.org](mailto:info@alaskascorp.org) and  
[wendy.sailors@alaska.gov](mailto:wendy.sailors@alaska.gov)

RE: Comments on the Alaska SCORP 2023-2027

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. This SCORP presents a wealth of data and breathtaking photographs. Thank you for the visual artistry.

The post-comment period before approval of the final SCORP is very short. I trust that the SCORP Project Team will nonetheless give a meaningful response to substantive comments.

General comment

Could you add a numbering system to the infographics? This SCORP will become a reference document, but it's awkward to cite specific graphics, especially when several tables share a page, and some tables are duplicated within the document. For ease, all infographics could "figures", rather than tables, graphs, charts.

Executive Summary

I have focused my comments on the content, but I have a few style edits for the Executive Summary. Some readers will read only the Executive Summary. Clarity matters.

ES, Page 1

I suggest: "Whether foot, by bike, by boat, by snow machine or even by dogsled..." Those are the most-common Alaskan modes of recreation access. Horse ridership is an incidental recreation use in Alaska, and not even mentioned in Table 5.7 of Activity Participation. Horse ridership is a distraction.

Shed the unnecessary verbiage. ~~"Alaska's outdoor way of life is instrumental in how many perceive Alaska."~~ "Alaska's image is based on wildlands and the outdoor life."

The third paragraph is confusing, since the six SCORP goals haven't been introduced yet

Please edit these passages:

"A primary theme of this goal is to open doors for more people to experience what Alaska has to offer." Goals are explained by objectives, not themes. And it's unclear what goal is referenced.

“The objectives aim to shed light on the endless experiences within Alaska’s wild places...” Objectives normally aren’t advertisements: they add specificity to stated goals.

ES, Page 2

Under Goal 6 of the Executive Summary:

1. add a commitment to invest STATE money.
2. Add a commitment to educate the Alaska Legislature and local governments regarding the return-on-investment from money allocated to recreation facilities and resource protection.

Currently, Goal 6 calls for “public/private...federal...and more local government tax revenues” but doesn’t mention STATE spending for outdoor recreation.

Chapter 2, page 2

This section should bring clearer focus to the divergent trends in visitor use and government funding for public recreation sites. State funding is woefully inadequate, especially compared to federal funding.

Section A

The SCORP needs to be clear about the underfunding by the State.

- Insert the 2010 and 2019 funding and visitor use for Chugach State Park into the table. Maybe add another high-use State Park unit as well.
- Also, add another column to the Table that shows visitors and staff and annual budget: spending per visitor. That really highlights the low level of state funding.
- Add a comparison table of the levels of spending by other states on their State Parks.

Section B3

This section is too silent on climate change.

The evolution of Alaska outdoor recreation and tourism will be greatly affected, by climate change. This section needs to add some infographics and analysis to project the types of changes.

I can’t credibly suggest how to add this analysis, except to say that it should address:

- Fewer areas with reliable snow and ice for winter recreation. Anchorage Daily News published a map five years ago (approximately) showing what areas of Anchorage and the Kenai Peninsula will lose winter snow cover. And river ice will be radically affected.
- Declines in fish populations and resulting shifts in targeted fish species.

- Changes in glaciers and related tourism
- Floods and water-level changes, with the need to relocate water access infrastructure. (Look at what is happening to Lake Mead: tourism there is draining away.)
- Costs for climate-related repairs, including trails and cabins in burned areas

In addition, this section should address the health and equity benefits of recreation close to home, with less travel time. This is a trend that makes sense for reducing greenhouse gas impacts, for equity, and for encouraging recreation that is not dependent on automobile travel or flights.

Ch 2, Page 8

Can this section include a table or a survey question to support the statement, “While shopping is the most common activity for visitors (Table 5.7) this is a secondary activity”.

Can you produce a bar graph from the data in Table 5.7? That would be much more compelling than a bar graph of visitor attractions in Montana, with the title “like Alaska”.

Chapter 4

Chapter 4, Page 2, Lifestyle

See the comments I submitted regarding the Executive Summary, on streamlining the sentences.

Chapter 4, Page 3, Action A

Revise and edit Action A: Identify gaps to close in order to connect residential and commercial neighborhoods and community destinations, including but not limited to accessible parking, trailheads, trails, ~~or~~ and sidewalks.

By adding community destinations, that includes libraries and schools and similar facilities, which everyone should have pathway access to.

Chapter 4, Page 4, Strategy 2.1, Action A

This Action is muddled. Typos? Grammar?

Chapter 4, Page 5, Objective 3, Promote Winter Recreation

The SCORP should offer Strategies. Promote winter recreation to whom? How?

Chapter 4, Page 5, Objective 5: improve information about outdoor recreation...

The SCORP should offer strategies. There is mention of a Statewide Inventory, but is this a strategy? An action? Who should undertake it?

This is a very verbose paragraph. Delete the last sentence: "Experiencing Alaska life outdoors could be enriched by clear, more readily available access to the information that leads those who wander down paths of cultural and natural discovery." What does it mean? Provide more cultural information and natural history to enrich outdoor experiences? Then just say it simply.

Chapter 4, page 11, Strategy 4.2. Provide more "world-class" Alaska outdoor recreation attractions

This implies large-scale facilities to draw hundreds of thousands of visitors. there should be qualifying language for large scale facilities, about protecting the attraction itself and the wild character or Alaska character of the surroundings, through coordinated development. Soldotna did a great job with its riverside park to showcase the Kenai River: but the rest of the main drag through Soldotna could be Any Highway, anywhere in the Lower 48.

Chapter 4, page 12, Objective 5, and strategy 5.1 Support Expanded Winter Facilities

Add this concept:

Winter sports areas and seasons will shrink because of climate change. Before large investments or long-term permits are made in winter recreation facilities, the State should do scientific modeling of likely winter strongholds. Winter strongholds should be allocated among uses so that sometimes competing recreation uses all have winter home base in the future.

This also relates to Strategy 5.4: Reduce conflicts between winter recreation users

Chapter 4 page 16 Strategy 6.5 Support Close to Home Active Outdoors Travel

Add to the reasons for non-motorized travel:

For health, safety and enjoyment, as well as equity and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, communities need to make it easier to move around conveniently without a car.

Add a new action under Strategy 6.5:

Work with DOTPF to determine and design for slower, safer speeds on roads in settled areas, with self-enforcing speed limit features. This will save lives, encourage people to use active transportation within the settled areas, and will enhance rather than diminish adjoining land values.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment via e-mail. The comment boxes online were too limited for me to cite the pages and sections, and that is important if you want serious comments about revisions.

Nancy Pease  
Nancypease2@gmail.com

November 28, 2022

Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Suite 1380  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: 2023-2027 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Dear Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation,

The National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), Marine Retailers Association of the Americas (MRAA), and Personal Watercraft Industry Association (PWIA) appreciate the opportunity to comment on the 2023-2027 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Collectively, we are the leading trade associations representing recreational marine manufacturers and dealers.

The recreational boating industry has a \$170 billion impact on the nation's economy and in communities across the country, with nearly 700,000 American jobs across 35,000 U.S.-based marine businesses. Recreational boating in Alaska has a \$586.9 million economic impact, providing almost 3,000 jobs and more than 300 business.

The National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) is the premier trade association for the U.S. recreational boating industry, representing nearly 1,300 marine businesses, including recreational boat, marine engine, and accessory manufacturers. Our members primarily are U.S.-based small businesses, many of which are family owned. NMMA members collectively manufacture more than 85 percent of the recreational marine products sold in the U.S.

The Marine Retailers Association of the Americas (MRAA) is the leading trade association of North American small businesses that sell and service new and pre-owned recreational boats and operate marinas, boatyards, and accessory stores. MRAA represents more than 1,300 individual member retail locations and although the MRAA proudly represents only one member in Alaska at the time of this comment, we are making significant efforts to expand in the state.

The Personal Watercraft Industry Association (PWIA) was founded in 1987 by personal watercraft (PWC) to be and advocate for safe and responsible PWC operation, as well as for equal access to all waterways where boating is allowed. PWIA members include BRP (SeaDoo®), Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. (Jet Ski®) and Yamaha Motor Corporation, USA (Waverunner®). Collectively, they support the implementation of reasonable boating safety laws and regulations, include mandatory boating safety education and strict enforcement of boating safety and navigation laws.

As the SCORP states, "Alaska's outdoor way of life is instrumental in how many perceive Alaska...[and] outdoor recreation demand is skyrocketing," which is shown by the data collected throughout the plan (p. 2). The SCORP identifies hiking and trails as a part of the "outdoor way of life," but does not clearly identify recreational boating as a major component of outdoor recreation in the state. However, the plan reports that over 34% of people expressed interest in water and boating education compared to that of having road-side/trail-side recreational hubs and cultural and natural history interpretation (p. 72). To add to this, the Kenai River Special Management Area and local Alaska tribal governments

identified an area of growth as needing more boat launches (p. 64, p. 77). Because of Alaska's unique terrain, boating is an integral part to many recreational activities as they are used to access backcountry areas to pursue other outdoor activities. As the SCORP proves, boating is an essential part of accessing Alaska's great outdoors.

An analysis released in November by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis determined that the boating industry in the United States generated \$37.2 billion in economic output in 2021, making it the second most profitable among industry segments including biking, canoeing and kayaking, hunting, and more. Recreational boating serves a significant portion of the industry economic impact. In conjunction with Alaska's outdoor nature, Alaska has a very high boater participation rate, with data compiled by NMMA showing it ranks fifth in America as percentage of households having a boat. Nearly one in every five households own a motorized boat.

Therefore, we are concerned about the data pulled for the SCORP as recreational boating is not readily included in this plan. The research on which the SCORP is based found that boating is a fundamental part of life in Alaska, therefore the state's four-year recreation work plan should place greater emphasis on improvements in boating infrastructure and promotion.

NMMA, MRAA, and PWIA appreciate the continued work of Alaska's Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation to ensure that the outdoors is properly recognized as a major economic driver of the state. As pointed out within the SCORP, "a sizeable share of Alaska's outdoor recreation facilities and destinations are undersized, overcrowded, and not well maintained" (p. 2). The work plan does not reflect these shortcomings in the level of commitment it calls for regarding recreational boating. According to the SCORP Public Survey, boating was included as a year-round activity by many respondents, highlighting that boating is not necessarily a seasonal activity but part of daily life in Alaska for both recreation and more (p. 37). Furthermore, Question 15 found that 33.7% and 32.5% of Alaskans, respectively, believe that boat ramps in saltwater and freshwater need improvement and that 28.1% and 27.2% respectively think more boat ramps are needed. We would welcome an opportunity to work with the SCORP Statewide Advisory Group to identify priority projects and the associated funding mechanisms.

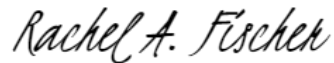
We also laud the SCORP's focus on workforce development (p. 7, Goal 3) and believe that the work plan's goals should specifically include development of the workforce needed to support the recreational boating industry. We would welcome the opportunity to work with the SCORP Working Group on Strategy 2.1 Action A, Action B, and Action C. We currently work with organizations throughout the lower 48 states to develop workforce opportunities and development and can provide insights into efforts by several state Marine Trade Associations throughout America who have robust workforce development programs.

Lastly, we support creating a State Office of Outdoor Recreation (OREC). Nearly 20 states have ORECs and use their expertise to help implement their economic goals for recreation. They often can find synergies with the private sector as support develop the outdoor recreation economy at large. With proper planning and increased investment, Alaska's recreation-based businesses and infrastructure could do much more to build the Alaskan economy and expand job opportunities. We have helped state governments and legislatures establish ORECs in nearly 20 states and we would like to work with the SCORP Statewide Advisory Group to assist in the development of an office Focused on the development of outdoor businesses and economic opportunity.



**We recommend that Alaska's SCORP be revised to increase the emphasis it places on developing recreational boating as part of the state's overall goal of making outdoor recreation a fundamental part of Alaska's workforce and public attraction.** Recreational boating is a major and unique feature of the state, and there is an opportunity to continue building upon boating as a part of the SCORP. We greatly appreciate the thoughtful authorship and commitment to ensuring the growth of Alaska's outdoor life and recreation.

Sincerely,



Rachel Fischer, Manager, Western Policy and Engagement  
National Marine Manufacturers Association



Chad Tokowicz, Government Relations Manager  
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas



David Dickerson, Vice President, State Government Relations  
Personal Watercraft Industry Association



Director Ricky Gease  
Alaska State Parks and Outdoor Recreation  
550 W 7th Ave. Suite 1360, Anchorage, AK 99501-3557  
Nov. 28, 2022

RE: SCORP General Public Comment

Congratulations on the draft Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The draft 2023-2027 plan contains a great deal of data and information that will be most useful in strengthening the state's outdoor recreation industry and investment portfolio. These comments are suggestions from AOA's stakeholder community and intended to be additive to the extensive suggestions already included in the SCORP.

First, Yes! - create an **Office of Outdoor Recreation**. AOA has been consistently advocating for such an office since 2016. It's a proven fact: States that prioritize outdoor recreation create jobs! Outdoor recreation provides diverse opportunities across the employment spectrum. Importantly, outdoor recreation generates jobs across all sectors, as companies seek to put down roots near outdoor recreation locations that enable a strong work-life balance for their employees. Investing in outdoor recreation pays off. Research from [Headwaters Economics](#) demonstrates that outdoor recreation amenities: • draw visitors who spend money at local businesses • attract new talent and investment • increase property values • improve quality of life and public health, especially in low-income neighborhoods

**Data refining.** As we know, the cell phone tracking data was not able to determine user type or duration of visit. The SCORP should recommend investing in market research to better understand recreation visitation/participation by user type. Such info would provide valuable info for recreation planners.

AOA also recommends following the example of the Washington state SCORP: prepare statewide outdoor rec sector-specific plans for key recreation sectors including but not limited to these:

- **Parks, Recreation and Open Space.** Investing in close-to-home recreation is a direction the public survey results suggest is warranted.
- **Water Access, Boating and Paddlesports.** Boating is the single largest contributor to Alaska's outdoor recreation economy. In addition to recreational boating and paddling, when considering the importance of boating for rural transportation and subsistence harvesting along Alaska's vast coastline and lengthy river corridors, deeper understanding of needs and a plan to help meet them is merited for this sector.
- **Trails and Non-Highway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities.** Summer and winter off-highway vehicles are a way of life in Alaska as well as a primary means of travel in many rural communities. In the winter, the non-profit snow machine clubs of the SnowTRAC program collectively groom hundreds of miles of trails that effectively constitute winter transportation networks. These networks are as important to commercial winter lodge owners and tour operators as they are to residents traveling to off-grid homes or cabins for a weekend getaway with friends and family. A plan to better understand participation levels, location traffic/usage levels, and sector needs would benefit winter recreationists and boost Alaska's winter recreation economy.

**ORTAB.** AOA suggests the Outdoor Recreation Trails Advisory Board re-align with Administrative Order 222 dated Oct. 21, 2004. Currently the only qualifications required for potential ORTAB members is that they "support trails, work well in a collaborative environment, and have knowledge or experience with trails." This board merits a more highly-qualified and vetted membership.

**Future SCORPs.** This draft SCORP sets a high bar for those that follow. The state has five years to prepare for the next SCORP. By the time the SCORP next needs to be updated, we hope that, like many other states, an impartial, neutral body will be retained to produce the report. Many states collaborate with a university. Partnership with a university is a win-win for the SCORP and workforce development, acquainting more students with the issues and potential for careers in Alaska's outdoor recreation sector.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide additional suggestions.

Sincerely,

Lee Hart

Executive Director, Alaska Outdoor Alliance

SCORP Statewide Advisory Group & Core Team

# ***Interior Trails Newsletter***

*A Newsletter about Trails in Interior Alaska*

Friday, November 25, 2022

Director Ricky Gease  
Alaska State Parks and Outdoor Recreation  
550 W 7th Ave. Suite 1360, Anchorage, AK 99501-3557  
Nov. 28, 2022

Re: The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Director Gease,

I am quite happy with this plan, especially it's truly comprehensive nature. It includes the outdoor recreation benefits of residents (including health, happiness, and access to resources), as well as the need to improve the visitor industry. The number and scope of studies cited is impressive. They really show the need for investment in outdoor recreation.

I hope that more specific studies are done. It would be very helpful to have studies about trail use – types of users, duration, and time of use – to establish baseline data and be able to focus and then track how efforts regarding trails are working.

I think creation of a State Office of Outdoor Recreation is an excellent idea. Such an office would help this plan to be implemented fully. The goal of making outdoor recreation a cornerstone of Alaska's economic future is an excellent one. And, of course, trails are a huge part of that.

I am glad to see that optimization of federal funds is mentioned prominently. This does require a financial commitment on the part of the state, but it brings back so much more benefit to the state. We should be doing what we can to take full advantage of these funds. In particular, I am happy to see Action A of Objective 2 under Goal 7 (Strengthen Partnerships to Improve Outdoor Recreation Management). That Action states: "Change the requirement coming through the Federal Highways Administration that limits/prohibit the use of RTP funds for trails on logging roads." This is excellent. It will especially help the Fairbanks-Nenana connection of the Alaska Long Trail (which will be friendly to many trail users, motorized and non-motorized).

*Interior Trails Newsletter*  
2051 Pine Cone Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709  
Phone: (907) 455-6641 Email: [fbxtrails@gmail.com](mailto:fbxtrails@gmail.com)

Also, regarding federal funds, I suggest creating a loan fund so that small groups can more easily apply for Recreational Trails Program grants. Currently, applicants must pay for all costs before they get reimbursed, which can take quite a while. Not all small groups have that ability. It has been a challenge with some groups in Interior Alaska.

Finally, I have a couple of suggestions regarding education.

Established trailheads with adequate parking are wonderful, but they also sometimes attract crime. I would like to see efforts to mitigate vandalism and theft. It would help to have more signage and public campaigns that educate people on how best to keep vehicles and possessions safe while at trailheads.

And the plan discusses developing a database for project developers. I believe that is under Goal 7, Objective 5. Within that database I suggest including a list of Best Management Practices from any relevant groups or agencies, such as sustainable trail building, Leave No Trace camping and travel, invasive species, and subsistence use.

Eric Troyer  
Editor and Publisher



Wednesday, November 23, 2022

Ricky Gease  
Director, Alaska State Parks and Outdoor Recreation  
550 W 7th Ave. Suite 1360, Anchorage, AK 99501-3557  
Nov. 28, 2022

RE: SCORP Public Comment

To Whom It May Concern:

The Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks is pleased with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. It is comprehensive and visionary. We are especially pleased that the plan includes how outdoor recreation benefits residents (through such things as health, happiness, and access to resources), as well as looking at need to improve the visitor industry. The many studies show the need for investment in outdoor recreation.

Cross-country skiing is mentioned often in the plan, and we are glad to see it ranked so highly by the public and recognized by land managers as needing more parking areas, groomed trails, and open space.

We definitely support the creation of a State Office of Outdoor Recreation. Such an office will give this plan a much better chance of being implemented. The goal of making outdoor recreation a cornerstone of Alaska's economic future is an excellent one. We believe cross-country skiing will be an important part of that future.

We would like to see more emphasis on measures to mitigate vandalism and theft at trailheads. More signage and public campaigns that educate people on how best to keep vehicles and possessions safe while at trailheads would be helpful.

Since cross-country skiing was named so often in the study, we believe it would be helpful to do a statewide study on the sport. We need to establish a baseline of data to track amount and types of usage; identify barriers and opportunities; and track economic and quality of life impacts.

We are also glad to see funding addressed in the plan, especially the optimization of federal funds. This does take a financial commitment on the part of the state, but it brings back so much more benefit.

Sincerely,  
Chris Puchner  
President

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the State of Alaska's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Plan, or SCORP, for 2023-2027. It seems clear that the SCORP document is a necessity in terms of Alaska's eligibility for Land and Water Conservation Fund grant funds. For the sake of transparency and public involvement, it would be helpful if subsequent SCORP documents detailed how much LWCF funding Alaska usually gets and the history of what it has been used for, community by community. I suggest that future SCORP documents include this information, so that the public understands how the State of Alaska is using the funding.

To give my comments a brief context, I will share a quick summary of my connection to Alaska's outdoor recreation industry. I moved to Southeast Alaska in 2004. I worked for the Forest Service for the next 13 years, as a Forestry Technician in the Recreation department. I was responsible for leading crews who maintained, repaired and constructed recreation facilities on Prince of Wales Island, and later, for managing pieces of the recreation program. After earning a Master's degree in Recreation and Park Management, (Frostburg, MD, 2015), I left the Forest Service and started my own eco-tourism business, Prince of Wales Excursion Outfitter. I have engaged on outdoor recreation related topics for almost 20 years in Southeast Alaska. I plan to focus my comments on the Southeast region, as that is the area I have the closest tie with and know the most about.

In the SCORP summary of the Southeast region, mention is made of the need to "take advantage of the region's increasing (ly) (sic) potent set of non-profit organizations (Ch. 3, p. 39)." This is an opportunity that could be maximized if partnerships can work between non-profit environmental groups and the State's recreation department. However, within the State, there may still be more resource managers who plan to cut forests down than those who work to preserve them while allowing for non-industrial use. The thriving recreation economy in this State is helping to shut some of that sentiment down. After all, the indisputable fact is that the recreation economy in Alaska blows the doors off the timber economy in terms of revenue, jobs, and growth. This is the primary piece of Alaska's economy that should be grown and tended. It passes understanding why the State of Alaska continues to prioritize its timber program rather than its recreation program, which eclipses the timber industry not only economically but in terms of other benefits, such as human health, the environment, and quality of life for Alaskans. I look forward to a future in which that condition changes.

The SCORP document appears solid in terms of information, responsiveness to public survey results and public needs/wants, and in terms of a planning guidance document. There are a few areas which I have questions about, though. For example, the document acknowledges the need for recreation development an investment in rural areas. It acknowledges that the big cruise ship hubs, such as Juneau and Ketchikan, are rapidly approaching a finite capacity for cruise visitors. However, SCORP then identifies numerous initiatives that would add recreation infrastructure to cruise ship ports, which should be enjoying huge revenues (Southeast region section, Objective 2). It doesn't make sense for the State to be dumping money into the Ketchikan and Juneau areas in terms of outdoor recreation. Those places should be able to

provide lots of their own opportunities and fund them with cruise ship revenue. It would be helpful in the SCORP document to identify revenues that Southeast communities make from cruise industry annually, and then identify how cities typically use that revenue.

I was disappointed at the lack of initiatives identified in other places in Southeast—the same rural places, in fact, that the SCORP identifies as needing investment. Mostly, it's the usual beneficiaries; Juneau, Ketchikan, Wrangell, Haines; literally nothing for Prince of Wales Island (POW). It must be acknowledged that there are few State lands on POW, but there are still opportunities for the State to invest in outdoor recreation here. Instead, State managers continue to prioritize timber removal on POW despite public outcry (e.g., the Whale Pass timber sale and its impact on the town's tourism economy). The State's recreation department could help shift that priority and bring attention to the issues that more timber removal poses for residents of POW, as they try to grow their recreation economy.

From my research of LWCF state grant funding programs, I am unsure how helping Wrangell improve an indoor swimming pool fits with the intent of LWCF funding. I have the same question about the identified initiative to upgrade a Juneau ice arena—if it's an *indoor* arena. SCORP includes initiatives for 2 trails in Klawock (Prince of Wales Island) on private land owned by Sealaska. These trails have already been built by Sealaska. What is the State's role and what would LWCF funds be used for? Are there plans to expand or improve those trails? I would appreciate the opportunity to speak with the Southeast region representative of the SCORP team. I would appreciate any answers to my questions, clarifications or corrections on potential usage of the LWCF funds, as well as information on how projects are evaluated and chosen, and details about other parties contributing the 50% matching funds required by LWCF for each project, once the projects have been firmly identified.

I was happy to see that the SCORP document included widespread representation in terms of public surveys and Alaska Native stakeholder involvement, and prioritization of subsistence and other cultural factors. I also appreciated the State's attention to the differences in regional opportunities and uses. I applaud the recreation department's efforts to integrate recreation planning with other resource management factors and, most importantly, to listen to the needs of the people. I would like to thank all the individuals and entities that participated in creating the SCORP. The document contains some important messages about the future of outdoor recreation in Alaska, and I look forward to a future in which this industry becomes an area of state prosperity, pride, and benefit for all who call Alaska home.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katie Rooks".

Katie Rooks, M.S.



Director Ricky Gease  
Alaska State Parks and Outdoor Recreation  
550 W 7th Ave. Suite 1360, Anchorage, AK 99501-3557  
Nov. 28, 2022

RE: SCORP Public Comment Biking

We congratulate the state for its all-encompassing approach to developing the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The draft 2023-2027 plan is dense with data and information that will be useful in strengthening the state's outdoor recreation portfolio. We are excited to see biking participation ranked so highly by the public and recognition by land managers that public demand for bike trails is a top priority. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this plan.

We support the recommendation to create a State Office of Outdoor Recreation. We believe additional staff capacity will give this plan a much better chance of being implemented more fully. We applaud the goal of making outdoor recreation a cornerstone of Alaska's economic future. We believe participation in biking is growing, as is corresponding demand such things as:

- **Neighborhood bike skills parks.** Success story: Juneau Mountain Bike Alliance used CARES Act funding to build a bike skills park in downtown Juneau now heavily used by youth.
- **Purpose-built singletrack mountain bike trails.** Success story #1: Anchorage's Hemlock Burn flow trail - a cooperative venture between nonprofit Singletrack Advocates and Chugach State Park - is proving to be a magnet for riders. Success story #2: Fairbanks' Happy Valley Singletrack Trails - a cooperative effort between the Fairbanks Cycle Club and the Department of Natural Resources - are the most popular mountain biking trails in Fairbanks and also used by others, such as runners and walkers. These are examples of a successful public-private partnership with a robust public process and local economic impact.
- **Fat bike events boost camaraderie and host venue economies in winter.** Fat bike races are growing in popularity and have proven to be mid-winter economic boons to the communities along the race courses. Notable races include the Iditarod Trail Invitational attracts riders from around the world: the Trio Fat Bike World Championships have become a staple of Talkeetna's winter calendar and brings approximately 200 riders to town each March; the Frosty Bottom is an annual winter endurance event held entirely on the multi-use trails through Anchorage; the White Mountains 100 race on BLM land outside Fairbanks White Mountains 100 is one of several events run by Endurance North, Inc., a non-profit organization which oversees several multi-sport events in interior Alaska; capped at 150, the annual Homer Epic is a 50 km or 100 km human-powered winter race in the Caribou Hills that annually has a waiting list of riders hoping to participate. Fairbanks casual riders: Riders can

connect to ride almost every day of the week thanks to Fairbanks Cycle Club and local bike retailers hosting regular, weekly social daytime or post-work night rides.

