

2004 Update of the
Commercial Use of Trails Recommendations

By the **Trails Working Group**

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The Trails Working Group reconvened during the winter of 03/04 to review and update recommendations made in 2001 for the commercial use of trails. The following list is a summary of discussions about each trail that could potentially be used for commercial use. These recommendations if accepted will be implemented in 2004 except where noted. An * before the new recommendation line indicates a change from the 2001 recommendations.

Ernest Gruening State Historical Site

Existing Recommendation:

Group Size - *up to 10*

Spacing - *1 group in park at a time*

Days: - *M-F no weekend*

Number of Groups per Day - *up to 4*

Hours of Operation - *no restriction*

New Recommendation: No change

Comments: As the park is improved to accommodate more use it is anticipated that allowable commercial use levels will increase.

Herbert Glacier Trail

Existing Recommendation:

Group Size - *up to 15*

Spacing - *30 people per day maximum*

Days - *M-Th no weekend*

Number of Groups per Day - *up to 4*

Hours of Operation - *no restriction*

* New Recommendation: Add Fridays and 1 group of 8 per day on weekends

Comments: Change will accommodate small groups of independent travelers.

Sunshine Cove

Existing Recommendation:

Group Size - *up to 20*

Spacing - *no restriction*

Days - *no restriction*

Number of Groups per Day - *1*

Hours of Operation - *no restriction*

* New Recommendation: Increase the number of groups to 2 per day and confine commercial use to the new beach access trail (southernmost trail).

Comments: Change will better accommodate scuba and kayak classes and will keep them further from the camping area.

Amalga Meadows Beach Access

Existing Recommendation:

Group Size - *up to 30*

Spacing - *1 group on beach max.*

Days - *no restriction*

Number of Groups per Day - *up to 4*

Hours of Operation - *off trail by 7:00 pm*

New Recommendation: No change

Comments: It was determined that there is no demand for a loop trail to the beach, therefore, the previous recommendation to create a loop trail should be removed.

Proposed Amalga Meadow Trails:

Existing Recommendation:

none

New Recommendation: Scheduled for future discussion

Comments: Criteria for commercial use to be determined after appropriate infrastructure is constructed.

Fritz Cove Road Parking Area

Existing Recommendation:

none

New Recommendation: No commercial use

Comments: Based on an inquiry for commercial use this trail was discussed. The Trails Working Group made a decision in 2001 that this congested neighborhood was not a good place for commercial use. When the land for the parking lot was transferred to the city it was for the purpose of creating more parking for recreational beach access and not for expanded commercial opportunities. Therefore it does not make sense to add commercial use back to this neighborhood and the parking area should remain closed to commercial use including staging for bike tours.

Auke Lake Parking Area

Existing Recommendation:

Group Size - *up to 15*

Spacing - *no restriction*

Days - *no restriction*

Number of Groups per Day - *1*

Hours of Operation - *no restriction*

New Recommendation: No change

Comments: Kayak and other classes are accommodated by this recommendation.

Montana Creek DOT Right of Way

Existing Recommendation:

Group Size - *up to 15*

Spacing - *1 group on trail at a time*

Days - *M-F, 1 weekend day*

Number of Groups per Day - *up to 5*

Hours of Operation - *off trail by 5:00 pm*

New Recommendation: No change

Comments: Expanded parking is needed to accommodate the many users of this trail. Multiple erosion problems along the right of way need to be corrected to preserve the old roadbed. Because this right of way accesses the Montana Creek Trail (managed by the Forest Service) it is recommended that the Forest Service take over management of this trail to establish better management authority over the multiple uses on the trail.

Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei and Dimond Park Bridge (paved path along Mendenhall River)

Existing Recommendation:

none

New Recommendation: No commercial use

Comments: Based on an inquiry for commercial use this trail was discussed. It was determined that this trail already has a lot of use and congestion and it does not seem reasonable to add commercial use to the mix. In addition, the trail north of Montana Creek Bridge was previously closed to commercial use by Assembly and Planning Commission action.

Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area

A. West Glacier Trail

Existing Recommendation:

Group Size - *up to 15*

Spacing - *45 people per day max.*

Days - *M-F, no weekends*

Number of Groups per Day - *up to 4*

Hours of Operation - *off trail by 6:00 pm*

New Recommendation: No change

Comments: Expanded trailhead parking is needed to accommodate the commercial and non-commercial trail users along with all of the boat launching activities. Improved trail tread is needed to minimize flooding, mud and rough surfaces. Better directional, informational and safety signs are needed.

B. Moraine Ecology Trail

Existing Recommendation:

Group Size - *up to 15*

Spacing - *no restriction*

Days - *no restriction*

Number of Groups per Day - *up to 4*

Hours of Operation - *off trail by 6:00 pm*

New Recommendation: No change

Comments: Improve trail to minimize the proliferation of side trails.

