

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SESSION

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SENATOR BERT K. STEDMAN

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Stedman Vote Advances Trail Funding

LB&A Committee accepts federal funds to enhance trails and outdoor recreation

(Anchorage) – Today the Legislative Budget & Audit Committee authorized the Alaska Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation to receive additional federal money, which should advance several priority trail projects throughout the state. Senator Bert Stedman, a member of the committee and strong proponent of recreational trail development, voted to support the funding.

“Trails are a fundamental part of outdoor recreation in Alaska,” said Senator Stedman. “Today’s vote makes use of time-sensitive federal funds to improve the quality of life in our communities.”

The funding will support the Alaska Trail Initiative, a program that finances trail construction throughout the state. The Alaska Outdoor Recreation & Trails Advisory Board worked with DNR to recommend projects that are already underway, permitted, and near completion.

Today’s action clears the way for non-profits to receive funding once the division’s plan is approved by the Federal Highway Administration. The funding plan includes numerous trails in Southeast Alaska, including the Sitka Cross Trail and the World War II Causeway. “I am pleased two important projects in Sitka are on the list,” said Stedman.

For more information, contact Weston Eiler at (907) 465-3873

DISTRICT A

Ketchikan • Sitka • Petersburg • Wrangell
Pelican • Elfin Cove • Port Alexander • Saxman • Meyers Chuck • Thorne Bay • Coffman Cove • Hollis

Alaska Trails Initiative Project Selections – 2009/10

The following proposed projects have been tentatively selected by the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation to be funded with FFY 2009 Alaska Trails Initiative (ATI) dollars. In total, the State of Alaska will receive 1.9 million dollars from the 2009 Omnibus Appropriation. Upon successful completion of necessary NEPA evaluation and state agency review, project dollars will be allocated to the listed organizations. Final review and project approval will be conducted by the Western Federal Land Office, which provides general compliance and program oversight.

Projects:	Estimated Cost:
Juneau Nordic Trails, Juneau Nordic Ski Club <ul style="list-style-type: none">Funds will be used to complete the trail linking the Eaglecrest Lodge to the beginning of the Treadwell Ditch.	\$133,180
Sitka Cross Trail, Sitka Trail Works, Inc. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Funds will be used to complete a one-mile segment of trail and an 80' bridge, linking a new neighborhood subdivision with the existing multi-use pathway (the Sitka Cross Trail).	\$333,000
Iditarod Easement Adjudication, Iditarod Trail Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">Funds will be used to support two positions to complete trail easement adjudication for two years.	\$359,674
Perseverance Trail Enhancements, Trail Mix <ul style="list-style-type: none">Funds will be used to continue the widening and upgrade of the existing historic trail and pay for the construction of a 50' bridge over Gold Creek.	\$100,000
Hatcher Pass Multi-Purpose Trails, Alaska State Parks <ul style="list-style-type: none">Funds will be used to brush the Goldmint trail to mile 5.5 and repair a bridge at mile .05.	\$43,475
ADF&G Wildlife Trail Development, ADF&G <ul style="list-style-type: none">Funds will be used for signage, educational materials, and brochures for the Kenai Wildlife Viewing Trail and Alaska Coastal Wildlife Viewing Trail.	\$112,675
Iditarod Trail, United States Forest Service <ul style="list-style-type: none">Funds will be used to construct 1.1 miles of trail that will connect the Winner Creek Gorge trailhead to the Girdwood Elementary School.	\$75,000
Spencer Lake Trail, United States Forest Service <ul style="list-style-type: none">Funds will be used to complete an additional trail to a cabin site	\$100,000

which includes the construction of 30' bridge.

Nugget Falls Accessible Trail, United States Forest Service	\$63,200
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Funds will be used to complete the final section of the Nugget Falls trail which leads hikers to a waterfall and the Mendenhall Glacier view point.	
Tsalteshi Trail Improvement, Tsalteshi Trail Association	\$74,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Funds will be used to install 2.5 kilometers of trail lighting and signage; and will contribute to the purchase of maintenance equipment.	
Auke Lake Trail, University of Alaska, Southeast	\$175,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Funds will be used to create an interconnecting trail from the Auke Lake trailhead parking area to the University campus.	
Angel Creek, Alaska State Parks (Northern Area)	\$103,950
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Funds will be used to finish and clear 6.5 miles of new contour, curvilinear trail.	
Montana Creek Motor Musers, Montana Creek Motor Musers	\$81,900
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Funds will be used to create a loop trail from Yoder Road East to the parks Highway near Sheep Creek Lodge.	
White Mountain Ski Trails, City of White Mountain	\$31,289
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Funds will be used to improve existing ski, cross-country running, and subsistence trails that lead out of the village of White Mountain	
Administrative Overhead (6%), Div. of Parks and Outdoor Rec.	\$113,657
Total =	\$1,900,000

Pass-through funds for the WWII Causeway Tr., Sitka Trail Works \$187,200

- This funding is a final payment that comes from the Safety-Lu Transportation Bill for the WWII Causeway Project (Original funding from this Bill was a line item of \$850,000 for the WWII Causeway and Multi-Use Trails).**

Grand Total = \$2,087,200

Proposed Alternate Projects

These projects were not chosen due to funding limitations; however, should any of the above projects fall out of compliance, become ineligible or get completed under budget, DPOR may decide to partially or fully fund the following:

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| World War II Causeway Trail, Sitka Trail Works, Inc. | \$80,000 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Funds will be used toward the clean-up expense of the World War II Causeway trail, which includes the removal of coastal debris – primarily trash. | |
| Under Thunder Trail, Trail Mix, Inc. | \$200,000 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Funds will be used to complete the construction of trail between Jennifer Drive and the existing “Powerline Trail” leading to the U.S. Forest Service’s Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center. | |
| Arctic Valley Trail | \$87,700 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Funds will be used to continue the Marston Trail approximately 3.2 miles to the South Fork Eagle River State Parks trailhead. | |