- **Safe, multi-modal connections** between neighborhoods and communities. In progress: Alaska Outdoor Alliance's Active Transportation coalition is working to bring off the shelf recommendations found in the AK DOT Statewide Active Transportation Plan adopted in 2019
- **Improved winter road maintenance** to provide safe travel for cyclists and pedestrians. Street plowing often leaves bike lanes and sidewalks unsafe and unpassable for bicyclists and pedestrians. Recommendation: conduct a study of this issue including cost-benefit analysis of alternatives.
- Clear and consistent regulations concerning **eBike** access to trails, roads and backcountry. Recommendation: codify ebike types and travel regulations.
- When planning trailhead facility improvements and parking expansion, please consider incorporating measures to **mitigate vandalism and burglaries** of personal property. Recommendation: As this problem affects all types of trail users across the state, we urge land managers to collaborate on a public relations campaign to educate trailhead visitors on how best to keep vehicles and possessions safe while they are recreating.

**Request for statewide biking study.** We recognize these types of improvements and actions come with costs so we ask the SCORP include a recommend the following: the cell phone tracking data falls short on identifying the purpose of recreation outings so we ask the SCORP include a recommendation to study and quantify bicycling in Alaska including establishing baseline data for participation; identify barriers and opportunities; and track economic and quality of life impacts.

With respect to infrastructure funding we ask that the SCORP strengthen messaging around these points:

**Optimize opportunities to apply and secure federal funding for active transportation.**

Ensure the Alaska divisions of natural resources, health and transportation make it a priority to fully utilize directed federal funding and pursue competitive federal grants to finance infrastructure and safety improvements to enable more active transportation between neighborhoods, communities, and everyday places especially schools and work.

**Proactively expand access to outdoor recreation funding.** Small, rural, tribal governments and nonprofits often need assistance to even consider applying for grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Federal Highways' Recreation Trails Program. We ask the SCORP to recommend the new State Office of Outdoor Recreation study ways to ensure more communities can benefit from the outdoor recreation economy. We envision examples of actions may include by providing greater awareness of grant availability and timelines, increased

access to grant writing technical assistance, creating a fund that may be tapped to help provide non-federal match and short-term cash flow management assistance for federal grants.

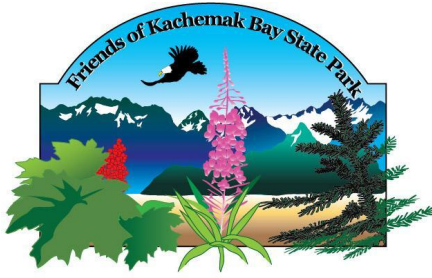
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Fairbanks Cycle Club

Juneau Mountain Bike Alliance

Alaska Outdoor Alliance



*Friends of Kachemak Bay State Parks 95 Sterling Highway, Suite 2 Homer, AK 99603, a nonprofit 501c3 organization*

To: Wendy Sailors  
Subject :SCORP Comments

November 16, 2022

After collaborating with AK State Parks staff and the Kachemak Bay Citizens Advisory Board our input for the Kenai Peninsula and Turnagain Arm Subregion, Objective 7 is as follows.

**Change Initiative # 3 to:**

Clear, widen, and/or reroute/improve

- Portlock Plateau, Emerald Lake Trail Loop (Humpy Creek to Tram)
- Emerald Lake Loop (Tram to Blue Ice)
- Emerald Lake Loop (Humpy Creek to Emerald Lake)
- Sadie Knob
- Grace Ridge Trail
- Coalition Trail
- Glacier Lake Trail
- Grewingk Tram Spur Trail
- Saddle Trail
- Wosnesenski (S. Spur to China Poot Lake)
- Moose Valley Trail
- Lagoon South (Halibut Cove Lagoon Ranger Station to Goat Rope)
- Goat Rope Trail
- In Potential Partners Add -AK DNR DPOR: Kachemak Bay State Park

**Change Initiative #4 to:**

Reclaim, repair, and/or reroute

- Alpine Ridge
- China Poot Lake Trail
- China Poot South Trail
- Cottonwood/Eastland Trails
- Diamond Creek Hiking and Biking Trails
- Build bridge over Halibut Creek
- Repair bridge over Humpy Creek
- Repair and/or replace 32 outhouses & long term plan for human waste in KBSP
- Update trail signs in KBSP
- In Potential Partners Add- AK DNR DPOR: Kachemak Bay State Park

Add to Initiative #11

- In Potential Partners Add- AK DNR DPOR: Kachemak Bay State Park

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2023-2027 SCORP.

Kathy Sarns Irwin  
President  
and the Board of Directors  
Friends of Kachemak Bay State Parks



Kachemak Bay State Parks Citizens' Advisory Board  
95 Sterling Hwy, Suite 2  
Homer, Alaska 99603

To  
Wendy Sailors  
State of Alaska, DNR, Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation  
Filed Electronically  
[wendy.sailors@alaska.gov](mailto:wendy.sailors@alaska.gov)

November 16, 2022

Subject  
Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, (SCORP) Comments

Greetings,  
The Kachemak Bay State Parks Citizens' Advisory Board, (CAB) met on November 9<sup>th</sup> 2022 and discussed input for the 2023-2027 SCORP. After discussion with citizens, Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park and local State Parks Personnel the Kachemak Bay CAB respectfully submits the following comments dealing with the Kachemak Bay State Parks Overarching Priorities to maintain the current trail infrastructure. Comments refer to the Kenai Peninsula and Turnagain Arm Subregion, Objective 7. Expand and improve the overall supply of quality outdoor recreation opportunities, specifically under Identified Initiatives starting on page 8.

**Change Initiative # 3** to:

Clear, widen and/or improve

- Portlock Plateau, Emerald Lake Trail Loop (Humpy Creek to Tram)
- Emerald Lake Loop (Tram to Blue Ice)
- Emerald Lake Loop (Humpy Creek to Emerald Lake)
- Sadie Knob Trail
- Grace Ridge Trail
- Coalition Trail
- Glacier Lake Trail
- Grewingk Tram Spur Trail
- Saddle Trail
- Wosnesenski (S. Spur to China Poot Lake)
- Moose Valley Trail
- Lagoon South (Halibut Cove Lagoon Ranger Station to Goat Rope Trail)
- Goat Rope Trail
- In Potential Partners Add

AK DNR DPOR: Kachemak Bay State Park

Change to Initiative #4

Reclaim and or reroute

- Alpine Ridge
- China Poot Lake Trail
- China Poot South Trail
- Cottonwood/Eastland Trails
- Diamond Creek Hiking and Biking Trails
- Build bridge over Halibut Creek
- Repair bridge over Humpy Creek
- Inventory, repair and/or replace 32 outhouses in KBSP
- Update trail signs in KBSP
- In Potential Partners Add

AK DNR DPOR: Kachemak Bay State Park

Add to Initiative #11

In Potential Partners Add

AK DNR DPOR: Kachemak Bay State Park

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2023-2027 SCORP.  
We realize the time and effort going into this document and commend all who have contributed to the effort.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Robert Archibald*, Chair

Kachemak Bay State Parks and Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park  
Citizens' Advisory Board



# Fairbanks Cycle Club

[www.fairbankscycleclub.org](http://www.fairbankscycleclub.org) P.O. Box 82136; Fairbanks, AK 99708

Wednesday, November 23, 2022

Director Ricky Gease  
Alaska State Parks and Outdoor Recreation  
550 W 7th Ave. Suite 1360, Anchorage, AK 99501-3557  
Nov. 28, 2022

RE: SCORP Public Comment

The Fairbanks Cycle Club is very happy with the comprehensive nature of the plan. We are particularly impressed that the plan looks to make sure outdoor recreation benefits residents (through such things as health, happiness, and access to resources), as well as looking at need to improve the visitor industry. And all the studies cited from a variety of sources really show the need for investment in outdoor recreation.

We are pleased to see biking participation ranked so highly by the public and recognition by land managers that public demand for bike trails is a top priority.

We wholeheartedly support the creation of a State Office of Outdoor Recreation. Such an office will give this plan a much better chance of being implemented. The goal of making outdoor recreation a cornerstone of Alaska's economic future is an excellent one. We believe cycling will be an important part of that future.

We would like to see more cycling infrastructure, such as neighborhood bike skills parks, purpose-built singletrack mountain bike trails, and winter fatbike trails. We would also like to see more progress in creating safe, multi-modal connections between neighborhoods and communities and trailheads, as well as improved winter maintenance to include cyclists and pedestrians.

Re trailheads: We would like to see more emphasis on measures to mitigate vandalism and theft. More signage and public campaigns that educate people on how best to keep vehicles and possessions safe while at trailheads would be helpful.

Since cycling was named so often in the study, we believe it would be helpful to do a statewide study on cycling. We need to establish a baseline of data to track amount and types of usage; identify barriers and opportunities; and track economic and quality of life impacts.

Fairbanks Cycle Club – SCORP comments



We are also glad to see funding addressed in the plan, especially the optimization of federal funds. This does take a financial commitment on the part of the state, but it brings back so much more benefit.

Here are some more specific comments:

## **GOAL 2: Make Outdoor Recreation a Cornerstone of Alaska's Economic Future**

### **OBJECTIVE 6. EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR BIKING, HIKING, PUBLIC USE CABINS, AND HUT- TO-HUT TRAIL SYSTEMS**

(Chap 4, page 15) STRATEGY 6.2: Expand community to community bike routes in Alaska. States and communities around the country have used bike tours as a rural economic development strategy. Alaska may lack the extensive system of rural roads found in other states, but our low traffic highways, often with wide shoulders, open opportunities for safe, scenic riding. Data from a Montana study<sup>22</sup> shows that touring cyclists spend 40 percent more compared to the average motorized tourist, due to their slower pace.

#### **New suggested strategy:**

Encourage the DOT to continue work to make our highways truly multi-modal highways with wide shoulders and bike-friendly rumble strips.

## **GOAL 7: Strengthen Partnerships to Improve Outdoor Recreation Management**

### **OBJECTIVE 2: MANAGE FEDERAL FUNDING MORE EFFECTIVELY**

(Chap 4, page 49) STRATEGY 2.3: Work with Alaska's congressional delegation to change key rules affecting the use of both RTP and LWCF funds.

ACTION A: Change the requirement coming through the Federal Highways Administration that limits/ prohibit the use of RTP funds for trails on logging roads.

This is excellent! It will especially help the Fairbanks-Nenana connection of the Alaska Long Trail (which will be friendly to many uses, including bikes).

### **OBJECTIVE 5: EXPAND TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS IN ALL ASPECTS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION**

(Ch 4, pg 54) STRATEGY 5.1: Develop a database as a reference for government and project developers.

A good addition to this database would be Best Management Practices from any relevant groups or agencies, such as sustainable trail building, Leave No Trace camping and travel, invasive species, and subsistence use.

OBJECTIVE 2: MANAGE FEDERAL FUNDING MORE EFFECTIVELY (Ch 4, pg 49)

**New suggested strategy:**

Create a loan fund so that small groups can more easily apply for Recreational Trails Program grants. Currently, applicants must pay for all costs before they get reimbursed, which can take quite a while. (We have that situation now with the Fairbanks Cycle Club.) Not all small groups have that ability.

Thank you for your efforts with this plan.

Sincerely,  
Alyssa Enriquez  
President



November 30, 2022

Greetings Director Gease and SCORP Team-

The Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA) would like to offer the comments below in reviewing the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Please contact Jeff Samuels or myself if you have any questions regarding our feedback.

On behalf of ATIA and all Alaskans, thank you for the hard work on this extensive project!

#### Goal 1- Lifestyle

1. **Regarding creating accessible outdoor recreation opportunities for the “missing middle”- folks who are looking for day trip experiences that get them outdoors but return them to a warm bed and hot meal at the end of the day.** *ATIA supports this objective as so many travelers have this type of experience in mind when visiting the state. We would encourage a plan that includes more experiences like this throughout the state including more rural areas in Southeast, Interior and Arctic regions. An example in the Southcentral region is Girdwood’s Winner Creek Trail with abundant parking, wide tread, and structures, restrooms, and more interpretive signage.*
2. **Regarding expanding winter recreation opportunities:** *ATIA agrees with and supports this objective as it aligns with the tourism industry’s goal of providing year-round visitor experiences in multiple seasons, creating economic activity employment in our sector.*

#### Goal 2- Economy

1. **Make Recreation a Cornerstone of Alaska’s Economic Future:** *ATIA broadly agrees with this goal as we recognize how important the travel, tourism and hospitality sectors are to the economy of Alaska. We look to research indicating how many of our recreation users are in-state residents as opposed to out of state travelers. Identifying these different user groups will allow for more strategic investment in both tourism, travel and recreation resources.*

#### Goal 3- Workforce

1. **Text Box-** suggest adding highlighted components:  
**Travel Industry Partnerships**  
ATIA sponsors two programs that can help with recruitment and job training: “Work for Alaska **Tourism**” (a tourism workforce recruitment campaign) and “AlaskaHost”

---

*Alaska’s leading statewide nonprofit membership organization for the Alaska travel industry.*

610 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Ste. 200  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
O 907.929.2842  
F 907.561.5727  
[AlaskaTIA.org](http://AlaskaTIA.org)

(hospitality training program). Leverage the value of these programs with new partners. See the ATIA website for details: [www.alaskatia.org](http://www.alaskatia.org)

2. **Text Box-** Check the photo credit on upper right text box on page 24 as it might be "Alaska Wildland Adventures". (from Jeff Samuels, personal note)

Goal 4- Health and Wellness

1. **Text Box-** Check quote attribute on TRAYLS text box on page 29. Quinn is an instructor and partner for TRAYLS in Klawock, but not a participant. (from Jeff Samuels, personal note)

Goal 5- No Comments

Goal 6- Grow Stable and Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Funding

1. **Page 40, Action C, Line 3-** remove "as"
2. **Text box on page 40-** *Can the minimum match be included with each funding source to better illustrate the task at hand to access all available funding?*

Goal 7- Outdoor Recreation Management

1. **ACTION D:** ATIA looks to research indicating how many of our recreation users are in-state residents as opposed to out of state travelers. Identifying these different user groups will allow for more strategic investment in both tourism, travel, and recreation resources.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Leonard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Sarah Leonard, President & CEO  
Alaska Travel Industry Association

11/28/22

Lisa Wax

Comment on AK SCORP '22

He has a right to criticize, who has a heart to help. – Abe Lincoln

Oh my! Commenting on SCORP was on my calendar for this evening. But I did not realize the magnormous size of the document. Wish I would have known sooner. Would have liked to put a week into this effort. I did not see any notice in Valdez and the Copper River Valley's only print publication, The Copper River Record. Please consider the Record for future notices. No one in the Valdez/Copper River Valley who have asked has ever heard of SCORP. Nonetheless, I have just read through SCORP in its' entirety. Gratitude and kudos to all the folks who contributed. It is predominately a beautiful collection bursting with potentiality. But with all due respect for the enormous effort, SCORP is obsolete if the ~~elephant~~-musk ox in the room is not addressed. The wheels are in motion for the largest public land give-away in modern history. 28 million acres of Alaska's public land is slated to be given up to private for-profit corporations for extraction. All of Alaska, from the Bering Sea to the Canadian border, is endangered. 193 pages of hard-earned SCORP minutia is obsolete if there is no recreation land left. Take the time to study this map, all the D1 lands with black cross-hatches are poised for extinction in terms of flora, fauna and human recreation: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2018002/580> . Zoom in and around the state. More info and maps are available in the same link. And check out Appendix A for a better explanation.

I understand that SCORP's 193 pages of, with all due respect, "minutia (in relation to the larger picture)" is necessary to receive the federal grant money. But SCORP missed the point. Money must be invested to protect the land before we start making plans for what to do with land

that we are going to lose access to. Please reach out to me, I'd be thrilled to brainstorm. How about having an "Ambassador" represent each area - Turnigan Pass, Hatcher Pass, Thompson Pass etc. With 38 AK reality shows, all eyes are on Alaska, let's set the precedent! We need to give nature a voice (beginning, perhaps, through each ambassador). Pick an area to commence, I propose Thompson Pass since it is experiencing the most imminent risk (Appendix B.1 & B.2). And let's legislate rights for the land, corporations have rights and the land also deserves rights. The rest of our state and country will follow.

My SCORP reaction – "All Systems Stop!" Let's focus on remedying the mess that already exists. As mentioned, saving the land must be the most critical priority (so that it can, in turn, save the people). One of several themes repeated throughout the document (example: Chapter 4, Section 1.4, Action B) is of particular concern – "additional facilities". While it certainly sounds alluring, it is not practical to add more "facilities" when the ones that already exist are tragically ill-maintained. Two examples from Thompson Pass include the Blueberry Lake Campground and the Worthington Glacier State Recreation Site. These photos were taken in September of last year at the Blueberry Lake campgrounds host site:













The magic is always alive until you pull/bike/hike into the campground. The Blueberry Lake State Recreation Site sign appears in the foreground:





The Worthington Glacier State Recreation Site ( DNR's "crown-jewel" according to the state's website) is littered with 32 ragged signs about money. And there are not even 32 parking spots, a truly a depressing welcome to a breathtaking place, as confirmed by the many visitors I have spoken to. Here is an example from where the short access road meets the Richardson Highway:





Even sadder, more obsessive plastic has also been erroneously added the Worthington ridge trailhead:





This photo illustrates that there is a great trail around the eroded section of the Worthington trail (and to stay “great” it must be used). The current trail runs along the right side of the photo and continues over a ridge:











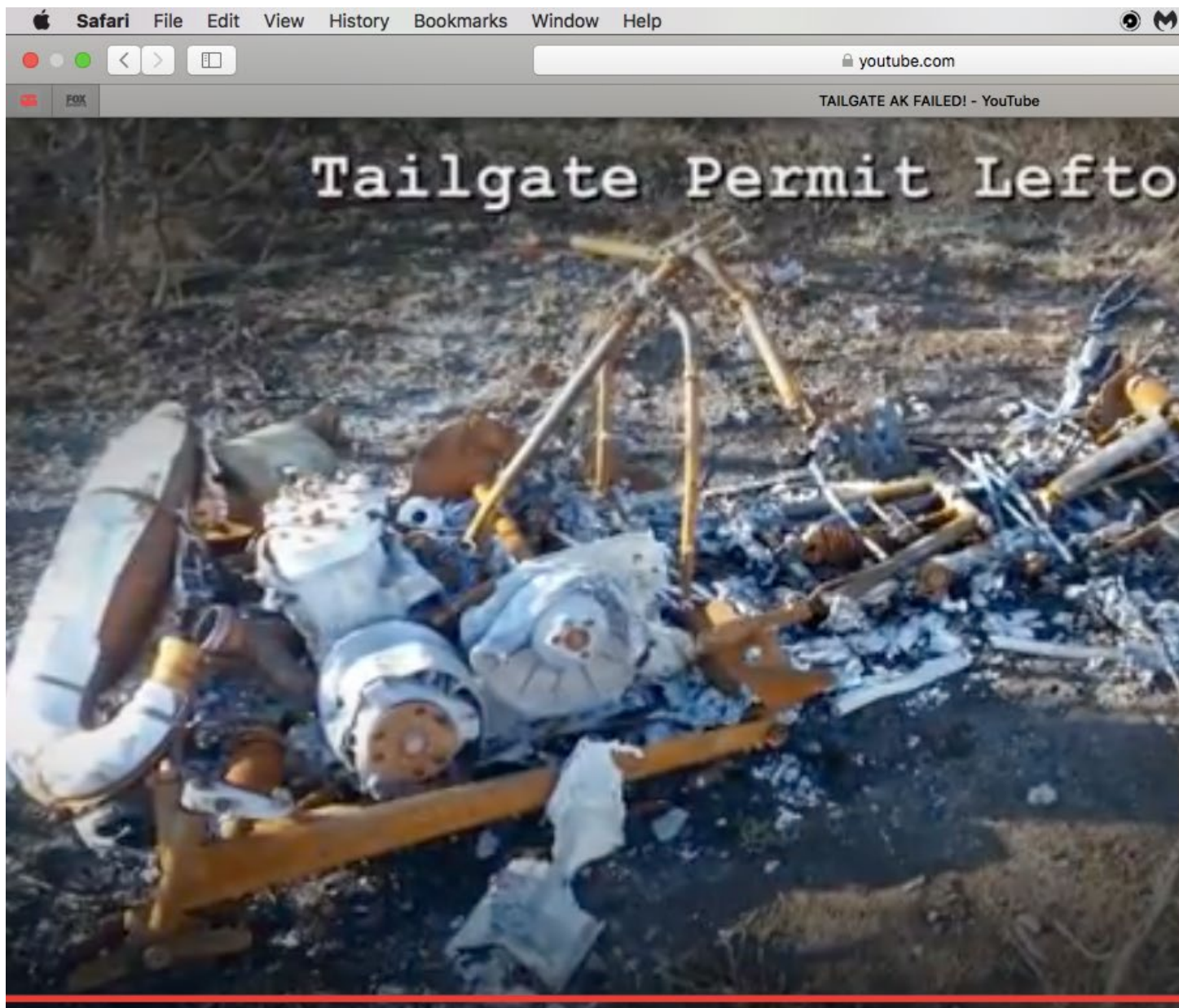


I am thrilled to read of SCORP's interest in "restoring existing outdated recreation infrastructure and facilities." But **management** is the real issue, think of it as the "musk ox" calf in the room. SCORP has dropped the ball on addressing management. There must be a way to oversee what is already happening before there is discussion of increasing the load. Management in Thompson Pass has been predominately worse than non-existent. Perhaps "ambassadors" could play a role here?

I was devastated to read of the alpha musk ox calf in Chapter 4, pg. 51. Streamlining, like a fast-food drive-thru, "one-stop multi-agency commercial use permitting" is a criminal concept given the current situation. The reason why the management has been "worse than non-existent" is because (See Appendix C) **DMLW has the authority to issue permits/leases but has no designated people or plan to manage them. They are not only grossly imposing upon other, already strapped, state agencies** (especially Department of Transportation and the Division of State Troopers) **but they are also imposing upon the public.** DMLW is enabling the decimation of their citizen's favorite "destination" (aka mental and physical health therapy) and their potential winter tourism dollars.

DMLW has been enabling/permitting disrespect for Thompson Pass and its users for decades. Incomplete permits are issued, fees go uncollected, oversight is unseen, spills and other public concerns go unaddressed. **DMLW is clearly not poised contractually or functionally to take on ANYTHING in Thompson Pass.** The system is clearly broken. I adamantly oppose SCORP's proposed "streamlining" of commercial permits. Please read Appendix C for further details. I put together this 2-minute video to summarize the impact of the Tailgate Alaska Thompson Pass permit:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRTIW2q\\_bNw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRTIW2q_bNw) (spoiler alert – the appeal was denied).





And here are some photos of other DMLW Thompson Pass permit sites. This disaster was left abandoned for years (until I went to Juneau and publicly, on record, gave photos to each member of the Senate Resource Committee):



The Copper River Basin's number one tourist attraction, Worthington Glacier, now has 2 shipping containers in its' foreground (against the letter of the law), hence the second photo:













Another Thompson Pass DMLW Land Use Permit stated, "Removal or destruction of the vegetative mat is not authorized under this permit." Nonetheless, the property was bulldozed (as seen below). The permit allowed for one cabin. 7 cabins were put on the property. And then the same operator was awarded 2 more permits.



Chapter 4, Pg. 6 Strategy 1.3, Action A suggests “reserving additional land for outdoor recreation embedded in or near . . .”. Fantastic idea indeed! But the “musk ox” in the room indicates otherwise. I know, for example, that Valdez is not aware that the majority of land around the city limits in nearly every direction is poised to be a part of this 28 million acre land give-away. SCORP is adding while reality is subtracting.

Chapter 4, Pg. 37, Sec. 4 provided the only indication of addressing land stewardship that I could locate:

“Sustained Yield: Fish, forests, wildlife, grasslands, and all other replenishable resources belonging to the State shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses.

No singular strategy can reach this goal. **All the parties involved in the broad world of outdoor recreation and tourism have to resolve to reach this balance point** using good information, collaborative local and regional planning, and strong partnerships.

CONCLUSION. To keep delivering outdoor recreation's economic, fiscal, health, and quality of life benefits, **Alaska needs to actively work to balance the growth of public outdoor recreation opportunities while being good stewards of publicly owned natural resources.** Alaska's State Constitution Article 8, Natural Resources, Section 4 makes clear that stewardship of Alaska's natural resources on public lands is a priority, and these resources must be managed on a sustained yield basis."

The legal definition of "**sustained yield**" speaks for itself: The term "sustained yield" means the achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high-level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the public lands consistent with multiple use. Source [43 USC § 1702\(h\)](#)

Genuine gratitude to SCORP! My "ambassador" idea was birthed this evening from the frustration of reading SCORP. And I am delighted by how the concept is metamorphosing in my noggin'. While a field liaison (to management, culture, history, geology, glaciology, flora, fauna etc.) for locals and visitors seems imperative, it also would be indispensable to have ambassadors (and the rest of the country will follow!) as liaisons between the schools and the great outdoors (including subsistence, recreation etc.). I know first-hand that kids in Valdez feel like they have no way to connect with the outdoors. Seems criminal that they live in paradise and yet are nearly unanimously disconnected from it. An ambassador could bridge that gap. Perhaps I need to establish an ambassador program. Field trips were my favorite school memories

therefore I must be qualified. Oh and I do have an extensive knowledge base of all those other aforementioned things (mental health included). Church groups, college groups etc. have been thrilled to learn about the historic pack trail etc. when I have randomly stopped in at the campground. I have even addressed eager tour bus passengers at the Worthington Glacier. Indeed, there is a missing link!

Ambassadors could also be liaisons to the (Chapter 4, pg.46) Office of Outdoor Recreation. While I absolutely do support the “Office” concept, I fear that, as one resource manager commented (for SCORP), an entity already “running on fumes” could snowball into a bigger avalanche. It seems wise to create an office, an entity, that is not enmeshed in the dysfunction that state offices are currently struggling with due to lack of funding, staffing etc.

