

Montana Creek Road Management

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

October 12, 2020



Juneau Nordic Ski Club Request

CBJ close the Montana Creek Road to motorized use from November 1 to May 1, except for grooming equipment and operations.



Municipal Code and State Law - Uses

Recreation Areas:

CBJ 67.01.090 - Prohibited uses.

- e) *Motor-driven vehicles prohibited.* No person shall operate any motor-driven vehicle within any recreation area except on the roadways and parking areas designated for such motor vehicles and no person shall allow a motor vehicle owned or controlled by him or her to be so operated.

Rules of the Road:

CBJ 72.02.455 - Operation on highways and other locations.

Special Rules for Snowmobiles and Other Off Highway Vehicles:

13 AAC 02.455 - Operation on highways and other locations.

- a) A snowmobile or an off-highway vehicle may be driven on a roadway or shoulder of a highway only under the following circumstances:
 - 2) When use of the highway by other motor vehicles is impossible because of snow or ice accumulation or other natural conditions or when the highway is posted or otherwise designated as being open to travel by off-highway vehicles;

Municipal Code – Decision Making Authority

Duties and Authorities:

72.01.090 - Street closed to traffic.

- a) The manager is authorized to close streets to vehicle or pedestrian traffic.
- b) Whenever any street is closed to the use of traffic and the same so indicated by authorized signs or barriers, no vehicle shall proceed into the street or any portion thereof except as directed by the signs. Whenever a street is closed, notice shall immediately be given to the fire chief and manager.

Ownership and Land Management

CBJ

Montana Creek Road

Right of Way– **Green Line**

2500 LF of paved road

P&R assists with maintenance because a Natural Area Park surrounds the road.

