

Outdoor Recreational Trails Advisory Board (ORTAB)

MINUTES

JANUARY 17&18, 2023

9:00 AM– 4:30 PM

TELE & VIDEO CONFERENCE

MEETING CALLED BY	Department of Natural Resources: Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation (DPOR)
TYPE OF MEETING	Grant Applications for Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Funding Recommendations and Rankings
FACILITATOR	Joel Del Rosario, Administrative Operations Manager
NOTE TAKER	Natalya Fomina, DPOR Grants Administrator
TIMEKEEPER	all
ATTENDEES	ORTAB members 8 of 10 immediately present: Mike Sirofchuck, Ron Lurk, Bryant Wright, Christy Gentemann, Libby Kugel, Sally Anderson, Jeff Budd, and Andrew Carmichael. Staff Present: Ricky Gease, Director; Joel Del Rosario, Admin Ops Manager; Danette Berkovitz, Grants Manager; Rys Miranda, Chief, Design & Construction section; Natalya Fomina, Grants Administrator.

9:00 AM. Meeting was called to order by Administrative Operations Manager, Joel Del Rosario. Staff, ORTAB members, and members of the public introduced themselves over the phone and MS Teams connections. Roll call was taken and a quorum established with ORTAB members representing motorized, non-motorized and diversified user groups. Chair Sirofchuck indicated that his term as Chairman expired in October and advised that a new Chairman will be elected during today's meeting. Chair Sirofchuck left for the Board to decide whether his scores will be included in the final project determination. Director, Ricky Gease requested that Mr. Sirofchuck will chair today's meeting Chair Sirofchuck reviewed the agenda, meeting protocols, and guidelines and informed that grant applicants who are online will have the opportunity to provide a one-minute summary of the project. Director Gease explained the Bylaws requirement that at least one person from each representation attend for a quorum and made a recommendation to include Chair Sirofchuck's scoring in today's determination.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Motion to have Chair Sirofchuck participate in scoring and include his scores in determination.	Motion: Bryant Wright
Motion approved unanimously.	Second: Libby Kugel

Agenda topic: Recreational Trails Program (RTP) – updates for this application round

DISCUSSION	Director Gease provided an overview of Thursday's meeting agenda for Chair Sirofchuck. He noted that a meeting schedule for the remainder of 2023 and 2024 will be further discussed. He informed the participants of the meeting that The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) has been finalized and sent to the National Park Service (NPS). The SCORP will help guide the LWCF process and the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) process in ranking and scoring criteria. Director Gease discussed that there are enough grants applications in the process to warrant separate meetings for LWCF and for RTP. He requested ORTAB to join State Parks on a working group to review the current scoring criteria for RTP projects and LWCF projects in reference to the new SCORP and explore possibility of an online system to provide the ability for scoring and ranking to be submitted online to streamline the process. Director Gease said that Gary Greenberg, one of the SCORP contractors and the owner of Alaska Map Company, will attend the meeting on Thursday to discuss the new GIS tools. Alaska State Parks has included approximately 6,500 parcels of land that is used for outdoor recreation and has uploaded every LWCF grant into the database as a layer. The RTP layers will also be uploaded and available online. Answering ORTAB's questions about available funding for this RTP round, Director Gease explained that RTP is authorized for \$1.5 million, of which \$1.2 million can be distributed. Additional funding from the Department of Transportation (DOT) may be available and discussions regarding the amount are ongoing. He explained that the 40/30/30 distribution will be used for both State projects and Local sponsors projects and that approximately \$75,000 or 5% of the RTP is managed for safety and education. He gave the range of funding with a minimum of \$1.2 million and a maximum of \$2.2 million.
COMMENTS & CONCERNS	Chair Sirofchuck recognized that Mr. Budd was experiencing technical issues. He suggested taking a brief break to address the technical difficulties and return at 10:00 a.m. to begin Public Comments on the agenda. There was no objection, and a break was taken.

