

Eric Moots

From: Rob Cadmus <rob@sawcak.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2022 9:28 AM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Comments on Montana Creek Master Plan
Attachments: 2022 Dec Mt Creek Mast Plan SAWC Comments12.22.22.pdf

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Dear Parks and Rec,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Montana Creek Master Plan.

Please see attached.

Best,

Rob Cadmus

Executive Director

Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition

907-957-9818



December 21, 2022

Michele Elfers
Deputy Director
CBJ Parks and Recreation Dept.
155 S. Seward Street - City Hall Rm 218
Juneau Alaska 99801

Subject: Montana Creek Trail, Cabin, and Access Plan

Dear Michele,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the most recent version of the Montana Creek Plan as presented in a public meeting on December 7, 2022.

SAWC is actively participating in the Montana Creek planning process by providing geospatial mapping services, providing watershed reports to CBJ and other land managers, and attending stakeholder meetings. We provided comments (dated 9/6/2022) on an earlier version of the plan and thank you for considering those comments in developing the most recent plan. Below we provide additional recommendations that will minimize the impacts of future recreation infrastructure projects on watershed health. Please consider these and our earlier recommendations as the planning process goes forward.

Montana Creek Trail/Road

Between the bridge at the end of Montana Creek Road and the confluence of Montana and McGinnis Creeks, Montana Creek Trail is essentially a road. As expressed in our previous comments, a road immediately adjacent to a stream is bad for the stream. **To improve the health of Montana Creek, we recommend a long-term plan to remove and rehabilitate Montana Creek Road upstream of the multi-use bridge crossing.** This road provides wheeled motorized vehicles access to wetlands, streams, and forest areas that have been severely damaged by those vehicles, historically and in recent years. While it is likely that a small percentage of users have engaged in these activities, these areas are too fragile and ecologically important to risk future damage from irresponsible users. After the new 35-mile off-road vehicle park is completed and improved snow machine access to Spaulding Meadows is completed (as proposed in this plan), we believe that non-motorized and motorized users of this section of road will be more open to consider options for road closure and habitat restoration. If necessary, this section of road could be replaced with a new trail built on a bench above the existing road.

Habitat Damage

As stated in our previous comments and above, illegally construction of motorized trails has severely damaged habitat accessible from the road portion of Montana Creek Trail.

We recommend that restoration and rehabilitation of these areas should be the highest priority during plan implementation.

Proposed New Trails

The proposed trail labeled project 4 in the plan extends along the east side of Montana Creek from the end of Montana Creek Road to McGinnis Creek. To protect sensitive and hydrologically dynamic stream corridors in this area, we recommend ending the trail at a bridge constructed over Montana Creek near the downstream edge of the McGinnis

Creek fan. **We recommend that no trails should be constructed on the fan to protect the high-quality fish and wildlife habitat in that area.**

At this point in the planning process, the nature of proposed non-motorized trails is not clear. If these trails are intended for use by skate skiers in winter, trail construction will include removal of trees, removal of soil, altered hydrology, placement of rock fill, and additional tree and branch removal to eliminate snow interception by the adjacent forest canopy. Such trails can be considered to functionally mimic roads and the cumulative loss of habitat to construct them over several miles is substantial. To minimize environmental impacts, **we recommend that trails be designed with the minimal footprint needed to accommodate hiking and skiing.**

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Cadmus" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rob Cadmus
Executive Director

Eric Moots

From: Peter Nave <peternave@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 9:54 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana creek master plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Hello,
I'd like to voice my support for the latest draft of the Montana creek master plan.

The few tweaks I would like to see made include:

- Higher elevation road access to extend the snow season for motorized and non-motorized users.
- Enshrining the lake creek and 25 mile rd motorized access both.
- Putting in a strong vote of support that all trail design supports downhill backcountry ski touring access of Grandchild's Peak, Mt. McGinnis, and the terrain above Windfall lake.

Increased access to Spaulding meadows will no doubt make Nordic skiers and snowmobilers happier, but backcountry skiing is exploding in Juneau (and is already a user group at least as large as either sledgers and XC), and access to mainland areas is very limited.

Thanks for all your hard work! What a great town we live in.

-Peter Nave

Sent from my iPhone

Eric Moots

From: Julius Adolfsson <julius.adolfsson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 9:08 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Supporting JNSCs comments regarding the Montana Creek Masterplan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Dear P&R,

I am writing to voice my support of the Juneau Nordic Ski Club's comments to the Montana Creek Master Plan, which includes developing a connector trail from Montana Creek to the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area, replacing the broken bridge across Montana Creek, increased access to Spaulding Meadows from the Montana Creek valley, and a new non-motorized trail on the northeast side of the Montana Creek valley.

I strongly support developing new, non-motorized trails that can be groomed for nordic skiing in the winter, and, hopefully, could be tied in to the development of a biathlon range in the area. Parking for the Hank Harmon rifle range should also be available to skiers.

Thank you and Happy Holidays.

Best,
Julius

Eric Moots

From: Aldyn Brudie <aldynbrudie@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 8:45 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana Creek Master Plan Comments

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Hi there,

I am just writing to voice my support of the Juneau Nordic Ski Club's comments to the Montana Creek Master Plan, which includes developing a connector trail from Montana Creek to the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area, replacing the broken bridge across Montana Creek, increased access to Spaulding Meadows from the Montana Creek valley, and a new non-motorized trail on the northeast side of the Montana Creek valley.

I strongly support developing new, non-motorized trails that can be groomed for nordic skiing in the winter, and, hopefully, could be tied in to the development of a biathlon range in the area. Parking for the Hank Harmon rifle range should also be available to skiers.

Thanks and have a pleasant holiday,
-Aldyn

Eric Moots

From: Frank Rue <frankrue44@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 5:51 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana Creek plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Please keep Montana creek trail non- motorized for skiers, bikers and hikers. N ew cabins and new and improved motorized access at Lake Creek and 25 mile are great. Thanks. Frank Rue

Eric Moots

From: Christina Mounce <clmounce@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 4:52 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana Creek Master Plan Comments

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Hello,

I really like all of the connector trails. I think the connector trails are a great way to expand the already existing trail system. However, repairs to the existing Montana Creek trail should be conducted before investing in additional trails.

I would like to see the UAS - Auke Bay Elementary - Auke Nu connector trail (#10) prioritized over the other connector trails. I think this trail would probably get the most use and be the most accessible for people of various abilities. This connector would also help alleviate the parking issue at the Auke Nu trailhead. People could park at the other trailheads (i.e. Auke Bay Elementary, UAS). The lower parking lot of the UAS Rec Center is usually empty so it would make great overflow parking. Connector #10 appears to be the most "bang for your buck" option.

I also like connector #3 for improving ski access. I like the proposed new cabin and associated connector #8. Developing these would provide valuable additional recreation opportunities for residents and add a three-cabin backpack loop option.

I have concerns about developing additional motorized trails within the Montana Creek watershed. The Montana Creek watershed contains amazing salmon habitat and is arguably the most productive watershed on the road system. I have spent some time walking areas of habitat damage within the watershed. The damage caused by ATVs is extensive and is not limited to a few bad apples. There appears to be organized development of illegal, off-road trails within the watershed. I have walked user-made ATV trails where people have cut down trees, and where people appeared to have spent considerable time developing access. I sympathize with the local ATV users and groups that promote responsible trail use, but the damage shouldn't be understated or overlooked.

I was at the most recent public meeting and members of the Juneau Off-Road Association commented that there were lots of salmon streams in Juneau in response to concerns expressed by Trout Unlimited. Not all salmon streams are created equal, and the Montana Creek watershed contains some of Juneau's best salmon streams. I realize that the proposed motorized trail is in the upper watershed, largely away from anadromous streams, but I worry about illegal development off of the proposed trail. I also realize the proposed trail is for winter motorized use, but I am concerned that people will illegally use ATVs to access the area during non-winter months. Law enforcement hasn't been able to curtail illegal ATV use at the existing Montana Creek trail, so I imagine they would be even less successful enforcing the rules at 25-mile.

Thank you for considering my comments,
Christina Mounce

Eric Moots

From: Kate Slotnick <kateslotnick@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 4:45 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: 2nd Draft Montana Creek Plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

This second draft seems to have paid little heed to the many Juneau residents who commented on the first draft, and who expressed the need for increased cross-country ski opportunities and protection of fragile habitat from the damage from motorized vehicles. Let me state these concerns again.

Non-motorized users including cross-country skiers, need a much larger portion of Spaulding Meadows for their use. Non-motorized users are by far the larger group of current users in Spaulding Meadows and need their space. The current non-motorized boundaries are frequently violated by snow machines. I've had close encounters while skiing, and often see their tracks in ski-only areas. Space is needed to increase safety for non-motorized users.

The current proposal for improved access for winter motorized use through the hardened trail at 25 mile will lead to the destruction of the areas surrounding this trail with off-trail 4-wheeler use. (Montana Creek trail has extensive signage about no off-trail riding, and also has extensive damage from off-trail riding). Habitat destruction is a real concern and remediation is very expensive.

There is no provision in this 2nd draft for improved access for the non-motorized users. Of particular concern, there is no means for ski trail grooming equipment to access Spaulding Meadows to create the additional ski trails desired by so many Juneau residents.

The current draft of the Montana Creek Plan threatens the physical integrity of the area and does not meet the needs of Juneau residents.

Eric Moots

From: Shawn Lovell <shawnlovell@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 4:34 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Master Plan Montana Creek

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Hi, Regarding the Montana Creek Master plan and some concerns I may have as part of the motorized user group.

My name is Shawn Lovell, a 30+ year motorized user in Juneau.

While opening more trails is a good thing for all, along with more areas to access in the future and a possible cabin that can be utilized by the motorized user group as well as the non motorized users.

The proposal for access from the 25 mile location sounds like a great idea until it says "Primary". So does this mean we will lose our lake creek access we have maintained for years? Also have you ever been to and scouted the 25 mile access? It's near impossible to reach Spaulding meadows without a lot of work and honestly, I don't know if anyone who has ever done it and for good reason.

The wording for the latest proposal seems very vague in my opinion and should be revisited to be more clear on what the long term results of what this master plan will be.

Will we lose Lake creek access?

Is our season being shortened by nearly 2 months? The proposal shows Dec 15 to April 15 where as currently we typically use the area from Nov 1 to May 1 dependent on snow cover and frozen ground.

Is there "Really" any plan to build another cabin or warming shelter that can be utilized by the motorized user group?

Is there any future plans to expand motorized use in the Montana Creek area?

Is there plans to move the Lake creek parking lot farther up in elevation so it can also be utilized by the Motorized user group? Or is that just for the non motorized group?

Is the plan to indefinitely keep the current year round ATV Access at Montana creek near the rifle range?

We just have a lot of concerns that need to be addressed and answered before a solid plan is put in place in my opinion and feel this is being "Rushed" through.

While I agree to expanding the area to building new trails, I would like to see more expansion for the motorized user groups and not just the non motorized group.

Hopefully part of the "Master Plan" is to improve access all user groups and not just the non motorized users.

Please take this into consideration when going forward with the new plan.

Sent from my iPhone

Eric Moots

From: Joleen Langel <joleen.langel@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 4:30 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana Creek

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

I am opposed to plan revisions that diminish motorized access to Montana Creek. Specifically the 25 mile radius provision. The plan is one-sided and favors a single special interest group over all others. The entirety of Juneau's public lands are available to non-motorized users. Montana Creek should remain as available as possible to the motorized groups, they have the fewest places to go.