ADOT

Bridge and Extension of Road

Right of Way – **Pink Line**

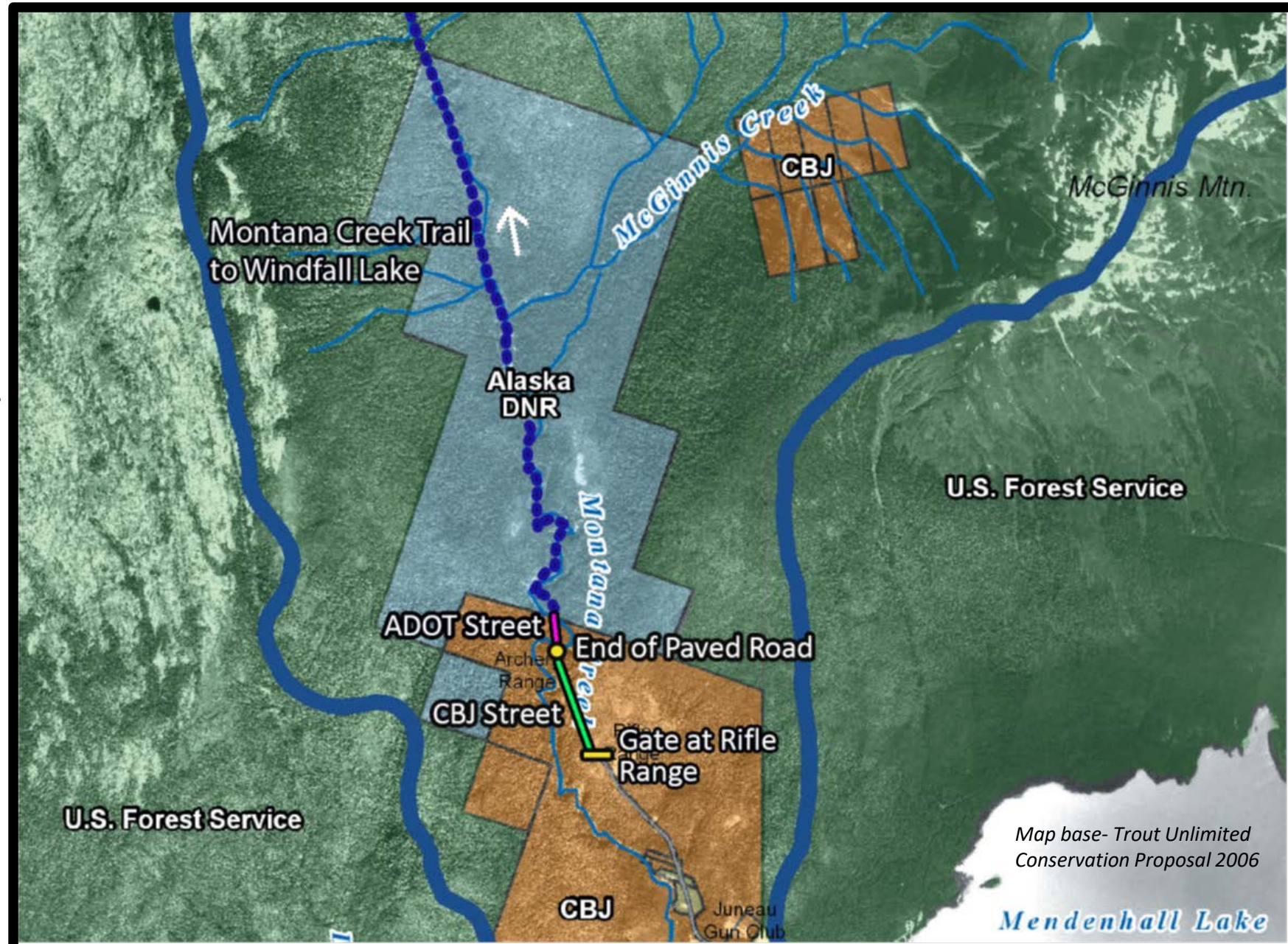
500 LF of gravel road

DNR

Trail and surrounding land

USFS

Trail and surrounding land



Gate and Paved Road Management - CBJ



Vehicle Gate

Closed

May 2 – Oct. 31	9pm – 7am
Nov. 1 – May 1	24 hours/day

Kissing Gate

Removed

Each winter each year since 2014 to allow for snowmachine and ATV passage.

