

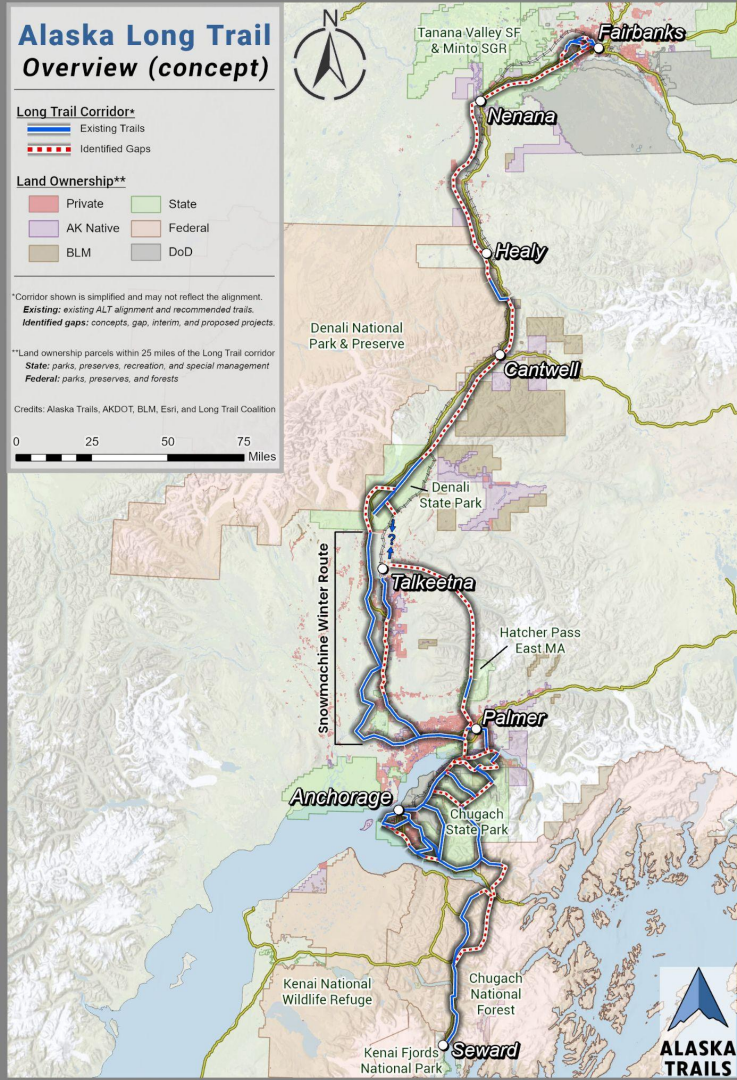
ALASKA LONG TRAIL



CONTEXT: ALASKA'S OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMY

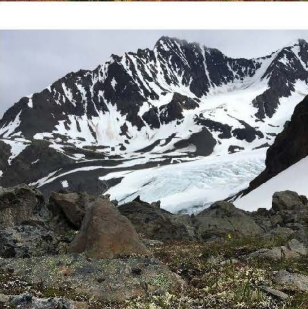
- **Nationally:** +\$639.5Billion to US GDP
 - ↑ over \$75B from '22 and over \$175B from '21
- **Alaska:** \$3.14 Billion; 4.6% of State GDP
- **Outdoor Industry jobs**
 - Increasing: ↑7.5% in 2023
 - 6% of State employment
 - 21,242 jobs
- **81% of Alaskans participate in OR**
- **6/10** Alaskans live here for outdoor rec
- **ROI:** 1 to 5.3 return on public open space spending in the Mat-Su





