



## Jánwu Sít'i (Mountain Goat Glacier) AKA Denver Glacier Trail Access

February 7, 2024

Assemblyperson Kolodi~

Per your request, I've compiled some notes about Jánwu Sít'i (Mountain Goat Glacier) aka Denver Glacier Trail.

The Skagway Visitor Department sees a need for infrastructure development that will help disperse people and alleviate congestion. Providing pedestrian access to Denver Glacier Trailhead is one great option to help us achieve this. It increases access to that area year-round when trains are not running. And increases hiker safety by eliminating the temptation to walk on the railroad right-of-way.

I've initiated conversation with the US Forest Service to discuss the possibilities.

- I contacted Pete J. Schneider, Recreation Program Manager for the US Forest Service on December 21<sup>st</sup>. (Assemblyperson Kolodi is copied on the e-mail). He said they are transitioning to a new district ranger, Michael Downs, and a new Deputy District Ranger, Laura Buchheit. I think it would be great to try and schedule a meeting with their team to see what it will take to start this project given it is subject to NEPA requirements.
  - <https://www.epa.gov/nepa>

I've asked for regional advocacy for funding and development.

- I sit on Juneau Economic Development Council's (JEDC) VISITOR PRODUCTS CLUSTER WORKING GROUP (VPCWG) for Infrastructure & Access Action Initiatives for Southeast Alaska and have included development of Jánwu Sít'i trail in my wish list for infrastructure development in the region.
  - <https://www.jedc.org/visitor-products/>
- I've also asked that Alaska Outdoor Alliance advocate for the improvement in their activism for trail improvement funding in the region.
  - <https://www.alaskaoutdooralliance.org/>

This Tongass National Forest trail is very marketable, and I believe it will be a desirable experience for visitors and locals alike.

- It is interesting to note that Jánwu Sít'i (Mountain Goat Glacier) aka Denver Glacier Trail was the first in Alaska to be inducted into the Old Growth Forest Network in 2022.
  - <https://www.oldgrowthforest.net/ak-denver-glacier-trail>

Please let me know if I can be of additional assistance in this matter.

Jaime Bricker, Tourism Director