

Board of Forestry Presentation
August 28, 2019 Chris Beck

“Working Landscapes” Integrating Outdoor Recreation with Resource Development

1. **Context: Quick Review of Statewide Trails Initiative**
2. **One Element of Initiative: Working Landscapes**
3. ***Discussion:* Relevance and Possible Application in Alaska on forest-designated lands**

Building a Stronger Alaskan Economy

Alaska Trails Initiative

Alaska Trails
Initiative Partners



Alaska has barely tapped our state's remarkable outdoor resources.

Because of this chronic under-investment, we are missing our chance to build a stronger, more durable AK economy.

Prince William Sound's astonishing beauty: seen up close by remarkably few people

What Kinds of Users?

“Big Tent” – Non Denominational



What New Policies & Investments are Needed?

Trails, huts, cabins/comfort

- “Missing middle” – accessible day adventures; warm bed, good food, fast internet at night
- Two or three world class “long trails”

Marketing More robust, more helpful descriptions of AK trail opportunities

Information Radical ideas like trail signs

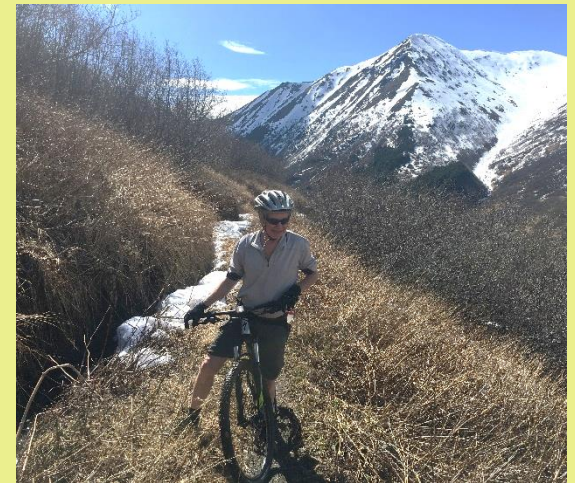
Land management

- “Curating” AK outdoor recreation resources
- **Support for “working landscapes”**
- Stewarding our attractions, maintaining what makes Alaska Alaska



ECONOMIC BENEFITS

“The outdoor recreation industry is the sleeping giant of the US economy*”



*US Outdoor Industry Association

What could expanded, smarter investments in outdoor recreation do for the AK economy?

One More Day: “OMD”

Average length of stay for visitors to New Zealand – 19 days

...for out of state visitors to Alaska – 9.1 days

What if smart AK outdoor recreation investments lead to “OMD”?

- Total 2017 out-of-state visitor spending – \$2.5 billion
- \$2.5 billion divided by 9.1 days = \$275 million/day
- **Say we can only convince half... adds an extra \$137 million in spending in Alaska**

Sources: Economic Impact of Alaska's Visitor Industry, 2017 - Nov 2018

<https://www.stats.govt.nz/news/record-breaking-3-7-million-visitors-to-new-zealand>

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/ded/dev/tourismdevelopment/tourismresearch.aspx>

What could expanded, smarter investments in outdoor recreation do for the AK economy?

Trail Users Spend More, Stay Longer

How much do walking and hiking tourists spend on their trip in New Zealand?

Walking and hiking travellers spend significantly more than a typical visitor during their trip to New Zealand.

On average international tourists that participate in walking and hiking spend \$3,600 compared to the \$2,800 average spend of all holiday visitors. There is a significant high value segment in the walking and hiking sector with over 20% of international tourists saying they spend over \$5,000 on their visit to New Zealand.



TRAIL INITIATIVE STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

- **Greatest “bang for the buck” recreational spending**
 - Feature trails & “missing middle” opportunities
 - Marketing and information
 - Destination towns
- **Sustain and grow funding; build a potent coalition to:**
 - Successfully push for growing agency recreational funding
 - Maximize use of existing state/federal funding programs
 - Find solutions to the “Alaska Disconnect*”
- **Improved public land management**
 - Working landscape partnerships
 - Regulatory reform, e.g., better ways to reserve trails
 - Better public lands and resource stewardship

* Fact that, in Alaska, growth in population, in demand for services is decoupled from growth in revenues to serve that demand. The more we grow, the poorer we become.

Working Landscapes:

A path to greater value from State Lands, State Forests?

