



# Economic Stabilization Task Force

Appointed by the City & Borough of Juneau's Mayor

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**Date:** May 28, 2020  
**To:** City & Borough of Juneau Assembly  
**From:** Economic Stabilization Task Force  
**Regarding:** Recommendation on Juneau Outdoor Service (JOS) Program

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## Juneau Outdoor Service Program

The Juneau Outdoor Service Program is a jobs program specifically aimed at persons who have been furloughed or have been unable to obtain seasonal work because of the public health emergency.

Juneau's private sector economy is driven in no small part by tourism. Until the COVID-19 pandemic, Juneau expected to receive 1.5 million visitors on cruise ships between May and October 2020. A combination of governmental directives led cruise lines to cancel the entire season. The consequence of that action has been several-fold:

- (a) Numerous businesses directly serving visitors have had to close—some perhaps permanently because of the inability to bridge the income gap created between October 2019 and May 2021;
- (b) Hundreds of individuals who rely on the summer season for employment are without work or income;
- (c) Local sales tax revenues will decline precipitously;
- (d) Businesses outside of the visitor industry suffer secondary losses; and,
- (e) The non-profit sector which relies on grants and voluntary giving suffer losses to their funding base.

The Economic Stabilization Task Force recommends that the CBJ fund, as a pilot employment project, the Juneau Outdoor Service Program in the amount of \$1 million. It is the intention of the Task Force to explore establishment of one or more similar jobs programs in other fields.

The JOS Program would fund outdoor recreational projects undertaken by three entities: Trail Mix, Inc., Eaglecrest Ski Area, and CBJ Parks and Recreation. Each has a different wage structure for its work crews, which typically consist of five people, including the crew leader.

The number of crews is primarily contingent upon two factors: the amount of money available and the number of experienced crew leaders.

Projects to be undertaken—contingent on available funding include:

- (a) Continuing trail improvements to the Treadwell Ditch Trail;
- (b) Expansion of the Eaglecrest Bike Trail;
- (c) Improved trail to Copley Lake;
- (d) Bridge improvements on Perseverance and DuPont trails and Amalga Meadows; and,
- (e) Placement of one or more cabins or shelters on CBJ remote lands.

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