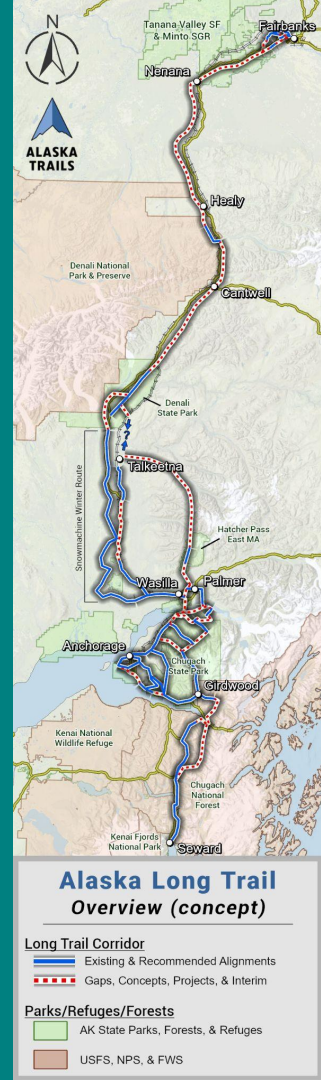
THE ALASKA LONG TRAIL VISION:

A world-class trail system connecting 500+ miles of Alaska's iconic terrain and diverse communities from the Pacific to the Interior, embracing the many ways Alaskans recreate outdoors and bolstering the Alaska economy by attracting visitors from all over the world.



WHY FAIRBANKS TO SEWARD?

- Momentum and landowner support
- Economic impact to connector communities - “on ramps/off ramps”
- Manageable costs - significant portions complete
- Gap Filling - connecting existing portions
- “Goldilocks Factor” - wild but not too wild
- Flexible - 4-season/multi-use route (a “braided system” of trails)



BROAD BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

- Mat-Su Borough Assembly
- Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly
- City of Palmer
- Denali Borough Assembly
- Anchorage Assembly
- City of Nenana
- City of Seward
- Girdwood Board of Supervisors
- Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA)
- Explore Fairbanks
- Mat-Su Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Visit Anchorage
- Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District



NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL (NST) DESIGNATION



- NSTs are designated by Congress to provide for maximum outdoor recreation potential and for the conservation and enjoyment of nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, or cultural qualities.
- National Trails System Act of 1968
- NST system includes 11 trails around the country, including the Appalachian Trail and Pacific Crest Trail
- Opens the door to federal funding
- NST designation does not put restrictions on land use for non-federal land managers
- Motorized use - where already allowed - would not be impacted

NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL DESIGNATION TIMELINE

- ✓ January 2023 - Appropriations bill included \$1M for the BLM to conduct feasibility study
- ✓ Fall 2023 - BLM hires contractor for study
- ✓ Spring-Summer 2024 - Public feedback process with 5 in-person and 3 virtual meetings,
- ✓ Fall 2024 - Interviews with land managers
- Spring 2025 - First draft study released for public feedback (no recommendation)
- Fall 2025 - Final study (including a recommendation) will be submitted to Congress



STATE OF ALASKA FUNDING

\$6.7 Million

Total Funding Received

14

Projects

4

Grantees



ALASKA LONG TRAIL - OTHER FUNDERS

PRIVATE, CORPORATE & FOUNDATION FUNDING



Anchorage Park Foundation, Chugach Park Fund, ConocoPhillips,
Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation, Rasmuson Foundation,
Turnagain Training - Race Across Alaska Winter Challenge and *many*
individual donors!