Agenda topic: 10:00 AM Public Comments

COMMENTS	ORTAB Chair Sirofchuck opened the public comment period at 10:00 AM. He stated that everyone would have the opportunity to speak, and the recorder would like people to say and spell their name prior to commenting. Each person would have about 3 minutes to speak, and any grant applicants on the line would also have an opportunity to give a brief, one-minute summary of their project to ORTAB as their project came up on the agenda later. Many applicants on the line stated they would wait until their project came up on the agenda to speak.
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	Marc Grober was the first speaker to provide public comments. Mr. Grober informed that he is an attorney and is also the Co-Chair of the Northeast Community Council Parks and Trails Committee and his comments reflect involvement in these two different capacities. Mr. Grober discussed that there is one major, in his opinion problem to the ORTAB process related to three expectations that ORTAB - it is expected that the public is informed about the application; that the community endorses the application, and it is expected that the landowner approves of the application. Mr. Grober emphasized that ORTAB has no way to verify the information represented in each application. He gave an example of 2018 project in Russian Jack Springs that community did not know about and most of the information within that application was inaccurate or fraudulent. Mr. Grober discussed that the local owner tried to change the project without the permission of DNR and the project was eventually terminated by DNR. Mr. Grober noted that he brought to the attention of the Deputy Commissioner that ORTAB is not provided information regarding the public's response to the project, even though it is required. Mr. Grober disagrees that that a one-page public notice of a general intent is sufficient, particularly in relation to the Russian Jack project. He discussed that the Community Councils, which are the voices of the community by law in Anchorage, have not endorsed the project. He specifically asked the Federation of Community Councils whether the Community Council had adopted any resolution and it hasn't. Mr. Grober commented that to get landowner approval for a project like this, it would have to go through the Parks Commission and the Urban Design Commission with detailed plans. He said there is a substantial process in large communities that is designed to ensure the public is involved and that a small user group is not controlling the public resources. Mr. Grober informed that the Parks Commission, which is the first step in getting Municipality of Anchorage approval for the project, will not meet to address the project until next month and has not provided any project details to the public. Based upon the time it would take to get public permission for the project, the project could not be completed within one year of the grant. He discussed that from an outside perspective, the entire purpose of such grants is to bypass the public process. He noted that Parks and Recreation in the Municipality is obliged under ordinance to come to the Community Councils with the project details to collaboratively plan the project before the project can move forward. Mr. Grober informed that ORTAB is being asked to approve almost \$200,000 on a project that the community knows nothing about and stated that someone is committing fraud on ORTAB. Answering Ms. Andersen question if Mr. Grober is with the Municipality of Anchorage, Mr. Grober noted that he is not employed by the Municipality of Anchorage and that Anchorage has a Community Council system in which independent associations are recognized under ordinance as speaking for the community. The ordinance requires that the various Municipal agencies must collaborate with the Community Councils. Under the ordinance, any Community Council within 500 feet of a regional park is identified as a collaborative party in any projects in that park. Bryant Wright asked if either the Northeast Community Council or the Russian Jack Community Council participated in the update of the Russian Jack facility plan. Mr. Grober said that Northeast Community Council was excluded from consideration because no delegates were allowed to the Community Advisory Committee for the Master Plan, nor did Parks and Recreation bring the Master Plan to the Northeast Community Council for collaboration, as required by ordinance. The Russian Jack Community Council voted in support of the Master Plan without review, before the Master Plan was published. Mr. Wright asked Mr. Grober for the ordinance number that he referenced in his comments. Mr. Grober stated the number is Title 21 03H3 and offered to email the specific Municipal code links to whoever is best to receive them. Mr. Gease requested that Mr. Grober email the links to Ms. Fomina or to Mr. Del Rosario. Lanette Oliver, Valdez Adventure Alliance, expressed her thoughts regarding Mr. Grober's comments that the situation he discussed is rare, saying that the Valdez Adventure Alliance Board has been working for many years with the Ketchikan Trails and has not had any problems. She advised that Valdez Adventure Alliance engages in more community contact than is required and provides presentations to the City Council. Ms. Oliver highlighted that her community is small. There were no other questions or comments, Chair Sirofchuck closed the public comment period.
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Agenda topic:10 Safety & Education, Motorized and Diversified project applications scoring and discussion (2 State, 8 Local Sponsors)