Joleen Langel

Eric Moots

From: Angela Williams <angelarose1236@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 4:29 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Motorized Use

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Hello,

The riding population has increased significantly in the last few years I've lived in Juneau making the select few spots available for riding even smaller. It would be nice to see more areas for riding. It blows me away growing up and living in Haines most of my life with endless places to ride with no judgment and/or discrimination, then moving to Juneau where the riding areas are limited and faced with such harsh judgement. Not everyone is into the same things and it's up to us to leave a town where the youth have more to do so they take better paths in their adult life. When you take away most options for the youth the chances of them taking a dark path increases. It's not just about the adults it's about leaving our kids the opportunity to enjoy life whether that is snowmachining, fourwheeling, hiking, skiing. We need to come together and quit creating such diversity between motorized and non-motorized groups, neither group should be allowed more than the other. And no one should have to go through great lengths just to ride and most definitely shouldn't be judged for what they enjoy. Out of all the places I've been in my life I've never lived in a town where I've been told over and over, no you can't ride there. We need to set better examples for the youth, having such limited access for motorized use is teaching our kids rebellion is the only way for them to have fun and that's not something I'm sure no one wants.

Angela Williams

Eric Moots

From: Tyler Ferrin <tyler99827@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 4:23 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana Creek Master Plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Although this current plan doesn't take anything away from motorized users, it's not adding much for them.

If the Forest service builds a cabin P&R might add an additional winter use only motorized trail. So the only real new trail for any kind of motorized user is based on a maybe and might.

Building new trails behind 2 gun ranges doesn't sound like the best idea either but at the meeting it sure sounded like that got a green light.

It is my opinion that P&R should put money toward improving the existing Montana creek road past the bridge and keep extending it well past the McGinnis water shed.

Thanks,
Tyler Ferrin

Eric Moots

From: Rick Perkins <rick.perkins@sealaska.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 4:20 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana Creek Master Plan.

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Please consider the needs of those who ride motorized vehicles.
There are plenty of cross country trails, and only two areas for motorized use.

Increase areas for off road use by motorized vehicles. Other communities have miles and miles of trails to ride.

Why is Juneau so set on eliminating our recreational opportunities.

Thank you,

Rick Perkins
723-4483

Eric Moots

From: Scott Spickler <sspickler@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 4:10 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana Creek Plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

It is disappointing that there is no increased access for ATV users in this plan. My old friend and former forester John Sandor always said the mission of the Forest Service was to do its best to accommodate all users to the best of their ability... I think our town can do better for the motorized users than this.

I would sure like to see better access for ATV's year round in this plan and some concessions by the skiers and hikers that have so many alternatives throughout the entire borough of Juneau that are closed to motorized use....like over 100 non motorized trails.

PS, I am a skier and hiker too.

Thank you,

Scott and Sandy Spickler
10754 Horizon Dr.
Juneau, AK. 99801

Sent from my iPad

Eric Moots

From: Kevin Maier <kevinkmaier@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 4:08 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana Creek Master Plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Dear Montana Creek Master Plan Team,

Please consider these draft comments on behalf of the Tongass Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Unfortunately, the TU board of directors has not had a chance to meet to confer in this uncomfortably brief two-week comment period. We would like to formally request an extension of the comment period.

Please also consider these comments in conjunction with all our previous communications on the Montana Creek Master Plan. Regarding the latest draft, these are our most salient observations:

- 1) We feel our concerns have not been properly captured in this iteration of the Master Plan, which calls for significant recreational infrastructure in the Montana Creek watershed and no change to the motorized use management in the area. We remain deeply concerned about legal and illegal motorized use, and, as we have repeatedly noted, we have several decades of public comment and monitoring to show the negative impacts of motorized vehicles in and around critical habitat for wild fish. To put this simply: we do not see built into the plan enough consideration of the impacts to habitat by any of this development, especially as the plan continues to include no change to the management of motorized use in the watershed.
- 2) We are also concerned about the routing of the proposed new non-motorized trail near the end of the existing Montana Creek Road. While the route is no doubt preliminary, it appears to travel through and around documented anadromous waters (including Little McGinnis and McGinnis Creek proper, as well as other smaller tributaries). At this time, we do not support developing a trail there unless significant concessions are made for habitat and significant effort is put into placement of this trail to avoid disruption to anadromous waters.
- 3) We would like to see fish-friendly restoration of the existing road/trail upstream of the bridge before any further development takes place. We have capacity to assist with this work, and the TU Alaska program is currently submitting grant proposals with this in mind. TU staff note there are instances of marginal fish passage (hanging culverts), on-going erosion from mass wasting events, and damaged habitat from existing infrastructure and rogue "trail building" and illegal ATV use upstream of the currently-out-of-commission bridge.
- 4) As coho returns appear to have come in below the lower bounds of ADFG escapement goals in a handful of recent years, we would like to see added protections for and restoration of critical coho spawning and rearing habitat be part of the plan. To put it even more directly: we would like to see stream restoration and conservation measures explicitly written into the plan.
- 5) Finally, we worry that ongoing efforts to replace the bridge at the end of the road, likely with a large capacity structure, may predetermine any future discussions about management in the watershed, and we would request consultation before funding proposals go forward.

In short, as the conflicts between skiers and motorized users suck all the oxygen out of the room, we worry there aren't voices for the fishery making it into the conversation. We will not be in support of this Master Plan unless we see significant provisions in the plan that explicitly prioritize habitat for native trout and salmon.

Thanks for your consideration,

Kevin Maier
Past President, TU Tongass Chapter Board of Directors

Eric Moots

From: Darrin Crapo <darrin@crepeaux.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 4:02 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana Creek

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

My name is Darrin Crapo, I am a Juneau resident residing at 9347 Betty Ct.

I have some serious concerns about the proposed draft. It clearly expands non motorized use and appears to do so at the detriment of motorized users.

First, the snow seasons is locked st Dec 15 to April 15. This needs to be expanded to Nov 1 to May 1 to accommodate regional weather variation.

Second, the language defining the 25 Mile Road as primary access opens the door wide open to motorized users loosing the trail they constructed at Lake Creek. This robs them of the work invested and pushes them out with an addition 1hr round trip of driving time during a season with very limited daylight.

Honestly this draft appears discriminatory and non motorized agenda driven. This needs to be revisited and all user groups represented.

Thank you,

Darrin

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S22 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone

Eric Moots

From: Jeff Wilson <jwilson@wileng.net>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 3:53 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana Creek Master Plan Comments

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Dear CBJ P&R,

Job well done on getting the Montana Creek Master Plan to this point! I like the thoughtfulness of the new and rebuilding of our trail system in the Montana Creek area. My comments:

I really approve of the proposed plans to expand non-motorized trails, especially connecting Montana Creek to existing trail systems and adding a trail link to the USFS campground.

I really support safe winter access for Nordic skiing both for Spaulding Meadows and Montana Creek/McGinnes Creek basin. Motorized use and pedestrian/skiing use need to be separate for everyone to enjoy this area free from conflicts and injury.

I feel you have a realistic working plan here. Now for all of us to come together and make it happen!

Jeffrey W. Wilson
175 S. Franklin Street, Suite 300
Juneau, Alaska. 99801
907-586-2100, (cell) 321-3210
jwilson@wileng.net

Eric Moots

From: Andrew Eller <andrewseller@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 3:05 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: montana creek master plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

From: Andrew Eller
4411 Windfall Ave, Juneau
12.21.22

Dear CBJ Parks and Recreation,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2nd draft of the Montana Creek Master Plan.

I wanted to propose breaking Options 2A and 2B into separate numbers. True, the goal of both proposals is to provide vehicle access to at higher elevation parking areas for winter motorized use. However, the grouping of the Lake Creek Road expansion and the 25-mile road as “either” leaves this reader wondering if this is an “either”, “either/or”, or “both” scenarios. Please present them as separate options, as was almost every other trail option presented in the master plan. They are completely different options.

“2A and 2B. Consider developing **either** the existing Lake Creek Trail or 25 Mile Road to the primary access for winter motorized use to Spaulding Meadows. Assess routes for topography and climate to determine the best shoulder season access to higher elevations. Consider a parking area at a higher elevation. Develop maintenance and management partnerships”.
management partnerships”.

The extension of the Lake Creek Road is a proposal I find difficult to accept. My primary concern is based on direct impacts by increased road traffic and noise to the proposed trailhead area and along the road corridor. Our property is close to the current parking area. Winter snowmachine traffic is generally muted and generally not an issue. However, the expansion of a road opens the area to year-round vehicle traffic. Additional concerns.

- If you build it they will come – a parking lot at a higher elevation will increase traffic and will negatively impact this area. This includes on and off hardened surfaces.
- Living close to the current Lake Creek Trailhead I see the parking lot used for parties, camping and extended stays. This last summer 2 vehicles occupied the area for several weeks. (think outhouse). I envision the same events at the higher elevation parking lot – year round. Will the access be gated in the summer? Is this seasonal access only?
-

I end up asking more questions regarding this particular proposal (Lake Creek Trail expansion) than any of the other proposals to the management plan. Please drop this particular road extension from the plan.

Regards

Andrew Eller

Eric Moots

From: Dan Fremgen <danfremgen@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 11:16 AM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: MT Cr rec area master plan comments

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

CBJ Parks & Rec Dept,

We are responding to a call for comments following the Dec 7th 2022 presentation and release of the 2nd draft of the public and plan process on the Montana Creek recreation area.

Priority 1): We support and concur very strongly with swiftly moving forward with proposal #4 in the presentation, construction of a trail on the northeast side of MT Creek for non-motorized use. This proposal allows skiers to use a trail separate from motorized vehicles and would thereby relieve the current confrontations and dangers experienced on MT Cr road in the winter when 4-wheelers and snowmachines use the same trail as walkers, snowshoers and skiers. Constructing this trail would appear to be a process of moderate cost and effort that would immediately reduce congestion, conflict between user groups and the potential for collisions and injuries.

Priority 2): We support further exploring the future possibility of Proposal #3 in the presentation, construction of a new Mendenhall Glacier access trail to MT Cr road allowing continuous skiing and hiking between the two areas. This would lead to a top-notch recreational trail system used by many in winter and summer, enhancing the accessibility of the existing trails and surrounding lands while reducing issues such as vehicle parking space at the rifle range as more users hike or ski to MT Cr road rather than drive. We feel this project is valuable and important for increasing non-motorized trail use in the area but view it as a longer-term goal, as opposed to Priority 1 (above) which we feel should begin immediately.

Thank-you for the opportunity to comment.
Dan Fremgen and Diana Paul

Eric Moots

From: Mike Laudert <mikelaudert@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 10:57 AM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana creek plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Parks and rec

I support the cabin and plans for an additional motorized access at the 25 mile location. I believe it would be a benefit for early or late snow conditions. Our primary access point would still be lake creek. I think there is a pretty decent size canyon between the proposed start point and lower Spaulding meadows. Will research this winter on routing.

Thanks, Mike
jsc board member

Eric Moots

From: Corey Baxter <cbaxter907@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 7:39 AM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana creek Master plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Hi,

I support the Montanan Creek Master Plan which includes having a cabin up Spaulding meadows and a new motorized trail out at 25 mile. I would also like to see a parking lot up at a higher elevation for snowmobilers so we can access the snow earlier in the year and be able to ride later in the year as well. I also support that the Montana Creek Master plan should have access to all user groups through out the year. Thanks

Corey Baxter
907-321-4271

Sent from my iPhone

Eric Moots

From: Mark Sams, P.E., S.E. <msams@pndengineers.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 5:56 AM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana creek trail master plan comments

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

1. By providing a new motorized access to spalding meadows at 25 mile, the current motorized area in Montana creek should not be banned. That is the impression that is implied with the current map.
2. Winter motorized access to spalding meadows should be provided from Montana creek.