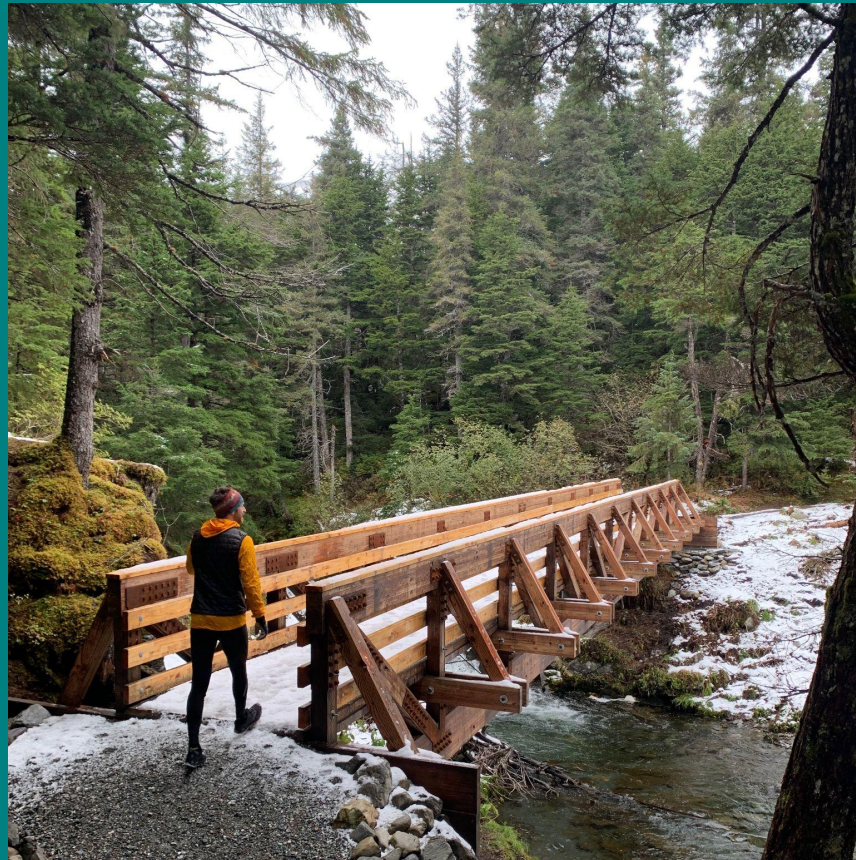
FEDERAL FUNDING

\$11.9+ Million

FY22 - \$5.77 to Chugach National Forest (CNF)

FY23 - \$5.53M to CNF, Denali Borough, BLM

FY24 - \$640K Denali Borough



SIGNIFICANT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

State of AK Funding Received FY23

Crow Pass Trail

Design Summer '24 Construction
summer '25

Glacier Creek Hand Tram

Matching funds from USFS,
Girdwood Valley Service Area and
Rasmuson Foundation

State of Alaska Funding Received FY24

Indian Valley Trail

Design Fall '23 Construction
Summer '24 Construction Summer
'25

Eklutna Lakeside Trail

Complete!



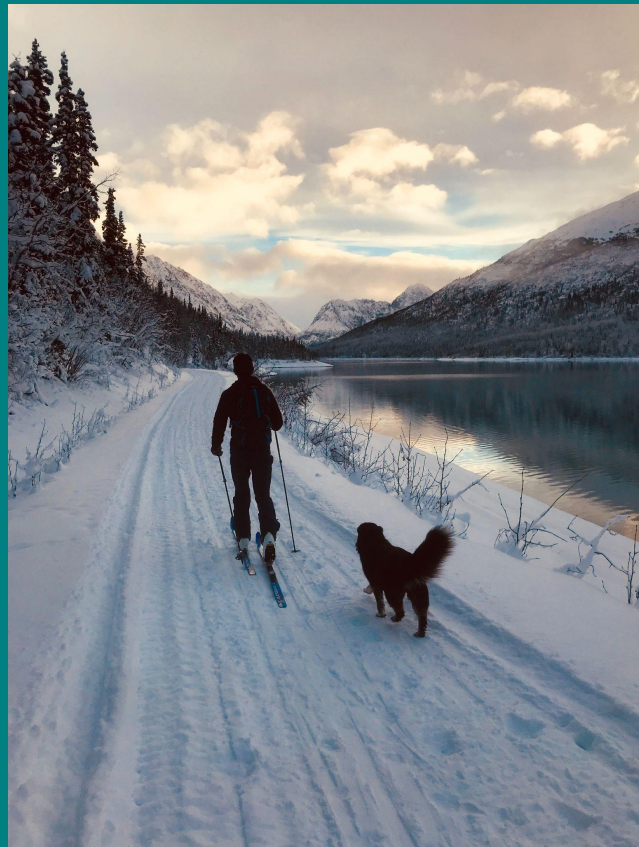
Federally Funded Projects

- Iditarod National Historic Trail Bridges
- INHT - Ingram Creek to Turnagain Arm
- Twenty Mile River Trail Planning
- Denali Borough Separated Pathways
- Moose Pass - Victor Creek to Ptarmigan Trail