SCORP’s priority must be to zoom out its perspective. The land must be protected/retained so that we can have the luxury of addressing what will otherwise become obsolete – the trails, the parking etc. Make no mistake, I wholly respect and appreciate the importance of these details . . . if there is a place on the map left for them. I challenge Team SCORP to take the initiative towards legislating rights for nature! I’d be delighted to assist. PLEASE RECONFIGURE SCORP TO PRIORITIZE FUNDING A NETWORK THAT WILL ENSURE PUBLIC LAND REMAINS PUBLIC.

Thanks for the opportunity to brainstorm!.

Lisa Wax, on behalf of Thompson Pass

p.s. I am pushing the midnight deadline and now realize that the Appendix’s are not final drafts. But they are certainly sufficient enough to keep me from missing the deadline. Again, I am happy to provide more or cleaner information upon request.

## APPENDIX A

1<sup>st</sup> two pastes are from AK Wilderness League and last one from National Audubon Society and Salmon State. Note that Public Comment is closed:

### **TAKE ACTION: Protect 28 million acres of wild lands in Alaska!**

28 million acres of public lands in Alaska were set aside 50 years ago to “protect the public interest” because **they contain vast populations of fish and wildlife, not to mention communities** that rely on them to survive. But, **in a massive land grab, the departing Trump administration opened these “D-1” lands to development.**

*That’s more land than the entire state of Virginia, suddenly open to development despite the wildlife thriving across it.*

**Submit a public comment to keep these lands protected for wildlife and communities.**

The Biden administration blocked the immediate development of these lands, and has **now launched a public comment period that will evaluate all the harm to fish, wildlife and communities should these lands suddenly face industrial development.**

In the comment period, Bureau of Land Management will consider how its decisions could affect large tracts of land, critical fish and wildlife habitat, and cultural and subsistence resources beyond the boundaries of the usual resource management plans.

### **Please weigh in and submit a public comment today!**

Unfragmented habitat plays a key role in sustaining wildlife across the state of Alaska, and our entire world. **These 28 million acres of land serve as important corridors for all kinds of wild creatures, from fish to caribou to bears.**

**Keep wild Alaska intact by submitting a public comment today.**

Thank you,  
Maddie Halloran  
Manager of Alaska Campaigns

The Ray Mountains are among the millions of acres that could soon be open to mining and other industrial activity.*David W. Shaw*

*This issue brief is part of a series outlining public lands in Alaska that are in danger of losing protection.*

## Overview

Since 2016, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service have advanced five efforts that would dramatically alter protections for some 60 million acres of federally managed land in Alaska. If fully enacted, the policies and decisions outlined in those proposed and finalized plans would open vast stretches of the Bering Sea-Western Interior, Tongass National Forest, Central Yukon, National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A), and unencumbered BLM land to extractive development and have significant impacts on Alaska's lands, rivers, wildlife, and the Indigenous peoples who call these landscapes home.<sup>1</sup>

## Without revision, BLM plans will further undermine Alaska land protections

In 1971, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) temporarily withdrew roughly 56.9 million acres of BLM-managed lands from possible development and directed the secretary of the interior to conduct a review to determine whether any of those lands should be permanently excluded from industrial use. The withdrawals, which came to be called D-1, were intended to protect the public interest and limit development on land available to satisfy land claims from the state and native corporations established under the act.<sup>2</sup>

In 2004, Congress passed the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act to resolve various land claim and transfer issues that arose from ANCSA and from the 1958 law that made Alaska a state. As required in the transfer acceleration act, BLM produced a report that detailed its progress on Alaska land transfers and recommended that the secretary revoke D-1 withdrawals from approximately 50.1 million acres of BLM-managed land in Alaska and maintain them on roughly 6.7 million additional acres.<sup>3</sup> The report further advised that the agency's standard land use planning process provided the most appropriate venue for review of the withdrawals.<sup>4</sup> In keeping with the report's

guidance, BLM has finalized five management plans since 2005 that advocate lifting almost all D-1 protections from BLM-managed land in its planning areas.<sup>5</sup> Final revocation of those orders, however, can be made only by the secretary of the interior, pursuant to recommendations in BLM plans.<sup>6</sup>

**Error! Filename not specified.**

Rolling back conservation protections on public lands in Alaska could harm critical caribou habitat. *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

From October 2018 to Jan. 19, 2021, the Department of the Interior opened more than 11.2 million acres of BLM Alaska land to mining with only a Federal Register announcement as public notice.<sup>7</sup> BLM has two additional active resource management plans in process, and those will determine the future of another roughly 27 million acres.<sup>8</sup> If those plans are implemented as drafted, the department's actions since 2018 would constitute **one of the largest openings of public land to extractive development in contemporary American history.**

In addition, in December 2018, Congress passed the Vietnam Veteran Allotment Act, allowing the 2,200 eligible Indigenous veterans who were serving in Vietnam during the original allotment period to apply for land claims.<sup>9</sup> However, BLM's interpretation of the act has put Indigenous people in a difficult position by requiring that all D-1 orders be lifted before these veterans may apply for allotments. This approach is disproportionate, potentially removing protections from tens of millions of acres to accommodate approximately 352,000 acres of veteran allotments and forcing Indigenous peoples to choose between their veterans' rightful claims and the essential landscapes that have nurtured their communities for millennia.<sup>10</sup>

All together, these plans would open roughly 38 million acres of pristine habitat to extraction activities. But before they are finalized, the Biden administration has an opportunity to work with Indigenous communities to resolve the question of the future of D-1 withdrawals by creating enduring administrative protections that maintain landscape productivity and ecosystems that support tribal communities' way of life.

## An ecosystem and a way of life at risk

**Error! Filename not specified.**



Salmon, smoked and dried using traditional practices, is a staple for communities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. *Clark James Mishler*

Indigenous communities have asked the federal government not to open all available federally managed acres to development and have urged conservation of important watersheds and spawning areas that are the cornerstones of biological diversity and community food security.<sup>11</sup> But despite the scale of potential harm, no public input process or other notice is required before the Department of the Interior revokes D-1 protections, leaving Indigenous peoples with no official avenue to oppose the threat to the environment and the traditional way of life.<sup>12</sup>

Among the diverse intact ecosystems that will be affected are tundra landscapes, the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers (the longest in Alaska), coastal estuaries, highly productive salmon streams, caribou calving grounds, and habitat critical to migratory birds.<sup>13</sup> Also threatened are hunting grounds for more than 100 Indigenous Alaska communities, and lands that border national parks, wildlife refuges, and forests.<sup>14</sup>

Twenty tribes have asked BLM to protect critical watersheds and landscapes across the state. In a June 13, 2019, letter to BLM's Alaska director about the Bering Sea-Western Interior plan, the tribes identified specific culturally important areas for protection, but BLM nevertheless proposed to open 99% of the land to mining and development.<sup>15</sup>

By collaborating with the tribal communities that know these lands most intimately, the new federal administration can safeguard Indigenous cultural and food resources, protect millions of acres of the nation's most pristine land, and provide for sustainable development.

## Endnotes

1. Bureau of Land Management, "Bering Sea-Western Interior RMP/EIS," U.S. Department of the Interior, <https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/plans-in-development/alaska/BSWI>; Bureau of Land Management, "Central Yukon RMP/EIS," U.S. Department of the Interior, <https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/plans-in-development/alaska/central-yukon-rmp>; U.S. Forest Service, "Alaska Roadless Rulemaking," U.S. Department of Agriculture, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54511>; Bureau of Land Management, "National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska IAP/EIS," U.S.



- Department of the Interior, <https://www.blm.gov/planning-and-nepa/plans-in-development/alaska/npr-a-iap-eis>; Bureau of Land Management, “Revoking D-1 Withdrawals,” U.S. Department of the Interior, [https://www.blm.gov/programs/lands-and-realty/regional-information/alaska/d-1\\_withdrawals/revocation](https://www.blm.gov/programs/lands-and-realty/regional-information/alaska/d-1_withdrawals/revocation).
2. Bureau of Land Management, “Alaska D-1 Withdrawals,” [https://www.blm.gov/programs/lands-and-realty/regional-information/alaska/d-1\\_withdrawals](https://www.blm.gov/programs/lands-and-realty/regional-information/alaska/d-1_withdrawals); Alaska Public Law 92-203 (1971), <https://www.govinfo.gov/link/statute/85/688>.
  3. U.S. Land Transfer Acceleration Act, Public Law 108-452 (2004), <https://www.congress.gov/108/plaws/publ452/PLAW-108publ452.pdf>; Congressional Research Service, “The Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act: Background and Summary” (2005), [https://www.everycrsreport.com/files/20050114\\_RL32734\\_a3fcb1c34b3f1ebcefb32dbf4a654395b55d7287.pdf](https://www.everycrsreport.com/files/20050114_RL32734_a3fcb1c34b3f1ebcefb32dbf4a654395b55d7287.pdf).
  4. Bureau of Land Management, “Alaska D-1 Withdrawals.”
  5. Bureau of Land Management, “BLM National NEPA Register—National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan,” <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/117408/510>; Bureau of Land Management, “Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Approved Resource Management Plan” ([https://www.arlis.org/docs/vol1/A/251529143/approved\\_ksprmp\\_web.pdf](https://www.arlis.org/docs/vol1/A/251529143/approved_ksprmp_web.pdf)); Bureau of Land Management, “East Alaska Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement” (2006), [https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/lup/66965/83528/100157/Volume\\_1\\_combined.pdf](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/lup/66965/83528/100157/Volume_1_combined.pdf); Bureau of Land Management, “The Bay Resource Management Plan Scoping Report” (2005), [https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/lup/66958/82401/98066/Scoping\\_Report\\_June\\_2005.pdf](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/lup/66958/82401/98066/Scoping_Report_June_2005.pdf); Bureau of Land Management, “BLM Approves Management Plan for Alaska’s Eastern Interior,” Jan. 5, 2017, <https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-approves-management-plan-alaskas-eastern-interior>.
  6. Bureau of Land Management, “Revoking D-1 Withdrawals.”
  7. Public Land Order No. 7899; Partial Revocation of Public Land Orders No. 5169, 5170, 5171, 5173, 5179, 5180, 5184, 5186, 5187, 5188, 5353, Alaska, Fed. Reg. 5236-46 (Jan. 19, 2021), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/01/19/2021-01111/public-land-order-no-7899-partial-revocation-of-public-land-orders-no-5169-5170-5171-5173-5179-5180>; Public Land Order No. 7874; Partial

- Revocation of Public Land Orders No. 5179, 5180, 5181, 5184, and 5188, Alaska, Fed. Reg. 50117-19 (Oct. 4, 2018), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/10/04/2018-21641/public-land-order-no-7874-partial-revocation-of-public-land-orders-no-5179-5180-5181-5184-and-5188>; Public Land Order No. 7879; Partial Revocation of Public Land Orders No. 5173, 5178, 5179, 5180, 5184, 5186 and 5187, Alaska, Fed. Reg. 32946-50 (July 10, 2019), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/07/10/2019-14709/public-land-order-no-7879-partial-revocation-of-public-land-orders-no-5173-5178-5179-5180-5184-5186>; Public Land Order No. 7880, Partial Revocation of Public Land Orders No. 5176 and 5179, Alaska, Fed. Reg. 32945-46 (July 10, 2019), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/07/10/2019-14708/public-land-order-no-7880-partial-revocation-of-public-land-orders-no-5176-and-5179-alaska>.
8. Bureau of Land Management, “Central Yukon RMP/EIS”; Bureau of Land Management, “Bering Sea-Western Interior RMP/EIS.”
  9. U.S. Public Law No. 116-9 (03/12/2019) [116<sup>th</sup> Congress Public Law 9] (2019), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/47/text>.
  10. Bureau of Land Management, “Eligible Alaska Native Veterans Can Get Up to 160 Acres of Federal Land,” 2019, <https://www.blm.gov/programs/lands-and-realty/regional-information/alaska/land-transfer/ak-native-allotment-act/alaska-native-vietnam-veterans-land-allotment>.
  11. Associated Press, “Alaska Tribal Groups Oppose Federal Plan to Allow Mining,” Jan. 6, 2020, <https://apnews.com/article/d0af1a8950d7e530a32e99e5d84f9750>; Alaska Tribal Commission, letter to Tom Heinlein, district manager, and Bonnie Million, field manager, Bureau of Land Management, tribes’ comments on the Bureau of Land Management Bering Sea-Western Interior Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement, June 13, 2019.
  12. Alaska Public Law 92-203.
  13. “The 10 Longest Rivers in Alaska,” World Atlas, July 17, 2018, <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/the-10-longest-rivers-in-alaska.html>.
  14. Bureau of Land Management, “National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan”; Bureau of Land Management, “Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Approved Resource Management Plan”; Bureau of Land Management, “East Alaska Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final

- Environmental Impact Statement”; Bureau of Land Management, “The Bay Resource Management Plan Scoping Report”; Bureau of Land Management, “BLM Approves Management Plan for Alaska’s Eastern Interior,” news release, Jan. 5, 2017, <https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-approves-management-plan-alaskas-eastern-interior>; Public Land Order No. 7899; Bureau of Land Management, “Bering Sea-Western Interior RMP/EIS”; Bureau of Land Management, “Central Yukon RMP/EIS.”
15. BLMWild, “20 Alaska Native Tribes Urge BLM to Give Serious Consideration to Tribal Concerns,” BLMWild (blog), Medium.com, June 17, 2019, <https://medium.com/blmwild/20-alaska-native-tribes-urge-the-bureau-of-land-management-to-give-serious-consideration-to-tribal-467f10000bc6>; Alaska Tribal Commission, letter.

A couple years ago:

The Department of Interior’s Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is aggressively opening wide swaths of Alaska federal land to mining. The former Department of Interior’s Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals, Joe Balash, signed directives in 2018-19 revoking federal public land protections nearly 50 years old, opening 1.3- million acres of BLM lands to mineral entry and easing the conveyance to the state, Alaska Native corporations thereby making them available for mining claim staking. When mining claims are staked, any interested member of the public would need to search online to be able to find out about it. There is no outreach by agencies for public comments.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. In Alaska, state and federal officials are in lock-step, sharing an anti- public- land ideology and **ramping up what could be the largest public land giveaway to private and foreign interests in contemporary American history**. The opening of millions of acres of Alaska’s BLM lands to development is considered to be the biggest “sleeper” issue currently facing our federal lands nationwide.

**TIMING:** Between October 2018 and August 2019, nearly 2 million acres of BLM Alaska land were quietly opened to mining by the Department of Interior. The remaining BLM Alaska lands, **over 46 million acres**, will be opened in small “packages,” according to BLM — likely 1-3 million acres at a time, over the next six to 12 months. The remaining active Resource Management Plan processes, which will determine the future for over 27 million acres, are being fast tracked and will be completed by early 2020. These new plans will likely authorize opening 99% of the lands to mineral entry and remove community-supported Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

**WHAT'S AT STAKE:** Important and broadly diverse wildlife habitat corridors, hunting and fishing grounds, food security for over 100 Alaska Native communities, and wilderness-quality lands that border rivers, national parks, wildlife refuges, and forests.

## **CULTURE AND HISTORY:**

Alaska Native communities from the Canadian border to the Bering Sea are threatened by these giveaways. These communities are home to federally recognized Tribes and users of traditional land managed by BLM that will be opened to mining overnight. These communities were deeply vested in BLM's Resource Management Plan processes and are on the record with a unified voice telling BLM that clean water, wildlife, future generations and the wild food subsistence economy should be the priority for these valuable lands. **With the blanket lifting of the public land order, these traditional lands will be open to mining activities without any public notice or process.**

**WILDLIFE:** Diverse, intact, ecosystems from high alpine tundra to the longest largest river watershed in North America, coastal estuaries and highly productive salmon streams, caribou calving grounds, and nationally and internationally recognized Important Bird Areas are all at risk. Alaska Native subsistence users depend on the health and productivity of these lands,

as do recreational hunters and fishermen. Recreational opportunities such as National Wild and Scenic Rivers, hiking routes, and the Iditarod Trail system attract recreationists from around the world.

**THE SPIN:** Former Assistant Secretary Balash, Alaska Governor Dunleavy and other publicly-elected officials claim lifting

the PLOs will allow the federal government to make good on long standing commitments to the State of Alaska and Native corporations. Note again, without any notice or process with Alaska's tribes and the general public.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Rachel James ([rachel@salmonstate.org](mailto:rachel@salmonstate.org)), Salmon State, 907-302-0206 and Natalie Dawson ([ndawson@audubon.org](mailto:ndawson@audubon.org)), National Audubon Society, 907-227-3407

## **APPENDIX B.1**

SPOILER ALERT: BLM IGNORED THE PUBLIC AND PUSHED THROUGH THE AMENDMENT MAKING THE THOMPSON PASS HAIPIN LAND AVAILABLE FOR EXCHANGE



The State of Alaska is poised to give prime public recreation land to private corporations (without public notice or opportunity for comment but BLM is asking for comment ). Senator Lisa Murkowski sponsored the Dingell Act that President Trump signed last year which allows native corporations to undo the settlement of aboriginal land rights. 46 years ago the Alaska Native Settlement Claims Act, ANSCA, allowed the native corporations to select 44 million acres of land and the U.S. then payed them an additional nearly 1 billion dollars as compensation for the rest of the (unselected) land. And now, nearly 50 years later, the 2019 Dingell Act is allowing the native corporations to (change their mind and) exchange that land for what has become the most popular recreation land, including two sections (Sections 5 & 6, Township 9 South, Range 2 West, Copper River Meridian) totaling 2 square miles, roughly 1,260 acres, at the Thompson Pass hairpin turn on the south side of Odyssey mountain ([https://eplanning.blm.gov/public\\_projects/2003781/200470312/20031510/250037709/EARMP\\_AmendThompsonPassArea\\_landstatus.pdf](https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/2003781/200470312/20031510/250037709/EARMP_AmendThompsonPassArea_landstatus.pdf)). The sections are attached to both an additional 4 square miles of already native owned land to the east and 22 more square miles of native selected land to the south/southeast, extending out between Bench Glacier and Marshall Glacier including Heiden Glacier and most of the Deserted Glacier (recreationalists know that access to “The Books” is otherworldly but they did not know they it could become history). The conveyance of these 22 square miles simply requires the submittal of a request to BLM for transfer; no public input included. Once an exchange is complete, the corporation is free to do anything (a shopping mall? a nuclear power plant? a mine?) on the land. No environmental will be required (or allowed); and the corporation will own the surface and subsurface rights.



While the state did not reach out for your opinion before submitting a conditional relinquishment (contradicting their guiding doctrine that specifies retention of this land for “recreation”) of these sections, the BLM is reaching out for public input. As the current interim land managers, they are being pressured (by our political appointees) to amend BLM’s East Alaska Resource Management Plan which clearly dictates that these 2 sections are not available. **And you are invited to help guide them through this amendment. Public scoping comments are due on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021** (late comments may be considered due to holiday/covid timing).

**Comment:** <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2003781/570/8001860/comment>

or by mail to: Bureau of Land Management East Alaska RMP Amendment/EA 222 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Stop 13 Anchorage, Alaska 99513

**BLM is able to consider alternatives. Let them know if we should allow for exchanges on Thompson Pass. They can retain public ownership and/or easements (or look at entirely other lands) based upon your input. And then in late January or early February BLM will release a draft analysis(based on your public comments) and post (<https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2003781/550>) a 15-day notice prior to a public virtual meeting. There will then be 30 days to comments on BLM’s proposed draft.**

Some folks are disillusioned (muscle memory) that their voice will not matter. While DNR has historically blatantly disregarded public input, the feds have historically been more responsible to the public (BLM just eliminated 475,000 acres of ANWR’s drilling rights based on 40,000 comments largely concerned about subsistence hunting rights relating to caribou, polar bear and bird habitat). So, whatever your opinion, it matters. It is still your land.

The logistics are not simple and the meeting will be just a couple hours. So, I have I attempted to decipher the complexities with the intention of helping folks understand the facts before commenting and/or before the meeting. Perhaps this will allow more time for productive feedback and brainstorming and less time for unravelling how we got here.

Here is the low-down.

How has this seemingly unfathomable proposed land exchange suddenly emerged? Inaccessible land in the Wrangell’s (location is not yet absolute, could be in the Chugach National Forest) is slated to be exchanged for prime road accessible recreation land in Thompson Pass. BLM’s East AK Resource Management Plan, the document that dictates how BLM should manage this land, does not consider it (arguably the most breathtaking accessible AK viewshed) available for private ownership. And neither did I or the many skiers and snowmachiners who have been recreating on these public lands this past week. And yet this discussion is enormously larger than both local recreationalists (see a local’s 12/05/20 photo of the overflowing hairpin parking area at the end of document) and other residents (who may simply be looking for a congestion-free road), a much larger state-wide concern is burrowing.

There are a few primary laws at issue here -The 1959 Alaska Statehood Act, the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and the 2019 John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act. The Alaska Statehood Act allowed the State of Alaska to select nearly 105 million acres of Alaska land (from the U.S.). Then, understandably so, the Alaska natives felt that lands that belonged to them were being given to the State. So in 1971 the United States government settled the question of native ownership of Alaska with ANCSA. ANCSA was a land and cash settlement. The Alaska native

corps were allowed to select 44 million acres of land. They were then paid nearly 1 billion dollars as compensation for the rest of the land that they did not select. Most of the ANCSA selections were in place by 1975. Both the State and the ANCSA corporations were allowed to over-select and prioritize, in case some of the lands they selected could not be conveyed to them (due to private in-holdings etc.).

These 2 Thompson Pass hairpin area sections were at one time selected (and then relinquished in 1992) by Tatitlek Corporation. And in 1993 the land became State selected (for “recreation” per the DNR’s guiding doctrine for Thompson Pass, The 1986 Copper River Basin Management Plan). In the meantime (until lands are conveyed), the BLM acts as the interim manager of these and the other ANCSA and State selected lands across Alaska. Over time BLM has conveyed 96% of these entitled selected lands to both the ANCSA corporations and to the State of Alaska. BLM has adjudicated and conveyed (passed title) 99 million acres to the State out of the nearly 105 million acres the State is entitled to; there is a long process involving surveying, appraising etc. before the lands can be conveyed. These Thompson Pass selected parcels are part of the 5.3 million acres yet to be adjudicated (because the State has not requested title). And actually, the State recently (quietly) conditionally retracted their selection (to accommodate the Chugach AK Corp.). Essentially this land still belongs to 300 million Americans. So how then is our public land suddenly becoming privately owned by a native corporation 46 years after the public thought these matters were resolved?

The Dingell Act is the reason. If you look it up online, you will see that Senator Murkowski sponsored the law. A sliver of the Act basically allows Chugach AK Corp. to give back lands it received title to under ANCSA and get different lands – through an exchange. It means that even though lands were not selected by a corporation, they can still get title to them through an exchange. We all realize that Alaska Native Corporations should get the land they were promised in ANCSA, but these lands in Thompson Pass were never promised to Chugach AK Corporation. The corps are now “selecting” the highest public use land (land that was not necessarily originally available to them) to essentially renegotiate ANCSA. And our elected officials and political appointees (Don Young, Dan Sullivan and Lisa Murkowski) are supporting this new land give-away process. In the midst of a widespread mental health crisis our representatives are giving our healing grounds to private corporations.

So why did Senator Murkowski sponsor the Dingell Act? Per ANCSA, BLM was directed to convey surface rights to the village corps and subsurface rights to the regional corps. After the Exxon Valdez oil spill (EVOS), the Exxon settlement funds were set up through a trustee council that looked at purchasing lands from **willing** landowners for habitat restoration. EVOS money was used to purchase (for far above fair market value) the ANCSA surface estate lands from corporations like Tatitlek and Eyak in the Chugach area (go to the EVOS website to find out more). But since the EVOS lands were targeted for restoration a check and balance system was set-up. One entity would own the title to the surface estate while another would own the easement thereby preventing development. In some Chugach area cases, the village corporation sold their surface estate to the Federal land manager, that is, either the Forest Service, the National Park Service or Fish and Wildlife. When a Federal agency holds title to the surface estate under an EVOS acquisition, the State of Alaska holds the conservation easement. That is the check and balance system.

But we are talking about land the village corporations owned, so what does this have to do with Chugach AK Corporation? ANCSA tells the BLM to convey title of the surface estate to the village corporation and the subsurface estate to the regional corporation, like Chugach AK Corp. When the Feds and the State made these EVOS acquisitions they bought only the surface estate, not the subsurface estate. Even though Chugach AK Corp. **could have** been paid for their subsurface estate, they **would not sell** their land. Chugach AK Corp. still owns the subsurface estate and they have argued that they have been harmed by these sales (that they willingly entered for habitat restoration) and cannot develop their

subsurface estate so they want to give it all back to the United States – up to 240,000 acres - and get new lands.

In comes the 2019 Murkowski sponsored Dingell Act. Not only does the Act require the BLM to study how the EVOS acquisitions have impacted Chugach AK Corp. but BLM is also obligated to make lands available for exchange and to recommend a land exchange (it's unclear how an exchange can be considered before the study is completed). Which sounds fine, except that it is allowing the corps to target prime recreation property. And unlike when BLM conveys lands to the State and we all get to continue using them, once the lands are conveyed to an ANCSA corporation they become private lands and only their shareholders can use the lands.

In short of Congress reversing the Dingell Act (not happening), one way to intercept the BLM from conveying the land to the Chugach AK Corp. would be for the State to undo it's recent relinquishment and ask BLM to give the State title (or patent, that is what the Federal government calls a deed) to prevent the 2 sections from going into private ownership (thereby allowing the State to maintain its' reputation for reckless land management in the Thompson Pass corridor). But the State could still pass the land off into private hands (the 2 closest private DNR leases are both 100% out of compliance; to the south there are several structures on State land with no existing lease and to the north there is a continuing lease with no payments, insurance, etc.). This temporary fix is not a likely scenario anyway since Don Young, Dan Sullivan and Lisa Murkowski are supporting DNR and the Chugach AK Corp. in allowing for this hand-off of our public playground into a private corporation's hands; thereby acting inconsistently with the State's own guiding doctrine, the Copper River Basin Area Management Plan (CRBAMP), which states "The management unit (Unit 15: Thompson Pass) should be retained in state ownership . . . with an emphasis on expanding recreation opportunities (3-103)". Thompson Pass was one of three areas "recommended for legislative designation (for) hav(ing) very high recreation value and receiv(ing) the most public use (A-5)." "The potential for conflict between minerals and other resources is high in these areas. The relative values of fish habitat or recreation are higher than potential mineral values and therefore warrant a closure (A-4)." "Due to land conveyances under the ANCSA and state land disposals, the primary trail issue is to retain and designate existing access to state land (A-6)." "The entire area has spectacular alpine scenery (3-103)."