Sent from my iPhone

Eric Moots

From: David Summers <emailsummers@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 5:51 AM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana Creek Master Plan Comment

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Juneau P&R,

I feel the current Montana Creek Master Plan does not have remotely enough motorized use priority space or motorized use shared space or significantly respectful inclusion of motorized users.

I ask that year-round motorized use and a significantly increased inclusion of motorized users access be included in the Master Plan.

Thank you,

David Summers
2 Marine Way
Juneau, AK 99801

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Capt. David Summers
Captain Summers Marine Services LLC
2 Marine Way Ste 122
Juneau, AK 99801
Mobile / Text: [907-957-1152](tel:907-957-1152)
Email: emailsummers@gmail.com

Eric Moots

From: Garrett Paul <gpaul99@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 11:00 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Supportive of motorized use opportunities in the Montana Creek Master Plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Hello,

I continue to support expansion of motorized opportunities in the Montana Creek area and inclusion of more motorized opportunities in the master plan.

There are two to three locations to operate motorized off-road vehicles in Juneau, while there are hundreds of areas to walk, run, hike, bike and ski. Montana creek is an ideal location for winter motorized use, additional motorized opportunities and access are necessary in the area.

Please do not remove any motorized opportunities from the plan. Lots of big environmental and big money companies are writing novels in opposition to motorized use. Hopefully the forest service values and accommodates the opinions and viewpoints of life-long pro-motorized Juneauites as well.

Thanks,
Garrett Paul

Eric Moots

From: Zach&Mutts Decker <wildlifeheritage@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 8:05 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana Creek Master plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Please provide more ATV and UTV OHV opportunity. I have young boys that love to ride dirt bikes and have no place close to town to allow them to enjoy their sport. We need more trails close to town not 30 miles out the road. We don't ski and feel the ski clubs are working to keep those that enjoy OHV out of these areas. Please open more area and trails.

Alisha Decker
907-321-2180
Juneau AK

Eric Moots

From: Peggy and Alex <alaskawerts@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 6:08 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana Creek Draft Plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the latest iteration of the draft master plan for Montana Creek. I appreciate the work that you have put into structuring a list of action alternatives to address the needs of the varied constituencies using the Montana Creek area for recreation. I will structure my comments in relation to the 10 action alternatives you have identified. One overriding recommendation that influences a number of my comments is that the road/trail along Montana Creek itself should be restricted to non-motorized use in the winter period. As is clear from a large number of the public comments that you have compiled from the previous comment period, skiers using this area are adversely impacted by motorized users, with impacts ranging from noise and air pollution, safety concerns, habitat degradation, and destruction of the ski tracks. This area in the past few years has become one of the most heavily used winter recreation areas, with thousands of skier trips and hundreds of volunteer hours to maintain the trail and the tracks. Other aspects of the Draft Master Plan can address opportunities for motorized use.

1A and 1B. Reconstruct Existing Trails from Montana Creek Road to Windfall Lake Access Road. This should be the number one priority, especially that part of 1A that would rebuild the Montana Creek bridge and restore the existing capacity of the old road for grooming and skiing. Extending the usable trail to the top of the Montana Creek watershed would be a wonderful addition if it is feasible given the instability of the stream slopes in some of the upper areas. Improving the trail further down to Windfall Lake would benefit motorized users, and could possibly be made wide enough that ski grooming and motorized use could share that portion. Priority on this section could be for motorized use under winter constraints.

2A and 2B. Consider developing either the existing Lake Creek Trail or 25 Mile Road to the primary access for winter motorized use to Spaulding Meadows. I support 2B as the new and primary motorized access route to Spaulding Meadows. Placing a cabin at its terminus would tend to focus motorized use at that end of the meadows, and contribute to better separation of the primary areas used by skiers, snowshoers, and hikers, and ORV users.

3. Construct new Mendenhall Glacier Area Access Trail to connect to Montana Creek Rd . This would be an excellent addition to the current cross-country ski trail system, linking the two most popular groomed ski trails. It should be a high priority, good bang for the buck.

4. Construct a new trail on the north east side of Montana Creek. I support the concept of a developed route, with appropriate stream crossings, into the McGinnis Creek area. This obviously would be a lower priority than Item 1, but a good goal for the plan.

5. Construct new Montana Creek Road to Lake Creek/Spaulding Meadows connector trail. This should also be high priority in order to provide improved non-motorized (and groomable) access to Spaulding Meadows. This may become increasingly important with climate change moving snow lines higher. It would also divert skiers from the established Lake Creek Trail that is heavily used by ORVs.

6. Construct new John Muir- Auke Nu – Lake Creek Connector Loop trail.

7. Construct new John Muir Cabin to Peterson Lake Cabin connector trail.

I would rate the development of groomable trails in the non-motorized area of Spaulding Meadows as low priority. Spaulding Meadows has a lot of appeal as a broad untracked expanse where you pick out your own route (with some help from the trail markers, of course). A highly developed trail system would diminish the wilderness aspect. Maybe that's where we should be heading, but I am not sure. I would include these as possible future considerations in the next 10-year plan. Get the other proposed trails built and operational first.

8. Construct new Peterson Lake Trail to new cabin to Montana Creek Trail connector. This is a good idea to keep skiers and motorized users separate in their access routes to the cabin.

9. Construct trail extending from 25 Mile Road to connect to new cabin. High priority as per comments for 2B.

10. Construct University- Auke Lake – Auke Bay Elementary – Auke Nu Community connector trail. High priority, high bang for the bucks. These trails are already extensively used, upgrading and connecting them will improve community access between facilities, businesses, and residences, and make Auke Bay much more pedestrian friendly.

Eric Moots

From: Heidi Brodersen <brodersenheidia@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 10:56 AM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana Creek Master Plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Dear CBJ Parks and Recreation Staff,

Thank you for your work on the Montana Creek Master Plan. I am encouraged to see the development of new ski trails in this plan, and I encourage you to keep including them in future iterations--including a connector trail from Montana Creek to the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area, as well as trails connecting the Montana Creek valley to Spaulding Meadow.

Eric Moots

From: Roman Motyka <rjmotyka@alaska.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 8:29 AM
To: Parks Rec; Michele Elfers; USFS; USFS; Trail Mix; DNR; DOTPF; George Schaaf
Subject: Comments on M Cr MP
Attachments: RJM comments re M CR MP.docx

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Dear Michele,

Thank you for organizing the Dec. 7th meeting. Here (and attached) are my personal comments regarding the plan and your presentation.

Comments on the Montana Creek Master Plan

To: Michele Elfers, Deputy Director, CBJ Parks & Rec, Michele.Elfers@juneau.org

Subj: Comments and questions regarding the December 7th 2022 presentation and publication of the "Montana Creek Master Plan" maps and PDF.

Submitted by: R J Motyka (rjmotyka@alaska.edu)

December 20, 2022

CC:

Tristan Fluharty, USFS <tristan.fluharty@usda.gov>,
Pete Schneider, USFS <Peter.Schneider@usda.gov>,
Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Trail Mix <ryan@juneautrails.org>,
Megan Hillgartner, DNR <megan.hillgartner@alaska.gov>,
Joanne Schmidt, DOTPF <joanne.schmidt@alaska.gov>,
George Schaaf, CBJ P&R <George.Schaaf@juneau.org>,

Introduction

Compliments to agencies participating in the project's planning committee (CBJ, USFS, DNR, and DOTPF) for moving the M Cr MP forward. I am encouraged that many of the proposals put forward by the Juneau Nordic Ski Club (JNSC) during the previous comment period have been incorporated in the current draft. I appreciate the considerations made by the management agencies and look forward to working with you to make these recreational trails a reality!

However, I strongly protest the short time frame (two weeks!) to develop and submit comments regarding the current draft of the M Cr master plan. I appreciate the alacrity with which the management agencies wish to proceed and I too want to see the master plan finalized in a timely manner. However, I feel the short comment period does not serve well the development of a comprehensive and well-thought out plan that will govern the use of the watershed for the foreseeable future. After all, it took several months for agencies to develop the plan presented on Dec. 7th! I therefore reserve the right to continue to interact with management agencies and other orgs to refine and submit commentary as the process continues.

Specific Comments Regarding Proposed Nordic Ski Trails

1. I understand from the plan's PDF, map, and the slide presentation that the Nordic ski trails shown and listed are in the concept stage and their locations on the map serve as placeholders, pending actual ground surveys once funding is made available. I also understand that these trails would be rock-hardened and made to Nordic ski trail specs. I advise that the respective agencies involved in ski trail development consult with JNSC and also contract a professional Nordic ski trail designer.
2. Montana Creek Bridge: A top priority is for the installation of a temporary bridge by DOTPF and then finding a permanent solution for the Montana Creek Bridge. I note that the bridge is still currently closed to all traffic due to substructure damage sustained during weather events in late September. This closure deeply affects our Nordic skier base. Since JNSC began grooming M Cr, it has become one of the most popular ski destinations.
3. "Trail 3" listed in the plan is to construct new access trail to connect the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area trails to Montana Creek Road trail system. I am glad to see it included in the plan. Development of this trail is one of our club's highest priorities. JNSC has already done a preliminary recon of a route and shared details with CBJ P&R. Most of the region that the trail would traverse is managed by CBJ. Construction of this trail would immediately increase the number of kms of interconnected ski, hiking, and biking trails.
4. "Trail 4" in the plan is to construct a new trail on the northeast side of Montana Creek with the potential for a loop extending into the McGinnis Creek valley area. Development of this trail is another high priority for our club as it would greatly expand the kms of available Nordic skiing in the Montana Creek drainage. Most of the land traversed by this trail crosses CBJ and DNR lands. I am aware that the McGuinness loop may have wildlife habitat concerns. Note that this trail would involve bridges over both McGuinness and Montana Creeks, in order to connect back to the current trail system and make a loop.
5. I support construction of Trails 5, 6, 7, and 8 in the plan, which includes a connector from the Montana Cr road to Spaulding Meadows as well as several additional ski trails within the Spaulding Meadows region as long as they remain non-motorized. Because the meadows are higher in elevation (~ 1400 ft), these trails are high on JNSC's priority list in order to help compensate for ongoing climate warming. I understand from the Peter Schneider, the USFS representative at the meeting, that development of these trails would need to go through a NEPA process because they are principally on USFS managed lands.
6. One issue that I am struggling with is how to utilize the proposed ski trails within Spaulding Meadows. I am very appreciative that the plan includes these non-motorized-use hardened ski trails, but I am in a quandary on how to groom them without road access to the meadows?
7. Is Trail 8, a non-motorized trail designed to interconnect the Peterson Lake trail to the proposed new cabin lies in a motorized zone?
8. Parts of trail 5, the interconnection between Montana Creek and Spaulding meadows also lie in motorized zones. I am concerned motorized traffic may interfere with these non-motorized trails. I presume that the layout of trail 8 as shown on the map is only approximate. Topography on trail 8 and 25 mi are crazy!

Additional Comments and Concerns

1. I encourage the use of traditional Tlingit place names where available and/or solicit the advice of SHI or other native org entity to help appropriately name the new trails. For example, the Tlingit name for Montana Creek is Kaxdigoowu Héen, "going back clear water".
2. Trail 1A and 1B concerns reconstructing existing trails from Montana Creek Road to the Windfall Lake Access Road. Although in principal I strongly supports rehabbing this trail, I am concerned whether motorized traffic will also be allowed on the rehabilitated trail. Comments from the majority of individuals and several orgs, including JNSC, overwhelmingly objected to motorized traffic along the river in part because of the history of off-road damage to watershed terrain. The Tongass Chapter of Trout Unlimited commented that the plan did not alleviate the organization's concerns about the impacts of off-road ATV use in the watershed upstream of the Montana Creek Bridge. TU recommended the plan be modified to close the trails above the bridge to ATV use and only allow foot and bicycle traffic, and JNSC concurs with this recommendation.