C. Photo Point Trail

Existing Recommendation:

Group Size - *no limit*

Spacing - *no restriction*

Days - *no restriction*

Number of Groups per Day - *no limit*

Hours of Operation - *no restriction*

New Recommendation: No change

Comments: Interpretation by commercial users is allowed when Forest Service interpreters are not present. The trail to the base of Nugget Creek Falls should be improved to accommodate a wider variety of users. The Forest Service should take measures to keep people away from the Tern nesting area.

D. Nugget Creek Trail

Existing Recommendation:

Group Size - *up to 15*

Spacing - *no restriction*

Days - *no restriction*

Number of Groups per Day - *up to 2*

Hours of Operation - *no restriction*

New Recommendation: No change

Comments:

E. East Glacier Loop Trail

Existing Recommendation:

Group Size - *up to 15*

Spacing - *no restriction*

Days - *no restriction*

Number of Groups per Day - *up to 4*

Hours of Operation - *no restriction*

New Recommendation: No change

Comments:

F. Trail of Time

Existing Recommendation:

Group Size – *no limit*

Spacing – *no restriction*

Days – *no restriction*

Number of Groups per Day – *no limit*

Hours of Operation – *no restriction*

New Recommendation: No change

Comments: The Forest Service should create pullouts along the trail to accommodate large groups for interpretation without disturbing other trail users. Commercial use is allowed without stopping for interpretation until pullouts are complete.

DZ Trail System

Existing Recommendation:

The trail is currently being designed and constructed to accommodate large groups.

Commercial use recommendations will be determined after construction.

New Recommendation: No change

Comments: The Trails Working Group will make further recommendations once the system is complete with loop trails.

Perseverance Trail System

A. Perseverance Trail

Existing Recommendation:

Group Size - *up to 15*

Spacing – *two groups on trail max.*

Days – *M-F, 1 weekend day*

Number of Groups per Day – *up to 4*

Hours of Operation – *off trail by 7 pm*

New Recommendation: No change

Comments: Encourage ½ hour spacing

B. Granite Creek Trail

Existing Recommendation:

no commercial use after Perseverance Trail is repaired into Silverbow Basin

* New Recommendation: Closed to commercial use

Comments: As recommended in the previous plan this trail has been closed since the Perseverance Trail was reopened through Silverbow Basin.

C. Red Mill Trail (New addition to the Perseverance Trail System)

Existing Recommendation:

None

* New Recommendation: Open this trail to commercial use with the same restrictions as Perseverance Trail.

Comments: Allowing commercial use on this trail will help disperse existing use from the Perseverance Trail.

D. Glory Hole Trail (New addition to the Perseverance Trail System)

Existing Recommendation:

none

- * New Recommendation: Open this trail to commercial use with the same restrictions as Perseverance Trail.

Comments: Allowing commercial use on this trail will help disperse existing use from the Perseverance Trail.

E. Mine Camp Ruins Trail (New addition to the Perseverance Trail System)

Existing Recommendation:

None

- * New Recommendation: Open this trail to commercial use for 1 group of 8 per day.

Comments: This steep narrow trail can only accommodate minimal commercial use.

Mt. Roberts Trail above the Tram

A. Loop to Terrace Above the Cross

Existing Recommendation:

Group Size - *up to 15*

Spacing - *no restriction*

Days - *no restriction*

Number of Groups per Day - *no limit*

Hours of Operation - *no restriction*

New Recommendation: No change

Comments: Recommend travel in a clockwise direction on the loop and encourage 15 minute spacing.

B. Cross to Gold Ridge

Existing Recommendation:

Group Size - *up to 10*

Spacing - *no restriction*

Days - *no restriction*

Number of Groups per Day - *up to 2*

Hours of Operation - *no restriction*

New Recommendation: No change

Comments: No motorized access. Commercial operator should be familiar with and follow preservation practices.

C. Gold Ridge to Mt. Roberts Peak

Existing Recommendation:

Group Size - *up to 10*

Spacing - *no restriction*

Days - *M-F, no weekends*

Number of Groups per Day - *1*

Hours of Operation - *no restriction*

New Recommendation: No change

Comments: No motorized access. No more than 10 groups per season.

Treadwell Mine Historic Loop Trail

Existing Recommendation:

Group Size - *up to 15*

Spacing – *no restriction*

Days – *M-Sat, no Sunday*

Number of Groups per Day – *up to 4*

Hours of Operation – *off trail by 5:00 pm*

* New Recommendation: Change the weekend recommendation to open one weekend day to be determined during permitting, and posted each season.

Comments: This change is consistent with recommendations for other trails and better meets changing customer demands.