DISCUSSION	35 Mile ORV Riding Park, City and Borough of Juneau. Motorized. Colby Shibley of City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) Parks and Recreation presented the project. Mr. Shibley informed that there have been little to no legal ORV riding areas in Juneau and this project will create the first intentionally designed and managed ORV riding park in Juneau. The grant will fund the first phase of the project, consisting of the lower loop trail construction. Juneau Parks and Recreation is committed to work on the trails and features in the park that will have a gated entry, parking area, and five miles of trails designed for diverse riding abilities. The project would be managed by CBJ in partnership with Juneau Douglas Motocross Association (JORA) to create safe, fun, and accessible trails for the Juneau community. <i>Request: \$299,970.00. (Ranked 2: Score 91.6)</i> Alaska Snowmachine Alliance Grooming Operation, Alaska Snowmachine Alliance (ASA). Diverse. Michele Stevens, a representative from the Alaska Snowmachine Alliance, requested to share her screen to play the project summary video. Due to increase in outdoor winter recreation during the last two seasons, snowmachine clubs and organizations have struggled to keep up with grooming. This grant will provide funding for grooming trails for 16 weeks, and a total of 16,000 miles of road-class winter trails for all user groups, including fat-tire bikers, skiers, hikers, and dog-mushers. Groomed trails also provide highways to businesses so they can remain open in the winter months. <i>Request: \$199,999.80. (Ranked 24: Score 67.2)</i> • •
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	• Snowcat House Petersburg, Petersburg Community Non-Profit Corp. Motorized. Michele Stevens, a representative from the Alaska Snowmachine Alliance, requested to share her screen to play the project summary video. Ms. Stevens explained that to serve the community in a best way and to maintain the groomed trails systems, Petersburg needs a maintenance facility to house the snowcats and to conduct maintenance after each grooming session to extend the life of the equipment. The facility will also provide a place to store the delineators for marking trails for safety and storage for search and rescue supplies. The second-floor mezzanine will provide an area for briefing and debriefing for search and rescues. <i>Request: \$243,001.00. (Ranked 23: Score 76.4)</i> • Bird Point Education Project, DNR DPOR - Education and Interpretation Section. S&E. Shawna Popovici, DNR DPOR, Interpretation and Education Unit, presented the project. In this project proposal applicant plans to design and fabricate educational panels to replace outdated existing panels at Bird Point, Chugach State Park. This project will update bulletin boards with current safety messages and regulations with site-specific information. Additionally, the spotting scopes will be refurbished with new heads and lenses. The Rainbow Community Council approached Ms. Popovici to partner on this project. <i>Request: \$74,600.00. (Ranked 3: Score 90.5)</i> • Caribou Lake Trail Rehabilitation, Snomads, Inc. Diverse. Anna Liljedahl provided a summary of the project. Doug Inglis was also present on the line. Ms. Liljedahl explained that the project proposes to rehabilitate the first two miles of the severely degraded Caribou Lake Trail. The trail is the main access to the southern and central portion of Kenai Peninsula and attracts a diverse set of users. The trail entrance has the largest parking lot for Peninsula trails and this project will allow users to move ATVs off the wetlands to the uplands. <i>Request: \$172,123.92. (Ranked 6: 89.4)</i> • CSP: Eklutna Lake Trailhead improvement, DNR DPOR Design & Construction. Diverse. Rys Miranda, Alaska State Parks, presented the project. Mr. Miranda explained that the project will improve the trailhead of the last major unpaved facility in the area. It will include paving and stripping the parking lot, installation of required signage, and construction of an orientation kiosk for improved messaging. <i>Request: \$455,265.00. (Ranked 19: Score 81.9)</i> • South Denali Winter Trails, Curry Ridge Riders. Motorized. Michelle LaRose, Curry Ridge Riders, presented the project. The application is for a purpose to build groomer that is 8'X18' with a 2' retractable wing and is specifically applicable to trail range from 1' to 14' wide and are unique with many trees and many creek crossings. Ms. LaRose explained this groomer with a wing is one-of-a-kind that gives flexibility to maneuver around obstacles in the trail. <i>Request: \$50,585.00. (Ranked 18: Score 82.8)</i> • Petersville Area Grooming Operation, Petersburg Community Non-Profit Corp. Motorized. Michele Stevens, Alaska Snowmachine Alliance (ASA), shared her screen to play the project summary video. Petersburg Community Non-Profit is responsible for 123 miles of groomed trails. User groups that benefit from groomed trails, include fat-tire bikers, skiers, hikers, dog-mushers, and snowmachiners. Groomed trails provide safety for families and cabin owners, assist Petersburg search and rescue, prevent people from getting lost, and are the essential part of winter recreations. <i>Request: \$96,965.00. (Ranked 21: Score 79.3)</i> • Willow Trails Rehabilitation Project, Willow Trail Committee. Motorized. Steve Charles, Alaska Trails. Inc presented the project. Mr. Charles explained that Willow Trails is a very popular multi-use ATV summer trail that was constructed with RTP funding in 2014 and 2016. Weaknesses in the trail, identified during breakup season need reinforcement and this project will rehabilitate approximately six miles of Willow Trail. The application was submitted under Motorized, but the trail use is also Diversified. <i>Request: \$35,946.18. (Ranked 15: Score 86.2)</i> • Willow Winter Trail Grooming, Willow Trail Committee. Motorized. Steve Charles, Alaska Trails. Inc presented the project. This project is for the West side of Parks Highway, the most heavily used by snowmachines for activities such as Iditarod, Iron Dog, weekend recreation, and touring. Grooming costs have increased due to additional trail usage and inflation. Mr. Charles informed that the Willow Trail Committee applies for funding each year through the SnowTrac program, other funding sources include private donations and the Borough. <i>Request: \$7,200.00. (Ranked 8: Score 88.7)</i>
COMMENTS & CONCERNS	Chair Sirofchuck noted that the list of Nonmotorized project list slated for tomorrow is long. He recommended that after the break, ORTAB could hear from Nonmotorized project representatives who are online today even though they are scheduled for tomorrow and asked for member feedback. Mr. Budd expressed support to move forward. Mr. Lurk agreed. There were no objections. Chair Sirofchuck advised that he proceed down the list and hear from any applicants who are in attendance today.