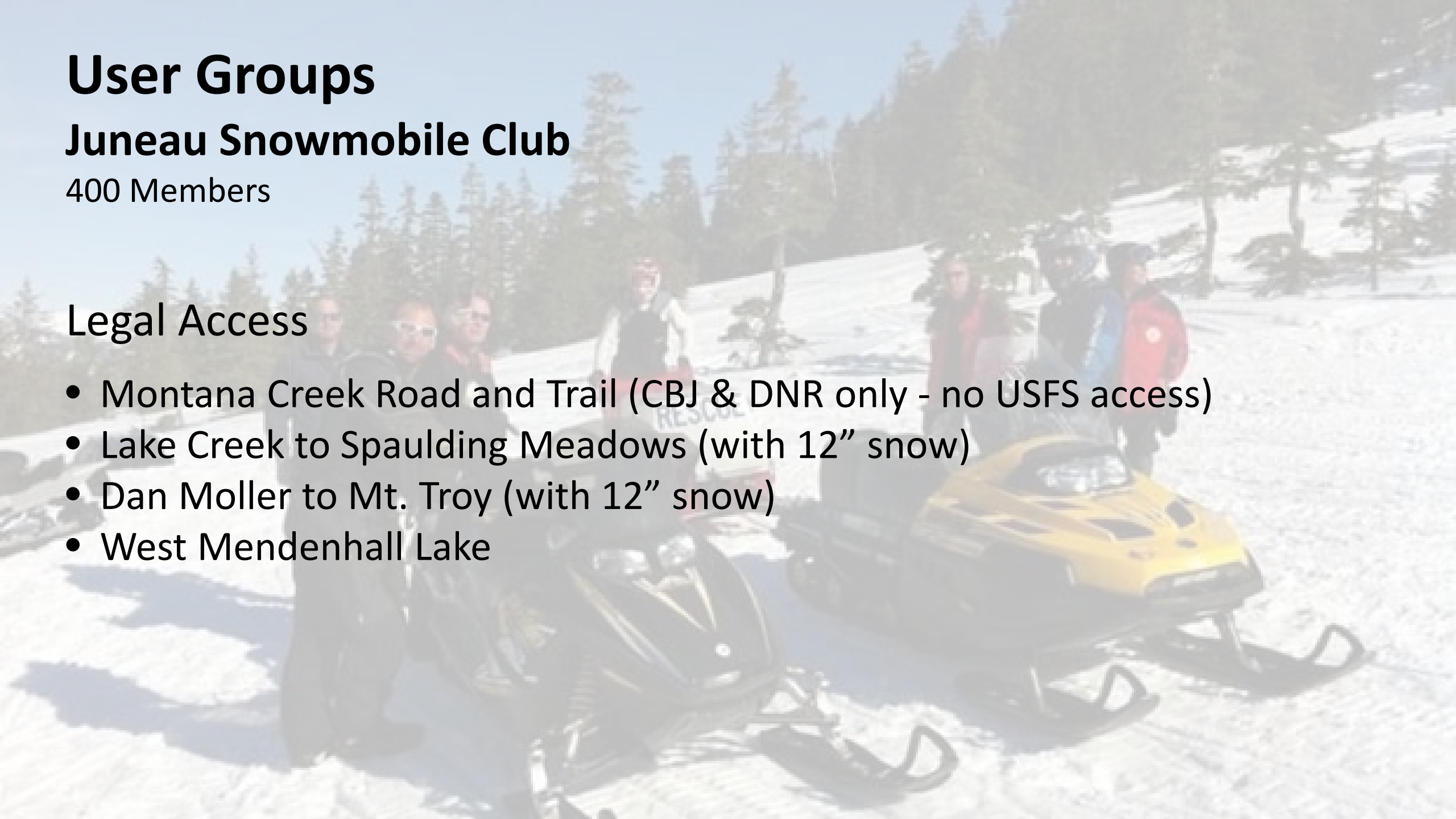
User Groups

Juneau Snowmobile Club

400 Members

Legal Access

- Montana Creek Road and Trail (CBJ & DNR only - no USFS access)
- Lake Creek to Spaulding Meadows (with 12" snow)
- Dan Moller to Mt. Troy (with 12" snow)
- West Mendenhall Lake



User Groups

Juneau Nordic Ski Club

660 Members

Groomed Trails

- Montana Creek
- Eagle Beach
- Mendenhall Lake and Campground
- West Douglas Pioneer Road
- Eaglecrest
- Amalga Meadows (occasionally)
- Gastineau Meadows (occasionally)
- Salmon Creek (occasionally)



User Groups

Juneau Off-Road Association

220 Members

Legal Access for wheeled ATV's

- Montana Creek Road and Trail (CBJ & DNR only - no USFS access)
- Lake Creek to Spaulding Meadows (with 12" snow)
- West Mendenhall Lake
- Echo Cove
- Peterson Lake Road / Herbert River Road (small OHVs only)

WELCOME TO MONTANA CREEK

**Why Does
Everyone Love
Montana Creek in
the Winter?**



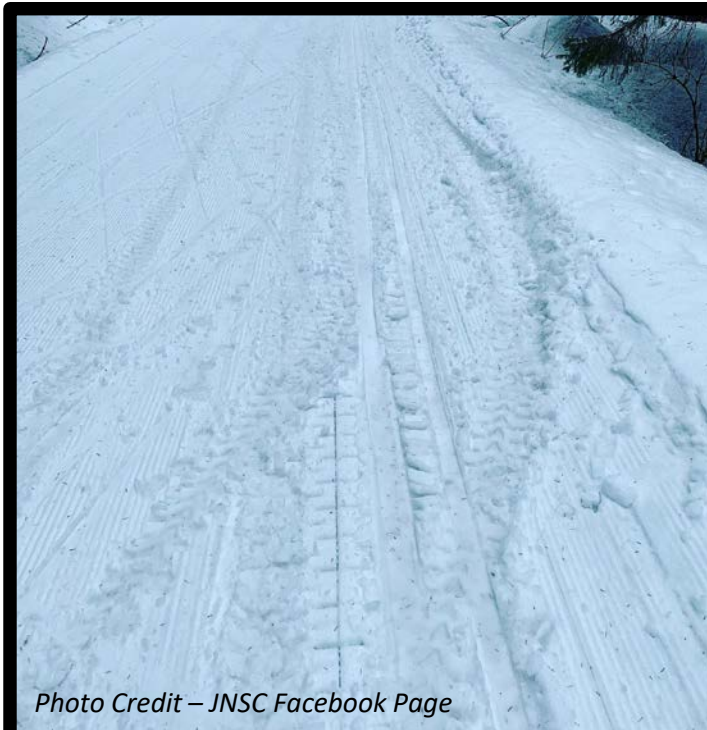
SNOW!

Why Montana Creek is Unique:

- It stays colder in the winter and is sometimes the only place for skiing or riding on snow when other areas are too warm.
- In marginal snow conditions, snowmachines cannot access Spaulding Meadows via the Lake Creek Trail. Montana Creek is a secondary access.
- Montana Creek Road is a gateway to State and Federal lands where motorized use is legal under certain conditions.
- No entry fee for skiing, unlike Eaglecrest.
- Easy and convenient access, especially from the Mendenhall Valley.

The Problem - Grooming and Tracks

- Juneau Nordic Ski Club has groomed Montana Creek Road and the trail beyond for two decades.
- They set 2 classic tracks and a skate ski track each morning.
- The tracks are damaged by Off Highway Vehicle tracks.
- It takes a lot of work to repair the ski tracks.



