

## Trail Management

**A. Neighborhood Trails.** Local trails that are not of regional or statewide significance will be identified and protected through management plans or land conveyance design under guidelines recommended in DNR's subdivision design manual. Once identified, trails will be recorded on the state's land record system and reserved through issuance of a trail easement. The following criteria should be used to determine whether a local trail should be protected by easement or public ownership:

**1. Neighborhood Collector Trails.** If the local trail serves as a neighborhood collector trail that connects to a public open space system or regional or statewide trail, it will be kept in public ownership.

**2. Use by Neighborhood Residents.** If the trail will be used almost entirely by neighborhood residents for their own use, it should be kept in state ownership or transferred to the local government.

**3. Local Pedestrian Access.** If the objective is to provide local pedestrian access, and the trail lacks the characteristics described in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, an easement may be used. This would typically occur when the purpose is to establish access between two lots, to improve pedestrian circulation within a subdivision where a greenbelt and neighborhood trail system does not provide adequate access, or where it is impractical to establish such an integrated trail system.

**B. Standard Trails of Regional or Statewide Significance.** These trails are generally travelled by foot, skis, horse, or vehicles for a variety of purposes. Most standard trails have a history of public use and can be expected to see increased use as the state's population increases.

**C. Identify Important Trails.** Before state lands are leased or conveyed, trails that merit protection by one of the methods described above should be identified. The Division of Land will identify trails and will consult with DPOR and other appropriate divisions of DNR, DOTPF, ADFG, affected private land owners, and the City and Borough of Juneau when identifying trails. However, any agency, organization, or individual may identify public trails to be considered for protection.

**D. Trail Buffer Width.** Trails of regional or statewide significance on state land will be protected by a publicly owned buffer that has a minimum width of 100 feet (50 feet on either side of center line). This buffer should be sized to protect the quality of the experience of the user and to minimize negative effects from adjacent land uses. Buffer widths may be increased to minimize land use and ownership conflicts, to protect the privacy of adjacent landowners, to separate motorized from non-motorized uses, to allow future siting of public facilities, to allow flexibility for re-routing, or to adapt a trail to specific public uses or aesthetic or environmental concerns.

Buffer widths may vary along the length of a trail because of the above considerations. The width of a buffer on any portion of a trail should also be based on the management intent for adjacent public land as expressed through applicable land use plans. Trail buffers should be located and designed in consultation with appropriate divisions of DNR, ADFG, and DOTPF, the CBJ, affected private land owners; and appropriate user groups. Activity areas of 10 to 40 acres may be identified along trails for other uses such as camping or rest areas.

**E. Land Use in Publicly-Owned Buffers.** To maintain the aesthetic character, trail buffers will be managed to maintain the natural vegetation within the buffer. Maintain the quality of the recreation experience and the aesthetic character of the trail buffer to the extent feasible and prudent when authorizing other activities. This guideline does not preclude trail crossings or rerouting as described below. Trails may be cleared to allow for the appropriate recreation experience.

**F. Rerouting Trails.** Trails may be rerouted to minimize land-use conflicts or to facilitate use of a trail if alternate routes provide opportunities similar to the original. If trails are rerouted, provision should be made for construction of new trail segments if warranted by type of use. Rerouting trails should be done in consultation with affected divisions of DNR, DOTPF, ADFG, CBJ, private landowners, and appropriate user groups. The Division of Parks and Outdoor recreation will be consulted. Actions should be consistent with the Juneau Trails Plan. Historic trails which follow well-established routes should not be rerouted unless necessary to maintain trail use. Cost of rerouting trails should be borne by the developer of the project that would require the trail routing.

**G. Trail Crossings.** When it is necessary for powerlines, pipelines or roads to cross trail buffers, crossings should be at as close to a 90-degree angle to the buffer as feasible and prudent. Vegetative screening should be preserved at trail crossings.