Agenda topic: 14 RTP Non-Motorized Applications (5 State, 9 Local Sponsors)

DISCUSSION	• Delta River Walk Trails II, Delta Junction Trails Association. Non-Motorized. Mindy Eggleston, Delta Junction Trails Association (DJTA), explained that this project will complete the multi-phase vision of the trail system of Delta River Walk Park, north of Delta Junction and will connect the routes within the final portion of the park's footprint. Upon the trail completion, DJTA will continue to move forward with the final phases. <i>Request: \$45,049.50. (Ranked 7: Score 89.2)</i>
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DISCUSSION

- **Ninilchik River Scenic Overlook Angler Trail Reconstruction. The Kenai Watershed Forum.** Non-Motorized. Brandon Drzazgowski discussed that the project is located inside the Ninilchik State Recreation Area and is managed by State Parks. The project would remove the wooden structures of stairs and walkways that are now unsafe and replace them with elevated, light-penetrating (ELP) walkways made of aluminum. The project also includes a separate ELP walkway that branches over an identified cold water input tributary. The ELP walkways would increase stability and mobility on the trail and reduce erosion.
.. Request: \$53,969.19. (Ranked 11: Score 87.9)
 - **North Rainbird Trail Improvements. Ketchikan Gateway Borough.** Non-Motorized. Morgan Barry discussed that the project consists of improvements to a 2/3-mile section of the Rainbird Trail running from the north trailhead to the UAS Ketchikan campus located within the City of Ketchikan. The project entails trail clearing for a 2.5-foot-wide walking surface, regrading existing sections of the trail, replacing or resetting raised rock drainage, rock-cut stairs in some locations, and downed tree removal that inhibits proper trail alignment. The Rainbird Trail is Ketchikan's most heavily used trail, and its location is near to cruise ship docks, residential areas, elementary schools, daycares, government offices, and other populated spaces.
Request: \$121,859.37. (Ranked 12: Score 87.4)
 - **Shoup Bay Trail Phase 3. Valdez Adventure Alliance.** Non-Motorized. Lanette Oliver presented the project. Ms. Oliver discussed that the project is for the Shoup Bay Trail phased improvements since 2019. Phase 3 will focus on cutting 2.5 mile section from the point just past the marsh to the camping area at Gold Creek. The trail will be cut 6 ft wide with up to 6 ft encroachment on each side where possible to reduce immediate re-encroachment of alder and devil's club, and improve visibility for better safety.
Request: \$66,810.00 (Ranked 13: Score 87.1)
- Jan 17, 2023. 3:09 PM: Adjourn for the Day.
Continue Discussion and Ranking of Proposals into January 18th,2023.**
- **Woody Island Trails. DNR DPOR Southwest,** Non-Motorized. Ben Shryock presented the project. Woody Island State Recreation Site is on Woody Island, which is popular destination because it is available by motorboat, kayak, pack raft, and provides dispersed camping. The project improves the trail system, including signage, and will make the trail to the long lake side about a mile paddle, rather than paddling around the island.
Request: \$31,500.00. (Ranked 14: Score 87.1)