3. I am disappointed that no cabin is included in the plan for McGuinness Creek Valley. Construction and maintenance should be no costlier than for other remote cabins such as Dan Moller, John Muir and Eagle Glacier cabins. At least provide warming huts in the Meadows and in McGuinness Creek drainage.
4. The DOT representative at the meeting indicated that the installation of the temporary M Cr bridge might proceed over the next month, depending on weather. DOT is awaiting parts and will first remove the present bridge. I hope that the project is not delayed until next summer!
5. Be aware that development of Nordic/ biking / hiking trails in the Montana Creek and McGuinness Valley area will require river crossings. These bridges should be wide enough to accommodate Nordic trail grooming equipment (see appendix and/or the JNSC Nordic Trails Development Plan for details). In general, trail and bridge width should be 10 – 14 ft.

Motorized vs. Non-motorized Areas

I repeat here comments made by JNSC from last August 2022; they still stand:

For over thirty years JNSC has been a staunch advocate for Nordic skiing and for construction of non-motorized trails to support wintertime enjoyment of the Montana Creek Watershed. However, the allowance of winter-time motorized use of the Montana Creek trail has increased the likelihood of potentially dangerous encounters on that narrow and winding trail. The effects of motorized use are two-fold: the first is safety issues between skiers and ATVs on a narrow, winding trail; the second is rutting of the groomed trail that requires additional grooming to smooth ruts before being safe for skiers. I therefore request that any new Nordic ski trails, such as the McGuinness Valley loops, be designated for non-motorized use.

In support of this request I draw attention to the results of the survey commissioned by CBJ P&R, which showed that respondents preferred non-motorized to motorized use of the region by over a 2:1 margin (see slide 9, CBJ master plan website)! “Wilderness experience”, “Snow”, and “Quiet” all far out-weighed any other values. Thus, CBJ’s own survey shows the strong preference for non-motorized use of the area.

I also point out the gross inequity in acreage allotted to over-snow motorized use vs. non-motorized regions in the Montana Creek watershed. ***How was this boundary defined and what is its legal basis? How can I access the documents used to define this boundary?***

The current non-motorized portion of Spaulding Meadows useable for groomed Nordic ski trails (non-treed and relatively flat meadow) to 70 and 120 acres compared to the 1400 to 1700 acres of main meadow allotted to motorized use. The non-motorized part of the main meadow is a tiny sliver of one side.

In summary, I recommend the plan specifically ask for expansion of the non-motorized region in Spaulding Meadows and, wherever necessary, construct separate trails for motorized vs. non-motorized users.

Master Plan Slides 10 -13

I agree with slide 10: “Additional Items Recommended in Plan (from public comments)”, namely:

1. Consistent wayfinding and interpretive signage across land ownership. This may include speed limits or other considerations for multi-use where appropriate.
2. Warming shelters and covered structures may be added, for example covered picnic tables or warming shelters in remote areas. Consider using proposed cabin as a daytime warming shelter.
3. Bathrooms at trailheads if no public bathrooms are nearby.
4. Repair and rehabilitate resource damaged areas due to human causes. Prioritize sensitive areas.
5. Prioritize accessibility for trails, trailheads and facilities.

I also generally agree with slide 11, “Funding and Priorities”, and hope that these tasks will be done in partnership with JNSC:

1. Agencies set priorities for construction of plan recommendations.
2. USFS requests federal funding for proposed cabin.
3. DOT, CBJ and private groups request funding through federal Transportation Alternatives Program for Montana Creek bridge replacement.
4. CBJ develops funding plan for recommended trails on CBJ land.
5. Continue discussions and look for funding for preliminary assessments of 25 Mile Road or Lake Creek Road higher elevation parking and access.

Management and Next Steps

1. DNR and CBJ consider Cooperative Management Agreement for management of state lands around Montana Creek Road and Trail per the Juneau State Land Plan recommendation.
2. DOT and CBJ pursue replacement of the Montana Creek Bridge and transfer of ownership of the bridge and road to CBJ.
3. Agencies provide guidance in the final plan on how to apply for, fund, and construct trails or improvements per the plan on federal, state and city land.
4. Agencies develop coordinated enforcement protocols with better communication and cooperation.

My Priorities

Principal near-term (1-2 yrs) priorities are:

1. Installation of temporary bridge at Montana Creek trailhead by DOTPF ASAP. Both JNSC and Trail Mix have cadres of ready volunteers to help out!
2. Obtain funding for a permanent bridge replacement.
3. Funding for the survey and development of a new access trail to connect the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area trails to Montana Creek Road trail system. JNSC has done a preliminary reconnaissance. Land is mostly CBJ.
4. Funding for the survey and development of a new non-motorized trail on the northeast side of Montana Creek. Land status is principally CBJ and DNR.

Longer-term priorities (~ 5 yr): Development of the plan's proposed non-motorized ski trails in Spaulding Meadows region including an access trail from Montana Creek.

Conclusions

The top priority should be to define and publish a roadmap for completion of the Master Plan process, complete with supporting materials and background information. The roadmap should also include timelines, approximate dates for public meetings and comment periods, and most importantly, who will make the decisions on what to include and exclude from the plan, and what the decision process will be based on.

Respectfully,

Roman J Motyka

Roman Motyka

rjmotyka@alaska.edu

907-723-0761 cell; 907-796-6307 office

"If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion."
Dalai Lama

Eric Moots

From: Kris Benson <kbenson722@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 9:42 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana Creek Revised Plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Dear Parks and Recreation:

Thank you for undertaking the multi-agency planning process for this area. I cross country ski and it is very important to me in the winter for keeping my mental and physical health well. I appreciate how much thought was put into the December 2022 version of the plan, especially with an eye for developing further cross country ski opportunities. I have a couple of concerns.

If snowmobilers use Lake Creek Road (2A), if developed, and Lake Creek Trail to access Spaulding Meadows, what would stop them from going onto the ski trails 5 and 6?

Shouldn't a part of the bridge replacement include expanded and improved parking at the bridge trailhead?

Thanks,
Kris Benson
145 Behrends Ave, Juneau, AK

Eric Moots

From: Jim Rehfeldt <jrehfeldt@alaskaenergy.us>
Sent: Sunday, December 18, 2022 10:48 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana Crrek Plan Comments

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

I am submitting comments on the draft Montana Creek Plan. My comments are relevant to the Montana Creek Plan and I request that the Montana Plan begin the process of seeking a better balance for all Juneau winter recreation areas.

There is a significant group of people in this community who enjoy skiing, hiking, dog walking and snow shoeing in our beautiful places. We require no organization or special accommodations to have an Alaskan winter experience that makes Juneau a special place to call home.

Unfortunately, the unorganized majority has been marginalized by organized groups such as the snow machine club, which was given winter use of the traditional Dan Moller and Spaulding Meadows ski areas (!!), and the Nordic Ski Club, which has access to several areas throughout the road system. Both are thirsty for more.

For example, I have to avoid motorized Dan Moller by skiing up Mt. Troy from Eaglecrest only to find snow machines overrunning my experience there as well. The Nordic Club has reached into the Amalga Meadows, which is signed non-motorized, to further expand their areas.

The motorized recreation plan displaced non-motorized users from Dan Moller and Spaulding Meadow during the finest ski season. Funds are being spent solely to upgrade organized activities (such as at Montana Creek) while non-organized access to other areas lags woefully behind in quality of experience. This bias has been detrimental to my winter experience as I have failed to find alternatives that match the unique qualities of these two areas. I now only have fond, distant memories of uninhibited access to these wonderful areas before motorized use was given priority over the land.

The Amalga Meadows are an intimate, unique place that regularly attracts hikers, skiers, dog walkers and snowshoers. The Nordic Club set track in the Meadows a few years ago and destroyed the snow conditions for the rest of the winter even though their enjoyment is highly restricted by space and a small time period when snow conditions in the low-lying valley were suitable. Even when I tried to ski around the tracked thoroughfare, I could not escape the noise and fumes of snow grooming.

What is particularly guiling is that the Nordic Club overran the Amalga Meadows even though there are tracks set at the Eagle Beach Recreation Area right down road. I am regularly amazed at the underutilization of the Eaglecrest Nordic ski trails, especially since the ski area is actively seeking to expand use and opportunities. Eaglecrest puts amazing resources into these trails; how about working with them to develop a world-class Nordic experience rather than take areas from others.

It simply is not fair, or good recreation planning, to displace several traditional user groups by accommodating organized user groups. I recognize Juneau does not have enough space to separate non-compatible user groups, so the obvious solution is to have equal time periods for each user group throughout the winter. I am dismayed by the over-reach of organized users who do not seem to consider the rest of us. It is important that recreation planners give equal value to all users. While I share the organized user's passion for winter recreation, their tracks, noise, and fumes are incompatible with the backcountry values others cherish. I am asking that my backcountry experience be restored rather than continue to be given away to others. It is time for Juneau's recreation planning to give equal consideration for non-organized people who also crave a unique Alaska winter recreation experience.

Specific to the Montana Creek Plan, the area and trails should be managed as multi-use with time separation for those of us who crave a different experience than the organized contingent. I ask that this plan take the first firm steps toward

truly sharing the available backcountry lands so all users can fully enjoy our limited recreational areas throughout the winter.

Jim Rehfeldt
Juneau

Eric Moots

From: Jon Kurland <jonkurland1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 17, 2022 1:44 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana Creek Master Plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Thanks for your hard work on the Montana Creek Master Plan. This effort has the potential to make major improvements to public recreation opportunities. To be successful, it must set clear priorities and segregate motorized uses from non-motorized uses.

Top priorities: 1A (reconstruct non-motorized trail from Montana Creek Road to Windfall Lake) and 8 (construct non-motorized trail to new cabin).

Second tier priorities: 3 (construct new connector trail between glacier area and Montana Creek Road for skiing and hiking) and either 2A or 2B (improve access for motorized users that is separated from trails for non-motorized users).

Third tier: 10 (connect and improve community trails near Auke Bay).

Concepts 4 through 7 and 9 are worth exploring but should be considered lower priorities.

Also, please prioritize increased signage and enforcement to keep snow machines out of the winter non-motorized use area in Spaulding Meadows. There are very few signs currently and many violations, which greatly impinges upon peaceful opportunities for skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking.

Thank you again!

Jon Kurland
9155 Black Wolf Way

Eric Moots

From: Josh Smith <akjoshuam@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 16, 2022 8:21 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana Creek Master Plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Good morning I'm sending this to show support to further develop the Montana Creek area for motorized vehicle use year round! The area is amazing to explore both on foot and by motorized vehicle. I would love to see this area opened up to more use.

Thanks!

Sincerely Josh Smith

Eric Moots

From: jesse ross <ross_jesse@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 16, 2022 1:22 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana creek ORV use

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Please grant use for ORV users for this area...i am so against the fact that the skiers have taken over the area. Juneau needs a place for ORV users to ride.