Furthermore Section 910 of ANILCA prevents the Federal agencies, like BLM, from doing any environmental reviews under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) on anything that leads to conveyances of land, including exchanges, with any ANCSA corporation. They cannot look at the effect on the environment but they can and should look at the effect on the public and our use of our public lands. Chugach Corp. will be able to do anything they want on the property once it is conveyed. Wal-Mart and oil drilling included. A mining operation? A heli-ski lodge/ski resort (unlikely with the warming snowpack/climate and lack of economic viability)? A Princess lodge? A road to Cordova? A nuclear power plant? A local reported speaking with surveyors this fall at the hairpin turn who were exploring logging potential. **Bottom line, anything is possible. There will be no restrictions.** And yes, Tatitlek Corp. does already own 4 sections of attached land to the east (Tatitlek Corp. owns the surface estate and Chugach Corp. owns the subsurface estate). The total private native held land mass (six one square mile sections) would equal 1 mile by 6 miles including both surface and subsurface rights. And there is an additional attached 22 square mile of already selected native corporation land to the south and southeast. Another hidden consideration - once private ownership is secured it is easy to acquire a lease to attached State land.

David Phillips, the lands contact, at Chugach AK Corp. was amiable and generous with his time. He understandably emphasized the preliminary status (noting the State's relinquishment was conditional). He assured me that they are good neighbors. I reached out to David because it would be much easier to have a stance if I knew what I was standing for. For example, I would be a proponent of mental wellness



programs for native youth and adolescents or family camps. But my understanding was that economic viability will take precedence. It's the mystery of what could happen to the exact land, the "unsurpassed beauty" - Sir Edmond Hillary, where I lived in a snow cave 31 years ago that is disconcerting.

I suppose "anything" could be good and could be bad. It's up to you to decide. I'm ambivalent because I don't know what is hiding behind the mountain and I am not impressed by how the trail was broke. But I have shared the facts that I do know.

Some of my personal concerns include – recreational/hunting access (not just winter but these sections also offer great summer access above the vegetation); road safety (28 daily oil tankers, trucks hauling barge containers northbound to the military bases, etc. on an already accident-prone hairpin turn); economic hit (will it destroy or enhance tourism?); suffocation of mental and physical wellness (the south side of Odyssey is the most used ski area in the corridor because of wind protection, accessibility to all ability levels, no crevassed terrain etc., and logging/mining truck traffic could prevent folks from taking the initiative to get out ptarmigan hunting, fishing, berry picking or hiking similar to what occurred during this last year's road construction; parking availability; noise, light and air pollution; the wellbeing of the nesting trumpeter swans in the lake that crosses between the 2 sections; and (since the land goes down to the Lowe River) exposure for the fish(salmon and dolly varden) and river otters (in fact, with the exception of polar bears, I have seen nearly every AK animal on these lands), the Heiden View residents, the city of Valdez and Prince William Sound to any potential toxic run-off.

I will continue dedicating time to both (re)constructing and maintaining historic trails in the area. And therefore hope (at the very least) the public is able to retain access to the 2 historic trails which bisect the lands in question - RST 1359, the Keystone Canyon-Thompson Pass Trail, and RST 404, the Tasnuna Route. Additionally, I support the State's request (per the conditional relinquishment) to retain access to the Lowe River. The land also includes a prime snowmachine access route but the precise trail varies with snow/wind conditions seasonally. I am also concerned how development could affect usage of the the recently cleared nearby 1899 Pack Trail (with a new parking area as of the fall of 2020).

(In my opinion) the politics of the current administration are forcing the feds to protect the native corps. against the letter of the law. Highfalutin attorneys and for-profit corporations will always be able to manipulate "letter"s to hear the words they seek (like "profit" perhaps). But BLM is an agency that works for the public, *all* of the public, not just ANCSA corporations. Therefore we should have a say *if* lands are going to be exchanged with an ANCSA corporation, *which* lands are exchanged and *what* access rights we, as the public landowners, should be able to keep. It is our job to let elected officials, political appointees and the BLM know what our rights, interests and concerns are.

Turnigan Pass, Hatcher Pass and really any public land enthusiasts need to take note (and send a note to your representatives!). Become involved with the process. This Dingell Act is just beginning to show its face, help set the precedent.

<https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2003781/570/8001860/comment>

[murkowski.senate.gov](http://murkowski.senate.gov)

[sullivan.senate.gov](http://sullivan.senate.gov)

[donyoung.house.gov](http://donyoung.house.gov)

If you would like to further understand the facts, I encourage you to research the following documents – <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2003781/510>; the 1959 Statehood Act; the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA); the 1980 AK National Interest Conservation Land Act (ANILCA); the 1976 Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA – BLM's Organic Act); the 2007 BLM East AK Resource Management Plan; Section 1113 of the John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation,

Management, and Recreation Act; as well as the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council website at: [Home - Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council \(state.ak.us\)](http://Home - Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (state.ak.us))

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME!!

Lisa Wax ☺

p.s. My apologies for the holiday/tight timing but I just got wind of this situation last week. And it has taken an enormous effort to make sense of the nonsensical facts.

p.p.s. I tore this from a Newsweek magazine lying around the Seattle airport years ago (so the numbers are likely exponentially higher now), “Since 1993, 1.3 million sq. mi. of wilderness -10% of what’s left on earth- has disappeared, mostly plundered by lumbering, or oil and gas exploration. Scientists found that in less than a century, there could be no wilderness left -nowhere for untouched evolution or natural carbon storage, or human escape.” -Nate Hopper

A local’s 12/05/20 photo (referenced on pg.2) of the overflowing Thompson Pass hairpin turn parking area:



## APPENDIX B.2

SPOILER ALERT: BLM IGNORED THE PUBLIC AND PUSHED THROUGH THE AMENDMENT MAKING THE THOMPSON PASS HAIPIN LAND AVAILABLE FOR EXCHANGE

07/09/21

BLM AK

Comment on NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2020-0037-RMP-EA

Project Name: East Alaska RMP Amendment Draft EA

Alternative 1, No Action Alternative Vote

Team BLM AK (including but not limited to Marnie Graham, Serena Sweet and Erika Reed),

While I have lived in Thompson Pass for over 3 decades, I have also spent considerable time in dozens of villages as well as in Alaska's deep backcountry. I love all of Alaska, but I have had a natural affinity with Thompson Pass since its magnetism kept me from leaving a snow cave colony, over 30 years ago. My friends headed back to the other side of the Chugach and I did not. I stayed in a cave on the land being considered for exchange from public ownership to a private corporation. I still live in the same neighborhood. I grow and harvest the majority of my food from my land, nearby land and the water; a dream that a third generation born in Detroit girl could not have known to imagine. My gratitude and love for Thompson Pass is unwavering.

And this love provides the foundation for my comments; there is no commercial interest or personal monetary profit enmeshed in my words.

During the 2 public meetings on 6/17/21, I was the only member of the public who was not a Chugach Board member to speak (likely due to BLM's failure to notice interested parties). I represent both Thompson Pass, because it does not speak your language, and anyone who has ever experienced its awe. I am a strong woman whose tears met the air when reading the Draft Amendment. Tears for the air, the land, the flora and the fauna. Tears not only for the countless native (but not Chugach Corporation shareholders) and non-native folks who recreate on the land, but also for the 300+(DOT) daily cars that actually represent the greatest number of folks who are intoxicated/inspired by arguably one of the worlds most spectacular road accessible viewsheds. "Pristine!" is the word I hear over and over again. Folks from across the globe, many who make an annual pilgrimage, flock to the beauty. It's where ashes of loved ones are spread, it's where trauma has been mended, it's where families make memories. It's where, even in the dense fog that was clinging to the mountain, I helped a drug dealer find the self he had lost; he's been healthy and sober for years. This land feeds spirits, guides, operators and the local economy. And mostly importantly it nourishes the physical and mental health of both Alaskans and tourists alike. This land is the renewable asset capable of sustaining the physical/emotional and economic health of Valdez, a crucial scoping comment point missed by the amendment.

BLM's amendment also failed to address many other comment concerns. Energy security and national security were ignored. At the very least, the refinery, the fuel trucking companies and the military should have been invited to the conversation to comment on the potential clogging of their critical artery.

When I first got wind of the proposal for an amendment that could make the Thompson Pass hairpin land sections available for exchange, Glennallen's Field manager stated "If the people, the public who owns this land, say 'Not this land', then we will have to look at different land." And when word got out, in a matter of days, mostly between Christmas Eve and the day after New Year's, 143 folks (one representing 6,000 voices, another 10,000 and another 160,000) overwhelmingly said, "**Not this land!**". Hunters, defenders of wildlife, motorheads and self-propelled recreationalist all stood on the same ground. But the Finding of No Significant Impact, FONSI, indicates that their comments were not heard.

This failure to comply with public process poses an issue. BLM is authorized to conduct land exchanges under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976. FLPMA governs how administrative exchanges are to occur "where the Secretary concerned determines that the public interest will be well served by making that exchange", Public Law 94-579—Oct. 21, 1976, as amended through May 7, 2001, pg.11) Herein lies the chorus of my comment, **land exchanges must be in the public interest** (43 B.S.C. §1716(a)), just ask FLMPA.

"The Federal Land Policy and Management Act is central to everything we do at the Bureau of Land Management. All of the actions we take rely on the authorities that were built into this law by Congress and the President. We use FLPMA every day to guide our management." -blm.gov Why would BLM trade land? "enhancement of recreational

opportunities and public access” (Congressional Research Service Report, CRSR). **FAILED!** “In making an exchange, BLM is to reserve any rights or interests that are needed to protect the public interest, and may impose restrictions on the use of lands conveyed. **BLM is to consider only proposals that conform with land use plans**” (CRSR). **DOUBLE FAILED!** And FLPMA *require(s) that exchanges of land or interests therein be for equal value*. **FAILED!** (Public Law 94–579—Oct. 21, 1976, as amended through May 7, 2001, pg.13) Like a mantra, these FLPMA references will be revisited.

Now, 6 months later, the public has been invited to comment on the Draft Amendment, DA, which has no premises to even exist. And which, with all due respect to its creators from afar, is littered with falsities and reads like a fill-in-the-blank form letter. Particularly preposterous and repeated countless times is the first line of the draft’s 2-part chorus, **“It is assumed that future development that could occur if lands are exchanged would be low intensity and in line with the limited infrastructure and development in the Thompson Pass region.”** BLM has confirmed the fact that if a land exchange were to occur, the Chugach Corporation would then have surface and subsurface rights and would be free to do literally anything they wanted with the land. Nonetheless the second part of BLM’s DA chorus for most concludes, **“Therefore this issue was not considered in detail and has been eliminated from further analysis.”** Wow!

BLM’s chorus seems ludicrous knowing that in January I sent them this 9/26/20 Mining News North article about Chugach Alaska Corporation, CAC: <https://www.miningnewsnorth.com/story/2019/12/01/in-depth/purpose-tradition-guide-chugach-alaska/6080.html> Some article highlights: “Chugach has begun to investigate the mineral potential in areas of historical mining on lands it owns in the region.” BLM knows that there used to be a mining claim at the Thompson Pass hairpin turn as well as other active claims in the near vicinity. The article emphasizes “... ensuring economic opportunities for the people of the region”. And explains that even though they only had subsurface rights in Prince William Sound’s Port Gravina, the corporation still managed to find a way to commence a new mining operation, “Though it was quite an effort, in the end, we were able to assert our rights as the owner of the dominant subsurface estate and our granite products will be on the market soon,” Hickel said. The article continues, “Beyond mining granite that can be used for coastal infrastructure projects along Alaska’s massive coastline, Chugach Alaska has recently resumed exploration of the other mineral resources known to exist on its lands.” And it notes that Chugach Corporation has been doing exploration for “metallic minerals” and details 5 specific Chugach Region sites where they have been proactive. “In addition, Chugach Alaska subsidiaries are ready to support development within the region. Chugach Alaska Services, an Alaska Native focused staffing service, is particularly well suited for supporting mineral exploration in the region and across the state.”

The entire amendment is non-sensibly based on the corporation’s presumed low-impact. Meanwhile the corporations worldwide imprint is massive. According to Bloomberg and confirmed on their site, “Chugach Alaska Corporation provides diversified business services. The Company offers base operations, facilities maintenance, general construction and management, information technology, telecommunications, and employment services.” Examples of Department of Defense contracts include \$30.8M+, \$28M+, \$13.6M+, \$8.8M+ etc. . . . not to mention real estate holdings and many other companies and investments. There is absolutely nothing “low-impact” about CAC (except perhaps for their investment in the mental health of their shareholders, in the past month alone, within about 40 miles of their region, there has been, at minimum, an overdose death, a death by alcohol and a death by suicide). When I first got word of Chugach’s proposal, I contacted David Phillips and volunteered to help develop a mental health program with an emphasis on getting folks reconnected to the land. He emphasized “economic viability”. I emphasized health and longevity.

Now let me reiterate BLM’s chorus that has been repeated countless times in the Draft Amendment, “It is assumed that future development that could occur if lands are exchanged would be low intensity and in line with the limited infrastructure and development in the Thompson Pass region.” There was no “infrastructure before Red Dog (or any other) Mine was developed. Infrastructure comes with big development. Presuming that impact will be low due to lack of infrastructure is ludicrous. BLM brushes off owning any responsibility, repeating this line they release themselves one item at a time, from the air, water, soil, flora, fauna, flooding, wilderness value and history. Repeating a lie does not bring truth. And each time this statement arises, its captions are closed with the following

equally absurd conclusion/chorus, “. . . this issue was not considered in detail and has been eliminated from further analysis.” I repeat, “this issue” is referring to the air, water, soil etc. I am asking BLM, as I did during public comment, to remove each of these sentences. They are a blatantly unrealistic cope out. The public deserves each and every one of these items to be taken into consideration, not to be written off with false presumptions.

I'd like to remind BLM that, in truth, we should not even be in this “amendment” discussion, it's concept, like its content is based on this same insidious theme - false presumptions. Apparently my “All Systems Stop!” request was (silently) denied. Section 113.2.a of the Dingell act requires a study to “assess the social and economic impacts of the program”. The corporation entered (EVOSTC) “the program” willingly and received far above Fair Market Value compensation. The study that was required to be completed nearly a year and a half ago still has not been completed. After the study in “a” is complete, Section 113.2.b and c ask for acreage to be identified and recommendations made for land exchange options. Plural denotes a quantity greater than one. “b” and “c” are contingent on the results of “a” warranting an exchange. And since the corporation entered an agreement to willingly profit, the “study” should prove that there is no merit for an exchange. BLM has erroneously stated that the Dingell Act “requires” this amendment. This amendment is based on false pretense. There are 2 lines from the AK Wilderness League director, Andy Moderow's, public comment that resonate, “BLM should conduct the study and offer recommendations based on the language that exists today in the EARMP.” And “At its core, though, the process is flawed because it relies on a mis-reading of the Dingell Act.”

And to add to the confusion, no one at BLM has yet been able to explain to me why BLM published in the Federal Registrar on 11/24/20 that the land would be offered in “exchange for those lands acquired through EVOSTC”. The words of the act are amazingly concise and yet BLM, again, has drawn conclusions with no evidence to merit.

Hilary Eisen Policy Director for Winter Wildlands and Louis Geltman Policy Director for Outdoor Alliance concur with both Moderow and Wax, “. . . the Dingell Act does not require the BLM to perform or prepare a land exchange, or to even amend the RMP. Rather, the Dingell Act requires the BLM to conduct a study of land ownership and use patterns in Alaska's Chugach Region and report the results of this study back to Congress. Nothing in the Dingell Act requires BLM to amend the RMP at this time, much less to prepare a land exchange. Therefore this NOI rests on a faulty premises and must be revised. This NOI should read that the BLM intends to conduct a study of land ownership and use patterns in Alaska's Chugach Region, and this should be the focus of the EA.” Again, the “study” has not been completed.

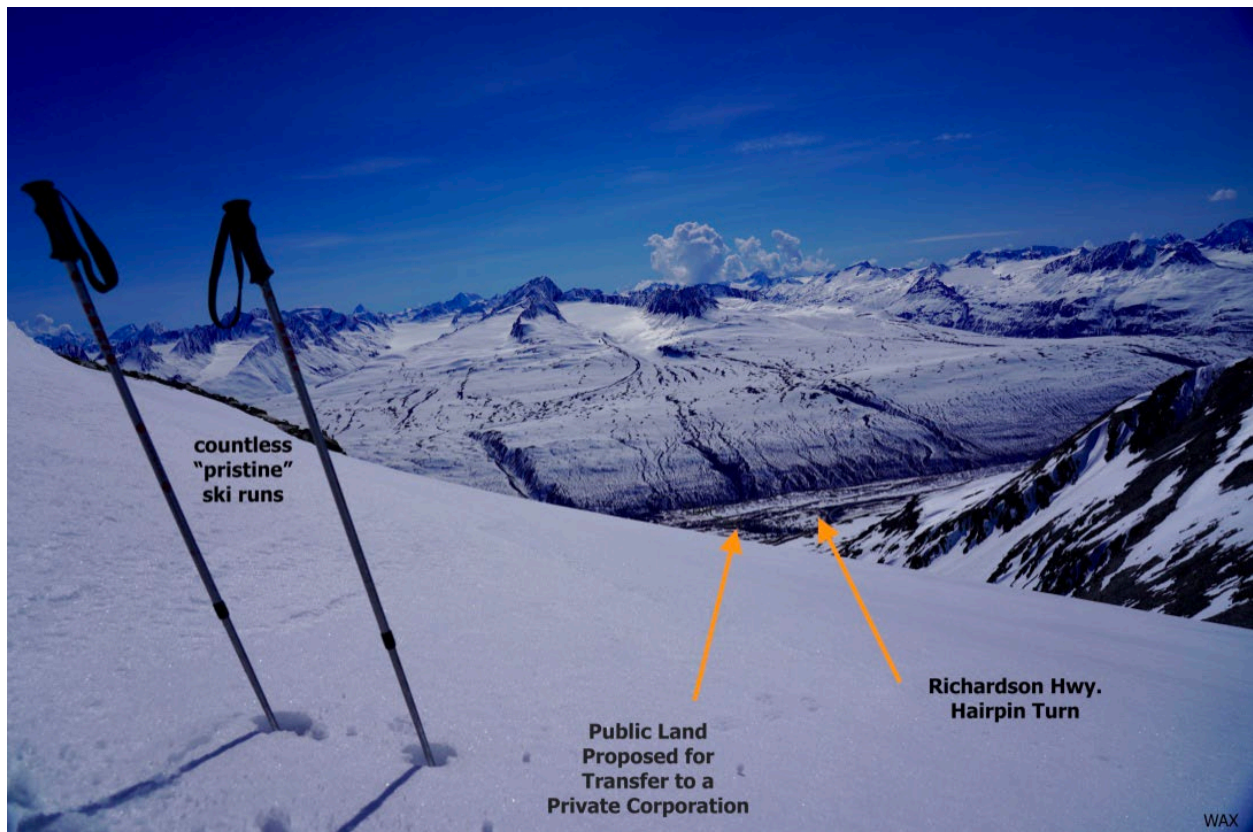
Defenders of Wildlife attorney Patrick Lavin puts succinct verbiage to what BLM has misconstrued, “In short, BLM has apparently failed to publish the study that the Dingell Act directed it to publish. Claiming to implement the Dingell Act, it has instead proposed an RMP amendment that the Act did not direct, to facilitate the exchange of specific parcels that are currently not available for exchange. Because there is no study, there is no basis to conclude that any land exchange with CAC is appropriate, and even if it were appropriate, there is no assessment of potentially available land to inform the choice of specific parcels. There is also no hint of what lands may transfer to public ownership and thus no way to begin to evaluate the benefit of the bargain.”

BLM was not able to inform me of what lands the corporation intended to offer for exchange. But after hundreds of hours of research I was able to find the land offering – remote very steep, partially glaciated north facing land on top of an absolutely inaccessible mountain in the Wrangell's (Attachment: DNR Research, p.36). A boat or plane would be of no use. And there is no “hairpin” turn or any road at all. Remember FLPMA *require(s) that exchanges of land or interests therein be for equal value*. (Public Law 94–579—Oct. 21, 1976, as amended through May 7, 2001, pg.13). And don't forget my chorus, “**land exchanges must be in the public interest**” (43 U.S.C. §1716(a)). The jets don't even fly this route, so truly no one would ever get to enjoy this land, not even from 30,000 feet.

And truly there is no land in all the world of equal value. I snapped this pic near the end of May from on top of a run known to skiers as “Berlin Wall”. And remember, it is only capturing one, south-facing, aspect. There is so much more! There are countless ski runs in this frame. Would you travel to Alaska from Italy to ski in the viewshed of a mine? While the focus of comments has been on the actual land acreage at stake, I am asking Marnie, Serena, Erica



and the rest of the BLM folks to zoom out for a moment. Look at this photo and get some perspective. Something enormously grander than this land is at stake. Something unique in all the world:





The Act specifies that BLM “provide recommendations for land exchange options”. Where are the other “options”? Additionally, the Dingell Act does not define “accessible” as “highway accessible”. Alaska is barely road accessible but has over 46,000 miles of tidal shoreline. There are approximately 2 million acres (no one at BLM knows the number) of BLM managed land in the Chugach Region, much of it is close to water or on the water. But no other options, plural as stated in the Act, are being explored. Why? Because of politics. Senator Murkowski, who depends on the native vote, sponsored the Dingell Act which Trump signed. And then the Chugach Corporation went

to another politically appointed official, Corey Feige, the Commissioner of DNR, who then pressured the DNR staff to conditionally relinquish its' State selected land (specifically contingent on the Chugach Corporation transfer). The DNR staff were taken by surprise. **From:** Stolpe, Adrienne K (DNR) on 12/7/20

**Sent:** Monday, December 7, 2020 **To:** Pinckney, Charles A (DNR) ,Hamner, Lacy C (DNR)

**Subject:** RE: East AK RMP Amendment "As far as I am aware, we have no plans of relinquishing any selections in the area." Same day, Chuck replies, "really just need to know if we had promised anything to them regarding our selections." Same day, Adrienne replies, "**As far as I'm aware, absolutely not.**

**We've received pressure to relinquish lands for years and always push back. Unless something was promised higher up, which I doubt, I'd operate under no promise to relinquish.**" (Attachment DNR Research, p.77). Next communication in the file was from politically appointed Commissioner Feige pushing forward the land exchange in a 1/27/20 letter addressed to DNR's Deputy Commissioner and to both the Director and Deputy Director of the Division of Mining, Land and Water. The letter included an attached draft land exchange contract prepared by the corporation and Commissioner Feige stated, "**Please look at the parcel and determine what would need to be done to lift the state selection . . . Thank you very much for your work on this**". (Attachment: DNR Research p.28).

The DNR research attachment also provides a RUDE wake-up call to the catastrophic precedent setting potential BLM has in its hands. Page 8 explains that, while in a hairpin land exchange meeting, Martin Parsons, the **Director of DNR's Mining Land and Water, suggested entertaining other exchanges like "the bathtub ring" around Prince William Sound.** Wow! The precedential power here is ginormous.

**"BLM is to consider only proposals that conform with land use plans" (CRSR).** Nothing here about amending land use plans to make them conform. BLM has not only disregarded multiple FLPMA laws but it is also defying this land's Federal guiding doctrine, BLM's East Alaska Resource Management Plan, which clearly states that **these land sections are not available.** What is the point of establishing law if BLM is going to obediently jump to amend it on a private corporation's whim? It was irresponsible of the state to conditionally relinquish the land without public input. DNR's DMLW is absolutely the front door enabler. DNR has set up BLM. And now BLM has to awkwardly find its way out of a precarious situation. BLM has the opportunity to serve the public that DNR has failed.

And BLM has established that giving the land to a private corporation is against its' guiding doctrine, the EARMF. If BLM plans on amending policies every time a private corporation reaches out, what is the point of policies and why should the public have any confidence in the institution?