 - **Byers Lake Loop Trail Brushing and Tread Repairs. DNR DPOR Mat-Su/Denali State Park.** Non-Motorized. Stuart Leidner presented the project. The focus of the project is removal beetle infested spruce along Byers Lake Loop Trail, brushing, as well as repairing the outlet bridge that was taken out by an ice event. The project benefits the public and concessionaires that operate out of the Byers Lake Campground
Request: \$40,134.00. (Ranked 5: Score 89.8)
 - **Matanuska Lakes Trail Enhancement Project. DNR DPOR Mat-Su/Copper River Basin Region.** Non-Motorized. Stuart Leidner presented the project. This project will restore 2 miles of existing non-motorized trail within the Matanuska Lakes State Recreation Area. The primary focus will be on brushing and lodging out the trail corridors and repairing a section of badly eroded existing trail tread at the carry-in canoe landing at Matanuska Lake.
Request: \$29,687.00. (Ranked 9: Score 88.5)
 - **Caines Head SRA Trail Improvements-Rainforest/Alpine. DNR DPOR Kenai Region.** Non-Motorized. Jack Ransom presented the project. DNR DPOR Kenai Region plans to repair and rehabilitate portions of the Caines Head State Recreation Area (CHSRA) Trails system. This project addresses general maintenance needs such as repairing and hardening trail tread, building log and treated puncheon, improving drainage, particularly near the Bear Glacier area, to increase safety and maintain greater long-term sustainability of CHSRA trails. Work will take place on the Rainforest and Alpine Trails.
Request: \$98,192.50 (Ranked 10: Score 88.2)
 - **Campbell Tract New Single-Track Construction. US DOI Bureau of Land Management.** Non-Motorized. Scott Justham presented the project. This project will construct a new year-round, multi-use single track trail. This narrower trail will bisect a dog-mushing trail and the cross-country ski trails. It is intended to divert the fat-tire winter biking traffic, which has dramatically increased in Anchorage. The new trail will expand the existing trail network and enhance recreational opportunities in Campbell Tract and reduce conflict between various users groups. Mr. Justham noted that the process is ongoing to partner with different Youth Employment in Parks (YEP), Student Conservation Association (SCA), and NOFOs for trail crews or individual interns to help accomplish this project
Request: \$54,000.00. (Ranked 17: Score 84.4)
 - **China Poot Lake Trail - Flood Reroute. DNR DPOR - Kachemak Bay State Park.** Non-Motorized. Jason Okuly presented the project. The China Poot Lake Trail is identified as the second most popular trail in the Kachemak Bay area. The project is to build additional bridging, to raise sections of the trail out of the flooded area, and to build trail reroutes out of the flooded area onto higher ground. This project will also finish construction of two existing log bridges that were built in 2020 and 2022 in the flooded area of the China Poot Lake Trail.
Request: \$160,895.12. (Ranked 20: Score 81.9)
 - **Happy Valley Singletrack Repairs & Features. Fairbanks Cycle Club.** Non-Motorized. Geoff Orth presented the project. The trail system was constructed with RTP funds 12 years ago. This project will address signs of tread wear and cupping on the trail, repair 58 berms and install technical rial features.
Request: \$131,715.00. (Ranked 16: Score 85.3)