Thanks
Jesse Ross
907 321 3174

Eric Moots

From: John Howard <mr907howard@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 7:09 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana creek

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

John howard
907-957-8585
I am in full support of opening the whole
Montana creek drainage system to utv,atv, motorcycle usage
--
John Howard

Eric Moots

From: Michael Hekkers <mikehekkers@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 4:47 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana Creek Master Plan comments

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

As the originator of the Mendenhall Montana Spaulding (MMS) idea and the original author of the Juneau Nordic Trail Development Plan I'd like to add my personal comments:

- In that plan which I emphatically support is a road up (2A on your map) Lake Creek to the 1,500' to Spaulding- motorized and non-motorized split directions. Corey at the the JSC also supports a road up high. This is a key adaptation to climate change. I am not in favor of the #9 road to the proposed Northern Spaulding Cabin because Lake Creek is already a proto road and it's closer to town.
- Bring back the biathlon range at the top of the Lake Creek Road.
- The connector to the MGRA is great and should be the near term priority for the MMS.
- I do support the other hardened trails 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. I know Trout unlimited is opposed to new development in the MC watershed, per Kevin Maier, but if we could guarantee new MC trails like #4 and #5 would be non-motorized TU wouldn't have much with which to disagree.
- The hiking trail to Spaulding needs work. Many hikers, skiers, runners, snowshoers do the loop and go down by the John Muir Cabin.

I hope you are well.

Mike Hekkers

Get your elected officials to tackle the climate emergency and to reduce the plastic and waste stream!

Eric Moots

From: todd kirtley <toddk23@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 4:35 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana Creek Recreation Plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to comment on the proposals for the Montana Creek area.

I would personally love to see the road at 25 mile extended to access the motorized use area, as well as having a new cabin built.

A public cabin accessible to snowmachines has been sought after for many years in the Spauling Meadows area. We currently are only allowed to use Windfall Lake cabin. The access to this cabin is often extremely difficult to achieve with low snow conditions and blow downs that accumulate during the year. The Spauling area is preferred by lesser experienced riders as well as individuals who want to take younger riders up. A place to get outta the cold and warm up or stay the night would be wonderful.

The extension of the road at 25 mile could help a couple ways I believe. It would alleviate some of the congestion at the Lake Creek trail as well as allow access when snow conditions are not ideal closer to the valley. Not only does it usually snow a bit more out there, the trailhead would be at a higher elevation.

I appreciate the actions being taken with this project and hope to see improvements in the near future.

Thank you, Todd Kirtley

Eric Moots

From: wdc@cooganalaska.com
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 12:57 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana Creek Master Plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

I encourage your efforts at creating a Montana Creek Master Plan. I ask you build as much flexibility into the plan as possible; allow for change and adjustment to accommodate evolving community needs. Please review the overall status of various user groups vying against each other for the same space. How do these groups compare to each other regarding existing opportunities? Do skiers currently have less, or more, than motorized users? I'm sure they both pay taxes equivalently and are both entitled to their prorata share of user space across the borough? I encourage you to take your responsibility for critical analysis seriously. Remember, its your job to identify facts to determine a fair outcome rather than simply favoring the faction submitting the most comments. I sense a lot of people are watching this process with concern. I pray He gives you the necessary wisdom.

W Coogan, Alaskan since 1957.

Eric Moots

From: Tim Crondahl <tim.crondahl@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 12:18 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana creek master plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

There is a serious lack of land for atv/utv/side x side recreational use. It is important to have land designated for such use. Everywhere else in Alaska it's ok to use these vehicles except Juneau. Please open it up.

Thanks,
Tim Crondahl
907-957-0271

Sent from my iPhone

Eric Moots

From: Percy, Colton T (DFG) <colton.percy@alaska.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 10:25 AM
To: Parks Rec; Michele Elfers
Subject: Montana Creek Plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Good morning Michele,

I coordinate comments on behalf of ADF&G for municipal and borough plans, such as the Montana Creek plan. Due to the size and complexity of the plan, ADF&G staff are requesting an extension to the comment deadline as we won't have enough time to compile our comments before next Wednesday. Is an extension something we can work out? Thanks for your help.

Colton Percy

Habitat Biologist

Access Defense Program

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Division of Wildlife Conservation

333 Raspberry Rd

Anchorage, AK 99518

907-267-2118

Eric Moots

From: Zach & Mutts <decker@glacierguidesinc.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 9:14 AM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana creek Master plan ATV Use.

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

I would like to see increased use for OHV in the Montana creek master plan Area. Not only in the summer but winter use as well. I would like an area near EMS service that if needed would be accessible. I have youth riders that to drive to the end of the road is not an option for a few hr ride.

Glacier Guides Inc.
Alisha & Zach Decker
907-321-2180
www.glacierguidesinc.com

Eric Moots

From: Shelly_Noah Lager <lager_house@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 7:34 AM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana creek master plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Thanks for continuing work on the Montana creek master plan.

It's seems the plan does not include any solutions to expand atv,utv,suv/jeep access . As you may be aware this is a severely underserved group in this area.

Plan is bias to winter use for motorized use and use in general. We are missing options for 75% of the year as our snow levels continue to decrease. All winter users mention short season as a reason for their access needs. Let's use the rest of the year.

Plan unfairly favors physically able users. Motorized use can assist in allowing limited mobility access to city, state and federal lands. Access does not have to be paved sidewalk or hardened surface.

Does not encourage youth access to activities they find interesting. Outside of organized sports we lack alternative options. Youth of all social circles show interest in motorized activities. By not providing Options we are limiting their growth.

Thank you,
Noah Lager
Juneau, Ak

Sent from mobile device.

Eric Moots

From: Kayla Lanz <kayla.lanz@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 7:25 AM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Comment on Montana Creek plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Please increase motorized use for summer use off highway vehicles (atv,utv, suv) in this area.
Kayla Lanz (907) 723-5903

I am a born and raised Juneau Alaskan and I truly feel this would be such a great thing for our community.

Sent from my iPhone

Eric Moots

From: David Tallmon <david.tallmon@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 1:22 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: montana creek plan -2nd draft

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Dear CBJ-

I write to express my support for the 2nd draft of the Montana Creek Plan. In particular, I support the development of cross-country ski trails that connect Windfall Lake, Montana Creek, and the Mendenhall Valley. There is no question the number of ski trail users in Juneau is massive and that the current options for skiers are extremely limited. As a consequence, there is a great deal of overcrowding in the parking lots and on the ski trails in Montana Creek and the Mendenhall Campground. I would urge you to follow through on expanding ski trail opportunities and to separate non-motorized from motorized trails to the greatest extent possible. In addition, I would ask you to repair the Montana Creek bridge as soon as possible to alleviate ski trail congestion.

Thank you,
David Tallmon
4453 Mountainside Dr
Juneau AK 99801

Eric Moots

From: Sally Donaldson <sallyanndonaldson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2022 12:39 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana Creek Master Plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Dear CBJ Parks and Recreation Staff,

Thank you for your work on the Montana Creek Master Plan. A 76 year old person, I would like to be able to ski there in the not too distant future.

I am encouraged to see the development of new ski trails in this plan, and I encourage you to keep including them in future iterations--including a connector trail from Montana Creek to the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area, as well as trails connecting the Montana Creek valley to Spaulding Meadow.

Thank you for reading and considering this comment.

Sincerely,
Sally Donaldson
530 Park St
Juneau

Sent from my iPhone

Eric Moots

From: greg capito <gregcapito@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 3:30 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana Creek Plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Leave Montana Creek as is. You cannot improve upon it

Eric Moots

From: Augat, Gretchen M (DEC) <Gretchen.augat@alaska.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 3:17 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Montana Creek Master Plan report request

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Good afternoon. I couldn't attend the Montana Creek Master Plan meeting this week. Please send a copy of the report or a link.
Thank you.

Gretchen Augat, Environmental Specialist 3
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Nonpoint Source Water Pollution & Prevention Section
<https://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/>

(907) 465-5023

gretchen.augat@alaska.gov

Mailing address: P.O. Box 111800, Juneau, AK 99811

Physical address: 410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 303

Eric Moots

From: Gretchen Bishop <gretchen.h.bishop@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 11:53 AM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Re: Montana Creek Master Plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Greetings CBJ Parks and Rec Folks:

I am writing to comment about the Montana Creek Recreation Master Plan. I will state my interests and concerns in a general fashion rather than providing a lot of specifics as I have been unable to access the draft plan yet. I am concerned that:

- the quality of Montana Creek fish habitat be maintained by not greatly widening the trail,
- the quality of muskeg habitat not be further degraded resulting in soil erosion clogging the adjacent Montana Creek salmon spawning habitat,
- all of the current user groups continue to feel safe and welcomed on the Montana Creek trail system,
- the important wildlife corridor from Montana Creek to Windfall Lake stay as wild as possible,
- the peacefulness of Spaulding Meadows for backcountry non-motorized users not be any further degraded,
- the existing non-motorized recreational and commercial ventures on the Mendenhall Icefield not be ruined by allowing snowmobiles access to the glacier,
- the CBJ trail system not be expanded beyond our ability to fund its continued maintenance with dwindling borough, state, and federal budgets.

Opportunities for improvements that I see are:

- a hut to hut trail system connecting Montana Creek, Windfall Lake, Peterson Lake, and Spaulding Meadows,
- an additional cabin on this trail system.

Sincerely,

Gretchen H. Bishop
gretchen.h.bishop@gmail.com
907 419-0014

Sent from my iPhone

> On Nov 30, 2022, at 2:06 PM, Gretchen Bishop <gretchen.h.bishop@gmail.com> wrote:

> Greetings:

>

> I see I've missed the deadline to comment on the USFS/Nordic Ski Club/Snowmobile Club Montana Creek 'Ski' Development Master plan. Will there be any additional opportunities?

>

> Thanks,

>
> Gretchen H. Bishop
> Gretchen.h.bishop@gmail.com
>
> Please increase the number of ski opportunities presented in the Montana Creek master plan.
>
>
> Sent from my iPhone



On Nov 7, 2022, at 10:30 AM, Michele Elfers <Michele.Elfers@juneau.org> wrote:

Hi Noah,
CBJ, DNR, DOT and USFS have been working through public comments on the Montana Creek Master Plan and we are not sure we understand this comment/question:

Can we also look at allowing OHV access to Windfall lake road to access SOA-DNR lands?

Can you provide some more description, or maybe a map of what you are referring to and the type of access (winter/summer)?

Thanks,
Michele

-----Original Message-----

From: Shelly_Noah Lager <lager_house@msn.com>

Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 7:25 PM

To: Michele Elfers <Michele.Elfers@juneau.org>; Parks Rec <Parks.Rec@juneau.org>

Cc: megan.hillgartner@alaska.gov

Subject: Montana Creek Master Plan-OHV use comments

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Michele,
Excellent presentation. Thanks for taking the time to research all of the info required for a project of this scope. I noticed that a map of spring/summer use was not shared, and was hoping there are some options for OHV (jeep, Atv, side by side) use.

On that note,
Can we look into creating/allowing access to SOA land via CBJ parks lands for OHV use?

1. Can we look at using existing driveway access for Aant'iyeik Park to create OHV access next-door to SOA-DNR lands?
2. Can we also look at allowing OHV access to Windfall lake road to access SOA-DNR lands?
3. And finally can we look into expanded use of 25-mile road OHV use? (I believe this is federal

lands?) To include jeeps and side-by sides?

From my observations these areas are underused due to lack of access, and therefor lack issues from other user groups.

Plus continue to include me in the planing process. As I would like to continue to advocate for OHV use opporunities, that will allow for Juneau's Residents to further expand their outdoor entertainment options through out the borough. Along with providing responsible options for our youth to enjoy the outdoors.