And, again contrary to FLPMA, a land exchange is not only against the federal guiding doctrine, EARMF, but it is also against the State's guiding doctrine (not so incidentally, 1.8 Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, Other NEPA Documents designates both **EARMF and CRBAP as "key" "plans"**). The Copper River Basin Area Plan, CRBAP, clearly states, "*The management unit (Unit 15: Thompson Pass) **should be retained in state ownership** . . . with an emphasis on expanding recreation opportunities (3-103)". Thompson Pass was one of three areas "recommended for legislative designation (for) hav(ing)e very high recreation value and receiv(ing)e the most public use (A-5)." **"The potential for conflict between minerals and other resources is high in these areas. The relative values of fish habitat or recreation are higher than potential mineral values and therefore warrant a closure (A- 4)." "Due to land conveyances under the ANSCA and state land disposals, the primary trail issue is to retain and designate existing access to state land (A-6)." There are paper trails going nearly all the way back to Statehood pushing for this area to become a State Park. The State even funded a 100-page study decades ago to get the momentum going. The public and the state have been trying to transfer this land into a legislatively designated State Park for several decades. But the idea evaporates each time the funding does not materialize. State Park or Private Corporation (with a potential mine, nuclear plant or who knows what)? Spin the *Wheel of Fortune!* The public or the corporation?***

Privatization of this area has always been against Public (the landowner's) opinion. The public and the (now "abandoned" by the State) Citizen's Advisory Board has, for many years, unanimously opposed commercial development in Thompson Pass. Example - On 10/1/04 the Citizens Advisory Board (chosen by the Director of the Division of Parks and Recreation to ensure that a broad spectrum of public interest would be represented), sent a (yet another) letter to the DNR stating "*For the better part of the last decade the Citizens Advisory Board has had numerous instances to hear public comment about development in the Thompson Pass area. **The board can state unequivocally that the overwhelming majority of public comments have been against permanent year-round commercial development of the Thompson Pass area.**"*



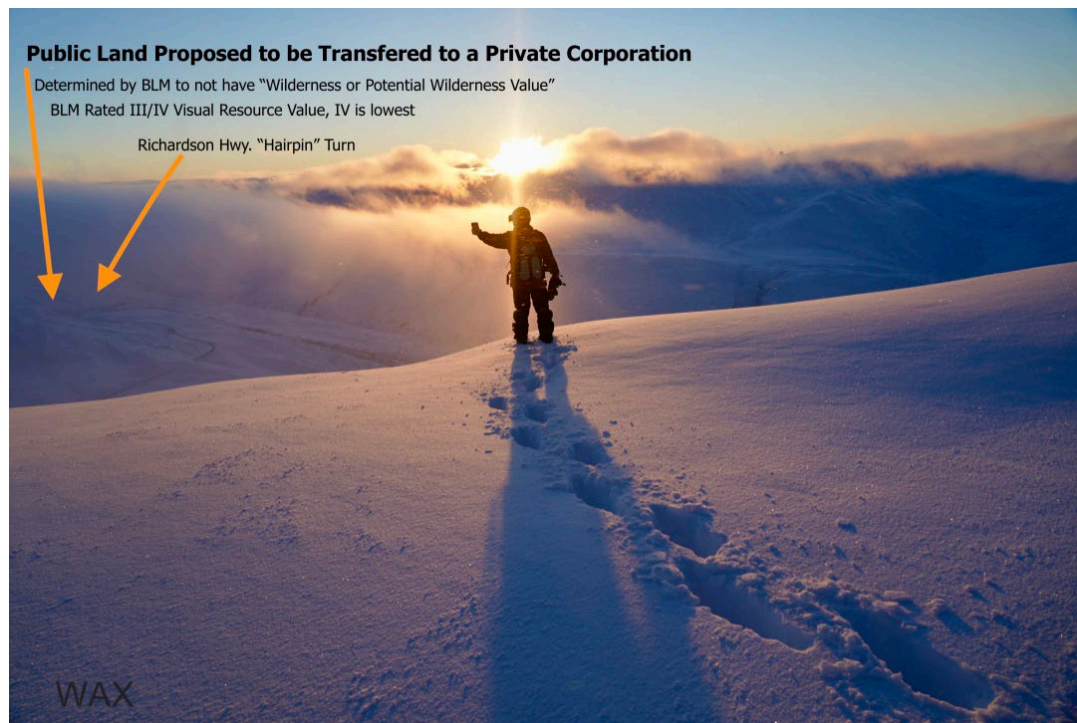
Now that I have substantiated that I should not be commenting on this Draft Amendment because it should not exist, I will reluctantly proceed with comments. I was unable to get answers to many of my questions until the day before the original deadline day. Even the Public Information Office was instructed to not respond to my calls. It's exponentially more difficult to respond to something that should not exist when you can't get the facts from the source and, to top it off, your concerns from the last round were dismissed.

1-1.51 have been addressed above.

1.5.2 I have already requested, on the basis of being forthright about reality, that BLM eliminate both sentences of their (previously defined) chorus from the entire DA. It is criminal for BLM to dismiss concern for the "Lands, Water, Fisheries, Visual Resource, Paleontological Resources, Subsistence Use, Wildlife Management, Forest and Vegetation Management, Soils, Public Health and Safety, Mineral Resources and Environmental Justice" based on blatant falsities. I will highlight some examples.

Land. The DA states that the "lands are managed under the State of Alaska Generally Allowed Uses". Wrong, Thompson Pass is exempt from DNR's 11 AAC 96.025.

According to the DA, the land is not "formally determined to have wilderness or potential wilderness value". I took this photo last January while a friend was facetimeing the "hairpin" view to cheer up his Co-Vid infected brother. The fact that it is shrouded in clouds only seems to amplify its "wilderness value" or lack thereof according to BLM. You decide:



Water. Please reread the FEIS. In your words, "The FEIS concluded that development could have a negative impact on water quality". And a few lines below you state "... this plan does not put forward management alternatives that would have a measurable impact on water resources." This disconcerting style of stating opposites in the same paragraph is a recurring theme throughout the DA. BLM please comb through the document, choose your side, and delete its contradiction.

Fisheries. The salmon creek is 7 miles, not "10 miles", downstream. Not only were the 3 closest lakes, that are stocked, overlooked but the DA also forgot to acknowledge that the water, the Lowe River, running through these selections feed into Prince William Sound. And the Sound feeds subsistence, sport and commercial (Alaska's largest private sector employer) fisheries. The commercial salmon fishery alone brings in 4.2 million pounds ... feeding the local economy. BLM, please add the hatchery, the United Fisherman of Alaska and RCAC to your next comment notification list before assuming your chorus, once again, "no further analysis is necessary".

Visual Resources. As demonstrated by the last photo, the visual magic is ethereal, even when obstructed by clouds. Yet BLM has degraded these land selections to its 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest Visual Resource rating, III/IV. BLM please revisit this conclusion!

Paleontological. To claim something is not there when you have not looked is not "logical".

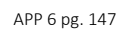
Subsistence. How could a mine not "have a measurable effect on subsistence uses"?

Wildlife Management. How could a mine not "have a measurable effect on wildlife resources"? I beg BLM to break out of the form letter, out of the office, walk the land. I would be delighted to hike or ski in with you. Trumpeter, not tundra, swans were reported in the initial comment. Assuming that they will use other water bodies highlights that BLM does not realize they return to the same pond/lake every year. And the other nearby water bodies are on the highway system. Imagine moving from your AK acreage to a Staten Island apartment. And there are Threatened species in the planning area. There are a massive number of bumblebees which are on the sensitive invertebrate list. Watchlist animals include golden eagles, trumpeter swans, Alaskan hares and arctic ground squirrels. And there could be more . . . please do your due diligence.

Forest and Vegetation Management. Sensitive plant species which appear to be on the land include long leaf arnica, arctic poppy (the bumblebee's favorite hangout, their fit in the petals provides optimal heat absorption) and pacific buttercup.

Public Health and Safety. I was let down to see my avalanche concern, a critical human safety issue that I submitted to BLM, left out of the DA. My concern is two-fold, the impact of both live drilling/blasting while unassuming climbers or skiers are recreating out of site on the north side (or even on the south side) and the consequence of an accumulated weakened structural integrity from construction (or who knows what). This photo/ski map, which I have already provided to BLM, illustrates that there are countless easily accessible and regularly accessed ski runs (Odyssey, Schoolbus, Goodwills, Little Matterhorn, Gulley 1 & 2, Berlin Wall, Nick's etc.) also on the back side of the selected lands. Not only can the north faces (viewed in the photo) of any of these runs be skied, but the south faces, which run down to the land sections can also be skied. And sometimes, until you get to the top to assess the conditions, you do not know which way you will descend. Folks usually bail for the mellower south option when there is a question about stability or when they decide they are seeking a less technical run. The picture shows that most of this land is actually a part of one larger mountain (which receives the greatest concentration of recreation in the Thompson Pass corridor). In fact the north side of "Schoolbus" (named because it once buried a school bus on the highway), which drops down into the land sections on its back/south side, slid naturally across the highway the same day of the Valdez City Council meeting this last January when BLM's Marnie Graham and Erika Reed participated telephonically. I had to wait on avalanche blasting at Snowslide Gulch to get to the meeting. Avalanches happen and have killed people in areas appearing on this photo/map. BLM needs to address avalanche safety. I am asking

Use the “hairpin” turn in maroon in the lower middle section of the above map to orient.







This below photo is showing the connectivity of all the runs from above picture, in addition to showing farther lookers right to include the north/nw side of Odyssey:



Blasting etc. could also affect the nearby Alyeska Pipeline. The section nearest to these land selections is the steepest portion of its' 800 miles. And there is currently an unresolved maintenance issue. The 30' investigative dig was recently postponed. There has also been historical shaking/vibrating issues that have caused structural damage to homes in the Heiden View neighborhood. BLM should explore whether there are mines in such close proximity to the pipeline anywhere else. Sure sounds like a match made of fire and gasoline! BLM should have invited Alyeska to comment. Please include Alyeska's Peter Nagel in the conversation as you proceed.

Flood hazard was also left out of consideration. About three miles after the Lowe River leaves the land sections, it runs near the lower Heiden View subdivision road where there has been historical issues with flooding. Additionally, there could be issues with particulates or toxic dust from the hairpin land which is approximately 2000' above the subdivision that is located on the floor of the valley (where heavy particles could get trapped below weather systems). But BLM repeats the chorus, "Effects on public health and safety were not considered in further detail and have been eliminated from further analysis." Manufacturing cigarettes does not cause cancer. At the very least, BLM must take responsibility as the enabler. And demonstrate courtesy by contacting the approximately 17 home owners thereby giving them a chance to be a part of the discussion.

Mineral Resources. I applaud BLM for acknowledging that both "the mineral resources could be developed" and that "gold has been historically mined in the Lowe River." Though it did not make the DA, BLM's Glennallen field manager did also inform me that there was a historic mining claim at the hairpin turn. And then BLM repeats the chorus, "It is assumed that future development that could occur if lands are exchanged would be low intensity and in line with the limited infrastructure and development in the Thompson Pass region . . . this issue was not considered in detail and has been eliminated from further analysis." BLM, please face the music of your chorus. And see if it resonates.

1.6 Planning Criteria. "The RMP Amendment/EA will consider a reasonable range of alternatives." BLM, What are the "range of alternatives"? Sure appears that Thompson Pass was the only alternative considered.

Please review Secretarial Order 3373 “which requires documentation of impacts to recreational access”. For example, 3.3 reads “without data on use patterns . . . it is not possible to say . . .”. Why has BLM not reached out to any of the outdoor operators in an attempt to gather data and to invite them into the conversation?

1.7 Planning Process. BLM’s refusal to remedy the public notification goat rodeo has been disheartening, a genuine disservice to the public.

The public who had originally commented and requested updates (by checking a BLM provided box) had every right to believe they were going to be kept in the loop, but BLM dropped the ball. I gave BLM names of folks who expected to be contacted and were not contacted. Not until after my 5<sup>th</sup> inquiry did BLM phone me, on Friday afternoon 7/2/21, to inform me that I was correct. “Must have been a computer glitch”, admitting that at least “85” of those folks were left out of both the 30-day comment period and the public meetings. BLM did then email notice the 85 forgotten folks (on Friday afternoon), on what was supposed to be deadline day.

BLM attempted to remedy the situation by granting an extension until the following Friday, 7/9/21. So, these newly informed folks were (almost) given 4 business days to review and comment on 40 pages of material after summer’s busiest holiday weekend. And then in the process of updating the extension on line, BLM deleted the “Participate Now” button so that no one could comment (Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday) until BLM got my email to remedy the situation on Tuesday 7/6/21 (and they did). I repeat, for about a week, in the final days of public comment . . . there was no way of submitting a public comment. So now these newly informed 85 folks, who were not invited to participate in the public meeting, have been given 3 business days to review and comment on 40 pages of material. So not only were these folks denied a reasonable public process due to a BLM error, but I also notified BLM a week ago that there are additional folks who have still not been contacted. No reply from BLM thus far. And I just spoke to someone who said he chose to be contacted through the mail. He was upset to be left out. Why, he wondered, were both snail mail and email options offered during the scoping if BLM was only going to follow-through via email? Great, albeit unfortunate, question. **At the very least, the 85 folks should be granted a 30 day, not a 3-day, comment period. Request denied.**

BLM has failed to abide by its “Planning Process”. “Release of this Draft RMP Amendment/EA and an unsigned draft FONSI will initiate a 30-day public comment period during which the BLM will host a virtual public meeting.” There was certainly no confusion about the Chugach Corporation shareholders being notified of the public meetings. They got on the guest list without even submitting a scoping comment while many other folks of the public who signed up for email updates during the scoping comment period were left out of the loop. The public should not have to bear the burden, should not be silenced and removed from transparency on account of “technological glitches” (or political pressure).

According to BLM’s planning site, “Nine different Alaska Native Tribes and Corporations received formal invitations for consultation twice, in November of last year and this June. 13 additional emails were sent to tribes and corporations about the meetings.” The same page claims BLM “conducted outreach . . . through their email lists”.

In regards to deadlines, the federal registrar site reads, “In general, agencies will specify a comment period ranging from 30 to 60 days in the “Dates” section of the *Federal Register* document, but the time period can vary. For complex rulemakings, agencies may provide for longer time periods, such as 180 days or more. Agencies may also use shorter comment periods when that can be justified.” BLM, I am struggling to understand any justification for a 3-day deadline to review 40 pages after summer’s biggest holiday. The proposed exchange has now crashed winter and summer’s biggest holiday. Is it more than mere coincidence?

And as if the defunct notification had not clouded the, everything but fair, process enough, I had notified BLM that it was laborious for an average luddite to locate the original “Participate Now” button. Not only did it require navigation through multiple screens (a friend with a master’s degree could not figure it out). But then you had to know which fine print to read to know which document, in a long list, to locate. And then, on my screen, I had to scroll over to reveal the “Participate Now”. Everything but the most important button appeared on my screen.

On 7/6/21, the conundrum got deeper again. Just before the 7/9/21 deadline a less laborious to locate “Participate Now” button metamorphosed . . . but suspiciously only Alternative 2 and Alternative 3 Maps appeared above the button and Alternative 1, the No Action Map option had no presence. (On the basis of the power of suggestion) I did request BLM remedy this situation. It has not been remedied. Minutia, perhaps, in relation to the other idiosyncrasies . . . but it all takes a toll on the public. It is nice that BLM made the “Participate” link more visible in the last few days and nice that they were trying to provide map options. I do believe that BLM cares (and that they are short-staffed and over-worked). But it would have been significantly nicer to have included a big picture map that was

zoomed out more and showed the attached 2 sq. miles of the already native Tatitlek owned land toward the Tasnuna as well the attached 22 sq. miles toward the Deserted. I would have suggested this had the maps not appeared at the last minute. One map could have sufficed to illustrate all options and the bigger picture.

Melinda, the 2/17/21 public meeting moderator, stated that the Q&A (which was disabled early so folks could not see the answers) and the audio (which was, in part, garbled) of public comments would be posted to the eplanning site as soon as possible. Two weeks later, it still has not been posted. I have made requests. Marnie indicated that there were "technical glitches" with their contracted company. These are tools that could have been used for preparing DA comments and informing the folks who were not available to participate. Because I was not able to keep up with the Q & A answers from the first meeting (it was disabled "to move on" while I was typing questions), I decided to ask my questions during the public comment portion of the second meeting. And then the moderator informed me that questions would not be answered during the meeting. I had switched up formats because the one question that got asked at the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was promptly answered. Melinda assured me that someone would be getting back to me soon with answers. No one got back to me. Talk about a cloudy process! I felt like I was given the car but not the keys to get to the funeral.

I had been asking the same mostly simple questions for months with no response, with rare exceptions. Many of my emails have been ignored. Even the Public Information Office, PIO, was instructed not to return my calls. I was told that my DA comment is for posing questions. I said that I needed answers so that I was informed to write my comment. I was determined to show up at the "funeral". After giving BLM a head's up last Thursday, 7/1/21, that I was going to fly into ANC and show up at the office on (deadline day) Friday (in order to get some answers), I received an email that Erika, Serena and Marnie were available for a phone conference (same day). Thanks to the three of you for finally answering some of my questions on what we all thought to be the day before the DA deadline. I am immensely grateful for your time but sorry that it took my threatening to show up at the office the next day to materialize. I get that everyone's desk is overwhelmed. And that the system is out of tune (See Addendum "Broken System"). I appreciate having had the opportunity to have different perspectives chiming in. That said, my intuition to meet in person was reinforced. While I absolutely understand that folks have other responsibilities and that "technological glitches" happen, I did feel a bit deceived after a couple hours to learn that I was only still on with one person. Out of respect, may I suggest that in the future you keep folks privy to who they are in conversation with. It was a bit deflating to discover that 2 of the people I thought I was in conversation with had dropped out. Nonetheless, I was both delighted and grateful to not have to travel to get answers to some questions that I have been asking for months. It should not have been such an exhaustive threatening process to get some simple questions answered. It took 6 months to find out that 11/2 yrs. later there still is no Dingell required study etc.

"The message that we're getting," says Nada Culver, director of the Wilderness Society's BLM Action Center, "is that managing public lands for the public is optional." Sadly, I concur. I can say, though, with absolute confidence, that BLM's competency exceeds DNR's DMLW by light years. When I have had the opportunity to communicate, the staff has been pleasant and well-informed, albeit in their particular box. I did sense a commitment to their work.

A cleaner public process with proper notification, site operability and navigation would have been lovely.

Again, the planning process has been so ridden with flaws that hitting refresh by allowing the minimum 30-day comment opportunity is the only reasonable solution. But it was denied by BLM.

Would still like to know the answer to my questions that have been ignored. Are any of the amendment "Preparers" are Chugach Shareholders? How many of the preparers have set foot on the land and how much time? And how many scoping comments were received after the deadline? After an hour of research (yes, including the search bar), I could not find the NEPA claimed "coverage in the Copper Journal". Please send me a link to the article. And don't forget that I am waiting on soil report when it becomes available.

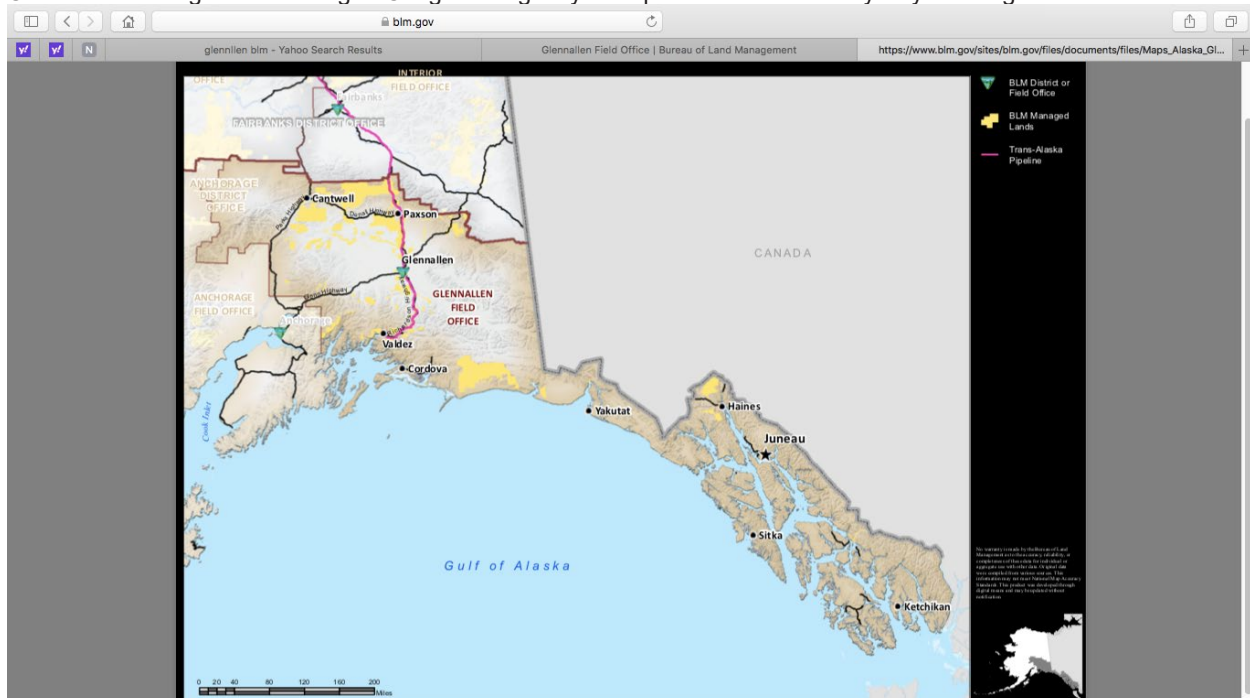
BLM should note the extensive history that documents public (the landowner's) opinion (especially since the public has not had a fair shot at submitting comments during this process). The public and the (now "abandoned" by the State) Citizen's Advisory Board has, for many years, unanimously opposed commercial development in Thompson Pass. Example - On 10/1/04 the Citizens Advisory Board (chosen by the Director of the Division of Parks and Recreation to ensure that a broad spectrum of public interest would be represented), sent a (yet another) letter to the DNR's DMLW stating *"For the better part of the last decade the Citizens Advisory Board has had numerous instances to hear public comment about development in the Thompson Pass area. **The board can state unequivocally that***

***the overwhelming majority of public comments have been against permanent year-round commercial development of the Thompson Pass area.”***

1.8 Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, Other NEPA Documents. The Dingell Act’s “**accessible**” must be examined in terms of Alaska, the largest and least accessible State in the Union. 8 out of 10 communities are not road accessible. And less than 5% of the roads are paved, with only 5,000 miles of maintained highways. And the highways, especially the Richardson Highway in Thompson Pass, can be closed on account of heavy fog (so heavy that if you are not already moving you can’t pull out), blowing snow, black ice, flooding and landslides. Permafrost heaves are also well worth a mention. Most of the hairpin side of Thompson Pass was resurfaced last, 2020, summer/fall. It was a 4+ month project and the road is already broken up in places. Imagine the additional road maintenance costs the state would incur if mining trucks were frequenting the area. The hairpin is particularly sketchy/fatal and has taken at least a few lives (that I know of) and likely many more. In 1953 it snowed 975 inches. According to NOAA, this was a world record snowfall equating to a 9-story building. An average year’s snowfall is about 550”. Driving can be treacherous enough that you wish it was closed when its open. On 3/6/20 Thompson Pass D.O.T. reported nothing too unusual, *“The DOT & PF Thompson Pass crew opened up the Richardson Highway yesterday evening after a closure that lasted about two days. Want to know more about what happened? In a winter that has brought 470 inches of snow to the pass so far, the crew was battling avalanches followed by crazy high winds (up to 100 miles per hour) that created deep drifting and reduced visibility to the point that our operators couldn’t see ten feet in front of them. Using GPS technology to guide their equipment through the blizzard, our crew worked all night Wednesday into Thursday with plows and snow blowers to keep the drifts to a manageable level. If they had stopped, they would have confronted a hard-packed wall of snow that would have been incredibly difficult to remove.”* It’s not unusual for the road to be closed in the winter. My point – Thompson Pass does not qualify as “accessible”. It is already dangerous with more than its fair share of accidents. There is a delicate balance between kids/families piled in pick-up beds shuttling road runs (past the hairpin) and double fuel tankers (28 a day) that take 25 minutes to get up the pass (and they cannot be stopped in the winter during the climb by the hairpin or they will not be able to regain their momentum).

Bottom line, the **water access in Alaska minifies the road access**. Thankfully, according to NOAA, Alaska’s tidal shoreline measures over 46,600 miles (75,000 km), longer than the shorelines of all the lower 48 states combined. Now we are talking accessibility! Alaska has numerous ports and harbors; and a marine highway system.

According to Erika Reed, BLM does not know the total actual acreage of land, let alone waterfront land, in its managed Chugach Region (approximately 2 million acres). But there are ample coastal land options in this region. Check out the large BLM managed Chugach Region yellow patch from around Icy Bay heading east toward Yakutat:





If the study warrants an exchange, which should be doubtful (for reasons already explained), this is the land that BLM should be considering. Chugach Corporation is looking to connect to lands they already own. And they do own land in this area. It's a sensible option where more than one recommendation could be made without being a threat to the public and the local economy. Remember, **a land exchange must be in the public's best interest**. According to D.O.T., Alaska has over 300 aviation facilities (land- and water-based); Air and water access dwarf's road access in Alaska. And therefore, air and water must be considered as a realistic response to the Act's "accessible" designation. BLM needs to evaluate through Alaskan eyes not through Washington D.C. eyes. I doubt Congress would designate the snowiest place in Alaska (and by many claims, the world) as "accessible". BLM please rethink your definition of accessibility with a mind more tuned to the reality of our great white North.

Fantastic that BLM has designated both their EARMF and the State of Alaska's Copper River Basin Area Plan, CRBAP, as a "Key Plan". Further details have already been addressed on p.3.

2.0 I commend BLM for including Alternative 1, The No Action Alternative. And hope that BLM edits its failure to include the option next to 2 & 3 near the 7/6 reiteration of the "Participate Now" button.

2.2 Two thumbs and two big toes down. Additionally, though it is not clear, it appears that consideration of the 2 actual historic routes has been abandoned for a 17(b) reservation hugging the west edge toward the highway. While it would be nice to maintain this early 1980's access, it is inaccessible but to the few hardiest of souls. And it leads to a 600'-1000' cliff. Andy Embick explains (in Fast and Cold a Guide to Alaska Whitewater, pg. 172), "A very beautiful, **pristine** whitewater run which is fairly continuous and which winds for miles through a series of S-turns in a verdant, V-shaped canyon. Several waterfalls land in the stream (or on your head if you paddle under them), and bear and moose are abundant in the lower stretches of the canyon. The water is as cold and silty as would be expected from a river fed by a half dozen glaciers. The put-in is a major project, which will undoubtedly continue to limit the popularity of this run". You must descend 1,100 vertical feet in 1.5 miles dragging your kayak through brush. Additionally, you must find a porter willing to carry in and out 600 feet of rope so that the boater can rappel down the 600' vertical canyon wall to the river. Mike Buck was once able to scramble into the canyon. The route has likely not been repeated since the early eighties. It's a fast difficult/dangerous run with no scouting capabilities due to its cliffed-out nature, "Swimming should be emphatically avoided."

BLM appears to have been following the State's lead on this access (Addendum: DNR Research p. 82). The 2 additional historical routes were from nearly 100 years earlier. BLM did not reference the Embick book and appears focused on one access when all three should be retained (with all the land).

Additionally, 17(b) easements can have seasonal restrictions and prohibit hunting. Public comments expressed concern about hunting access. This land offers the entry or exit for one of my favorite hiking loops.

Development would drive more of the animals into the neighborhood below where there is already ample representation. And ample conflict with domesticated animals.

2.3 Thanks to BLM for acknowledging that "This alternative was developed based on scoping comments received from the public that Section 6 is **heavily used for recreational activities**." Imagine half of your church being rented out for an AC/DC concert during Sunday sermon.

