Fairbanks Cycle Club

www.fairbankscycleclub.org P.O. Box 82136; Fairbanks, AK 99708

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Re: Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan Revision

To Whom It May Concern:

The Fairbanks Cycle Club fully supports the recommendation to develop a trail system within the Tanana Valley State Forest as part of the forest's management plan revision.

We have read the Alaska Trails letter (https://tinyurl.com/yrzms627) and agree with its recommendations regarding trail and bridge connections between forestry roads. We support the Alaska Long Trail project. It will not only be a boon for Alaskan trail users, but it will also help the Alaska outdoor recreation economy by attracting trails users from outside to spend more time and money in our state.

We also support the TVSF trail connections because they would greatly increase recreation opportunities for trail users in Fairbanks and Nenana. Our members already use Tanana Valley State Forest roads and trails. We hold regular rides that use forestry roads in the Rosie Creek, Bonanza Creek, and Cache Creek areas. Our members also use other roads farther from Fairbanks, but those trips are usually limited to out-and-backs because the roads dead-end without trail connections. Such connections would help increase possibilities for mountain bikers, gravel bikers, fatbikers, and bikerafters (bikers who use packrafts). Similar to the Alaska Long Trail, such connections would help make the area around Fairbanks more attractive to the outdoor recreation economy, helping us to diversify our economic base.

There are groups that are eager to help make these trail connections, such as Alaska Trails and the Interior Alaska Trails and Parks Foundation. We are also eager to help. Partnering with local trail groups will bring you volunteer help and improved access to funds, such as Recreational Trails Program grants. We proved that earlier by helping make improvements to the Rosie Creek Area using RTP funds.

We encourage you to include the recommendations of Alaska Trails in the management plan revision of the Tanana Valley State Forest.

Thank you,
Eric Troyer – President, Treasurer
Travis Naibert – Vice President
Garrett Armstrong – Secretary
Geoffrey Orth – At Large
Alyssa Enriquez – At Large
Monica Tolley – At Large
Glenn Gambrell – At Large