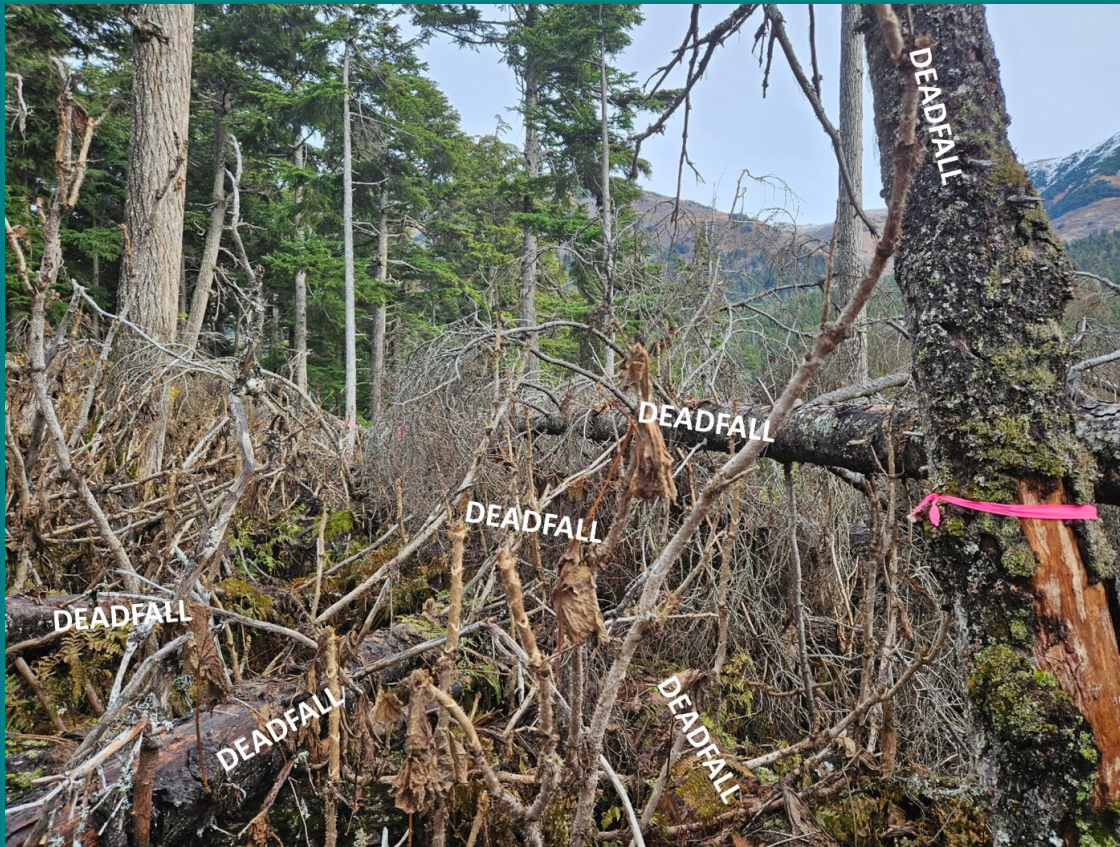
SOA FUNDED PROJECTS - EKLUTNA LAKESIDE TRAIL



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SOA FUNDED PROJECTS - INDIAN VALLEY TRAIL



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WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE AKLT?!

National Scenic Trail
Feasibility Study
Release

Talkeetna Mountains
Planning - Hatcher Pass
to Denali State Park

Hike the Southern
Section!



ALASKA LONG TRAIL



Learn more and stay in touch!

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