2.4 I appreciate that BLM recognized, "An alternative suggested by public scoping comments asked the BLM to consider other lands for exchange." BLM does not know the acreage of land it manages in the Chugach region. It's approximately 3 million acres. And, as already explained, there is plenty of water accessible land that BLM never considered. Refer to my 1.8 comments above. BLM has claimed that they were "unable to identify other lands". I have asked several times to speak with who made the effort or to see substantiation. Nothing has been provided. With the exception of BLM's original NOI that also suggested Bering Glacier area land (that quickly evaporated presumably at the request of the corporation), BLM has apparently only explored the Thompson Pass land that the corporation was specifically pursuing. Icy Bay where Chugach Corporation already has some land, and where BLM has Chugach region managed land available, would be one of the many other alternatives that BLM should be consider. This area has amazing tourism potential. There has been mineral and timber activity as well. I beg BLM to take off it's politically pressured blinders and recognize that the Dingell Act stated "recommendations" and "options" – plural! This BLM managed area includes lands stretching from near Seldovia to near Yakutat. And the Corporation's region includes Eyak/Cordova, Seward, Valdez, Port Graham, Chenega, Nanwalek/English Bay and Tatitlek. That includes more than 5,000 miles of coastline through the southern tip of the peninsula, the Kenai Fjords, Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska. For BLM to claim they are "unable to identify other lands" is absurd, truly. If the Chugach Corporation has about 1 million acres and BLM manages about 2 million acres in the Chugach Region, there are surely other alternatives that can be explored. Perhaps the Bering or Icy Bay area where both entities have

land? It appears that BLM manages about 100 (longitude) miles from the Bering Glacier area to Icy Bay and about that much latitudinally at the west end. It's an enormous area and while I am just guessing distance from a rough glance, certainly the area provides a great opportunity to connect the corporation both to more attached land and to water access. These options would not detrimentally affect such a large and diverse contingency of people and economy. It would also be prudent to keep in my that the Copper River Basin will also feel the brunt of anything that affects Valdez's local and tourism economy.

While I am suggesting alternatives, I would like to reiterate that my understanding of the Dingell Act's language does not require this amendment or any land exchange consideration until a study identifies whether the process that BLM is pushing forward is even warranted. I am forcing myself to engage in a conversation that should not exist. And by doing so I am not demeriting the magnificent beauty of the Bering to Icy Bay region.

3.1.1 Affected Environment. Yes, BLM is spot on, "The lands comprise a heavily used, road accessible, year-round recreational area. The planning area is primarily used for berry picking, hiking, skiin2g, snow machining, snowcat use and hunting . . . easily accessed from multiple pullouts . . . popular location for hunting of upland game birds, such as ptarmigan, rabbit hunting and occasional moose hunting. The area also offers **exceptional views** to road travelers. The average annual daily traffic count on the Richardson Highway near the planning area is 338 cars per day (Alaska DOT 2021)." The numbers skyrocket exponentially if tour buses and additional (vehicle) passengers are calculated. But, NO!, BLM drops the ball with the following statement that clearly contradicted many comments, "There are an additional 12,800 acres of state lands which are comparable in accessibility and recreational opportunity located along the Richardson Highway from milepost 19-37." WRONG. This is the **most used ski area in the corridor** for multiple reasons. It offers the **only reasonably accessible south facing terrain in the Thompson Pass road corridor**. And because of its south aspect, it actually receives a bit of warmth in deep winter when temperatures are plummeting below zero. And when folks get of work and want to squeeze in a run in the last of the sun, the hairpin is their "go-to". It is often protected when the rest of the corridor is being blasted by nuclear north winds. It offers the most family accessible ski area in the corridor. The lower angle terrain is both less intimidating and diminishes (not deletes!) the likelihood of avalanches. It is available to a wide range of ability levels because there are no crevasses or massive cliffs. **There is no more user-friendly terrain than the "hairpin" in the Thompson Pass corridor**. So, I am requesting that BLM retract their statement in regards to any "comparable" land in the corridor. **There is absolutely no land remotely "comparable"**. In fact, you would be pressed to find any "comparable" land in all the world.

The Thompson Pass area is known as the "Holy Grail" of backcountry skiing, the greatest place in the world to ski. The warm maritime air from the gulf of Alaska collides with the interior cold allowing snow to stick to steeper faces in a more stable manner than anywhere else in the world. And that is precisely why skier's from around the world flock to our Chugach paradise. Avalanche danger would prevent you from skiing these steep slopes even if they existed somewhere else. But they don't. Thompson Pass is unique in all the world, for it's terrain, it's snowpack and . . . I'm not going to let all the secrets out.

According to a 3/21/19 U.S. Department of Interior Press Release , "Acting Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt signed a secretarial **order directing that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) adequately weigh public access for outdoor recreation** – including hunting and fishing – **when determining the appropriateness of the disposal or exchange of public lands.**" "Secretarial Order 3373, Evaluating Public Access in BLM Land Disposals and Exchanges directs the BLM to – for the first time ever – formally consider what impact the disposal or exchange of any BLM land will have on the public's ability to access federal lands for recreation." Brilliant! I commend DOI! And I also thank BLM for pointing out in the draft amendment that, "Secretarial Order 3373 is intended to **enhance the DOI efforts to support conservation stewardship, increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans, including opportunities to hunt and fish; and encourage the enjoyment of land and waters managed by the Department. The order ensures that recreational public access is an important value now and in the future as BLM makes decisions involving the disposal or exchange of lands.**"

"Sportsmen and women across the West will benefit from this Interior Department action to sustain and enhance recreational access to BLM public lands," said Whit Fosburgh, President and CEO of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. (DOI 3/21/19 Press Release)

"The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports the latest Secretarial Order (SO) for recreation on BLM public lands," said Ed Carter, President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. "Getting the American public outside to recreate, on federal public lands, is important to fostering a healthy public and one that supports conservation. This SO ensures due diligence unto that end." (DOI 3/21/19 Press Release)

"Access to our Nation's vast public lands is of utmost importance, because where hunting and fishing happen, conservation happens," said Timothy C. Brady, President of the Boone and Crockett Club. "While the founders of the

Boone and Crockett Club pioneered the development of the public land system Americans enjoy today, we must constantly work to improve access to public lands for a multitude of shared uses. This order that Acting Secretary Bernhardt has signed will help do just that. We commend him on his efforts in making access a priority. Thanks to his leadership, this necessity is finally becoming a reality.” (DOI 3/21/19 Press Release) A “reality”, an order, that BLM is obligated to fulfill.

3.1.2 Environmental Impacts – Alternative 1. Yes, BLM states that the CRAMP, the state’s management plan “recognizes the area as ‘having **very high recreational value**’”. And explains that “recreational opportunities and public access” “as well as encouraging the enjoyment of land and waters managed by the BLM would remain unimpeded” by opting for the sensible No Action Alternative.

3.1.3 EI -A2. “Alternative 2 would make available for exchange 1,280 acres of BLM-managed public lands currently available for high quality recreation opportunities, hunting and public access.” See above response to 3.1.1 for explanation of why there is no “comparable” land for “displaced users” to turn to in the Thompson Pass corridor (and arguably anywhere in the world). And then you will be reminded why the following BLM statement is 100% wrong, “If recreational use is displaced onto nearby State lands, the no change in recreational impacts would be expected. There would be no significant effects to recreational use as a result of this alternative”. ABSURD! This statement is indicative of both a lack of knowledge of said (and surrounding) land as well as a blatant disregard for public comments which specified why there is no “comparable” land. BLM, please reread initial comments.

3.1.4 EI-A3. 3.1.3 comments also apply here (which apply to all recreation, including hunting).

3.1.5 Mitigation and Residual Impacts. “. . . if an exchange occurs, BLM should attempt to acquire lands which provide equal access rights, opportunities to hunt and fish, and ability to enjoy land and waters managed by DOI as the lands to be conveyed.” IMPOSSIBLE to achieve (with the exception of fishing). As far as winter recreation goes, there is no “comparable” land as explained in 3.1.1 above. And certainly, the land that Chugach Corporation is offering – remote inaccessible (by boat, plane or road), steep, partially glaciated mountain top land in the Wrangell’s is not going to “provide equal access rights, opportunities . . . and ability to enjoy the land.” A human has likely never set foot on that land. It’s a spectacular area but a ridiculous comparison. It fails to meet any of BLM’s above qualifications.

3.2.1 Affected Environment. I have read every history book, including unpublished journals, of the area that I have been able to find for over 3 decades. Many of my sources have come from elder historians. I have also diligently listened and recorded countless hours of elders who are now long gone. And I have come across **NO history of native travel or settlement in the Thompson Pass corridor.**

BLM writes, “Historically the Thompson Pass area was a boundary region between the coastal Pacific Eskimo, or Chugach, and the interior Ahnta Athapaskans (Athabaskans) (Clark 1984; De Laguna and McClellan 1981). The two groups were reportedly hostile to each other, conducting raids on each other up and down the Copper River for most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, the Thompson Pass area, reportedly, did not see much use by either group for either travel or subsistence. The State’s Alaska Heritage Resource Survey (AHRs 20121) database does not list any prehistoric archaeological sites within several miles of Thompson Pass.”

I asked Marnie Graham specifically about BLM’s word choice “much use”. I inquired as to whether BLM had any sign of historical evidence in Thompson Pass. She did not know. I reiterate that I have found no evidence of any historic native relationship with this land. There is absolutely history along the Copper River and in Prince William Sound. I concur with BLM’s account of the known history of the area taking seed in 1898.

In 1905 the Alaska Road Commission, ARC, was established by Congress to construct and maintain roads in Alaska. ARC maintained the Tasnuna trail that went through these hairpin land selections. The trail went over Marshall Pass and down the Tasnuna River to the Copper River. And then it continued up the Copper to Chitina. An estimated 900 tons of freight and 300 hardy folks traveled the one-horse trail in the winter of 1906-1907. In 1907 a steamship was literally taken by man and horse, piece by piece across this land and to the Copper River where it was assembled. Bill Unfer heard the story first-hand from George Meals and years later, he shared the story with me. Meals and his horse hauled, the heaviest part – a 900-pound boiler/firebox that historical documents indicate was 5,7000 pounds. Extraordinarily heavy no matter if you take the weight of the word or the paper. All accounts agreed that it took eight horses and a block and tackle to get the boiler over Marshall Pass and that they arrived at the Copper in about 5 weeks. This incredible story is but one example of the magnificently rich history that has traversed this land.

3.2.3 EI – A2. Copy BLM, “The transfer, lease or sale of property out of Federal ownership or control without adequate and legally enforceable restrictions or conditions to ensure long-term preservation of a property’s historic significance is considered an “adverse effect” (36 CFR 800.5). This alternative has the most potential to adversely

impact approximately two miles of historic trail as well as any other undiscovered historic properties, including artifacts and campsites from the Gold Rush or early 1900's." Note that BLM is not bringing native history into the discussion because there is no known native history.

3.2.4 Same as above just replace "2 miles" with "1 mile".

3.2.5 (Including all of 3.2) BLM, please be cognizant of the enormous effort and expense that would be required in order to comply with NHPA 106. It was a monstrous endeavor in the 70's (in fact a helicopter and pilot permanently disappeared) and the brush growth in recent years has been unwieldy. If BLM is interested, I could see if a friend who was on the survey crew would be willing to speak with BLM. He certainly has stories to tell!

3.3.3 EI-A2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph are so profoundly disconnected that I am pasting here what I wrote above in 3.1.1. This is the **most used ski area in the corridor** for multiple reasons. It offers the **only reasonably accessible south facing terrain in the Thompson Pass road corridor**. And because of its south aspect, it actually receives a bit of warmth in deep winter when temperatures are plummeting below zero. And when folks get off work and want to squeeze in a run in the last of the sun, the hairpin is their "go-to". It is often protected when the rest of the corridor is being blasted by nuclear north winds. It offers the most family accessible ski area in the corridor. The lower angle terrain is both less intimidating and diminishes (not deletes!) the likelihood of avalanches. It is available to a wide range of ability levels because there are no crevasses or massive cliffs. **There is no more user-friendly terrain than the "hairpin"** in the Thompson Pass corridor. So, I am requesting that BLM retract their statement in regards to any "comparable" land in the corridor. **There is absolutely no land remotely "comparable"**. In fact, you would be pressed to find any "comparable" land in all the world.

BLM states, "Displaced users could find similar opportunities in the greater Thompson Pass area, although the number of users impacted is not known. Therefore, no social or economic impacts would occur." As explained above, BLM is profoundly wrong about "similar opportunities" and therefore wrong about "no social or economic impacts". I am falling into the BLM trap of repeating the same thing over and over again. BLM writes, "it's difficult to say whether quality of life will be affected". Read the previous comments. Many of us communicated that our quality of life would be negatively impacted. BLM continues, . . . it's not possible to say whether current spending in the local area would be affected if those more-distant visitors were displaced from the exchanged lands." Those "visitors" rely on the hairpin area land for all the same reasons that I have already listed above. The tourists are seeking "pristine". If there is a noisy dirty eyesore, like a mine perhaps, they will not be returning. And yet BLM ABSURDLY continues, "If recreation is displaced onto nearby State lands, then no change in social or economic impact would be expected." I am asking BLM to review your editing; and please refrain from making opposite statements in the same paragraph. It comes off as an attempt to cover all bases . . . without a leg to stand on.

Then BLM acknowledges, "Another complication in estimating social and economic impacts is that we do not know how a potential entity that would receive these lands in exchange would manage the lands. As such, while not knowing the specifics of how it would occur, it is expected that the land would be put into an economical use. However, since the use cannot be foreseen, it is unknown if the net social and economic effects would be positive or negative and the degree of the effect." A touchdown for BLM! That is precisely why the Bering lands to the southeast would be the best option. **The "unknown" disables BLM from accomplishing what FLPMA requires of you. You cannot simultaneously abide by the letter of the law and move forward with the "hairpin" selections. The Bering lands are unencumbered compared to the complexities attached to these "hairpin" lands.**

3.3.5 Mitigation and Residual Impacts. According to BLM, ". . . **the magnitude of the change is unknown.**" So why, then, risk the mental and economic health of the folks you are supposed to be serving?

3.4.1 The "unknown" factor must weigh in on the fact that the selections to the east are already "patented to the Tatitlek Corporation and the lands to the south are selected by the Tatitlek Corporation, top filed by the State and BLM-managed public lands." While this discussion is hyper-focused on the availability/analysis of 2 square miles, it is important to not overlook the fact that these sections are attached to both an additional 4 square miles of already native owned land to the east and 22 more square miles of native selected land to the south/southeast, extending out between Bench Glacier and Marshall Glacier including Heiden Glacier and most of the Deserted Glacier. Zooming out allows one to imagine the massive potential for impact on an otherwise "pristine" area.

I am not aware of any "businesses" occur(ing) from mile 11 on into Valdez". There is a greenhouse at 10 mile which is open about a month a year. And then it is about 10 miles before the businesses appear, with the exception of a campground. There is no property at Mile 18.5 "which is utilized for recreation and rafting". The lodge is at Mile 34.7 not Mile 37. Perhaps these details are not largely relevant. Of great relevance is the sad reality that the document is riddled with inaccuracies.

3.4.3 EA-2. "If sections 5 and 6 are exchanged to a private entity there is the possibility that casual use public access would either be restricted or denied." A horrible reality indeed.

4.0 Consultation and Coordination. "Political Pressure" would offer a more appropriate heading. Senator Lisa Murkowski sponsored (and Senator Dan Sullivan co-sponsored) the Dingell Act that President Trump signed last year which allows native corporations to undo the settlement of aboriginal land rights. Politics are forcing the feds to protect the Native Corps. against the letter of the law. But BLM is an agency that works for the public, *all* of the public, not just ANCSA corporations. Therefore, we should have a say *if* lands are going to be exchanged with an ANCSA corporation, *which* lands are exchanged and *what* access rights we, as the public landowners, should be able to keep.

4.1 Federal and State Government Agencies. "No scoping comments were received from AKDNR or AKDOT." The corporation approached the politically appointed DNR Commissioner to relinquish the state's selection on this land. The Commissioner hurried DNR to process the request without seeking public opinion. The state is the active enabler. I have shared the paper trail between DNR and BLM and consequently there would be no need for DNR to comment, they are in service to the Commissioner. But the AKDOT info is, again, misinformation. The Thompson Pass foreman did comment and express his adamant opposition to the proposition. Thanks for notifying the City of Valdez! Unfortunately the City Manager and assistant City Manager did not share the information with the Council. The knew nothing until I informed them.

This Thompson Pass "option" represents arguably the most scenic public accessible land on the planet. Not only is it backcountry skiing's "Shangri-La" but its year-round recreation and hunting value are undeniable. There is plenty of land in the Chugach region that will not have such an enormous negative impact on the native (but not Chugach shareholders) and non-native public land users. Consider your obligation to honor FLPMA . And consider energy security, national security and (especially) the value of wildness both as an economic and health asset. Please, have the courage to rise above the political pressure, stand strong for the people you represent, the public. Choose Alternative 1, The No Action Alternative!

I have been immersing myself for at least an hour or two daily for about 5 days a week for over 3 decades in this land and its neighboring lands. I have never been to a therapist, I do not attend a technical house of worship and I am not interested in drugs or alcohol . . . but whatever folks are seeking by pursuing these avenues just might be related to what I have received from this land and its neighboring lands. It has nourished me immensely thereby enabling me to do an extraordinary amount of undercover crisis management work including but not limited to suicide, sexual abuse and addiction. There is nothing more healing than pristine land capable of nourishing both our physical and emotional/spiritual well-being. Let's keep the land healthy so it can keep us healthy!

The proposed amendment is sacrilegious. In historical journals, over and over again, the miners described this area as "God's Country" (commencing in 1898 while seeking an alternative access to the interior gold fields due to the excessive death toll from crevasses and avalanches on the Valdez Glacier Route). I get it. It is sacred land to countless folks. While New York City is a melting pot of cultures, this area is a melting pot of flora and fauna due to its location on the convergence of two biomes, where the tundra meets the taiga. The fungi, the bacteria, and yes, even the humans are a part of this gorgeous biodiversity. BLM, please do not enable the murder of the biodiversity's harmony, the intricate web balancing and sustaining life.

I want to close by offering gratitude to the BLM folks for their public service. As individuals, I believe you are committed to your work. I have, most of the time (with the exception of this last notification process and some silent treatment), enjoyed communicating with BLM folks who are competent and have a vested interest in the work they do. Some of the BLM staffers have been instrumental in schooling me. You have helped me comprehend acronyms and history in which I was otherwise tangled. I get that you are part of a broken system. And I understand that you are under both political pressure and a system so large that all the cogs cannot be simultaneously greased. Know that I am submitting my comment with all due respect, gratitude and frustration for your effort. I have not been the easiest of public voices; but I can only hope that you understand that my passion is driven by a primal love for a place and its potential to heal and sustain its people.

Sincerely,

Lisa Wax, on behalf of Thompson Pass

For members of the public who might be reading this, stay vigilant. BLM is hoping to have the final amendment prepared by the end of July, at which time there will be 30 days for public protest comments.

**ADDENDUM: "Why are public lands important?"** "Public lands in Alaska are home to amazing animals and entire ecosystems. They protect unique cultural and historical treasures. Alaska natives and rural residents practice subsistence and traditional lifestyles in these places. Many public lands provide recreational opportunities unsurpassed anywhere else in the world." -Alaska Public Land Information Centers Map (Alaska Magazine, May 2021, p.60), stamped with both BLM and DNR's logo

**ADDENDUM: Broken System** Understanding that this is a frustrating process for all folks involved, I searched "broken system public planning bureaucracy" and this 2017 report was the first result:

<https://www.globalgovernmentforum.com/us-federal-civil-service-broken-says-napa/>

US federal civil service system is "fundamentally broken" and reforms are urgently needed, a prestigious Washington think-tank has warned in a new report.

The National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) said that the civil service personnel system, which dates back to the 1940s, is undermining the federal government's ability to meet the needs of American citizens.

The think-tank's report, *No Time to Wait: Building a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Public Service*, calls for personnel management to be devolved to individual agencies and departments, giving them power over hiring, firing, motivating and assessing staff.

### **Crisis of human capital**

A renewed commitment to core civil service principles of merit – such as competitive entry exams – and a new governance and accountability structure based on data analytics are also required at agency or departmental level to address the federal government's "crisis of human capital", the report states.

Launching the report last month, NAPA president and chief executive Terry Gerton said the proposed reforms would profoundly transform the personnel systems and processes of the federal civil service, making government more efficient and effective.

"The ideas in this report, if implemented, will help to ensure that the federal government has the talent – a highly skilled, agile and responsive workforce – needed to meet the enormous responsibilities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century," she said.

### **Detailed plan needed**

Examples of the "profound problems" facing government given in the report include recruitment and retention issues that have contributed to a backlog of 1.3 million disability reviews at the Social Security Administration, and a chronic shortage of doctors and nurses at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The proposed reforms are characterized in the report as a "sturdy three-legged stool" that will provide the foundation that the federal government "badly needs to serve citizens in these challenging times".

Creating and leading such a system, it states, requires government to:

- recommit to – but modernize – a merit-based system at a time when "some so-called reformers seek to undo some of its protections;"
- shift from a process-based system to one focused on results;
- give up a familiar approach for a new one; and

- redefine leadership roles in relation to personnel issues within agencies and departments of the federal government.

"We recognize that this vision of human capital reform will require a detailed operational game plan and stand ready, as a next step, to assist congress and the administration in its development," the report states.

NAPA is an independent, non-profit organization that was chartered by the US Congress in 1967 to provide non-partisan advice and help government leaders built more effective, efficient, accountable and transparent organizations.

## APPENDIX C

09/08/21

Kevin Husa, Shawana Guzenski & Jacobie Gable DNR AK  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: CRBAP revision comment

Thompson Pass/TP, nestled in the ridiculously magnificent Chugach mountains outside Valdez, has been home for over 3 decades. Sir Edmund Hilary aptly and succinctly described the area, "unsurpassed beauty". Sadly the very entity, DNR, entrusted with managing this "unsurpassed beauty" is, in fact, time and time again, compromising its integrity and future viability.

DNR has failed for decades to comply with its guiding doctrine and now they, you, are summoning public input on the presumption of revising this doctrine, the Copper River Basin Area Plan/CRBAP.

Today, deadline day, I admit that I have tried and failed to refrain from commenting. My restlessness is unrelenting. I do not know how to pretend I don't care. So I will go through the motions like I have for the last few times that DNR has (falsely) initiated the CRBAP revision process. Kevin, Shawana and Jacoby, I will use this opportunity to provide perspective since you all seem to be coming into this revision with big hearts but little pertinent perspective. Positive change will not come without a knowledge of what has proceeded.

Most importantly, understand that Thompson Pass is an enchanted wonderland for everyone, not just for the outdoor enthusiasts who consider it a "hallowed ground". TP has transformed countless lives. It has mended intergenerational trauma, circumnavigated suicide, cleaned up a drug dealer, transformed a felon, nourished a new mother etc. The power of Thompson Pass is undeniable, sacred. The state knew its value as far back as 1970 when it funded a nearly 100-page study encouraging its protection with a "scenic park" for "present and future generations". This land is the renewable asset capable of sustaining the physical, emotional and economic health of Valdez. And it has no computer to submit an online comment. So I will commence by sharing decades of perspective on the irrelevancy of both the CRBAP (I've had my own copy since pre-fax machines) and public input in Thompson Pass.

First clue, we are discussing a plan, the CRBAP, that states in its opening summary, “the plan will be reviewed every 5 years to determine if revisions are required (1-3).” It has never been revised in the 35 years since its inception.

Each time was going to be “the time” that changes would be made. Each time, DNR went through the expense not only to drop the ball but to have lost the ball. According to Kevin Husa, the project manager who was heading up the summer public meetings (I imagine that nearly a week’s worth of travel expenses for three folks were substantial) that were barely attended (because folks have given up?), DNR has no previous comments with exception of the last round of comments that were submitted online. Perhaps they were vaporized like the big million-year-old release off of 27 1/2-mile glacier that I witnessed last week; it lingered just long enough for me to feel the nasal sting; as sensory tattoo. Last round, a handful of years ago, I submitted my comments via snail mail. I will electronically submit this round hoping that DNR doesn’t catch a digital vaporization virus. This round I will skip the minutia that mattered to me the last few rounds and address a wider more compelling perspective. Like, **what is the point?** I ask not out of resignation but out of hope that the three new folks – Kevin, Shawana and Jacoby might shed new light on a nagging issue. There is

09/08/21

Kevin Husa, Shawana Guzenski & Jacobie Gable DNR AK  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: CRBAP revision comment

an advantage to not being so enmeshed. I hope that by connecting some dots I can inspire the three of you to find a “third way” that I cannot yet see.

I met you at the Kenny Lake meeting this summer (because I was on the Copper River the day of the Valdez meeting). You were amiable and genuine. But, to no fault of your own, you were also sadly a stark metaphor for a broken system. I asked Kevin Husa, the CRBAP project manager, if he had noticed the eyesore [PHOTO ]





in clear view from the Richardson Highway, the collapsed building on the DNR permit site at the bottom of Thompson Pass. He saw it. "Wish I would have known, we would have stopped". I explained that the permittee, Dave Geis of AK Snowboard Guides, is essentially squatting on the property. He has not paid his permit fees, user fees, insurance etc. I then asked Kevin if he noticed (also visible from the highway) the school bus at the Thompson Pass airstrip with garbage hanging out the window, power cords running to the generator, a wire running to the Copper Valley Telephone service stub, fuel and other miscellaneous junk scattered about [PHOTO]; priceless roadside real estate. He noticed.

09/08/21

Kevin Husa, Shawana Guzenski & Jacobie Gable DNR AK  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: CRBAP revision comment



I explained that was a DNR permit site and that Dustin James AKA Dustin Huebner AKA the new face of Tailgate AK, had been living there over 3 months since his permit expired (about 4 months in total) without an outhouse, also squatting. Kevin said again, "Wish I would have known, we would have stopped". 2 examples should be sufficient to conclude the metaphor. Here you are, the DNR folks tasked with rewriting the management plan and yet you have no clue, no connectivity to the management area even when driving right through it. I attempted to respectfully share my frustration with the blatant disconnect at the meeting. **Clearly the system is broken.** Your intentions seemed earnest. Certainly the turnover and reshuffling practices of DNR contribute to the "disconnect".

