

11.4.2020

Montana Creek Valley

Sec: 2; Township: T40S;
Range: R65E; Meridian: C

The purpose of this project is to expand year-round recreational opportunities to a broad spectrum of users in an environmentally responsible way. Juneau has an impressive recreational trail system that provides great opportunity for a portion of the public to enjoy the natural resources we are fortunate to find ourselves surrounded by. However, that system is lacking in opportunity for significant demographics, including motorized users, the very young, the elderly and the physically disabled. In recent years I have gained some personal experience that has helped me better understand this need. As a youth and young man, my family always enjoyed the outdoors together and enjoy many experiences hiking and camping. As I started my family, the logistics of carrying multiple children and their gear became prohibitive – resulting in having to split who can go enjoy these traditional experiences. As my parents got into their 70s, the sun set on their ability to hike out with the grandchildren. Today, to include the full family, a motorized option is very much a requirement. I have met with many other citizens of the community who share this exclusion and yearn for a solution. The Montana Creek Road (National Forest Development Road 8452) provides a unique gateway to help solve this problem!

It is our proposal to harden an existing ½ mile ATV trail and extend it another ¾ mile, developing a multi-use trail off of Montana Creek Road that climbs to the 1200' level, near the SW border of DNR. The trail will help to move traffic from the wet forest floor to a hardened surface. Uphill ditching will pass under the trail via culvert to existing drainage paths. Ground stabilization fabric may be required in some sections to minimize the amount of road material

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required. Numerous turnoff/turnarounds will provide convenience and safety for users going either direction – some at higher elevation can provide scenic outlook of the mountains and Mendenhall Valley. The canopy will be opened sufficient to allow good snow on the trail so that it may be well utilized for winter snowmobile/ski traffic. The existing ATV trail (shown in red on the included map) begins at 58.43397 N, -134.640501 W. It initially travels through second growth timber and follows an small uncatalogued drainage. It is our desire to move this portion of the trail away from the drainage. Some small bridges may be required where a culvert is not suitable. The new portion of trail (shown in light blue) would then sidehill in a nearly south direction, terminating at the southern border of DNR land where a terraced series of campsites can be cleared and leveled. The campsites (located within the purple section) can not only be enjoyed on their own, but also provide a base camp and quick entry point for foot winter motorsport access to Spaulding Meadow, especially in low snow years where this will be the only backcountry option with snow in all of Juneau. Proposed campsites would utilize a combined footprint of no more than ¼ acre. At some point, it is our desire to help construct & maintain a public cabin in the area.

During the construction of the trail, no buildings will need to be constructed/hailed in. Power for hand tools will be provided by a small gasoline generator. Inconsequential waste/trash will be hauled out at the end of each day. Less than 250 gallons aggregate of diesel/gasoline/lubricants will be onsite. Fuel will be transported in small commercial fuel transfer tanks. Lubricating oils will be in 1-gallon containers. No water supply/wastewater will be utilized. Equipment consists of mini excavator / skid steer/ trailers / ATV/SSV

vehicles. Labor will be performed by Juneau Off-Road Association members/volunteers. Machines used will be inspected twice daily for any leaks, and absorbent pads placed if a leak is discovered until the machine can be moved out or repaired on-site. No storage/parking will be required outside of the 25' right-of-way corridor of the trail.

Warm regards,

Darrin S. Crapo