Example: Trail Systems in Nelson, New Zealand



Working Landscapes: New Zealand

Rotura – North Island's World Renown Mtn Bike Mecca



Waipa Valley Development

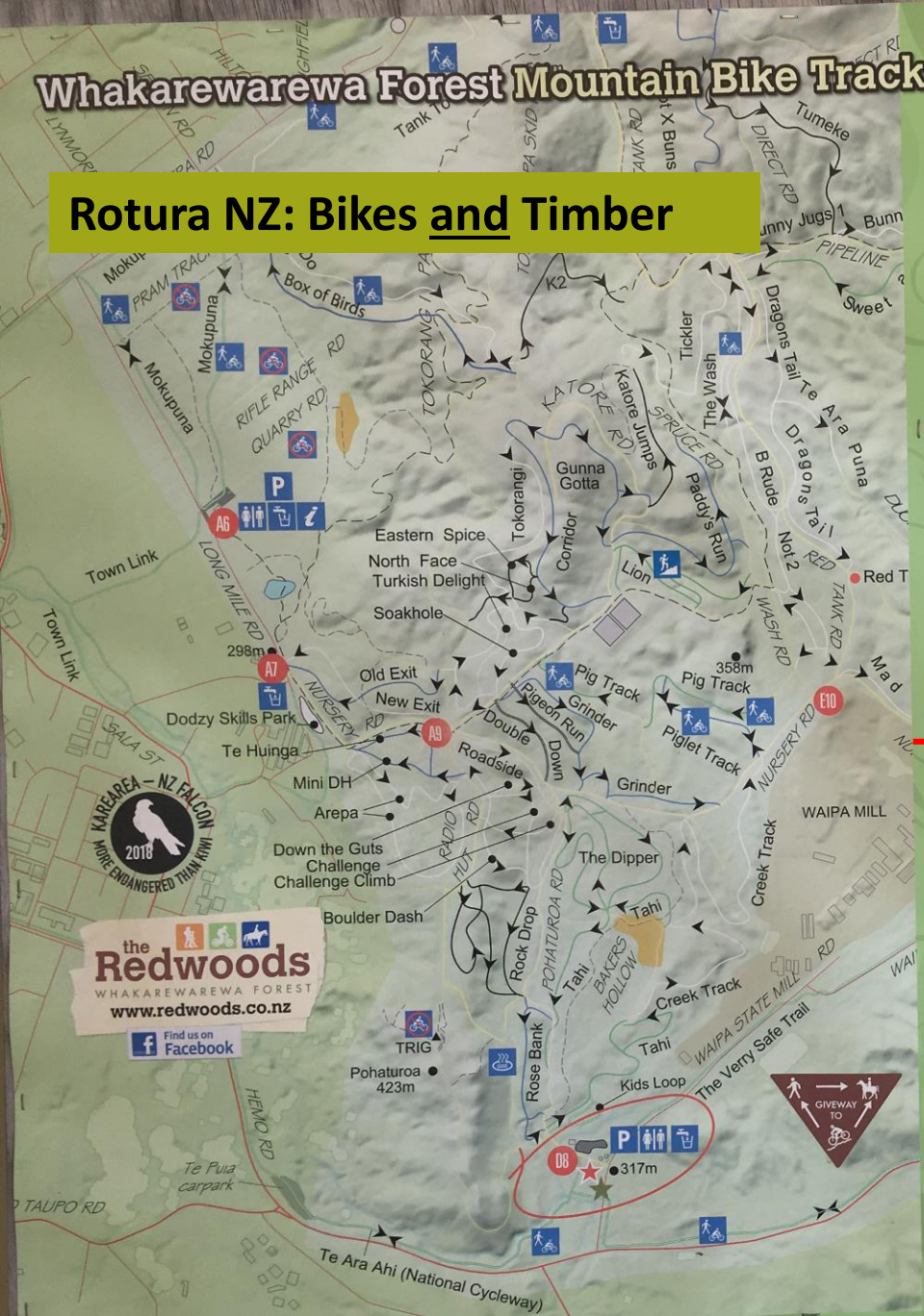
- Timeline of development from 2012 to 2025
- Key milestones and project phases
- Development work: A World Class BMX Facility
- Development work: Red Stag Investments Commercial Development
- Development work: Reading and Car Parking Improvements

For more information visit: rotorualakescouncil.nz/waipavalley

ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL

Whakarewarewa Forest Mountain Bike Tracks Core Network, Rotorua, N.Z

Rotura NZ: Bikes and Timber












 WHAKAREWAREWA FOREST

www.redwoods.co.nz

Mountain Bike Track Types

Choose a track that matches your skills, fitness and the experience you're after. Most tracks are more difficult when wet. Avoid riding in the mud and rain.