Thank you,

Noah Lager
907-209-0909

Eric Moots

From: maciri@alaska.edu
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 1:58 PM
To: Michele Elfers
Cc: jrpugh@alaska.edu
Subject: Auke Lake Rough Trail Connections
Attachments: Rough Trail Connections.pdf

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Hi Michelle.... IT was great getting to meet with you today.

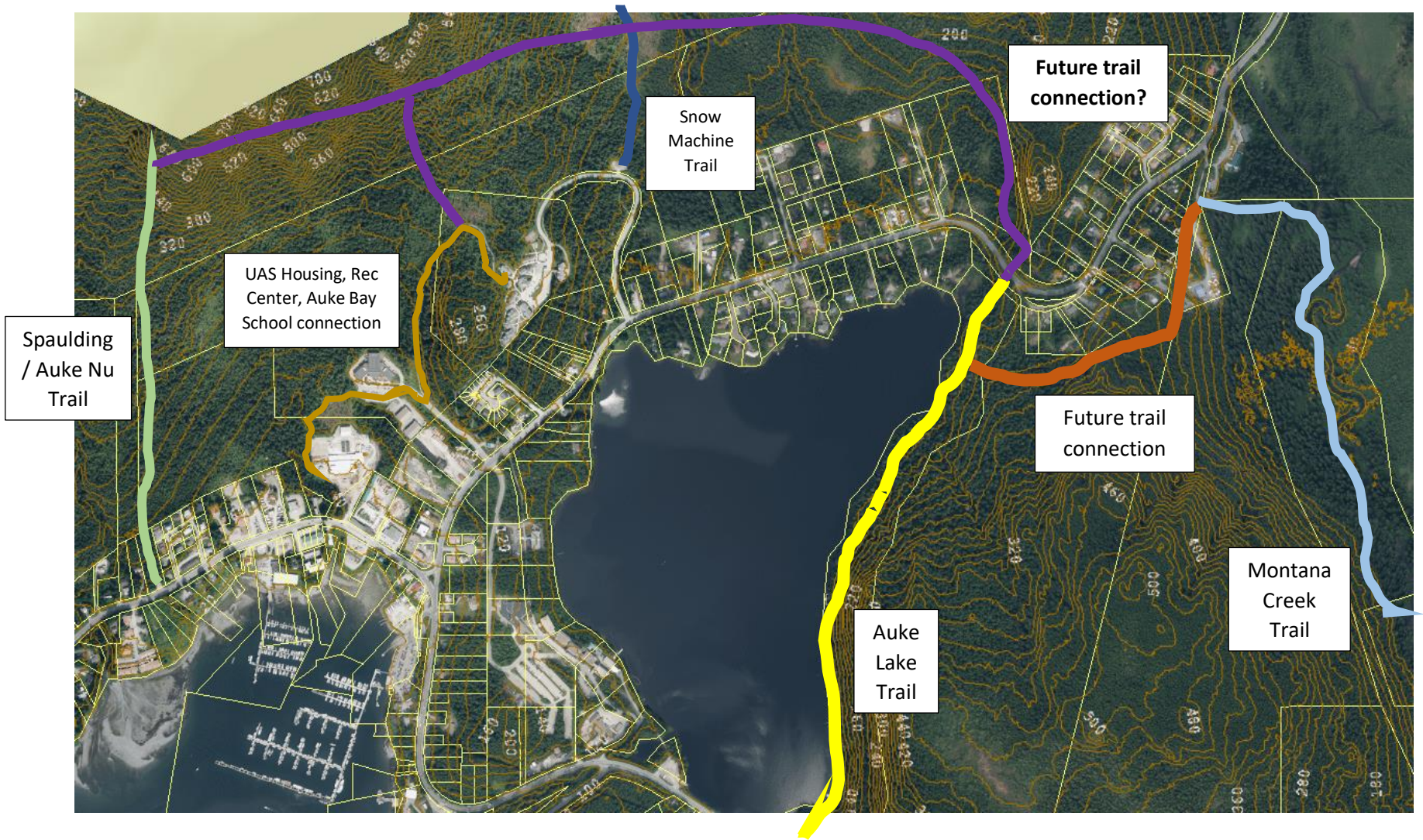
As promised... attached is my (very) rough drawing of a multiple trail interconnection that UAS would love to see happen.

In my drawing, the trail is in purple. I have tried to mark the other mail trails/paths used by our community. I'm not sure what the original idea was for this northern trail connection... it may be that it was envisioned slightly to the south.

I also recall you indicating that folks are thinking about connecting Auke bay school to the Spaulding / Auke Nu trail. That would be great for UAS as well. I included the path taken by UAS students walking from student housing to the recreation center and from the Rec Center to Auke Bay Elementary.

Anyhow... I hope this drawing makes some sense...

Michael



From: [Frankie Pillifant](#)
To: [Michele Elfers](#); [Frankie Pillifant](#)
Cc: [JNSC Board](#); [USFS](#); [DNR](#); [DOTPF](#); [George Schaaf](#); [Ryan O'Shaughnessy](#); [USFS](#)
Subject: JNSC comments to MCMP v.12072022
Date: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 10:55:11 AM

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

December 21, 2022

To: Michele Elfers, Deputy Director, CBJ Parks & Rec, Michele.Elfers@juneau.org

From: Juneau Nordic Ski Club (JNSC).

Re: JNSC comments to Montana Creek Master Plan draft v.December 7, 2022.

Dear Michele,

Thank you for including the Juneau Nordic Ski Club (JNSC) in this effort. The JNSC was encouraged that some of our proposals put forward during the effort have been incorporated in the current draft, specifically the new non-motorized Nordic connector trails from MGRA and into the east side of MC. We look forward to working with you to make these recreational trails a reality!

Our comments below are relative to winter snow conditions and Nordic ski grooming opportunities. The JNSC efforts rely on adequate snow cover which becomes compacted through grooming and develops a natural hardened snow surface. The JNSC long ago recognized that climate change is altering local weather patterns resulting in warmer and later winter and less snow in the usual lower elevations. If we are to continue this sport the need to gain access to snow at higher elevations is a priority.

Nordic skiers are clearly the largest winter user group in this process and the 1400+ rolling acres of Spaulding Meadows is the crown jewel of this Project Area, closely followed by the Montana Creek 'snow hole'.

The agency draft appears to be a collection of ideas from many users such as bicyclists, skiers, motorized, fishermen and hunters that lacks developed goals and objectives for the plan area, few maps, no analysis of costs, habitat impacts, or potential use. Most importantly though, management issues have not been acknowledged and resolved regarding the overarching aspects of equity and safety for all users of Spaulding Meadows and Montana Creek watershed. These must be addressed before full JNSC support can be extended on this draft.

The equity issue centers around designating approximately 90% of the meadows for motorized use in the winter. This leaves approximately a 10% sliver of the southeast corner of the prized meadows for the larger number of users. The JNSC strongly believes that it is of utmost importance to develop equity between the user groups by reallocating the division of the motorized/ non-motorized area that is the very heart of this Project Area.

The safety issue centers around the lack of safe winter access for all users on the current and proposed motorized routes. This effectively shuts out a nordic grooming program in Spaulding Meadows. This is compounded by the proposal to add an additional hardened trail for exclusive winter access by motorized vehicles, which de facto creates a motorized loop with high potential for through-traffic across the meadows between the two motorized access trails. Without additions for access to provide a ski trail grooming program, this is a big loss for cross country skiers, snow shoers, and winter hikers who make up the majority use of the area. The Lake Creek route currently under development has warning signage directed to skiers and hikers about the potential dangers of using that trail in winter. This means that trail is an exclusive motorized access route to the meadows. Without safe winter access routes for all users to the meadows as part of the plan, the JNSC cannot support additional motorized trail access to the Spaulding Meadows area.

JNSC has provided decades of winter recreation to Juneau residents. The number of Nordic skiers in Juneau

continues to grow rapidly and access to trails that are groomed for Nordic skiing are also utilized by walkers with dogs, hunters, fishermen, archery, snowshoers, ski programs and school groups. Recent years have seen dues paying membership rise to 1000. Those dues paying members help to provide safe outdoor winter recreation to thousands more families, school groups, hunters, fishermen, archery and dogs with walkers who have come to rely on the compacted and groomed winter trails.

The JNSC has been a good citizen and has always played by the rules. We have partnered with land managers and always adhered to our end of the partnership. We name the land managers with our insurance and have a board always available to address any issues that arise.

In conclusion, the December 7 draft provides an amount of information that takes time to digest, and providing comments in a rush, with a short deadline, will not result in meaningful, detailed, and specific comments. Full comments will be submitted by end of January 2023. Until that time the JNSC Nordic Ski Trail Development Plan should be used to understand the priorities of the JNSC membership (<https://jnski.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/JNSC-Nordic-Trail-Development-Plan-Jan-09-2022.pdf>).

The JNSC will continue to participate in conversations to collaborate on mitigating and refining proposed ideas and to help ensure that future development includes equitable and safe all-user access to Spaulding Meadows and Montana Creek. Thank you.

CC:

Tristan Fluharty, USFS <tristan.fluharty@usda.gov>,
Pete Schneider, USFS <Peter.Schneider@usda.gov>,
Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Trail Mix <ryan@juneautrails.org>,
Megan Hillgartner, DNR <megan.hillgartner@alaska.gov>,
Joanne Schmidt, DOTPF <joanne.schmidt@alaska.gov>,
George Schaaf, CBJ P&R <George.Schaaf@juneau.org>,

Frankie Pillifant,
907-209-1960c.
Juneau, AK.



January 13, 2023

To: Michele Elfers, Deputy Director, CBJ Parks & Rec, Michele.Elfers@juneau.org

From: Juneau Nordic Ski Club (JNSC)

Subject: JNSC comments and questions regarding the December 7th 2022 presentation and publication of the "Montana Creek Master Plan" maps and PDF.

The Juneau Nordic Ski Club (JNSC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Montana Creek Master Plan (MCMP) (2022). We are excited that trail planning and future trail development is being discussed in our community. With over 1000 paid members, 130 youth skiers in our 3 programs, two dozen adults in our newest program, other free events for families, women, and the skiing public, the infrastructure to groom 4 trails daily, and ~100 volunteers that groom and maintain the public trails on CBJ, USFS, and State of Alaska land; we hope to further the goals and the mission of the JNSC:

"To enhance, develop and promote Nordic skiing in Juneau."

We respectfully submit these general comments that support the Juneau Nordic Trail Development Plan, a plan that took nearly a year to write. We do not seek to rehash the pros and cons of each specific trail. Many of our members have previously submitted detailed comments on the MCMP. The Juneau Nordic Trail Development Plan generally seeks to have more interconnected multi-use, multi-season trails and trails and facilities that generally are located at higher elevations in colder areas. Please refer to this trail plan on our [website](#) for specific details.

- New interconnected, hardened trails that are designed for Nordic skiing are welcome and are our highest priority. Where possible, non-motorized access is encouraged.
- Improved access to Spaulding Meadows would allow all of our members to use this fantastic skiing area (tens of kilometers) especially as the snow line continues rising. JNSC seeks a more equitable sharing of Spaulding Meadows with the motorized users.
- New facilities like rental cabins (and their skiable trails) that could be destinations for skiers and others are welcome.
- A biathlon new facility would support this fledgling local group that has recently gained national attention.

JNSC will gladly partner with the above land owners and Trail Mix to help make these plans a reality. We do wish to see a roadmap for completion of the Master Plan process. Thank you for your time and planning efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Hekkers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Hekkers".