How can we hyper-focus on dotting the CRBAP's "i's" when DNR has proven, time and time again, that they (the 3 of you are becoming "they" because you have not been a part of what I will be addressing moving forward) do not even see the letters, let alone the words, in the management plan. You are tasked with remedying a colossal conundrum. And perhaps I can help pack your toolbox. I propose that remedying the disconnect should proceed dotting the "i's" that DNR cannot see (wink).

09/08/21

Kevin Husa, Shawana Guzenski & Jacobie Gable DNR AK  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: CRBAP revision comment

Since you who are tasked with revising the plan are not privy to the deep and convoluted history, I will offer a severely annotated (more always readily available) synopsis. Perhaps a better understanding will facilitate a more responsible forward momentum.

#### DMLW'S THOMPSON PASS MANAGEMENT HISTORY

Thompson Pass's management logistics (severely abbreviated) are important to understand, particularly for the folks who are charged with revising its management plan (who do not have any knowledge of the area and it's unfortunate management history). The 1986 Copper River Basin Area Plan, CRBAP, which is in the process of being updated, *"describes how DNR will manage state land in the Copper River Basin"*. The plan summary for Thompson Pass states that the lands should be "actively managed for recreation". The plan recommends that DMLW enter into a cooperative management agreement with Dept. of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, DPOR; and that a citizen's advisory board be formed to "propose management". There is no funding available (and never has been) to implement the agreement or the management. Not only will there be no management, but the land is also not regulated. Thompson Pass is even excluded from DMLW's 8/11 Fact Sheet *"Generally Allowed Use on State Lands"*.

A State Park Citizen's Advisory Board was originally formed in the mid-nineties to no avail. Both the original and the most recent board, now several years ago, became inactive. The members were ready, willing and able to serve. But DNR's bylaws require that the state organize, staff and record the monthly meetings. And DPOR has failed to meet their obligations. The board was notified that it will no longer be supported. Valdez was "abandoned" due to budget cuts. A concerned board member reached out to John Hozey, a deputy Chief of Staff to AK's (then) governor Bill Walker. Hozey apologized, *"Sorry, wish we could do more, but it's getting pretty ugly everywhere."*

Nonetheless, all iterations of the board shared disillusionment induced by DMLW's deaf ear. The board always attempted to communicate to DMLW that, time and time again, **all Valdez user groups have been unanimously and adamantly against ANY commercial development in the Thompson Pass** corridor (recordings available). The Valdez high school students gathered the majority of their peer's signatures on a petition that stated, *"Commercial development is not appropriate for this area."* *The student who presented the petition addressed DNR "I am a 16-year-old junior at the Valdez High School. The future of Alaska does not want to see Thompson Pass developed."*

There is only one other DNR document, besides the CRBAP, stipulating TP's management. The Thompson Pass Special Use Area, TPSUA, designation was created in 1994 in response to growing winter tourism. Its purpose was to protect TP's recreational resource value. The requirement of event/operator permits is, thus far, the only public stipulation. Still, DMLW has not required Tailgate Alaska to permit their competitions. In fact, DMLW is out of compliance with all of their obligations set forth in the TPSUA. For Example, "... at minimum an annual meeting should be held to ensure communication between the users and the agency is maintained." There has been only a

few meeting since the 1994 (or the 1986 CRABAP) designation and they had nothing to do with the TPSUA designation.

The most recent outrageous and downright tragic example of DNR's disrespect of Thompson Pass came directly from the commissioner herself. DNR Commissioner Corey Feige pressured the DNR staff to conditionally relinquish its' State selected land (specifically contingent on a transfer to the Chugach AK Corporation) at the Thompson Pass hairpin turn. Feige took the DNR staff by surprise.  
**From:** Stolpe, Adrienne K (DNR) on 12/7/20 **Sent:** Monday, December 7, 2020 **To:** Pinckney,

Charles A (DNR) ,Hamner, Lacy C (DNR) **Subject:** RE: East AK RMP Amendment “As far as I am aware, we have no plans of relinquishing any selections in the area.” Same day, Chuck (Charles) replies, “really just need to know if we had promised anything to them regarding our selections.” Same day, Adrienne replies, **“As far as I’m aware, absolutely not. We’ve received pressure to relinquish lands for years and always push back. Unless something was promised higher up, which I doubt, I’d operate under no promise to relinquish** (Attachment DNR Research, p.77)”. Next communication in the file was from politically appointed Commissioner Feige pushing forward the land exchange in a 1/27/20 letter addressed to DNR’s Deputy Commissioner and to both the Director and Deputy Director of the Division of Mining, Land and Water. The letter included an attached draft land exchange contract prepared by the corporation and Commissioner **Feige stated, “Please look at the parcel and determine what would need to be done to lift the state selection . . . Thank you very much for your work on this”**. (Attachment: DNR Research p.28). The public was not notified or invited to comment.

Interesting, eh?, what happens when a private corporation who is currently exploring metal mining in 5 areas in the Chugach region (<https://www.miningnewsnorth.com/story/2019/12/01/in-depth/purpose-tradition-guide-chugach-alaska/6080.html>) reaches out to DNR’s politically appointed Commissioner Corrie Feige who (not so incidentally) has had an oil, gas and mining consultation firm with her husband for the past couple decades. Feige was setting the enabling wheels in motion to allow for an exchange of Thompson Pass’s most widely used winter recreation land for partially glaciated totally inaccessible mountain top land in the middle of the Wrangells . Worth noting, , **“land exchanges must be in the public interest”**. (43 U.S.C. §1716(a)).

Against both the CRBAP and the TPSUA, the commissioner conditionally relinquished prime public recreation land [PHOTO]. The CRBAP’s first line under TP “Management Intent” reads, “ The management Unit should be retained in state ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on expanding recreation opportunities (3-103).” It continues by suggesting a legislative designation for mineral closure. In TP “the potential for conflict between minerals and other resources is high. The relative values of fish habitat or recreation (at these specific sites) are higher than potential mineral values and therefore warrant a closure (A-4). And the TPSUA states that “Adoption of a special use designation will serve to focus attention on affected state lands for their unique winter recreation values. Winter time use of the area will be reviewed and monitored by the Division of Land staff to better evaluate the need for more active management. Annual public meetings should be held to provide the public opportunity to comment on existing uses and to participate in future

management actions (p.3)”. Commissioner Feige also overlooked the Special Use Designation statement indicating, “Any changes or modifications to the special use area will be subject to public review and comment (p.3)” before she signed over our prime public recreation land to make it available to a private corporation. **What is the point of having plans and designations if DNR is not accountable to their guiding doctrines?**

The “hairpin” zone is the most used ski area in the TP corridor for multiple reasons. It offers the only reasonably accessible south-facing terrain in the corridor. And because of its south aspect, it actually receives a bit of warmth in deep winter when temperatures are plummeting below zero. And when folks get off work and want to squeeze in a run in the last of the light, the hairpin is their “go-to”. It is often protected when the rest of the corridor is being blasted by nuclear north winds. It offers the most family accessible ski area in the corridor. The lower angle terrain is both less intimidating and diminishes (not deletes!) the likelihood of avalanches. It is available to a wide

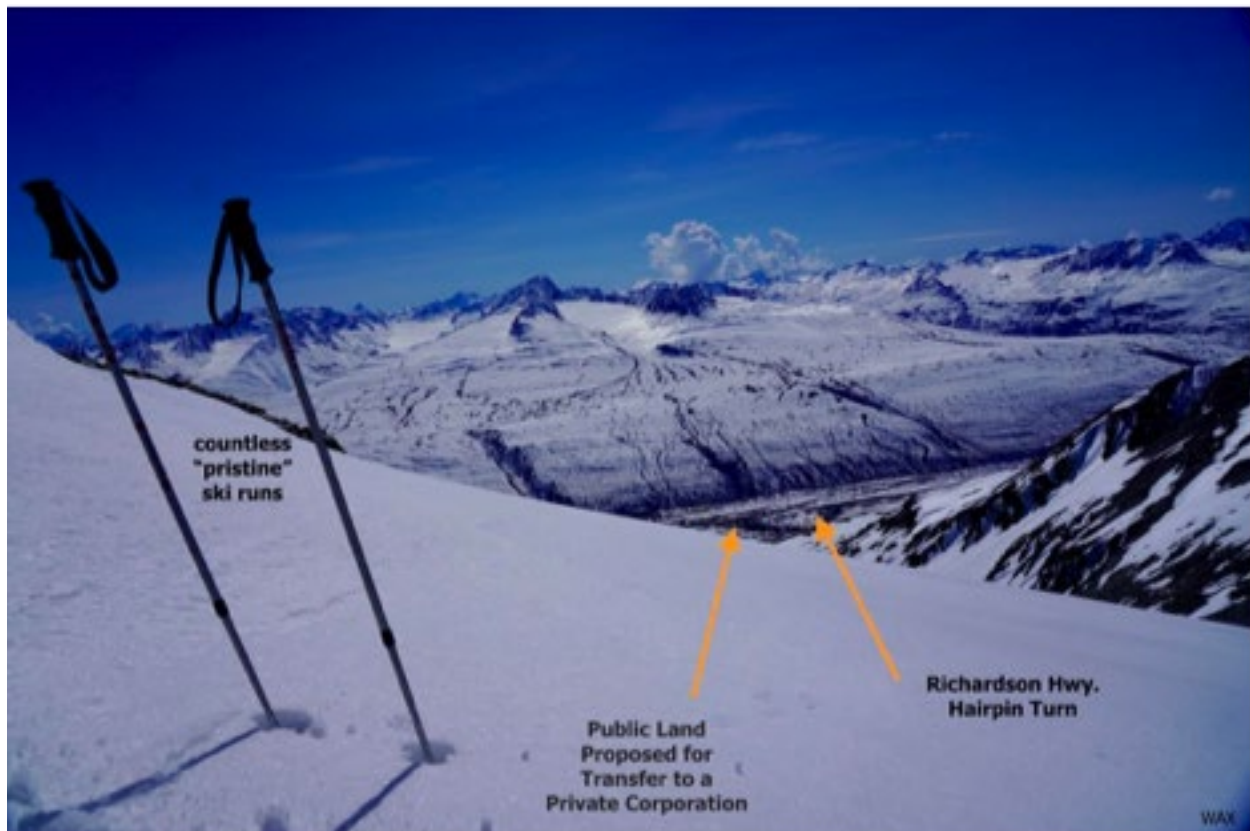
range of ability levels because there are no crevasses or massive cliffs. There is no more user-friendly terrain than the “hairpin” in the Thompson Pass corridor.

It was an unlikely fluke that I caught wind, moments before the BLM deadline, of this ludicrous situation. And when I got word out, in a matter days, mostly between this last Christmas Eve and the day after New Year’s, 143 folks (one representing 6,000 voices, another 10,000 and another 160,000) overwhelmingly sent comments to BLM (because the state had already signed the relinquishment), “**Not this land!**”. Hunters, defenders of wildlife, motorheads and self-propelled recreationalist all stood on the same ground. “Do not give our public land to a private corporation!”. For a more detailed explanation of this example:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jGR5CeVHJ0eK6tE8kunjYsx9d9Vrg6dL/view?usp=sharing>

**Both DNR’s DMLW and most of its Thompson Pass permittees have histories of gross negligence** in regards to compliance with their requisite guidelines. Examples of out of compliance permittees abound. Tailgate AK operated on state land without having any permit or business license for its first 4 years. Another Thompson Pass DMLW permit area, named the “*superfund site*” by Alyeska Pipeline’s fire chief, the old Valdez Heli-Camps/VHC base, was a disaster for decades. A persistent stream of hydraulic fluid ran from the permit base across the Lowe River and to the top of Stone Mountain. They also built an illegal overnight cabin on Stone Mt. It took several years of my perseverance before the abandoned site’s leaking diesel tanks, a leaking jet fuel truck, old truck batteries and collapsed, cracked-open Atco’s were superficially cleaned up. DNR did not red-flag Matt White. Instead DMLW traded our Worthington Glacier state recreation site for inland contaminated Kodiak property so the Matt White, the superfund site provocateur, could build a private lodge. Local adamant opposition was ignored (recording available). After an exhaustive year, in a last-ditch effort, I gave the Kodiak Native Corporation a pile of paperwork which included numerous lawsuits against White, the same paperwork that I had distributed generously throughout DNR and Juneau, and they withdrew their backing. The project failed to materialize without financing.





And then DMLW emailed only heli operators to notify them that the land was available, hardly a public process. And AK Snowboard Guides now squats the same property with a different collapsed building (mentioned previously in the introduction).

It's a sad never ending story. I could write a lengthy document solely on close-calls barely circumnavigated. Dean Cummings was awarded the right to close off public access at the "hairpin". But he kindly reversed his intention after reading a letter that I wrote. I barely intercepted DNR from giving another operator Deserted glacier where connexes etc. would have decorated the awe-

inspiring view driving southbound over the Thompson Pass summit. Kevin, Shawan and Jacoby, I sure look forward to any ideas that might take the pressure off me (and TP!).

DMLW's gross negligence enables its permittees gross negligence. Sadly even the word of DNR's commissioner can have no influence, no credibility. On 9/12/07 Thomas Irwin, the (then) DNR Commissioner, wrote in an appeal response that a connex was to be removed from the TP airstrip. Irwin referenced the CRBAP, *"The relevant management guideline says that all development along the Richardson Highway Corridor should be sited and designed to minimize impacts on views from the highway..."*. Irwin continues describing allowable seasonal structures *... "All structures will be wood-sided with brown roofs..."*. 14 years later the old connex still clutters the Worthington Glacier viewshed. And several years ago another connex grew next to it like an invasive weed.





And the parking at DNR's "crown-jewel" (according to the state's website) is littered with 32 ragged signs about money. There are not even 32 parking spots. Truly a depressing welcome to a breathtaking place, the Wothington Glacier:





Another Thompson Pass DNR Land Use Permit stated, "Removal or destruction of the vegetative mat is not authorized under this permit." Nonetheless, the property was bulldozed (as seen below). The permit allowed for one cabin. 7 cabins were put on the property. And then the same operator was awarded 2 more permits.



The growing eyesores have been authorized for 7-8 months on five-year permits with only 10 – 30 claimed user days annually. Permit application numbers indicate that one tour bus will potentially be more impacted by the eyesore (of a single permit site) than the total number of the permittee's annual clients. DMLW is aware of the blatant misrepresentation of daily user numbers by heli-operators. There are several Thompson Pass permits that have been issued and never used. Operators buy up permits to keep others away.

While I was in Juneau attending a Senate Resource Committee meeting, a resident from the north side of Thompson Pass phoned in to emphasize the quackery of DNR's permitting. He was referencing a recent "free and easy" local permit, "the accepted DNR application literally looked like it was filled out and compiled by a third- grader" (SENATE RES COMMITTEE -33- March 14, 2014). TP area permits are given out like candy on Halloween.

When hundreds of folks wrote comments (see Addendum 1/17 Public Tailgate Comments Annotated) to DNR in 2017 to protest Tailgate Alaska's TP permit, DNR awarded Tailgate a bigger better permit with 2 more weeks and an unlimited number of participants. It also included an unrestricted number of snow machines, helicopters and airplanes. DMLW essentially gave Sullivan the right to own Thompson Pass' PEAK recreational and commercial user season for a month and a half-long "10-day event". For a mere \$500 annual DNR DMLW lease fee Mark Charles Sullivan's limited liability company "Tailgate Alaska" had been purchasing the right to monopolize Alaska's most PRIME winter tourism real estate. The winter alpine access is unmatched in the entire world. This, by the way, also happens to be in the foreground of Valdez and the Copper River Basin's most visited tourist site and Alaska's most accessible glacier. The Worthington Glacier is described on DNR's website as a "*crown jewel*" of the Alaska State Park system. A bargain indeed

I sent DNR's Cliff Larson the below TP photo early April 2021 (of hot tubs and open fuel in a fish and mammal bearing stream that feeds into the Copper River) twice asking the same question,

"Who is the contact responsible for protecting State waterways that contain fish and mammals?" I was never provided a contact. The hot tub continues to be in the same river every spring.



**DMLW has the authority to issue permits/leases but has no designated people or plan to manage them. They are not only grossly imposing upon other, already strapped, state agencies** (especially Department of Transportation and the Division of State Troopers) **but they are also imposing upon the public.** DMLW is enabling the decimation of their citizen's favorite "destination" and their potential winter tourism dollars.

DMLW has been enabling disrespect for Thompson Pass and its users for decades. Incomplete permits are issued, fees go uncollected, oversight is unseen, spills and other public concerns go unaddressed. **DMLW is clearly not poised contractually or functionally to take on ANYTHING in TP.**

Again, **the system is broken.** What is the point of spending time and energy rewriting a document that has been incessantly ignored? Why should hundreds of locals and tourists a day be burdened with an eyesore on their public land (on the account of DNR's incompetency)? I propose DNR start by investing it's energy into resolving the messes it has already enabled. And then? I propose DNR call an "All Systems Stop!". The state must stop issuing permits that they have no ability to enforce. It's like

The state is grossly out of compliance on the existing plan. Perhaps the public has a revolutionary idea for how to manage the TP corridor? Wouldn't it be lovely if Thompson Pass could be a model in management for the many other areas that are also feeling the squeeze of dwindling state resources? Setting an example is far more enticing than being a whipping post poster child. Hundreds of folks, from both Alaska and across the globe, have written to DNR about how they avoid, both personally and professionally, Thompson Pass. In the care of DNR, TP has evolved from arguably the most pristine paradise on the American road system to, according to one public comment (see addendum) , "a shitshow (sic)". Yes, we need change. But is another false start to a plan that has no bearing in reality going to initiate the change? Apparently I am not capable of giving up hope. But I am asking for both the public and DNR to get creative before it is too late. It is heartbreaking to watch DNR sabotage TP's recreation potential.

DNR's habitual negligence clearly indicates a need for more oversight not less. Failure should not be rewarded with the issuance of more authority.

After 3 decades of listening to both tourists and locals, I am certain that it is the endangered unspoiled vastness more than any single activity that draws folks to this area. Nestled between Thompson Pass and Prince William Sound, Valdez has the opportunity not only to become Alaska's recreation hub but to become North America's recreation hub. The Valdez gold rush went bust. The oil will eventually run dry. And even the fishing has, at times, become more . . . well . . . like fishing. But thankfully Americans spend \$788 billion annually on outdoor recreation. Thompson Pass, if responsibly managed, is THE **precious renewable resource**, the ASSET, capable of sustaining Valdez's long-term health and economy. **It is poor public policy to give up unique-in- all-the-world public land for private profit** (and perhaps pillage?) particularly with the public investment that has gone into this area, this enchanted place that can't be reduced to words or pictures.

With enormous love for Thompson Pass,  
Lisa Wax

p.s. I keep this quote on my desk, "He has a right to criticize who has a heart to help." – Abe Lincoln

### Addendum 1/17 Tailgate Public Comments Annotated

"It doesn't bring enough for the economy to outweigh the environmental impact on an already crowded Thompson Pass." Max Wittenberg

"I attended Tailgate Alaska once, and found it not to my liking due to the amount and type of drug use and drinking combined with guns." Todd Kelsey

"I won't attend TGAK again for several reasons. The years I attended the TGAK. The camp was dirty, the toilets overflowing, the party scene just wasn't my style. The drug use was off the chart within the camp during evening /nighttime hours. Skeet shooting was annoying and 24hrs of generators just takes the peacefulness out of the experience for me. It is totally irresponsible of the permit applicant to even request and increase of the magnitude. It shows how disconnected from reality TGAK organizers truly are regarding what impacts the region can sustain. TGAK operating over Spring Break would effectively end the opportunity to visit Thompson Pass for many people who only have that window of availability and like myself, don't want to attend TGAK." Jaime Andersen

"I've witnessed first hand Tailgate and it truly is a 'shit show' I've been a resident of Valdez for 39 years and have been recreating in Thompson Pas for my entire life.... and I believe that this event has been a catalyst for negative change." Jennifer Weber



"I see the Tailgate event as a barrier to the long term advancement of Valdez as a world class ski/snowboard/heliski/snowmachine destination." Renee Ernster

"I am sickened by the idea of giving absolute control to the only easy alpine access in this entire region to one person for the entirety of the usable winter season. The 'festival' attitude of the participants has led to 4 near crashes where I was within feet of smashing (and likely killing) a snowmachiner who popped out of nowhere going full speed across the highway without looking... It can be a very toxic welcome or good-bye to the Valdez area." Don Bickley

"The fuel and oil spills are particularly appealing, given the zero tolerance culture espoused in nearby Valdez and the Valdez Marine Terminal. The local standard for commercial activities involves containment for every vehicle, and remediation for every drop spilled. Tailgate has none of these safeguards in place." Aaron Brown

"Tailgate Alaska has grown into an embarrassment for the town of Valdez and for dedicated users of the area.... It is time to put this event to bed...many close-calls...The event of Tailgate Alaska creates a false sense of security and safety that enables novice users to go further and take greater risks than their skill – set would have them do otherwise. Again, Tailgate Alaska fosters wild-west, rape and pillage, unsafe and uneducated use of the Chugach mountains in and around Valdez and Thompson Pass." Kathryn Amerell

"The event threatens transportation safety and energy security. The Richardson Highway is a major transportation artery for the state particularly since the closure of the Flint Hills Refinery." Tobias Schwoerer

"The partying culture has no place in safety in the backcountry." Laurie Brown

"Does DNR really think it is in the states best interest to host an event of this type on state land?" Leo Americus

"In the past, the Tailgate event has been a glorified party in a place where there are no rules and no one checking in. IT is a free-for-all not only in the parking lots and along the narrow roads, but also on the slopes, where avalanche dangers are not to be taken lightly. Backcountry skiing and riding require thoughtful trip planning and a limited number of people who are courteous and aware – Tailgate promotes the opposite..." Aubrey Smith

"Over the past several years I have avoided the area during the Tailgate event, including several days before and after as it becomes an area overrun by people who don't appear to respect the amazing environment they are in. Ski routes become crowded at levels unsafe for areas without recreation focused avalanche control, vehicles travel the road at unsafe speeds, and the basecamp area is general mess." Amanda H. Hatton

"This area is a special place and permitted users should be held to a higher standard. The environment that Tailgate Alaska is exploiting for money should be respected and protected." Rhett Foster

"Thompson Pass is one of the most special places in Alaska . . . I have visited over 40 locations and communities in Alaska teaching skiing> we need to protect our land and surroundings for future generations to enjoy." Lars Flora

"Awful that the state even allows this guy to come to Alaska and do what he does. It's a public airstrip not a permitted drinking fest." Jordan Pond

"Tailgate does not consider environmental protection or sustainability." Joe Stock

"This pollution includes dangerous human waste, oil and gas tanks , bags of garbage, burn piles and even scorched couches and snowmachines." Taylor Brown

"I was there last year afterwards and there were still piles of trash. Lumber, furniture, food and litter scattered about and human waste in abundance. I was shocked they could get away with that." Brett Harvey

"This permit allows for private groups to profit from use of public lands on a scale that is unacceptable for a local industry." Sam Shirk MD

"Keep in mind you have fully loaded double sets of tankers going through the pass at all hours of the night and alcohol driven snowmachiner and you're just asking for trouble." Eric Reich

"We strongly recommend that ML&W deny this permit due to the many unanswered questions raised by the application and by the significant discrepancies between the permit application and the Tailgate AK website." Brian Okonek

"Thompson Pass is not only special to the skiers and snowmachiners of Alaska, it's arguably one of the largest and best accessible ski areas in the world by a road . . . lack of oversight, regulation, safety, environmental pollution, drinking, drugs, noise pollution..." Anthony Larson

"I have completely sopped visiting the area once Tailgate starts . . . The time period for which they are asking is the absolute prime period for winter recreationalists in Alaska and makes it not only difficult but extremely unsafe for other winter recreationalists to enjoy the area." Adam Baxter

"Tailgate Alaska chose to submit an application that was :arrogant because of the magnitude and scope of the request provided inadequate information to properly assess the impact of the event, and the late relative to the requested use date. Tailgate Alaska has shown little appreciation ,investment , and interest in the local community or the public lands they are proposing to use. As far as I am aware, Tailgate Alaska has never offered a discounted local admission , much less free admission for the local community. Inquired about this in past seasons and been told that it is full price for locals. Further they did not participate in the CRBAP or post a public comment. This demonstrates a lack of concern of real interest in the area other than profit. Based on the behavior of the applicant and the outpouring of public comment against this permit and the event in general please ensure the permit is not approved." Leigh Lubin

" ....the 2017-2021 Tailgate application is excessively overreaching and lacks critical details and explanation." Luc Mehl

"It mostly provides a place to party." Tory Dugan

"While the Tailgate event is in progress I am forced to avoid the mountains surrounding the even, because I feel that my personal experience and safety are compromised. The Tailgate culture of safety in numbers is one that I do not agree with in the mountains. I don't agree with Thompson Pass and Tailgate becoming a destination party. (Tailgate web site comparing the event to Coachella and Burning Man)." Phillip Plunkett

"Over the years, the event has left a disastrous impact on the land. I have noticed that many of the event's attendees seem to disregard the standard of 'pack-out what you pack-in' and leave the areas that they occupy littered with trash and human waste. I have also noticed that at this event there is a lot of drinking and then driving of snowmobiles. As a recreationist in this area, this is very troubling. Their behavior puts many people at risk." Jessica Young

"While the likelihood of a mass casualty event is increasing, so will incidents involving individuals and small groups. The state has a obligation to protect the public where and when there is sufficient reason. I believe such a situation exist on Thompson Pass. The last -minute application is nefarious and puts an undue burden on our state government for quick action. It provides little time to gather public input, review and make a decision. Asking for

public comment on an incomplete permit application that will substantially change public recreation patterns is not acceptable. The chance of a natural or human –triggered avalanche engulfing many people will certainly increase if this permit issued. Human and terrain factors have finally aligned to cause this avalanche professional debris pile of worry. Wastewater disposal – ‘in porta-johns or in snowbanks for organic materials.’ This does not work in refugee camps nor will it work at the current participant level or the levels proposed by Tailgate. 5. The permittee failed to give general locations or dates for “special” events related to their operation.” Matt Kinney

“This permit would effectively amplify a-thousand-fold the already disastrous ‘Tailgate Alaska’ event.” Natural Resource Manager

“What with the state of Alaska currently facing significant economic challenges, it would behoove the dept of natural resources not to take on this albatross.” Arthur Mannix, Talkeetna