-  **Grade 1. Beginner** Fairly flat, wide, smooth track or gravel road.
-  **Grade 2. Easy** Mostly flat with some gentle climbs on smooth track with easily avoidable obstacles such as rocks and potholes.
-  **Grade 3. Intermediate** Steep slopes and/or avoidable obstacles possibly on narrow track and/or with poor traction. There may be exposure at the tracks outside edge.
-  **Grade 4. Advanced** A mixture of long, steep climbs, narrow track, poor traction and difficult obstacles to avoid or jump over. Generally exposed at the track outside edge. Most riders will find some sections easier to walk.
-  **Grade 5. Expert** Technically challenging. Giant climbs, narrow track and numerous hazards including dangerous drop-offs, sharp corners and difficult obstacles. Expect walking and possibly bike carrying.
-  **Grade 6. Extreme** Downhill / free ride specific tracks. Extremely steep sections with large drop-offs and other unavoidable obstacles. May include man-made structures and jumps.
-  **E-Bikes.** Pedal assist electric bikes (not exceeding 300W) are permitted in the forest. E-bike use is on dedicated mountain bike tracks and forestry roads unless otherwise signposted.

Core network			Out Back network		
Trail name	Grade	Length	Trail name	Grade	Length
Arepa Loop	3	2.3km	Ball and Chain	1	0.7km
As You Do	3	1.7km	Billy T	4	2.1km
B Rude Not 2	3	2.7km	Bunny Jugs 1	3	0.2km
Boulderdash	5	0.5km	Bunny Jugs 2	3	0.7km
Box of Birds	3/4	1km	Chestnut	3	0.6km
Challenge	3	1.2km	Chestnut Link	3	1.1km
Challenge Roadside	3	0.8km	Chop Suey	3	1km
Challenge Climb	3	0.4km	Corners	3	3.7km
Corridor	4	2km	Dammit Janet	4-5	0.5km
Creek Track	3	4.7km	Dragon's Tail	3	1.4km
Double Down	6	0.3km	Eagle vs Shark	3	3km
Down the Guts	4	0.3km	Frankenfurter	5	0.3km
Eastern Spice	5	1km	Frontal Lobotomy	2	1.3km
New Exit	3	1.3km	G-Rock	4	1.1km
Grinder	3-4	1.6km	Hatupatu	5-6	1.2km
Gunna Gotta	4	2.3km	Hot X Buns	4	2.7km
K2	5	1.3km	Huckleberry Hound	4	1.2km
Katore Jumps	5	0.5km	Kataora	5	1.2km
Kids Loop	1	0.4km	Kung Fu Walrus	4	1.5km
Lion Trail	2	1.5km	Kung Fu Walrus Extn.	4	0.8km
Mini DH	4	0.4km	Little Red		
Mokupuna	1	2.9km			

Forest Care Code

The Whakarewarewa Forest is primarily a productive plantation forest where all facets of the forestry management cycle can be seen from time to time. However the forest is also a place where people can enjoy and explore the forest environment through various recreational activities. So that everyone has a safe and enjoyable experience, please respect the code below:

- Keep to signposted tracks for mountain biking only, walking only or horse riding only.
- Share with care is permitted on roads, multi-use or dual-use signposted trails.
- Beware of forestry vehicles using roads.
- Obey all forestry, workplace and event safety signage.
- Tracks and roads may be closed at any time for safety reasons.
- Keep dogs on lead or under control at all times. Check Redwoods website for on lead areas.
- Unauthorised track building/alterations is not permitted.
- Keep the forest clean – remove rubbish.
- Respect our cultural heritage.
- Smoking is NOT permitted. NEVER light fires.



Working Landscapes: New Zealand

Queen Charlotte Track – 75 K, Hotel to Hotel, 5 days



Working Landscapes: Bend Oregon

Mountain Bike Trails/Active USFS Timber Harvest Area

Logging Activity in the Phil's Trailhead Area

Logging Activity will begin starting Monday April 1, 2002 on trails in the Phil's Trail Area.

This Year logging will be started in:
Units 2,3,4,5,6,7,11,12,113,113,14,15,16

Last Year logging was completed in
Units 8,9,10

Caution: Be aware that trails may be closed or heavy Equipment may be in the area.

