

ATV USER GROUP MEETING
KENAI RIVER CENTER
Wednesday, February 27, 2008

The meeting began at 2:00 PM

The following persons were present:

Bill Steyer-HSWCD Trails Coordinator
Tara Schmidt-HSWCD District Manager
Shirley Schollenberg-Resident
Neil Shishido-DNR
Lee McKinnley-DNR
Steve Crane- Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers (CHCH)
Les Crane-CHCH
Rick Northey-CHCH
Howard Davis –property owner

The Following Topics were discussed:

1. Location for Informational Kiosks and Kiosk Design

The preferred sites for installing the information kiosks authorized under the TRAAK 2006 Recreation Grant are at the following trail heads: Straight-In Trail; Clam Gulch Trail Head; Centennial Trail Head; and the Gravel Pit. Additional options or alternatives include the Ninilchik Dome Trail Head and a specific location along the Caribou lake Trail. It was pointed out that the Clam Gulch Trail Head is located on UAA land. Steve Crane is reapplying for a permit for parking that will include the installation of an informational Kiosk.

A discussion about an appropriate Kiosk design for the trail heads occurred. The priority criteria for the design is durability and ability to withstand the elements. Bill Steyer proposed a modified version of a design that was accepted. Steyer will go ahead and construct the Kiosks and have them ready for installation after the ground thaws.

2. Water Hole Trail

A discussion about the timeline and logistics for the Water Hole trail hardening project occurred. The first week of August is the proposed time for trail construction and hardening. The CHCH are willing to provide logistics support by assisting in transporting the geoblock materials and potentially providing temporary housing for a work crew. HSWCD along with Kevin Meyers and Lisa Holzapfel from the Rivers and Trails Conservation Program, NPS, and members from the CHCH will conduct an on-site trail assessment in mid-June to determine the appropriate trail re-routes and extent of trail hardening required.

A discussion about the changes and impacts on the Water Hole from ATV and other vehicle usage occurred. It was acknowledged that the level of wetland degradation has increased in the last several years from both the number and size of Off-Road vehicles. It was pointed out that the frequency of trucks with large mud tires recreating on this trail has increased significantly and is accelerating wetland impacts.

Neil Shishido, DNR, discussed the trail easement process for the Water Hole trail and the Central Plateau Hill 126 trail. In general the steps are as follows: 1. Prepare a preliminary GPS track of proposed trail; 2. Construct Trail; 3. Perform minimal mapping standards (excepting portions that cross Ciri land). 4. Apply for easement and develop MOU with user groups for trail maintenance.

3. Trail Management Objectives (TMOs)

A discussion was presented by HSWCD to the user groups about the utility of incorporating TMOs into the planning, design and maintenance of the Water Hole trail. Concerns and questions were raised about the potential for restricting use of certain uses during certain times of the year.