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Department of
Natural Resources

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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State Parks receives trail grooming grant for Independence Mine

(Palmer, AK) – The Mat Su/Copper River Basin area of Alaska State Parks has received a \$15,000 grooming grant for cross-country skiing trails at Independence Mine State Historical Park.

Located in Hatcher Pass, the Independence Mine park registers about 10,000 user-days each winter. This grant from Friends of State Parks (FoSP), Mat-Su will help park managers achieve their goal of providing groomed trails, said Superintendent Stuart Leidner.

“We are grateful that Friends of State Parks, Mat-Su provided this grant this year, which will help us keep over 5 kilometers of cross-country ski trails groomed at the Independence Mine area for the remainder of the 2019 season,” Leidner said. “Such grooming is not always guaranteed, in the face of limited funds for park operations overall, and for trail grooming specifically,” he added.

The Independence Mine park is a beloved recreation destination for Alaska residents, providing excellent year-round access for outdoor enthusiasts. It is a popular winter destination and often has some of Southcentral Alaska’s earliest snow.

Friends of State Parks, Mat-Su was founded in 2000. As a registered 501(c)3, the group works to enhance and protect the natural, historical and recreational resources within state park units of the Mat-Su/Copper River basin. FoSP fundraising has grown to provide more than \$150,000 in grants to support Mat-Su State Parks and recreational areas. More information is available at: www.fospmatus.org.

For more information on Alaska State Parks, visit: alaskastateparks.org or find us on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter.

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