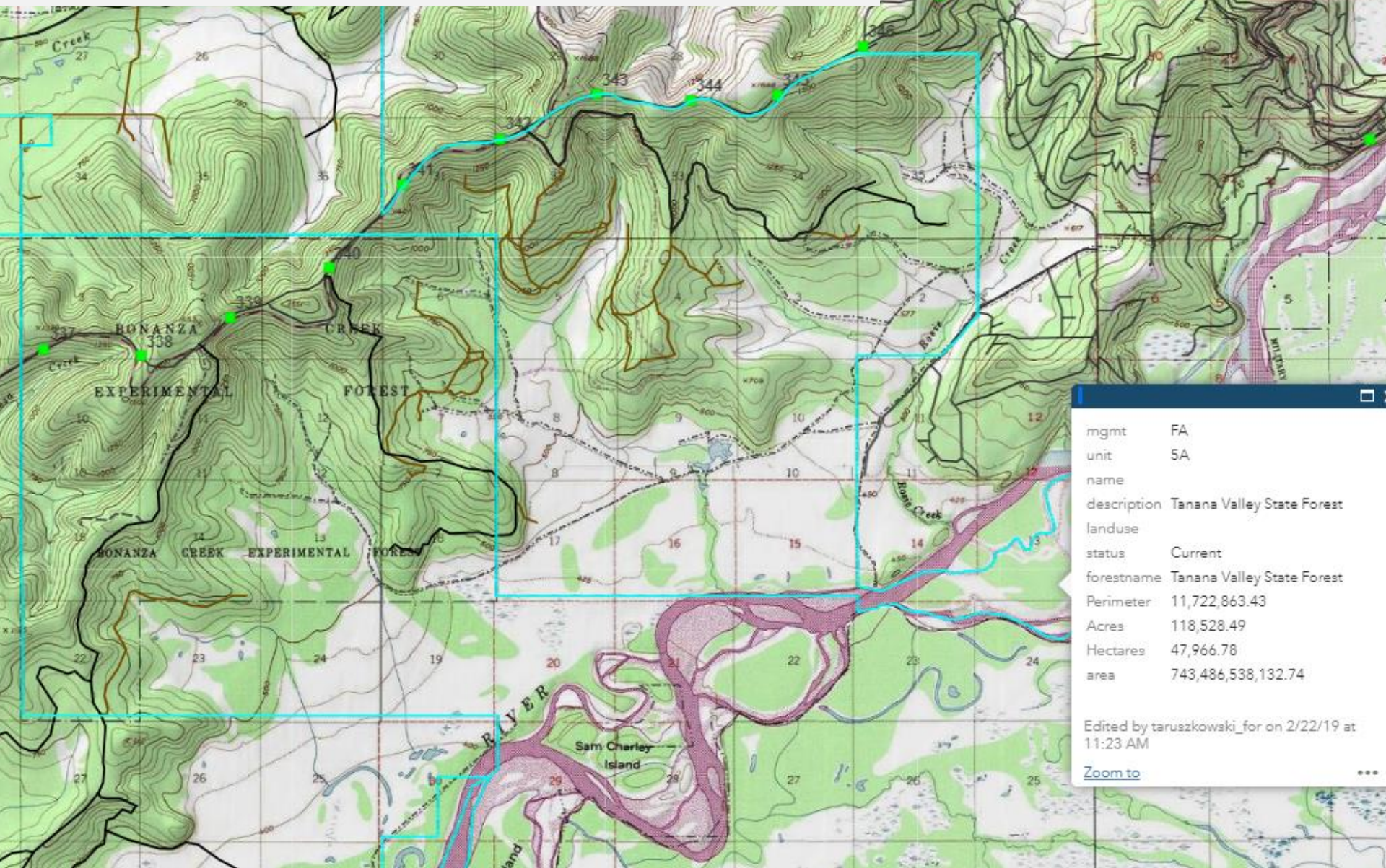
UPDATE
Logging has begun in Unit 3
Follow the detour signs to get back to Frizzle-Frazzle trail
This update posted on June 20

Map labels: Skyliners Road, Frizzle-Frazzle, Phil's, Woody's Way, C.O.D., Hwy 46, 41 Rd, Deschutes River Trails, KGB, E.O.D., 372, 97, US 97.