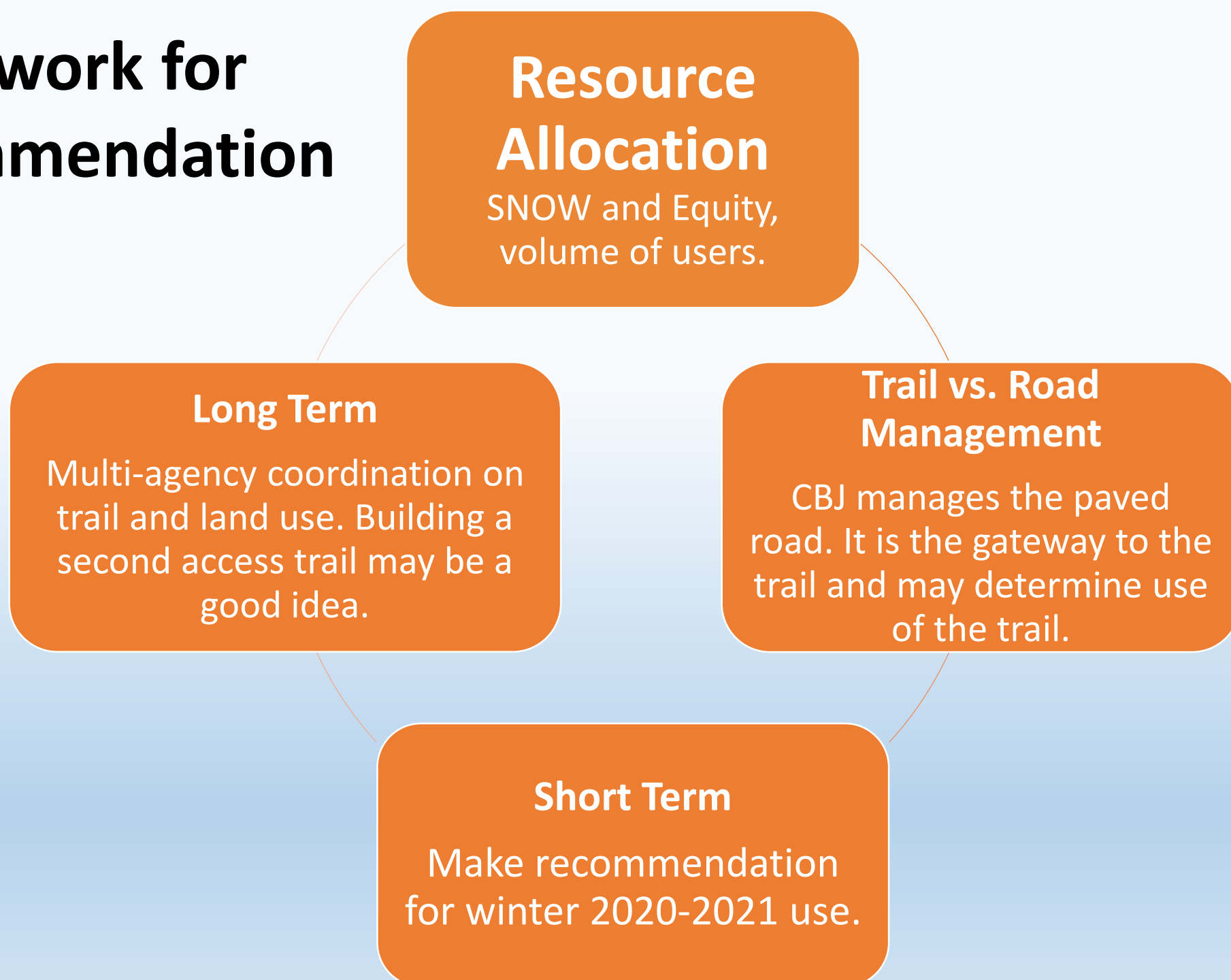
Damage from Wheeled OHV's

Photo Credit – JNSC Facebook Page



Photo Credit – JNSC Facebook Page

Framework for Recommendation



Winter 2020-2021 Management of the Paved Road

Option: Manage for Specific Use

Do nothing and allow motorized use on the paved road.

Juneau Nordic Ski Club would not groom the road because of damage from OHV tracks, displacing many users who rely on groomed tracks.

Close the road to motorized use except for grooming equipment.

OHV users, ATV's and Snowmobiles, would not be able to use the road to access State and Federal lands where riding is legal.

Winter 2020-2021 Management of the Paved Road

Option: Manage for Shared Use

Divide the road: motorized on one side, non-motorized on the other side.

There are safety concerns with simultaneous use, especially if the volume of motorized users increases. The paved road on CBJ land can accommodate multiple tracks, but the DNR/DOT trail is too narrow for multiple tracks.