“ I like to use the pass area in the spring along with a large group of locals I ride with and Tailgate renders the entire pass and Tsaina valley unusable” Jacob Case

### Re: CRBAP revision comment

“ . . . A recipe for conflict among the Valdez operators who are notorious for not being able to play well together....Ban the burning of pallets on the airstrip and parking lot and prevent Tailgaters from cutting the living spruce trees around the airstrip”. P. Lowney

“Simply put- this permit application is shooting for the moon...” Eric Parsons

“....the current problems with congestion in Thompson Pass need to be addressed before....” Trevor Grams, Glennallen (UAF)

“Tailgate is literally a ‘shitshow’. Having visited the site several times over the past couple of years, I find Mr. Sullivan’s event is marked by feces, urine and vomit.... Portable toilets overflowing or unacceptable and choose to relieve themselves all over the site with total disregard to public health . . . . additionally I find the event is lax in safety and security, resulting in a debauched drunken event with little regard for public safety, avalanche mitigation and control, and general recklessness. . . . This event brings nothing but filth and flotsam to Alaska’s pristine environment while becoming a prime candidate for a serious accident.” Njord Rota

“ I reside in Valdez and leave to Haines during that season primarily because of Tailgate.” Mark Kelly

“ ...During time of budget cuts its irrational and frankly unsafe. . . . the human excrement and detritus that remains after the party...” Kate Dugan

“ The proposed use for this public access area presents safety, sanitation, and inadequate cleanup/restoration issues. In addition it limits the use of the public land....” Kathy Nielsen

“ I have witnessed first hand the destruction and senseless acts of belligerent people and down right dangerous Tailgate events . . . . This festival to the locals is now called thee Mud the blood and the beer ” Eric Layton

“Every year the aftermath leaves a wound in Thompson Pass. The trash and human feces which are associated with Tailgate outrage me, . . . Every year at least one sled breaks down to burn or left along side countless pieces of trash in the Mountains. IF the operators and participates of Tailgate can’t manage themselves now, why should the state reward them with a new permit? Especially one which increases their timeframe and numbers?” Neil Gotschall

"...was picking up garbage this spring.... Tailgate is the worst at it. You walk through their parking lot and it is disgusting. Dogs tied up to RV's trash everywhere birds eating it. It's so sad. Please do not give this guy a permit to destroy my home." Lance Breeding

". . . a phenomenally irresponsible move on the part of our local government....Nothing but horror stories.... It was a bad idea in the past and expanding the scope (duration and capacity) is a horrible idea." Dave Bass

". . . only a matter of time before there is a accident" Mackenzie Fischer

"Valdez is my home and I do not like people coming from all over just to trash my back yard. They have no respect for the land." Jason Grove

## Re: CRBAP revision comment

"I vehemently conclude the application for Tailgate Alaska should be denied based on resource destruction, environmental degradation, and partying culture due to safety issues." T.J. Miller Director HPER department UAA

"For years it has created issues at the pass while not benefiting Valdez." Malcolm Herstand

"I have personally been part of groups that specifically leave Thompson Pass while this event is going on. . . ." Jeff Levin

"Recently I have avoided the entire Thompson Pass area during the Tailgate festival because I find it unpleasant, unsafe, and unsanitary." Andrew McDonnell

"However, during the period when what would be some of the best recreation in the area, a rowdy party (Tailgate Alaska) has been allowed to occur on public land that has ruined the experience for me and many others I know. I typically try to stay away from the area during this period of time, and have had many instances occur that are unsafe due to actions by other snowmachiners, as well as the helicopter ski operators. These include snowmachines high marking above me and helicopter skiers being dropped off on top of me in avalanche terrain while I'm hiking. The thought...to expand is frightening to me. It would be a terrible idea to permit a event like Tailgate because it's creating more need for land management every year, endangering other area users, and damaging public land." Neil Waggner

"I really don't like going up to the pass when Tailgate is going on. . . . I feel is unsafe and an accident waiting to happen." Chris Watson

". . . it could be fatal. Those people come up here from resorts in the lower 48 with minimal education about backcountry travel and safety. . . . it's a free for all. . . . a very bad idea!!" Raeann Krugger

".... Its impact to the community has become more negative than positive. The event presents our community with a number of safety issues each year, primarily an increase in recreational users who are unfamiliar with the area or with safe travel in avalanche zones, but also including public drunkenness, and intoxicated and otherwise unsafe driving. It is also associated with a major increase in litter and human waste on public land in the vicinity of the event. Combining a increase in the scale of this event with the recent reduction in potential law enforcement oversight of the area is a recipe for disaster." Robbin Capers

"I begun religiously planning my yearly visit to avoid this event, because it's just not what I want to experience up there. . . . We enjoy visiting Valdez and spending our hard earned dollars there. Don't force us to spend them in Canada!" Mike Soucy, IFMGA licensed Mountain Guide, Colorado Mountain School



"I have been driven out of Thompson Pass by the event itself by not feeling safe around so many people accessing avalanche terrain without regard to all users." Sarah Heck

"Tailgate Alaska promotes disrespect of public land, owned by all Alaskan's. I have had dangerous activity occur while I'm out backcountry skiing from snowmachiners high-marking above me. This reckless behavior is endangering." Marisa Jaso

"To summarize my safety concerns, I feel large groups are incompatible with safety in Thompson Pass, which has high avalanche risk and heavily glaciated terrain." Scott Vincik

## Re: CRBAP revision comment

"... This would seriously alter the nature of Thompson Pass..." Dr Peter Winsor Assoc. Prof. of Marine Science UAF

"Tailgate has become a traffic, sewage, environmental and safety hazard for local residents on this side of the state. It has done nothing for the local economy...." Derek Galbraith

"As a local from Valdez I can only see this as an attempt to stop any other people from using it.... They have not shown to be good custodians of this majestic place." Kit Winchester

"The atmosphere has become so unruly in past years that I tend to avoid using this area for backcountry recreation during the event. ... I have witnessed and been subject to some very unsafe situations involving snowmachines putting non-motorized users in harms way. The environmental impact is also huge. Sanitation and human waste needs be addressed. ... Long after the participants leave the locals are left to deal with the waste left behind. ... I'm an avid outdoor enthusiast and am dismayed at the lack of respect that these organizers and participants have for the outdoor spaces that they are recreating in. Thompson Pass is a special place for me and my family and I want it to be a place that future generations can cherish and enjoy." Sonja Mishmash

"I avoid the area during the party. There is the difference between the people that go to Thompson Pass for skiing and snowmachineing, and the kind of people that go there for Tailgate." Jeff Kase

"My family cannot even find a pull off or location to participate in a family activity without some speed demon flying by on their machine.... I beg you not to allow this to occur in our most cherished Thompson Pass." Sherikay Griffith, RN case manager, Providence Valdez

"I was shocked and saddened to hear about the potential expansion of Tailgate." Darcy Dugan

"Please don't allow the privatization of Alaska's private spaces to grow at the expense of the individual user of these great resources." Bryan Thompson, lifelong Alaskan

"I saw the garbage, human feces, and gas/oil dumped on the airstrip. But above all the biggest issue I'm concerned with is safety." Howard Stoddard

"I would rather see more support for Valdez avalanche forecasting and mountain rescue than see another out of state for profit company selling out our resources." Ben Rininger

"But this request is poorly thought out and very little details are given on the planned use." Tim Bouchard

"I'm against this lease. Only one Ak trooper stationed in Valdez. No Ak park ranger. This becomes a free for all. No sanitation, no security." Mike Christenson

"... The Thompson Pass wilderness area and the abuse it has suffered from the Tailgate Alaska event.... Fecal matter and waste that has been left behind. At a point the wilderness cannot support an over abundance of individuals at a single time. We notice the degradation...." Erica Shark

"It would be irresponsible to approve this particular permit." Lindsay Johnson, Haines

## Re: CRBAP revision comment

"This proposal feels like an opportunity for Valdez's natural resources to be overused, trashed, and manipulated in an unacceptable manner. ... The Thompson Pass is an area for the public to use, not to be restricted for profit use by an out of state irresponsible organization." Thomas Mooney-Myers

"I enjoy visiting Valdez and skiing in Thompson Pass- although I avoid it during Tailgate. The current proposal would essentially mean that Thompson Pass would be closed to the general public due to an on-going party with minimal regard for sanitation or safety." William Finley, Anchorage

"Spring break is a time to get out with Families and this event is an Adult only event and should not cover those times that are available to families." Ira Edwards

"I'm a backcountry skier and have had snowmachines ride right above me while skinning up creating a potential dangerous avalanche condition. For this reason I avoid Thompson Pass during Tailgate." Krista Kandrick

"The resulting hazardous garbage and human waste is a blight on the area. This area is a place on the pass that is safe to take our local kids.... The existing amount of attendees causes my family to stay away during the festival. It is not family friendly in the least." Mike Turnbull

"I make it a point to not visit the area during the time frame of Tailgate...It has become dangerous as snowmachiners are out riding above backcountry skiers as they are hiking uphill. The result will end up with an avalanche caused by the snowmachiners taking out the skiers. This has happened to me more than once in the area and has resulted in many people steering clear of the Thompson Pass during the time frame of Tailgate." Matt Kandrick

"I am concerned about the increased risk due to human triggered avalanches with so many (and potentially inexperienced) people on the slopes, which is why I avoid returning to Valdez during Tailgate. I feel uncomfortable with lack of law enforcement and party scene...concerned about sanitary facility." Kerstin Cullen

"...during this time period I try to avoid the Thompson Pass area. ... Tailgate event is held during the optimal time of year for snow conditions and daylight for all snow enthusiasts." Justin Woley

"The concerns I have for the festival are the garbage and the safety of the skiers in the pass. ...I don't want it to be a death for the wake up call." Brandon Thompson

"This festival already adversely affects the users of Thompson Pass as well as the public services of Valdez..." Chris Walker

"Myself and my clients over the years have seen the size and influence of the Tailgate Alaska event grow in size and impact, and unfortunately already feel the size and scope of the major recent gathering is starting to have a severe detrimental effect on the environment and general quality of the recreational opportunities...." Jayson Simons-Jones, IFMGA/UIAGM licensed Mountain Guide, Crested Butte, Colorado

"The first thing we now do before planning a trip over there each spring is find out when it is happening, so we can avoid it.

As there is little to no regard for avalanche safety among the participants, or regard and respect for others. If you show up after its over, you get to see their trash they left." Peter MacDonald, Maple Leaf Builders, Anchorage

"There have been several incidences of drones flying over while we had rotors spinning which is so dangerous and again due to lack of respect. There are never enough clean toilets...."

Andy Walton

"I will never ski unarmed in the pass ever again..." Matt Obermiller

"Once I was assaulted by a Tailgate attendee, who bit my left shoulder. It was scary and it could been much worse. I am no longer left alone at our camp during the week of Tailgate.... Tailgate partiers go deep into the territory without preparedness. We have answered many phone calls for assistance or rescue from the Tailgaters." Maggie Caruso

"I have also seen the influx of Tailgate traffic scare away countless clients who choose to heliski in Canada or other locations because of the chaos and devastation to the snow that Tailgate leaves in its wake." Sunny Hamilton

"The magnitude and duration of this permit allow for unprecedented visitation numbers in an area with no infrastructure, regulation, and growing controversy and congestion. It would be irresponsible and a liability for a state agency to permit this amount of visitation without first securing funding for, and implementing, a management strategy.... Its seems quite unreasonable and a great imposition to the residents of Valdez and the surrounding area." Sophie Littee

"The people expand to both sides of the road and are constantly stumbling across the road with no regard for traffic.... Somebody is going to be killed.... Lengthening the event is unfair to other local event sponsors that need that area also. Extending the quantity of people allowed is insane, impractical, and destructive due to the lack of cleanup...." Cindy Butherus

"...Local educators were not paid by Sullivan last year for their professional services and will not be returning. The event rents backcountry avalanche gear to participants ( shovel, probe, avalanche beacon) these are things that any back country enthusiast owns and carries with them.....Our local food bank has said that TG participants have cleaned them out of food, meant for the needy in our community." Bridget Brunner

"... And if I or someone near me gets killed by somebody else's ignorance or powder fever, I'll consider both organizers and land use management that allows for massive influx of people in congested terrain as bearing some of the responsibility for that tragedy to occur." Jeremy Wood

"We as a family no longer visit Valdez during or after this even due to its destruction...The amount of trash, destruction and misuse of the area is already a disgrace." Sarah Resseguie

" The general opinion of Valdez through participants' perspective is zero interest in what the town has to offer and general avoidance at all costs. It saddens me to hear these opinions coming from a tourist group that use the town's facilities only on a desperate basis." Hope Finley

"I have witnessed first hand as a past participant of Tailgate the overly crowded camping areas, overflowing toilets, skeet shooting by participants who are clearly intoxicated, synthetic drug usage, and left garbage in and around the permitted area."

Greer Gehler

## Re: CRBAP revision comment

"I have worked on the Tailgate Alaska safety team for two seasons and have a very good idea of how this event is (dis) organized." Matt Smith

"The residents and users of the Thompson Pass area have watched this event grow over the last number of years. At first, this event and these people were welcomed by our community, The behavior of the organizers and participants of Tailgate Alaska slowly turned public sentiment to reluctant tolerance, Finally after realizing this event I simply a burden on local resources, the environment and the community, the public sentiment has turned to strong opposition. In the new application, Tailgate Alaska is requesting to be allowed to continue to run their business on public land, while expanding their burden to 3000 people for 90 days a year for 5 years. No public sympathy for this business remains, only intolerance.

The marketing of the Tailgate Alaska event, to non-Alaskans by non-Alaskans has been the main contributor to the overcrowding of Thompson Pass during March and April. The overcrowding in turn had created conflict amongst(sic) individuals and user groups. The promotion of this event brings far more inconsiderate people to Thompson Pass than just those purchasing tickets. The State of Alaska should not have to carry this financial burden and neither should the local community have to surer the monetary and social problems created by this for profit event held on public land.

The State lacks resources to properly police and provide for the needs of Tailgate Alaska, and the organizers have proven they don't have any intention to do so themselves. A side from the environmental, safety, and infrastructure problems Tailgate Alaska has created, the dirt bag party culture this event promotes in advertising and on social media is not something the State should allow or the local community can tolerate. The overt use and glorification of hard drugs, such as meth, heroin, pcpc, and cocaine, is reason enough to put an end to Tailgate Alaska.

In short, Mark Sullivan and Tailgate Alaska have been given the opportunity to run a business on public land that at the very least has benefits to the public equal to the burden it creates. They have failed." Brian Totten

" My experience last year during tailgate was unpleasant. I pulled into the tailgate lot to look for a friend of mine who had to stay up there for 2 nights until I got home from working in the slope. The entire parking lot was a muddy, garbage filled mess. The residents of the parking lot who sauntered over to speak with me were unable to communicate due to drugs and alcohol. I made my way to the non-permanent cabin and found my friend. The residents were very friendly and welcoming offering me LSD, mushrooms and alcohol. I declined, obviously, I was told a story about previous season when one of the partiers attempt to ride his snowmobile to the top of Skatepark, but had been consuming LSD for the last 36 hours and couldn't make up the pipeline hill. This was very hilarious to everyone, but not to me. That's a real issue for the other people try to go up and down the hill. I left with my friend as soon as possible. She mentioned that there was a rave in "camp one love" that night and asked if I wanted to come back....no, I don't!

After a few weather days , we went back up the pass to ride Loveland, It was a somewhat cloudy day but conditions were good enough to finally get in some laps. After breaking trail with our group of 6 we were able make our way to the top! The snow was excellent at the top but crusty at the turnaround. On my way down after dropping off my friend there were 12 sleds lined up side by side blocking the trail at the bottom of a choke point. No easy way around them. I pulled up between 2 of them and realized immediately that I knew them, Tailgaters, the ones offering drugs a few days prior. I said Hi, rolled my eyes and continued on to the turnaround at the bottom. On my way down, I saw all sorts of messy carnage. Dogs running around on the hill with no apparent

owners people with no skills doubling on very old snow machines and struggling to get up in the powder and skilled riders paying no attention to the uphill vs down hill traffic in the choke points . Good times. I made it to the

bottom , picked up my friend and started back up hill. As I approached the choke point on the first pitch, I noticed that a snow machine was coming down at me. Shit!!! Okay here we go, hold on. As we side hilled up off the trail to get out of the way, I noticed that this snowmobile does not have a rider!!!! And it is barreling downhill at all my friends!!!! Who would be such an idiot as to attempt to ghost ride a sled down a busy uptrack? Well, I saw him once I crested the hill. He was standing in the snow in a flat spot looking very confused . When I asked WTH?! His response, in very broken English, was that he fell off... in a flat spot?! And his machine managed to turn itself around?! And he was unable to stop it?! What about your tether (safety device)!? Nope,,, he was clueless. Someone rented this guy a sled and he was trying to get to the powder. This was infuriating to me, if you want to be an idiot, do it somewhere that does not put my friends and I in danger! If I had not been a confident snowmobiler with 10 years riding experience, that would have been a very messy head on collision.” Valdez Resident

“The climate of Thompson Pass is changing and I believe the Tailgate function is a major driver in that...a burden Thompson Pass should not have to bear.” Micah Claypoole

“I have photos of the toilet paper hanging in the bushes, piles of feces, and just nasty stuff right next to the creeks...there have been snowmobiles left to rot, couches, furniture, bbq grills that broke, all sorts of odds and ends left from the impact of the festival. I have seen their snow-cat track and push snow into the creek that is outside their permitted zone. What happens when there is a fire in the airstrip? How does having only one way in or out work with emergency vehicles... looks like a giant bottleneck to me. It leaves everyone else that comes to the pass to recreate with hardly a good safe option. With that many people being piled up at a festival in such a tight small resource is asking for trouble. It’s not a matter if but WHEN someone is going to get hurt. ...vehicles have to dodge planes on the road...and he took advantage of me like he does many people. This event is suffocating us.” Jeremy Martin

“And I have participated as a vendor in the pass for four of the past eight seasons that Tailgate Alaska has been there. I have not found that the bulk of the customers tailgate has brought in spent much time or money on our town. ... the human waste still piled up in areas, and the food and beverage trash left behind was significant. Foreign rings with glass, nails, and other nonbiodegradable bits of things could still be found on the airstrip after the snow melted in May.” Margaret Nylund

“I’m a European based ski guide who has previously brought numerous clients to ski in the Thompson’s pass and Valdez area... We’ve historically timed our visits to avoid the current tailgate gathering to avoid the excessive crowds and snow machine noise.” Mike Austin

“Feedback I have coming in from the Valdez community is they have grave concerns with Tailgate Alaska environmental impact on the area they utilize. The users of Tailgate park and live up in his permitted area and across the road from it, and only a few enter the town to obtain food supplies but not enough to create a significant economic impact to the town businesses. ... wish to ensure the reputation of DNR, The State of Alaska, the City of Valdez and the funds invested into marketing and encouraging Tourists to the area receives no further damage, plus more importantly the Chugach Mountains itself along with the Worthington Glacier is preserved for long term use by all who live and visit here, and finally no loss of life to anyone using the Richardson Highway at the time of this event.” Laurine Regan Executive Director Valdez Convention & Visitors Bureau

Jim Renkert  
P.O. Box 90621  
Anchorage, AK 99509  
[xcski@gci.net](mailto:xcski@gci.net)  
907-250-4896

Scan

November 28, 2022

Alaska State Parks  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Alaska State Parks:

Please accept these comments regarding the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

I am submitting comments specifically regarding Chapter 3 Regional Outdoor Recreation Resources Overview; Section B5 Southcentral Alaska; Anchorage Municipality on Page 119.

This section leads stating that *“More collaboration and improved facilities are needed to reach the areas potential and deliver a more extensive, diverse, and appealing set of year-round outdoor experiences, for both residents and visitors.”*

Arctic Valley is a prime area that can help fulfill these needs. My comments focus on Arctic Valley’s untapped potential located on Chugach State Park and JBER lands.

The Anchorage Municipality section on Page 119 lists several specific objectives and challenges.

I. Under specific objectives it lists:

1. Making downtown a more walkable and vital trail hub
2. Improving gateways into Chugach State Park

*An investment by CSP in upgrading the substandard Arctic Valley parking lots and trailhead to CSP standards could transform it into a premier gateway to the park. There has **never** been a significant investment of state*

*funding at the Arctic Valley gateway to CSP. ASP instead has relied on the over 70 years of private volunteer funding and the dedication of the Anchorage Ski Club to build and maintain the parking lots and trailhead for the ski area and access to CSP. In the meantime, ASP has invested millions of public funding at Glen Alps, Eklutna, Independence Mine and numerous other ASP trailheads and facilities.*

3. Connecting trail systems within and through town

4. Developing unique outdoor recreation experiences that give visitors incentive to spend “one more day.”

*Arctic Valley is only 20 minutes from Downtown Anchorage, yet it is a world away and for many visitors the closest and easiest alpine experience.*

II. Under challenges its lists:

A. Overcrowded Chugach State Park trailheads

*Arctic Valley has room! It has a large alpine parking lot (similar in size to Glen Alps) that is rarely full.*

B. Lack of easy connections between outdoor attractions and neighborhoods

*The neighborhoods of Northeast Anchorage are geographically distant from the other popular CSP trailheads located on the south side of Anchorage. Arctic Valley are for these neighborhoods the closet connection to CSP.*

C. Anchorage currently lacks distinctive “must see” attractions – like a high-quality alpine loop trail or hut-to-hut system.

*With the completion of the spectacular Muktuk Marston Hunter Pass Trails Anchorage now has a new alpine loop trail. From Hunter Pass a social trail climbs the ridge and leads back to the top of the Arctic Valley ski area or down the Muktuk Marston Trail. Both the formal and informal trails from this area began to see noticeable use when the MMHP trail was completed in the fall of 2022. This loop trail may not become a “must see” but it may become a “you ought to see.”*

D. Funding shortfalls include persistent lack of adequate funding to sustain and improve CSP facilities



*Continue to support and grow the Chugach Park Fund in The Alaska Community Foundation. Encourage part of the fund be set aside as a permanent endowment, i.e., a Chugach State Park Permanent Fund.*

*CSP pulls in more funding from rentals and parking fees than it receives from Alaska State Parks. It has more users than other Alaska State Parks. A concerted effort should be made to ensure that heavily used parks and particularly those that produce the bulk of park revenue should receive a return on investment by users.*

**E. Limited facilities, programs, and marketing to make Anchorage's six-month winter a viable attraction.**

*Arctic Valley has the potential to improve its facilities, programs, and marketing to expand as a winter recreation area for both visitors and residents. The ski area should be open 5-days a week during the winter, offer ski and snowboard rentals, lessons, install snowmaking for consistency, install lights for night skiing and build a nordic training loop. Doing so requires civic, political and business community leadership. A clear vision for the area should involve input from all stakeholders and citizens in the community. Developing the infrastructure is a multi-year reinvestment and will take more active management and engagement by Alaska State Parks. But, it will also provide that extra bit to demonstrate winter viability and a must see attraction.*

**F. Stronger collaboration between key outdoor recreation – Chugach State Park, the MOA, Visit Anchorage and the Anchorage Park Foundation**

*For twenty years it has been on record that Arctic Valley needs greater collaboration between different groups. The following are a portion of the comments I submitted in a letter to CSP and the Chugach State Park Citizen Advisory Board on March 7, 2021 that highlighted recommendations from a task force report done twenty years earlier.*

*"The Nike Site Summit Task Force Management Recommendations 2001, specifically lists three Recommendations regarding the need for stronger collaboration at Arctic Valley:*



6. Formalize the partnership between the Army, Alaska State Parks and the Municipality of Anchorage. Enter into a memorandum of understanding to acknowledge shared cultural, natural and recreational resource management objectives in Arctic Valley.
7. Develop a land use management plan for Nike Site Summit and Arctic Valley in partnership with JBER, Alaska State Parks and the Municipality of Anchorage.
8. Establish a Nike Site Summit oversight committee to oversee development and implementation of an **integrated interagency** cultural, natural and recreational resource management plan for Arctic Valley. Oversight committee members should include representatives of: Anchorage Ski Club, Alaska State Parks, Anchorage School District, Chugach State Park Advisory Board, Friend of Nike Site Summit, JBER, et al

*Friend of Nike Site Summit (FONSS) very effectively made use of this document when we were negotiating with Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER) for the preservation of site summit."*

### III. Additional Assets

Arctic Valley has other recreation, visitor and heritage tourism assets:

- A. A 9,000 square foot lodge managed by the Anchorage Ski Club that could be transformed into a 7-day a week summer alpine visitor center, similar to the Eielson Visitor Center in Denali National Park;
- B. Nike Site Summit, a *unique* Cold War missile site that gets rave reviews from those that go on the tours put on by Friends of Nike Site Summit (FONSS). One of the goals of FONSS is conduct more tours and to start making tours available through a commercial operator.

Arctic Valley has all the ingredients, all the assets, to help realize the Anchorage Municipality section of the SCORP and its potential for "*More collaboration and improved facilities... needed to reach the areas potential and deliver a more extensive, diverse, and appealing set of year-round outdoor experiences, for both residents and visitors."*

Arctic Valley *could be* that unique local outdoor recreation experience that provides visitors that incentive to spend "one more day."

#### IV. National Heritage Area

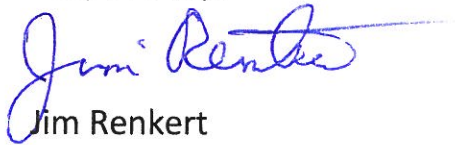
Recently a group of local citizen advocates as well as several NGOs, including the Anchorage Park Foundation, began the process to determine if a unique group of recreational, cultural, historical and scenic areas in upper Cook Inlet would qualify for a National Park Service National Heritage Area (NHA) designation. NHA's are congressionally designated for areas that have local stories of national importance that should be captured and told.

National Heritage Areas are all about collaboration. And they also come with a reliable stream of federal funding at \$1 million/year for fifteen years.

Virtually everything listed in the SCORP on page 119 can be fulfilled by more active involvement and engagement at Arctic Valley. Again, that will require a clear vision for the area that involves input from all stakeholders and citizens in the community. It will require commitment to a long-term reinvestment. It will take more active management by Alaska State Parks. It will require visionary leadership from Alaska State Parks.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,



Jim Renkert

MMHP Trail Committee

Life Member, Anchorage Ski Club

DNR Natural Resource Manager