

JUNEAU TRAILS PLAN USER GROUP MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, November 19, 2020

5:30 pm Zoom Meeting

Attendees

Planning committee

Allison Eddins - CBJ Community Development

George Schaaf - CBJ Parks and Rec

Michele Elfers - CBJ Parks and Rec

Ryan O'Shaughnessy - Trail Mix, Inc

Kate McWilliams - Trail Mix, Inc

Preston Kroes - AK State Parks

Mike Dilger - USFS, Juneau Ranger District

User Groups

Jack Kreinheder, Corey Baxter - Snowmobile Club (JSC)

Darrin Crapo - Off-Road Association (ORA)

Doug Larsen - Territorial Sportsman (TSI)

Shannon Crossley, Sonny - Disc Golf (DG)

Justin Pelkowski - SAIL (ORCA)

Shawn Eisele- Discovery Southeast (DSE)

I. Welcome and Brief Description of the Purpose and Scope of the Juneau Trails Plan

II. Introductions – tell us a little bit about yourself and the group you are representing and funding sources.

III. Discussion

A. What are the organizational priorities for your group as they relate to trails?

Doug (TSI): To create access for angling and hunting, which trails can provide. On board for other types of recreational uses on these trails as well. Interested in seeing multiple organizations benefit from trails. Recent big priorities have been cabin building- finished the 7th and last cabin this year- Shamrock Cove cabin near Pt. Couverdon- in partnership with AK State Parks. Focusing on cabin and trail maintenance now. Would trails associated with these cabins be an interest, we'd be down!

- Michele (CBJ): Would help if TSI could check with their membership and see where they'd like to see trails come off specific cabins?
- Preston (AK State Parks): Would be great to get TSI (and TSI member) feedback on existing water trail routes and camps out near those cabins

Shawn (DSE): Connectivity! Focusing on creating loops or linking up existing trails by hardening the social trails between them (i.e. between Windfall and Peterson). Recently,

there has been much emphasis on creating a lot of wide, accessible, and long lasting trails- that's good! But also important to invest in single-track trails- more bang for buck there.

Sonny and Shannon (DG): Def looking to expand permanent locations. This is a fast growing sport (especially during pandemic and owners of Second Wind Sports can attest to this) Estonia and Finland are leading the surge and are building new courses. Juneau disc-golfers have been using portable baskets to set up 9-hole pop-up courses on trails. This is a way of trying out new trails but a combination is best. What's required: 5,000 lineal feet with a variety of openings. Amalga Turnoff could be a great spot. There are ways to set up a course so that it doesn't cut across the trail, and so that it can be in a very compact space.

Justin (ORCA): As nice as it is for a trail to be 3ft wide, we have equipment to mitigate that issue and still use those trails.

Jack and Corey (JSC): Always looking for more areas to ride. There are two main areas we maintain: Dan Moller and Lake Creek to Spaulding Meadows Trail. Jack and Trailmix helped with the latter, we'll keep trying to extend and harden that. We're in touch with Mike Dilger regarding the Dan Moller trail. Section from Treadwell to Dan Moller needs improvements because sediment is building up where water is flowing. Jumbo trail, start behind private property so we don't maintain or groom, but members do ride that.

B. Are partnerships important to your organization and do you currently have any partnerships?

Shannon (DG): Trying to communicate with Eaglecrest about setting up a course there. We mostly have summer users. Would be awesome to partner with motorized users to have access to open areas.

Justin (ORCA): Trail mix has worked with ORCA to make trail at Outer Point more accessible.

Jack (JSC): Hoping to expand the parking lot at Lake Creek trailhead, only holds 10-12 vehicles. That is University land with city easement on lot. University was not open to expanding at all. Something we'd still like to pursue. We'd like to replace and widen some bridges on Lake Creek and Dan Moller trail.

Darrin (ORA): interested in partnering with anybody. When it comes to motorized vehicles, there are areas that are like arteries and then areas where they do the actual RIDING. No need or desire for speed on Montana creek trail. Interested in putting in access to other areas, perhaps two separated trails for hikers/walkers.

Also interested in building stuff. They have the resources and capacity to buy equipment and work on new infrastructure (i.e. buoys on water routes, near cabins, to moor boats). Preston (AK State Parks): state parks is weary of mooring buoys because of liability over maintenance which requires diving etc.

Doug (TSI): interested in talking with AK State parks and how we can work around that weariness of buoys with a partnership.

Darrin (ORA): Can continue conversation with TSI, interest in camp and cabin area, to take floating docks/anchorage for people to hook up their boats so that you don't have to worry about tides.

c. Which trails does your organization use and what works/doesn't work about these trails?

Shannon & Sonny- formal course at Lena Point, but that is the planning site for a future elementary school so they could be booted. Treadwell historic trail, eagle beach (annual pop-up course) Treadwell could be a perfect putting course for kiddos.

d. What are your organization's BIG trail goals for Juneau over the next 20 years?

Shannon (DG): Hope to make a world-class 18-hole course.

Justin (ORCA): EVC to be a central space for accessible activities. Eagle beach could be a great place for people who are in wheelchairs to get out and kayak.

Jack (JSC): access to a higher elevation trailhead because as winters keep getting warmer, our season will end up getting shorter and shorter. Blueberry hill is at 600ft. Spaulding is 150-200 ft. Blackerby ridge project would've been access at 1,000 ft, at about the elevation of Costco/Home Depot. Talked with the Nordic Ski Club about a dual project to get road up to Spaulding meadow because it allows access to good snow for both and then they can branch off to avoid user conflict.

Agreement with Nordic ski club for winter trail grooming (JSC - Dan Moller and Lake Creek. NSC - Mendenhall campground, Montana creek, and eagle beach) Proposed funding to buy 100 piston bully snow cat for grooming (8ft wide). We could put to work a trail mix crew doing winter grooming. One snow cat could do it all, trailer it from location to location.

Mike Dilger (USFS) 8 ft snow cat would work (but no wider) because all bridges on Treadwell riding course are 10 ft wide. Grooming keeps the snow longer, important because the limiting factor with motorized vehicles when there is no snow is that the soil

doesn't hold up and requires major construction. The 25 mile road extending the End of the Road doesn't appeal to a lot of people because it's an out-and-back.

Darrin (ORA) Got the OK from ADFG to do repairs on Montana Creek starting June 15 of this coming summer. They'll be cleaning up ditching [drainage] and road maintenance. They have a request put together for DNR to get trails in the Montana Creek area hardened- including a trail going up to 1200 ft. level (rather than a full blown road) Hillside on SW of DNR land is the only area that's nice and firm.

Would like to get into constructing cabins for overnight camping and snow trips. Partnering with 4H for youth program. Taxes levied on fuel for off-road vehicles (and others) are partially designated for trails and shelter construction and maintenance.

Down the road would love to replace a bridge over to McGinnis valley, there's old roads they'd love to reclaim for ski, hike, hunting. Motorized use on big flat area. Might be some potential for a moto-cross area.

Doug (TSI): Route to the alpine- Treadwell ditch could be there.

Other comments:

Shannon (DG): Hoping to do a community disc golf event (potentially at Lena Point) to introduce people to the sport.

Preston (AK State parks): We can provide temporary permits for disc golf pop-up events!

IV. Wrap –up and Discussion of Next Steps

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS FROM USER GROUPS (Include name and group affiliation!)