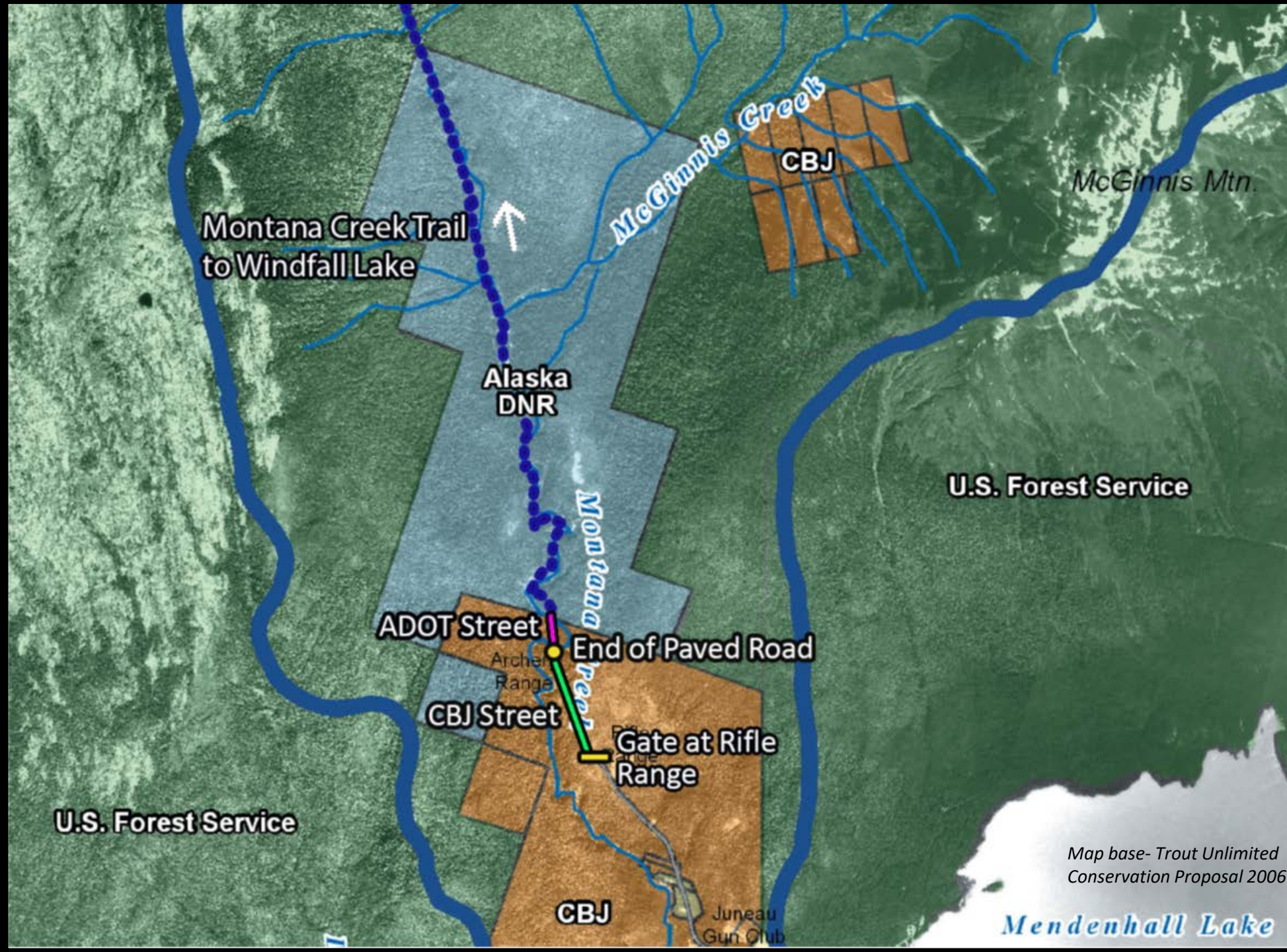
Close the road to motorized use for part of each month (except for grooming equipment in early morning).

Juneau Snowmobile Club is concerned that they would not have access during the low snow periods when they need it. When damage occurs on groomed tracks, it takes significant work to repair the surface for skiing, so frequent closures may be too difficult repair.

Winter 2020-2021 Management of the Paved Road

Staff Recommendation

For the winter of 2020-2021, staff recommends the management of Montana Creek Road for multiple users. The road should be closed for 20 consecutive days each month to motorized use. Staff will develop a schedule and for the closed days each month, a Memorandum of Agreement may be developed with the Juneau Nordic Ski Club to allow grooming equipment to groom the road in the mornings.



Map base- Trout Unlimited
Conservation Proposal 2006