

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER
SOUTHCENTRAL REGION OFFICE

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September 1, 2004

Re: Eska Creek Falls Trail, ADL 228840

Dear Commenter:

Thank you for your comments on the proposed trail easement on the Eska Creek Falls trail. We received comments from 27 members of the public, which were greatly appreciated. The comments were very helpful as we crafted the attached administrative decision.

A large majority of the comments we received were from folks who were very concerned about resource damage occurring on the trail as a result of ATV use, and who recommended restricting motorized use of the trail. The Alaska Extreme Fourwheelers provided comments supporting continued year round multiple use of the trail.

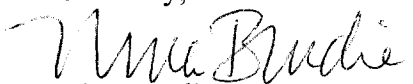
DNR staff inspected the Eska Creek Falls trail on two occasions in 2003 and observed resource damage from motorized recreational activities. The Sutton Trails Advocacy Committee has reported extensive resource damage on this particular trail, and has recommended closing the upper, alpine portion of the trail to motorized use. Members of the Alaska Extreme Fourwheelers have expressed interest in working with the state and/or borough to repair the resource damage in order to accommodate continued motorized use of the trail.

DNR has recommended issuing a year round multiple use trail easement in the attached administrative decision for the Eska Creek Falls Trail. In order to address the concerns regarding resource damage, DNR proposes to work with the borough, the community and user groups in the coming months to identify management strategies for the Eska Creek Falls trail that will mitigate concerns, and hopefully find solutions that will best serve the public's needs.

In addition to reserving this public easement on the Eska Creek Falls Trail, DNR will enter into a Trail Management Agreement with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to provide for public recreational needs and safety. This agreement will provide the opportunity for seasonal management of portions of the reserved easement for multi-use activities, or for damage mitigation through trail restrictions, either permanent or temporary, if necessary.

Thank you for participating in this important process; I appreciate your help with this decision. Please feel free to contact me at 907-269-5032 if you need more information.

Sincerely,



Nina Brudie
Natural Resource Specialist

Attachment

"Develop, Conserve, and Enhance Natural Resources for Present and Future Alaskans."