- **HoWL Stewardship Expeditions. HoWL, Inc.** Non-Motorized. Molly Mitchell presented the project. HoWL, Inc. will lead multiple remote trail improvement projects in Kachemak Bay State Park during 2023 and 2024 field seasons. Activities will include brushing, improving trail visibility in airplane areas, and maintaining campsite trails. HoWL staff and volunteers will complete the trail work on 5-days backcountry expeditions during which HoWL staff will teach wilderness safety and survival, leadership, leave no trace ethics, stewardship, and teamwork.
Request: \$107,203.14. (Ranked 1: Score 94.3)
- **Russian Jack Mountain Bike Trails. Alaska Trails.** Non-Motorized. Steve Cleary presented the project. This project will construct a mile long, two-way perimeter trail for mountain bike riding at Russian Jack Park on the east side of Anchorage with connections to Chester Creek Trail and Greenbelt Trail system. The project will focus on creating a trail system that includes a special skills development area uniquely designed for the safe progression of mountain biking skills. With this project signage will be installed to ensure way finding and safe riding.
Request: \$187,328.00. (Ranked 4: Score 90.3)
- **Smugglers Leg Trail. Hyder Community Association.** Non-Motorized. Carol Denton presented the project. Proposed Smugglers Leg Trail will be the first and only developed recreational site. The trail is 1,300 feet long, climbing 300 feet through the temperate rainforest to a viewpoint overlooking the north end of Portland Canal, and the site of historic Portland City The trail will be easily accessed and attractive for viewing the ecosystem, while also providing healthy and challenging recreation for both residents and tourists
Request: \$149,280.00. (Ranked 22: Score 78.8)

Each applicant spoke briefly about their proposal as it came up on the agenda. Chair Sirofchuck reminded all that ORTAB members could ask direct questions of applicants during board discussion, as needed, for clarification. Mr. Gease continued the agenda. He suggested that a general discussion can occur now regarding the allocation of the projects. The focus needs to be on the 40% Diversified /30% Motorized /30% Non-Motorized allocation and possible to recommend some of the projects that are Non-Motorized that may qualify as Diversified Non-Motorized in order to achieve the funding allocation.

Mr. Gease requested that ORTAB provide a recommended set of projects in three scenarios that do not include any snow grooming grants in this cycle. ORTAB discussion occurred and based on approximately \$1 million total funding with a 40/30/30 split for Non-DPOR projects.

Mr. Bryant recommended that ORTAB evaluate and rank the three scenarios based on the prioritization of highest-scoring projects, highest quantity of projects funded, and equitable geographic distribution of projects.

Mr. Lurk identified that based on the funding level amount, Scenario #1 could fund a total of eight projects, Scenario #2 could fund a total of nine projects, and Scenario #3 could fund a total of five projects.