Deschutes National Forest

Application in AK: Rosie Creek Unit Today and Into the Future



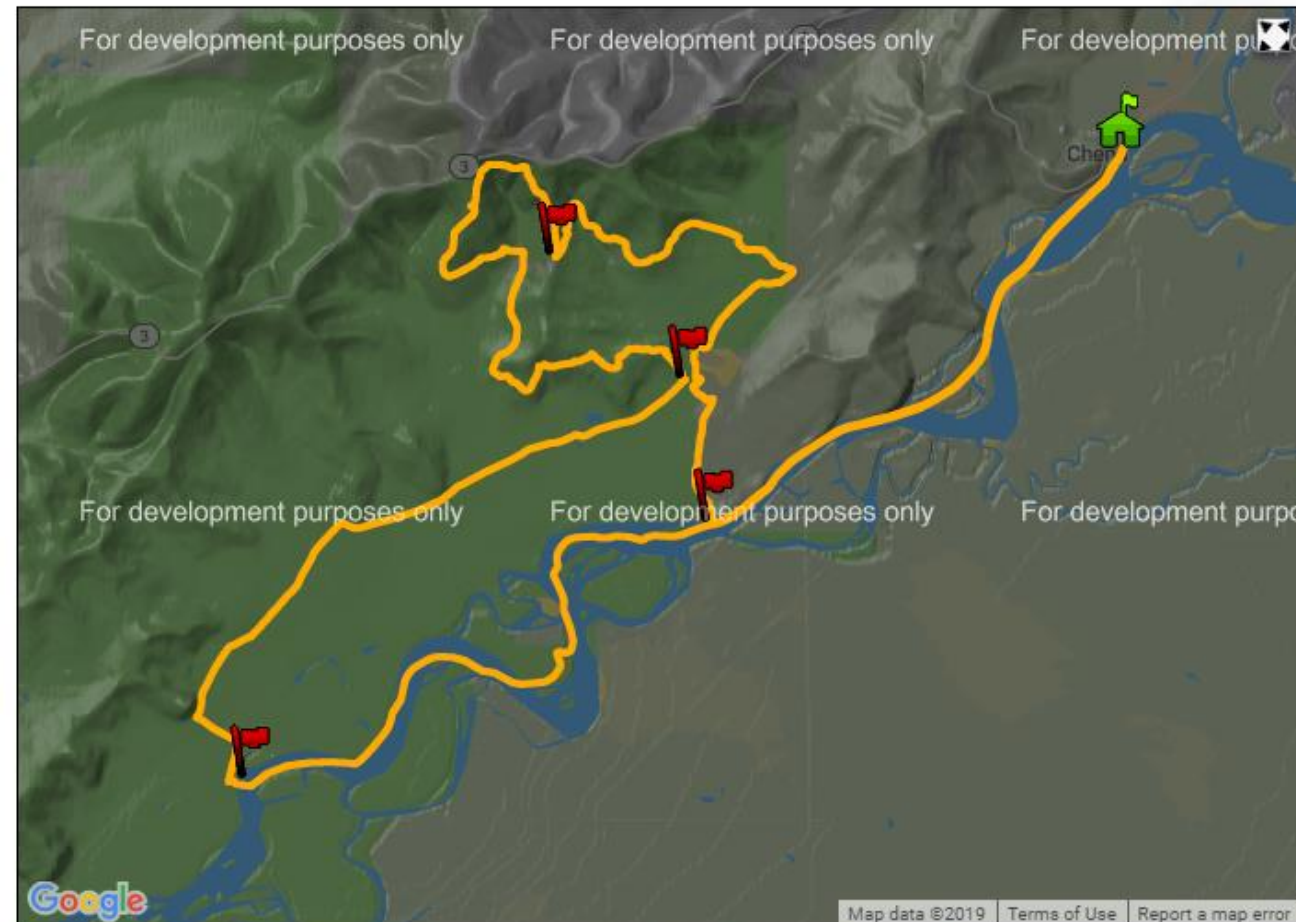
Welcome to the Tanana River Challenge



Trail Info & Start

45 Mile Course

Sponsored by:

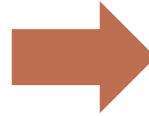


Discussion

- Broadly: could we do more to align forestry and outdoor recreation interests in Alaska?
- Strategies and management: issues and options?
 - Specific promising locations and/or trails projects
 - Securing ongoing harvest opportunities while promoting trails and recreation
 - Options to integrate trails into timber harvest plans
 - Meeting multiple user needs (hunting, hiking, biking, snowmachines, events...)
 - Funding options – Pittman Robertson, others?
- Next steps: how best to apply “working landscapes” concepts: Locations, partners, policies, actions...?

Alaska Trails Initiative

We have a dream...



What if...

- Local government and agency budgets for trails, signs, cabins, huts and effective land management doubled, tripled?
- A broad coalition worked together to maximize Alaska's outdoor recreation potential – tourism and outdoor recreation advocates, public land managers, development *and* conservation interests?

We're confident these actions would help build a bigger pie; a much stronger, more durable Alaskan economy.

We would like to get your views, ideas and participation!

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Another example of trails making it inviting to be active outside, connecting neighborhoods and connecting people