Eaglecrest Trails

A. Eaglecrest Lower Mountain Trails (near the day lodge and parking areas)

Existing Recommendation:

open for commercial use proposals that provide improved infrastructure

New Recommendation: Allowable uses for these trails will be determined during the planning stage of each trail.

Comments: Conceptual approval was given for two projects presented by Eaglecrest. The first is to create an 8 to 14 foot wide, 2 mile long gravel pathway around the cross country ski track in the meadow near the parking lot for summer, wheeled dog sled use.

Recommendations are to allow general use when the dog tours are not using the trail and to take precautions to preserve the surrounding muskeg during construction and during the summer use season. The second project is to create a canopy walk that leaves from the lodge and does a loop up into the drainages above the lodge. This trail would have sections elevated up to 80 feet off the ground and would require a guide for use. Anyone wishing to use the trail would be welcome as long as they paid the fee for the accompanying guide and the trail was open for use.

B. Eaglecrest Upper Mountain Trails (above the base of Ptarmigan Chairlift)

Existing Recommendation:

open for commercial use proposals that provide improved infrastructure

New Recommendation: Allowable uses for these trails will be determined during the planning stage of each trail.

Comments: The conceptual plan as presented by Eaglecrest for the development of multiuse trails on the upper part of the mountain was approved as a guide for further trail development. This included four trails creating a looping system with varying sizes of trails designed for varying user groups including commercial use. Overnight cabins would be constructed for use after the trails are completed. The four trails are:

1. A large scale trail on the east side of the mountain from the day lodge to the Eagles Nest warming hut.
2. A small scale trail from the day lodge to Cropley Lake.
3. A small scale trail from Cropley Lake to the ridge through Heavenly Valley and on around the ridge to the Eagles Nest.
4. A large scale trail from the top of the Hooter Chairlift to Cropley Lake.

False Outer Point to Outer Point Trail System

A. Outer Point Trail

Existing Recommendation:

closed to commercial use

- * New Recommendation: Closed to commercial use in 2004 and open to commercial use in 2005 (the Rainforest Trail will be closed to commercial use when Outer Point is open to commercial use).

Comments: Based on an inquiry for commercial use, this trail was discussed. The inquiry suggested that better interpretation opportunities exist on the Outer Point Trail. The same recommendations that currently exist on the Rainforest Trail should be applied to this trail when it is opened except the recommended travel direction should be in the clockwise direction.

B. Rainforest Trail

Existing Recommendation:

Group Size - *up to 15*

Number of Groups per Day – *no restriction*

Spacing – *15 minutes between groups*

Hours of Operation – *off trail by 7:00 pm*

Days – *no restriction*

- * New Recommendation: Open to commercial use in 2004 and closed to commercial use in 2005.

Comments: Groups should travel in a counter clockwise direction. During the winter of 2004/2005 a comprehensive trail planning effort should be undertaken by the City and Borough of Juneau for all city trails between False Outer Point and Outer Point. This effort should address creating a more interconnected system of trails, potential new trails, better trail surfacing on some trails, accessible trails, commercial use, dog use and other issues. This summer, trail use numbers should be counted in various different ways and possibly, user surveys should be taken.

General Commercial Use Recommendations

Signs

- Signs should be placed at every trail that is designated for commercial use so that the public knows what to expect and operators know a permit is required. The three agencies should agree on sign standards.

Trail to Nugget Creek Waterfall

- The group agreed to encourage the Forest Service to construct a better trail to the base of Nugget Creek Waterfall. Decisions for commercial use should be considered during the planning of this project.

Wildlife Viewing Areas or Trails

- Based on an inquiry for wildlife viewing areas or trails and in recognition of the growing demand for these types of opportunities the group spent time considering the concept. The group agreed that the development of wildlife viewing areas or trails should be considered. It was also suggested that some areas should be set up for commercial use while others should be left for non-commercial use. The following areas were recommended for further study:
 1. The Airport Dike Trail – Create a trail and/or viewing blinds/areas on the inside of the Airport Dike Trail along some of the sloughs.
 2. Fish Creek – Has several diverse habitats that could provide opportunities for wildlife viewing trails and/or blinds.
 3. Salmon Creek Delta – It was suggested that a blind or viewing area could be set up behind the GCI building.
 4. Sheep Creek Delta – This area has many diverse species and could provide for improved wildlife viewing opportunities.
 5. Sheep Creek Valley – This area may provide opportunities for viewing of upland wildlife species.
 6. Ernest Gruening State Historical Park - Opportunities exist for trails and blinds to view a variety of wildlife species.
 7. Mt. Roberts – Many wildlife species that enjoy the alpine can be seen in this area.
 8. Other areas - There are many other areas that should be considered for wildlife viewing opportunities.