Scenario #1

Project Category: DIVERSIFIED

Russian Jack Mountain Bike Trails Score:	90.3
Caribou Lake Rehabilitation Score:	89.4
Willow Trails Rehabilitation Score:	86.2

Project Category: MOTORIZED

35 Mile ORV Riding Park Score:	91.6
South Denali Winter Trails Score:	82.8
Snowcat House – Petersville Score:	76.4

Project Category: NON-MOTORIZED

HoWL Stewardship Expeditions Score:	94.3
Delta River Walk Trails II Score:	89.2
Ninilchick River Scenic Overlook Angler Trail Re Score:	88.6
North Rainbird Trail Improvements Score:	87.4
Shoup Bay Trail Phase 3 Score:	87.1
Smugglers Leg Trail Score:	87.0
Happy Valley Singletrack Repairs & Features Score:	85.3
Campbell Tract New Single Track Construction Score:	84.4

Scenario #2

Project Category: DIVERSIFIED

Caribou Lake Rehabilitation Score:	89.4
Delta River Walk Trails II Score:	89.2
Shoup Bay Trail Phase 3 Score:	87.1
Willow Trails Rehabilitation Project Score:	86.2
Campbell Tract New Single Track Construction Score:	84.4
South Denali Winter Trails Score:	82.8

Project Category: MOTORIZED

35 Mile ORV Riding Park Score:	91.6
Snowcat House – Petersville Score:	76.4

Project Category: NON-MOTORIZED

HoWL Stewardship Expeditions Score:	94.3
Russian Jack Mountain Bike Trails Score:	90.3
Ninilchik River Scenic Overlook Angler Trail Re Score:	88.6
North Rainbird Trail Improvements Score:	87.4
Smugglers Leg Trail Score:	87.0
Happy Valley Singletrack Repairs & Features Score:	85.3

	Scenario #3 Project Category: DIVERSIFIED Caribou Lake Rehabilitation Score: 89.4 Alaska Snowmachine Alliance Grooming Op Score: 67.2 Project Category: MOTORIZED 35 Mile ORV Riding Park Score: 91.6 Willow Trails Rehabilitation Project Score: 86.2 South Denali Winter Trails Score: 82.8 Snowcat House – Petersville Score: 76.4 Project Category: NON-MOTORIZED HoWL Stewardship Expeditions Score: 94.3 Russian Jack Mountain Bike Trails Score: 90.3 Delta River Walk Trails II Score: 89.2 Campbell Tract New Single Track Construction Score: 84.4 Shoup Bay Trail Phase 3 Score: 87.1 Ninilchik River Scenic Overlook Angler Trail Re Score: 88.6
COMMENTS & CONCERNS	Throughout the discussion, ORTAB members commented on all three scenarios: 1. Scenario #2 meets each of the three priority criteria. 2. Removing grooming projects from consideration. 3. Mr. Gease reviewed the SnowTrac funding process and discussed his plans to continue working on funding solutions with the Legislature to provide the balance of the reduction in funding for the snowmachine receipts. 4. What capacity does the State Parks have to apply jointly with ASA and lead a project that would supplement the SnowTrac program? 5. Areas where DPOR is authorized to conduct enforcement and charge snowmachine registration fees.
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
A motion was made to recommend Scenario #2, as presented, to Alaska State Parks.	Motion: Jeff Budd
Motion approved unanimously.	Second: Andrew Carmichael

Agenda topic: **SCORP Discussion**

DISCUSSION	Mr. Gease shared his screen and showed the pdf of Alaska's SCORP 2023-2027. He informed that it took two years to develop plan, currently SCORP has been submitted to the National Park Service is undergoing review and final approval within the next month. Once approved, the SCORP will be available online. Mr. Gease provided an overview of the SCORP contents. Mr. Gease discussed that the SCORP examines the demand and supply for outdoor recreation. GIS systems and mapping were used to inventory outdoor recreation supply in Alaska. SCORP divides the state into six regions because of the high level of regional variation in the state: Arctic, Western, Southwestern, Interior, Southcentral, and Southeast Mr. Gease explained that there are seven primary outdoor recreation goals. • Goal 1: Support the Alaska Outdoor Recreation Way of Life • Goal 2: Make Outdoor Recreation a Cornerstone of the Alaska Economy • Goal 3: Grow the Outdoor Recreation Workforce; Use Outdoor Recreation to Attract and Retain Residents and Businesses • Goal 4: Empower and Enable Alaskans to Lead Active, Healthy Lives • Goal 5: Balance Outdoor Recreation Growth and Stewardship • Goal 6: Grow Stable and Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Funding • Goal 7: Strengthen Partnerships to Improve Outdoor Recreation Management Goals 1, 4, and 5 will be used in evaluating LWCF proposals. Since 2019, there has been a 50% growth in outdoor recreation and demand continues to increase. Mr. Gease noted that Alaska has the highest use of public lands in the nation. Mr. Gease provided an overview of the information regarding regional use trends. He showed the appendices section and noted that Mr. Greenberg will provide additional information regarding the data and models. There were no questions.
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Agenda topics: New GIS Tools