Michael Hekkers on behalf of JNSC Board

CC:

Tristan Fluharty, USFS <tristan.fluharty@usda.gov>,
Pete Schneider, USFS <Peter.Schneider@usda.gov>,
Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Trail Mix <ryan@juneautrails.org>,
Megan Hillgartner, DNR <megan.hillgartner@alaska.gov>,
Joanne Schmidt, DOTPF <joanne.schmidt@alaska.gov>,
George Schaaf, CBJ P&R <George.Schaaf@juneau.org>,

To: Michele Elfers, Deputy Director CBJ Parks & Recreation Dept.
From: Odin Brudie - 512 6th St, Juneau AK 99801 obrudie@gmail.com
Date: January 15, 2023

Dear Michele:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the MCMP. I am providing these comments on my own behalf, and not as comments from the Juneau Nordic Ski Club or any other group that I work with. My comments come from the perspective of a long-time skier and winter user of the Montana Creek planning area. Comments are based on several of the specific scenarios you presented on December 7 at the Trail Mix shop, in addition to the additional management and “next steps” recommendations in the MCMP update.

1A and 1B Reconstructing Montana Creek Trail to Windfall Lake.

Reconstructing the Windfall Lake Trail could represent a safe **non-motorized** trail for accessing Spaulding Meadows on skis or on foot. It would provide a safer ski route than the snowmobile access at Lake Creek provides. A non-motorized trail here would make a **great long-distance ski trail**, which is hard to find in Southeast Alaska.

3 Construct new Mendenhall Glacier Area Access Trail to connect to Montana Creek Rd.

This is a good project, to build a safe, skiable and groom-able connection between the the two areas, while accommodating the shooting sports. Also, expanding ski trails here will grow the opportunities to develop the sport of Biathlon (skiing and shooting) in the area.

4 Construct new trail on the north east side of Montana Creek.

This is a great project. I have explored the area, along Montana Creek and McGinnis Creek. **There is good snow cover and ample terrain** for developing a ski trail (five to ten kilometers) that would be akin to Kincaid Park in Anchorage. A well-designed **non-motorized trail** could be developed which honors the fish habitat, natural surroundings and solitude that this fabulous area offers.

5 Construct new connector trail between Montana Creek Road and Lake Creek/Spaulding Meadows.

This route is pretty steep for skiing but it could be a good running/hiking connector trail from Montana Creek Road to Spaulding.

6 and 7 Constructing new connectors between Auke Nu trail, John Muir Cabin, Peterson Lake.

Hardened trails would enhance summer use, i.e. hiking and biking, in the meadows. In winter, when snow cover is adequate for skiing in Spaulding Meadows, skiers don't tend to follow established or hardened trails. However, clearing (and possibly hardening) a trail between Spaulding Meadows and Peterson Lake would enhance the "overland" skiing. Skiers often link cabin nights between the John Muir and Petersen Lake cabins. The going is easy from the John Muir end, but when you get to the trees heading towards Petersen, the trail is not well defined, and the snow cover diminishes as you descend. Further, the trail from Petersen Lake down to the trailhead at Glacier Highway is especially difficult skiing; at some point you have to start walking.

8 and 9 Constructing new Spaulding Meadows access routes from Peterson Lake Trail and 25-Mile Road.

The existing trail from Glacier Highway to Peterson Lake, like the John Muir and Auk Nu Trails, does not provide easy ski access to Spaulding Meadows. The dense forest canopy, boardwalks, deep gullies, and narrow bridges make skiing difficult at best. Making a groom-able ski trail along and extending from the Petersen Lake Trail would be a major project. 25-Mile Road could serve as a portion of a good ski and non-motorized access to Spaulding and Windfall.

10 Construct trail connectors to Spaulding from UAS/Auke Bay School.

This is a good idea. If there was a way to build a new hiking and (groom-able) ski trail (not a road) from Auke Bay to the non-motorized portion of Spaulding Meadows, hundreds of people would benefit from better access to the winter wonderland that is Spaulding Meadows. This would be a good alternative to the very difficult (skiing) Auke Nu/John Muir Trail. With proper design (and bridges) I think it could be done; a worthwhile investment.

Management and Next Steps:

DNR and CBJ consider Cooperative Management Agreement for management of state lands around Montana Creek Road and Trail per the Juneau State Land Plan recommendation.

I strongly support this management strategy. This land was originally selected from the national forest by the State on behalf of CBJ for community recreation. For DNR it remains as an isolated piece of State land. CBJ is the logical onsite recreation manager for this area.

Thank you for considering my comments.

January 3, 2023

Michele Elfers
Deputy Director
CBJ Parks and Recreation Department
155 S. Seward Street - City Hall Rm 218
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Comments on Revised Draft Montana Creek Master Plan

Dear Michele,

Thank you for accepting these comments on the revised version of the draft Montana Creek Plan (the revised Plan) as presented in the public meeting at the Trailmix office on December 7, 2022. These comments are in addition to those I submitted on September 10, 2022.

To be clear, my main concerns are related to ATV 4 wheeler use during the spring/summer/fall period when adult and/or juvenile fish are present and the potential for the proposed new infrastructure to damage fish habitat. I am not able to comment on the winter use aspects of the revised Plan. As I wrote in my earlier comments:

“...the Draft Plan does not recognize or describe the extensive habitat degradation and damage due to the use of ATV’s in the watershed. Nor does the plan propose any significant specific measures to halt and restore the habitat damage. In fact, the draft plan appears to provide increased ATV use in the watershed, without any analysis of the damage from existing motorized use or an analysis of the impacts of the additional motorized use and access the draft plan would provide. This contradicts the fact that public comment to date has shown a preference for non-motorized access to motorized access by more than 2 to 1. It makes no sense to propose additional access without dealing with the problems created so far by ATV access.”

The above comment remains valid and has not been addressed in the revised Plan. In fact, few if any of the issues I raised in my earlier comments were addressed in the revised Plan. How does the revised Plan address the decades-long and ongoing problems with ATV’s in Montana Creek? User conflicts, off trail riding, illegal trail construction, riding in the creek, garbage, habitat destruction? It seems that these issues are to be put off to be addressed in uncertain processes to happen after the Montana Creek plan is finalized and approved. **If this is truly a “Master Plan” it should address these issues now, not later.**

Also, to host the public comment period on the revised Plan for only 2 weeks right before the holidays is simply bad process. More time should be provided for interested individuals and groups to research the issue, consult members and provide meaningful comments.

1. Lack of detail in the revised Plan

To be blunt, it is more than a bit optimistic to call the revised Plan a “Master Plan.” The revised Plan consists of simply a few low resolution maps with various colored lines denoting proposed new trails, other infrastructure and some management boundaries. The way the summer use and winter use maps are presented is confusing and hard to analyze...there is no one map that demonstrates the overall Plan.

There is no plan document that explains why the new trail, cabin and other infrastructure have been proposed; there is little explanation of why the specific routes were chosen; there is no analysis of costs; no analysis of habitat effects of more trails and motorized use, effects of the cabins, outhouses and additional infrastructure, additional parking; no analysis of how much this proposal will increase use of Montana Creek and what effects that will have on habitat, on user experience. Without such information it is not possible to fully analyze the revised Plan.

In my 35 years of conservation work I have analyzed well over a hundred land management plans and EIS-type documents for projects of many types from massive open pit mines to small local projects. There are a significant number of issues normally analyzed in these processes that are not addressed in the revised Plan, including:

- alternatives;
- costs;
- environmental effects such as fish habitat damage;
- expected use of the new infrastructure;
- mitigation measures; and
- enforcement.

The effort here seems to be to obtain approval based on the current vague plan and then sort out all of the details later. This is bad process. The Plan should contain specific provisions about things like habitat restoration, rather than deferring them to some uncertain, unguaranteed future process.

The revised plan is not a plan; it is a concept that needs to be much more fully analyzed and developed before approval and funding are sought.

2. Why does the revised Plan assume no changes to motorized regulations?

Despite asking this question at the December 7 meeting, it is still extremely unclear why the revised Plan assumes no changes to motorized use regulations. There was some vague statement about deferring this until after the plan was approved and to address it in some other process. This doesn't make sense. The ATV regulations are at the heart of some of the real problems in Montana Creek and some of the worst habitat damage. **If this is truly a "Master Plan", how can it ignore this issue?**

It has been stated that one problem is DNR land and the generally allowable for use ATV policy. First, the habitat destruction, riding in the creek and cutting of illegal trails in Montana Creek is not at all an allowable use. There is clear evidence that the ATV's use in this area is well beyond any reasonable legal definition of allowable use. Second, I haven't seen any efforts by CBJ to negotiate some kind of solution here with DNR. Is the CBJ willing to A) discuss a land transfer with DNR and B) investigate whether or not the ATV use in Montana Creek is an "allowable use"? Or is CBJ accepting that ATV riding is an allowable use in the Montana Creek DNR lands (and also the off trail riding into USFS lands)?

The area of Montana Creek beyond the damaged bridge at the end of the asphalt Montana Creek Road should be closed to ATV use because:

- both legal and illegal riding in this area has caused extensive fish habitat destruction;
- this access has led to illegal and destructive trail construction;
- the legal riding area here is very small and short;

--the ATV riding in the DNR land here is not an “allowable use”; and
--there will soon be other ATV riding areas in Juneau.

3. Revised Plan being developed in isolation from other important and linked issues

The revised Plan seems to be being developed in a vacuum...without any consideration of the history and current status of ATV use in Juneau...without any connection to the proposed ATV park, the consistent illegal, unsafe and destructive ATV riding in Echo Cove, the illegal and destructive riding in Davies Creek area. CBJ has the opportunity to solve a decades-long issue with ATVs in Juneau, but is only looking at Montana Creek in isolation here.

The new ATV park out the road should alleviate the need for and eliminate any justification for any ATV use in Montana creek. Has CBJ discussed this with the proponents of the ATV project and/or other state and local agencies involved? Has CBJ made any efforts to achieve a quid pro quo here...i.e. the ATV community gets a new ATV park and more (at considerable CBJ expense) but they support an end to ATV use in Montana Creek?

I find it ironic, and greedy, that some ATV riders are complaining that they need to keep Montana Creek open and even expand ATV use in the watershed because they don't want to drive all the way out to 25 or 35 mile. At the December 7 public meeting I was surprised at the nature of the comments from the ATV users including:

--ATV users said the ski club doesn't like us and wishes we would go away...the former USFS person also didn't like us...we're the victims. My response is that this isn't an issue of like or dislike. This is an issue of public safety, habitat protection, conflicts with other users and the lack of recognition from ATV users of the history of illegal riding and habitat damage in Montana Creek. Many ATV riders simply do not recognize their effects on habitat and other users.

--ATV users continue to complain about getting kicked out of areas and apparently have no recognition of why this has happened. The reasons are largely due to the various impacts and conflicts created by ATV riding.

--ATV riders continue to say this is just an issue of a few bad apples. Well, either those few bad apples are having a huge impact all across Juneau or it's more than just a few miscreants. There are areas that are simply inappropriate for ATV riding and Montana Creek is one of them.

--CBJ is working on an ATV park at 35 mile and also proposing a riding area at 25 mile. Yet apparently this is not enough. All the ATV riders did at the December 10 meeting was complain and demand more. Juneau is not Haines, Fairbanks or Nome where there is extensive land and roads for ATV riding. **The development of these 2 new riding areas should take away the main excuse for the legal and illegal ATV riding in Montana Creek, which has been that there is no other place to ride. There should be a quid pro quo here.**

4. Fish habitat and fishing issues need to be addressed

There is no analysis in the revised Plan or the process that has developed it that addresses the Plan's potential effects on fish habitat, fish populations and fishing. Alaska salmon are getting hammered by poor ocean conditions and thus it is vital that we do all we can to protect freshwater habitat. I recommend that the revised Plan be changed to contain:

- analysis of habitat effects;
- analysis of effects on fishing in the watershed;
- protections for critical coho spawning and rearing habitat;
- restoration of damaged habitats.

