
Title **Kennicott McCarthy Gateway Trails** 01/29/2026
id. 52993052
by **Matthew Shidner** in **Recreational Trails Program**
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Score n/a

Original Submission 01/29/2026

Score n/a

Project Information

Project Title: Kennicott McCarthy Gateway Trails

Organization Name: Kennicott McCarthy Recreation Alliance

Date Public Notice Posted: 3/1/2026

Brief Description of Proposed Project:

The Kennicott–McCarthy Recreation Alliance (KMRA) proposes a seasonal, system-wide trail maintenance project to improve the safety, sustainability, and usability of more than 20 miles of existing mixed-use recreational trails in the Kennicott–McCarthy area. These trails support hiking, sightseeing, subsistence access, and heritage tourism and serve thousands of annual users.

From May through September, KMRA will employ two contracted trail crew members and one project manager, supported by organized volunteer labor, to carry out coordinated maintenance activities on priority trail segments. Maintenance-ready trails include the Bonanza Mine Trail (4 miles), Jumbo Mine spur (3 miles), Erie Mine Trail (5 miles), Root Glacier spur (0.5 miles), West Glacier Trail (1 mile), Old Wagon Road (4 miles), Kennicott Glacier Trail spur (0.5 miles), and approximately 4 miles of the McCarthy Creek Route (12 miles total). With the exception of limited segments of the McCarthy Creek Route that cross private land with long-standing informal public access, all work will occur on publicly accessible, established trails. Some of these trails have recently experienced declining usability and safety due to deferred maintenance.

Project activities will be limited to existing trail footprints and will include brushing and vegetation management, trail tread and drainage improvements, minor repairs to address erosion and wear, and systematic documentation of trail conditions. These efforts will upgrade KMRA's existing volunteer-based maintenance into a consistent, professional field program while remaining low-impact and compatible with applicable land management standards. The total cost of this proposed project in this form would be ~\$90,000 for 2026, >\$10,000 of which would be in-kind donations of vehicles, equipment, and volunteer labor.

This project represents the first phase of a multi-year trail stewardship strategy focused on reducing deferred maintenance, protecting prior trail investments, and improving long-term management efficiency. Documentation and experience gained through this effort will inform future maintenance cycles and potential restoration projects as additional funding and approvals become available. By strengthening local maintenance capacity now, KMRA will help ensure that these heavily used trails remain safe, resilient, and accessible for residents and visitors alike.

Proposed Timeline of the Project:

Project Start Date: 05/26
(MM/YY)

Project End Date: 09/26
(MM/YY)

Applicant Contact Information:

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Public Comment or Opposition can be submitted via methods listed below:

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Deadline for Public Comment: 4/15/2026

Upload a map of the project area:

[Kennicott_McCarthy_Gateway_Trails.pdf](#)

By signing this application, the authorized representative certifies that they have authority to request grant funds on behalf of the applying organization and that all information provided is true and correct. The signer acknowledges responsibility for the lawful and appropriate use of grant funds and understands that misuse or fraud may result in penalties under federal law.

checked

e-signature

Matthew Shidner

The Alaska Recreational Trails Program is the possible funding agency for this proposed project. For information regarding the Alaska Recreational Trails Program, please visit the State website at Multi-Use Trails Program - Alaska DOT&PF.

Internal Form

Score

n/a