	Mr. Greenberg made a presentation on new GIS layers. Mr. Greenberg outlined that the interactive and functional dashboard was created from the original LWCF map data used for prior projects. The source of the data can be accessed through links, and the data was categorized for reports by region, by borough or census area, Park ID, and Park name. Mr. Greenberg discussed the other outdoor recreation data on the hub, including 13,574 Trail Segments, 5,998 Recreational Facilities, 350 LWCF Projects, 63 Planning Reports, 392 Parks Detailed, 186 Proposed Initiatives, and 6 SCORP Regions. He discussed the goals of GIS to go beyond the MAP to develop interactive dashboards and to create data that lasts longer than the SCORP. An advantage of creating the product digitally is using a tableau chart on the hub to view the individual areas because there is no way that each of the maps could be included in the SCORP. In order to make the information more
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	sustainable in the future, the recreational data tracking survey has been created to allow people to contribute data. . The standardized geodatabase feeds into the maps and dashboards. Mr. Greenberg discussed the intent to utilize the tableau heat maps to understand more accurately the facilities that people are using. This sub-Park information will be helpful in determining locations for project improvements. Mr. Greenberg noted that it is online now, but it is not yet publicly available. Mr. Gease discussed that many Divisions utilize GIS. State Parks need additional funding to complete missing information, including an RTP database layer. Mr. Greenberg advised that the GIS hub has potential and adaptability and it could be used to centralize and organize trail data collection and projects. The GIS hub is the beginning process, and many iterations will follow that will build capacity for databases. Mr. Gease discussed that eventually, the goal is to have the public information online associated with the LWCF grants, RTP grants, Heritage Preservation Fund grants, as well as creating a SnowTrac layer in order to clearly identify the funding investments. There were no questions.
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Agenda topics: Miscellany

DISCUSSION	New business, old business. Mr. Gease discussed the request to develop an ORTAB committee to review and make recommendations regarding the scoring matrices in the SCORP for RTP and LWCF. Mr. Gease requested that either the same ORTAB committee or a separate ORTAB committee was created that could focus on the online ORTAB GIS layer and how to efficiently work in the online environment. He requested that an ORTAB committee is organized to focus on the SnowTrac program. An email will be send with a survey to elicit interest in the three requested committees. Chair Sirofchuck suggested that the email include an approximate time commitment and goals of each committee Mr. Budd inquired if there will be a chance for ORTAB to work together in-person again. Mr. Gease agreed and noted that it is possible to conduct an in-person meeting in October at the State Parks' facility in Anchorage. Open ORTAB Chair and Vice-Chair Seats. Char Sirofchuck took the opportunity to thank members for their hard diligent and efficient work as a group. He expressed appreciation to everyone for their efforts and support throughout the years. Chair Sirofchuck opened the floor for nominations for a new Chair of the ORTAB	
ACTION ITEMS		PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Motion to elect Ms. Kugel as Chair.		Motion: Christy Gentemann
Motion approved unanimously.		Second: Jeff Budd
ACTION ITEMS		PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Motion to adjourn at 3:37 pm.		Motion: Ron Lurk
Motion approved unanimously.		Second: Libby Kugel