As the conflicts between skiers and motorized users seem to be getting all of the attention here, fish and fishing are being ignored.

5. Vague Commitments to Habitat Restoration

The revised Plan currently contains no specific discussion of or requirements for restoring habitat in Montana Creek damaged by legal and illegal ATV riding. Illegal construction of motorized trails has severely damaged habitat accessible from the road portion of Montana Creek Trail. **Restoration and rehabilitation of these areas should a specific part of the revised Plan and the highest priority during plan implementation.**

6. Proposed New Trails

The routing of the proposed new non-motorized trail (project 4 in the December 7 presentation) near the end of the existing Montana Creek Road raises habitat concerns. While the route is no doubt preliminary, it appears to travel through and around documented anadromous waters (including Little McGinnis and McGinnis Creek proper, as well as other smaller tributaries). Before the final Montana Creek plan is approved the potential habitat effects of this route should be investigated and alternatives analyzed. If at all possible, no trails should be constructed on the fan to protect the high-quality fish and wildlife habitat in that area.

7. Enforcement

The only mention I have heard about enforcement is signage and maybe education. Signage has been a dismal failure at Sheep Creek, Montana Creek, and Echo Cove. Signs are ignored, destroyed, removed or used for target practice. In my experience most of the illegal riders know exactly what they are doing and just don't care...which raises questions about how much education will work. I am pretty sure based on experience that the various agencies do not have the staff time or will to more aggressively enforce regulations about illegal riding and habitat damage.

How will the Plan ensure that illegal ATV use is halted? How will CBJ ensure that winter use only motor trails are not used in the summer...that illegal spur trails are not made? These are not details to be worked out later.

From: [Iris Matthews](#)
To: [Parks Rec](#)
Subject: Montana Creek Master Plan
Date: Monday, December 26, 2022 9:43:57 AM

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Hello,

I apologize for being a bit late with these comments. Hopefully they can still be included. I am writing in support of proposed new cross-country ski and recreation trails in the Montana Creek Plan. Juneau needs more trails for skiing, particularly longer trails that this plan would support.

Thank you,

Iris Matthews

From: [Percy, Colton T \(DFG\)](#)
To: [Michele Elfers](#)
Cc: [Love, David C \(DFG\)](#); [Krull, Dylan P \(DFG\)](#); [Catterson, Matthew R \(DFG\)](#); [Lindgren, Jesse W \(DFG\)](#); [Teske, Daniel J \(DFG\)](#); [Carter, Marla M \(DFG\)](#); [Kanouse, Kate M \(DFG\)](#); [Koch, Carl H \(DFG\)](#); [Fritz, Evan \(DFG\)](#); [Churchwell, Roy T \(DFG\)](#)
Subject: RE: ADF&G Comments: Montana Creek Master Plan
Date: Tuesday, January 3, 2023 11:00:39 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Hi Michele,

Happy New Year! Here are our answers to the questions you had.

1. The proposed trail in the McGinnis Creek area on the draft plan would be non-motorized. Is the concern that creating any trail would attract motorized use in this area? Could the concern be mitigated if enforcement and management occurred?

-We agree that good management and enforcement is the correct way to address these concerns. It should also be noted that the proposed trail near McGinnis Creek follows the alignment of a historical ATV trail that was pioneered through the area without any permitting. This demonstrated use and resource impact contributes to our specific concerns for this proposed trail.

2. Can you tell me where Upper Slate Creek is and how the proposed plan impacts it? I am not familiar with which creek it is in the project area and how it is impacted by proposed/existing roads in the project area. Is it part of Windfall Creek?

-The current upper extent of anadromy of Slate Creek (a major tributary to Windfall Lake; ADF&G stream no 111-50-10070-2004-3006-4016) is 58.482743, -134.729321. This has not been field verified; depending on the results of our survey in 2023 known fish presence could be higher or lower in the drainage. The potential impacts to Slate creek could be the installation of a stream crossing structure which could alter or block fish passage (a fish habitat permit would likely be required depending on the results of the survey) and the potential for users to drive off the established road and create additional ATV trails. We have observed this throughout the region, and it has resulted in some habitat degradation.

3. Are the concerns about increased ATV use in winter months related to specific proposals in the plan, for example the proposed trail from 25 mile road to the new cabin at the north end of Spaulding Meadows? Other than that trail, there is no proposed change to the area that motorized use is allowed. Any more information you can provide on concerns about impacts as related to specific proposals in the plan would be helpful for the agency group to be able to address them.

-Winter use is not restricted to trails and so building a winter trail substantially opens up new area to off-trail use. If winter use moves out of Spaulding Meadows and head up towards the mountains, which we are already hearing is happening, then they will be immediately traveling through winter goat habitat. Goat populations in this area are not likely to survive regular snowmobile incursions into their mountain habitat.

-While the expansion of ATV use, specifically off-trail use, is not a part of this review or the project, it is often an unintended side effect of opening areas up to ATV use. While most users do not drive off trail where not allowed, it only takes a few users to degrade the habitat in the creek or in connected waterbodies. The main concern is sedimentation which negatively impacts spawning substrate, studies have shown that concentrations of as little as 15% fine sediment (by dry weight) can result in an 80% decline in survival of embryos; at concentrations of 20% or greater, mortality is near 100% (Quinn 2018). Rutting is also a concern in small streams and wetland areas used by rearing salmon as juvenile fish can be trapped at low water. Placing barriers and signs in important areas and

enforcement of unauthorized off trail use may help alleviate these issues.

Our overall message is that increased use of an area, especially motorized use, impacts habitat and measures should be taken to mitigate this. Good management and enforcement in the area will go a long way towards addressing our concerns. We understand that this is essentially a conceptual plan which lacks specific information on how these recreational facilities will be designed, built, or managed. As such, it was difficult to provide specific and detailed concerns or comments. However, we do look forward to providing specific comments on detailed plans and proposals when they are provided for review or through subsequent permitting processes.

We cannot thank you enough for allowing us the additional time to comment on this plan. Please let me know if there are any further questions or clarifications.

Colton Percy

Habitat Biologist

Access Defense Program

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Division of Wildlife Conservation

333 Raspberry Rd

Anchorage, AK 99518

907-267-2118

From: Michele Elfers <Michele.Elfers@juneau.gov>

Sent: Thursday, December 29, 2022 7:15 AM

To: Percy, Colton T (DFG) <colton.percy@alaska.gov>

Cc: Love, David C (DFG) <david.love@alaska.gov>; Krull, Dylan P (DFG) <dylan.krull@alaska.gov>;

Catterson, Matthew R (DFG) <matt.catterson@alaska.gov>; Lindgren, Jesse W (DFG)

<jesse.lindgren@alaska.gov>; Teske, Daniel J (DFG) <daniel.teske@alaska.gov>; Carter, Marla M

(DFG) <marla.carter@alaska.gov>; Kanouse, Kate M (DFG) <kate.kanouse@alaska.gov>; Koch, Carl H

(DFG) <carl.koch@alaska.gov>; Fritz, Evan (DFG) <evan.fritz@alaska.gov>

Subject: RE: ADF&G Comments: Montana Creek Master Plan

Some people who received this message don't often get email from michele.elfers@juneau.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Colton,

Thanks for these comments. I have a few questions, just to make sure I understand them before I pass them on to the other federal and state agencies working on the plan.

1. The proposed trail in the McGinnis Creek area on the draft plan would be non-motorized. Is the concern that creating any trail would attract motorized use in this area? Could the concern be mitigated if enforcement and management occurred?

2. Can you tell me where Upper Slate Creek is and how the proposed plan impacts it? I am not

familiar with which creek it is in the project area and how it is impacted by proposed/existing roads in the project area. Is it part of Windfall Creek?

3. Are the concerns about increased ATV use in winter months related to specific proposals in the plan, for example the proposed trail from 25 mile road to the new cabin at the north end of Spaulding Meadows? Other than that trail, there is no proposed change to the area that motorized use is allowed.

Any more information you can provide on concerns about impacts as related to specific proposals in the plan would be helpful for the agency group to be able to address them.

Thanks!
Michele Elfers

Michele Elfers
Deputy Director
Parks & Recreation
Michele.Elfers@juneau.gov (note change in email)
Ph: 364-2390



155 S. Seward St. | Juneau, AK 99801

From: Percy, Colton T (DFG) <colton.percy@alaska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 28, 2022 4:06 PM
To: Michele Elfers <Michele.Elfers@juneau.gov>
Cc: Love, David C (DFG) <david.love@alaska.gov>; Krull, Dylan P (DFG) <dylan.krull@alaska.gov>; Percy, Colton T (DFG) <colton.percy@alaska.gov>; Catterson, Matthew R (DFG) <matt.catterson@alaska.gov>; Lindgren, Jesse W (DFG) <jesse.lindgren@alaska.gov>; Teske, Daniel J (DFG) <daniel.teske@alaska.gov>; Carter, Marla M (DFG) <marla.carter@alaska.gov>; Kanouse, Kate M (DFG) <kate.kanouse@alaska.gov>; Koch, Carl H (DFG) <carl.koch@alaska.gov>; Fritz, Evan (DFG) <evan.fritz@alaska.gov>
Subject: ADF&G Comments: Montana Creek Master Plan

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Hi Michele,

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has reviewed the Montana Creek Recreation Area Master Plan in Juneau. The goal of the plan is to create a master planning document that identifies recreational facilities in the

Montana Creek Recreation Area with a planning horizon of ten years. The Plan has identified the need to reconstruct existing trails, develop new motorized and non-motorized trails, and construct additional US Forest Service (USFS) public use cabins in the planning area. ADF&G has the following comments:

Support

-ADF&G supports the improved access, trail system connections, USFS public cabin construction, and recreational activities provided for in this Plan.

Concerns

-ATV use along the proposed trail in Upper McGinnis Creek may result in habitat degradation and expanded recreational mining activities in both McGinnis and Montana Creek.

-Impacts to upper Slate Creek from the road alignment and ATV access. Slate Creek is Juneau's only roadside sockeye salmon fishery. Surveys will be conducted by ADF&G during the end of July/beginning of August 2023 to determine the upper extent of fish use.

-ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) has concerns about increased ATV usage, especially in the winter months. With extensive off-trail winter use, snowmachine riders are going to get further out and start to impact winter mountain goat and deer habitat. DWC Staff in the Douglas office are happy to help with consultation on mountain goat habitat impacts in the McGinnis Creek drainage.

- [907-465-4266](tel:907-465-4266) Roy Chrchwell, Area Biologist

General Comments

-ATV related Habitat destruction issues should be addressed on current trails before opening new trails to ATV's. We would like to see the development of a plan to address enforcement of off-trail ATV use, especially in the Montana Creek Watershed.

-Bridges are preferable to culverts as they require less maintenance and have less environmental impact.

-Trails should not go through wetlands or parallel streams when applicable.

-Trails and bridges should be constructed to prevent ATV use on non-motorized trails.

-ADF&G Habitat Division in Juneau should be contacted early in the process of trail construction consultation and Fish Habitat Permitting.

- dfg.hab.infodou@alaska.gov

- [907-465-4105](tel:907-465-4105)

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Montana Creek Recreation Area Master Plan. ADF&G appreciates the additional time to be involved in the process and provide comments. We look forward to hearing from you and our continued involvement in this planning effort. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions about these comments.

Colton Percy

Habitat Biologist

Access Defense Program

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Division of Wildlife Conservation

333 Raspberry Rd

Anchorage, AK 99518

907-267-2118