



Municipality of Skagway

MEMO

TO:	Assembly Member Kolodi
FROM:	Brad A. Ryan
DATE:	January 31, 2024
SUBJECT:	Trail Development Update and Plans

I am writing to provide an update on the development of trails in our area, as well as plans for future trail projects. Please find below a summary of the current status and upcoming initiatives:

Jay Frey Bridge to Lost Lake Trail:

- In March 2020, the assembly approved a proposal from Interior Trails to develop a new trail from the Jay Frey Bridge to Lost Lake.
- In 2021, the municipality contracted the new route to Lost Lake to be brushed.
- Public Works has since maintained the trail and has now identified a loop route that takes the new Interior Trails route from the bridge to Lost Lake and returns on a social trail that had been previously established.
- In 2024, Public Works intends to clearly mark the loop trail, hoping to increase traffic on the trail, which is necessary to help establish the paths.
- Additionally, in the 2024 budget, the assembly approved funds to locate a cabin at or near Lost Lake. Staff continues to work on this with local volunteers and hopes to establish the location and scope of work to get the cabin built in the summer of 2024.

Denver Glacier Valley Trail:

- In June 2018, the Civic Affairs Committee discussed the acquisition of US Forest Service land in the Denver Glacier Valley.
- In September 2018, PDC engineers assisted with surveying portions of Denver Glacier Valley in preparation for an application to the US Forest Service under the Town Site Act.
- In May 2020, a budget amendment was proposed for \$100,000 to survey a trail from town to the Denver Glacier cabin.
- In August 2020, the assembly approved a PDC Engineering proposal to survey the trail for \$73,600.
- In June 2021, the MOS, PDC, and White Pass walked several potential Denver Trail routes. It was agreed that this trail would benefit the town, but there are considerable hurdles to overcome, including a large boulder field and some widening of the railroad right-of-way.
- The US Forest Service indicated that it would take more than five years to complete the

NEPA process for this project, causing the project to stall.

- However, there are indications that the US Forest Service might be more open to a discussion about the trail now. Additionally, there is increased interest in this trail from the Skagway Traditional Council.

Multi-Use Trail from Gun Range to Dyea:

- MOS staff and interested committee members have been discussing a trail from the current municipal gun range to Dyea.
- This trail has been walked and appears to be a good multi-use trail that could provide ATV, bicycle, hiking, equestrian, and other trail access from the gun range to Dyea.
- The primary land ownership for this project is the MOS and Mental Health Trust.
- Staff has reached out to the Mental Health Trust, and they have indicated that the permitting process sounds reasonably easy for this project.
- This project would provide a route from town all the way out to Dyea without having to use the state road.

Should you require further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.