



Minutes Draft Revised 3.15.22
Girdwood Trails Committee Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 1, 2022 7:00PM

Girdwood Trails Committee meetings are taking place on Teams thru March 2022.

GTC Voting members are defined as is any person eighteen (18) years of age or older who has attended one or more Trails Committee meetings in the last 12 months, and is:

- a) a current resident and/or property owner, business owner or designated representative of a non-profit association; and
- b) who has resided in, owned property in, owned a business located in, or operated as a non-profit association for the preceding ninety (90) days or longer in Girdwood Valley.

Attendance is verified through a sign-in sheet available at each meeting, or equivalent process.

The Girdwood Board of Supervisors, its committees, and subcommittees are subject to the Alaska Open Meetings Act as found in Alaska Statute 44.62.310 and Anchorage Municipal Code 1.25 - Public Meetings.

The Girdwood Trails Committee operates under the Girdwood Public Meetings Standards of Conduct.

Call to Order 7:03PM Carolyn Brodin, Chair

Approval of March 1 2022 Regular Meeting agenda Kalie Harrison/Barb Crews Assent

Approval of Feb 1, 2022 Regular Meeting minutes Kalie Harrison/Barb Crews Assent

Announcements & Presentations: None

Introductions: All attending are asked to introduce themselves

New members eligible to vote at the next meeting are:

Alec Herschleb, Bayne Salmon, Donna Evans, Lanice Drake, Malcolm Herstrand, Rebecca Reichlin, Terry Mercurio

Public Comment (3 minutes each):

Request to add discussion and vote to have a parliamentarian at all GTC meetings back on to the GTC regular agenda (Julie Raymond-Yakoubian)

Request to fix existing signage in the valley to indicate "Stumpy Trail" instead of "meadows" (Patty Hamre)

Old Business:

- 1. Girdwood Trails Plan

Introduction of Parliamentarian, Jamie Heinz. Jamie will assist in the trail plan discussions. She is not available on April 5 due to election responsibilities, discussion of changing that meeting date is later in the agenda.

Announce Trails Plan Process moving forward – Carolyn presents the specific outline that is in the meeting packet. Some members request clarification of the need of some of the steps, including additional 30 day comment period. There is some frustration regarding the time review of the amendments will take and additional time to bring back to public as a whole to review, however Chair is clear that review by GTC is followed by public review and compilation of those comments before moving on to LUC and GBOS.

Begin presentation and voting on GTC member suggested changes to GTP introduced at the Jan 18 2022 GTC meeting. As presented in January, GTC members who introduced amendments on Jan 18 now can provide a full review of their amendment and seek support from GTC to make changes to the Girdwood Trails Plan Draft. No new amendments are to be addressed.

Next Meeting: April 12, 2022

Girdwood Trails Committee Agendas and minutes are available on line: www.muni.org/gtc

Amendment #1

(Raymond-Yakoubian)

Motion: GTC Moves to adopt Amendment 1: approve the Girdwood Trails Master Plan as it is now (i.e. after incorporation of the votes on recommendations ending at the January 4, 2022 meeting), and add any new proposals that are voted on and accepted by GTC as an additional appendix to the Plan.

Motion by Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, 2nd by Steve Halverson

Group votes by roll call, chat and polling:

Roll call: 3 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstain

Chat: 10 in favor, 17 opposed, 1 abstain

Poll: 15 in favor, 26 opposed, 9 abstain *

Total: 28 in favor, 51 opposed, 10 abstain

Motion fails

* A recent update to Microsoft Teams polling defaults to anonymous voting. Identity of those who participated in polls at this meeting cannot be confirmed, so votes cannot be verified. Staff is working with IT to address this problem and have it resolved for future meetings.

Discussion prior to vote:

Group discusses if this is redundant as GTC has previously voted not to adopt the plan as written.

The addition of continued discussion of the proposed amendments and inclusion of them in an appendix creates a new aspect to be considered.

Concern expressed about what weight these ideas would have if included in the appendix compared to inclusion in the plan itself.

Action on trails that are included in the appendix instead of the plan would likely require additional review.

This is part of the purpose of the amendment, as the upcoming amendments have not had the same degree of process and consideration as the rest of the plan and occurred outside of the activities of the subcommittee that worked on the plan initially.

Steve Halverson reviews Imagine!Girdwood survey showing that people are generally satisfied with trail development as it is, main concerns are related to housing, community is generally fulfilled with access to recreation/trails. Draft plan would be complete with addition of items in the appendix.

Amendment #2

(Tenny)

Motion: GTC moves to approve Amendment #2 to Virgin Creek Falls Trailhead. Add bullet point 4: Upon completion of the study and review of the suggested alternatives by GTC there will be implementation of the preferred option.

Motion by Michelle Tenny, 2nd by Kate Sandberg

Group votes by roll call, chat and polling:

Roll Call: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

Chat: 15 in favor, 2 opposed, 3 abstain

Poll: 33 in favor, 2 opposed, 5 abstain*

Total: 51 in favor, 4 opposed, 8 abstain

Motion carries

* A recent update to Microsoft Teams polling defaults to anonymous voting. Identity of those who participated in polls at this meeting cannot be confirmed, so votes cannot be verified. Staff is working with IT to address this problem and have it resolved for future meetings.

Discussion prior to vote:

Purpose of this is to add action to the current focus on study of the trailhead/parking issue.

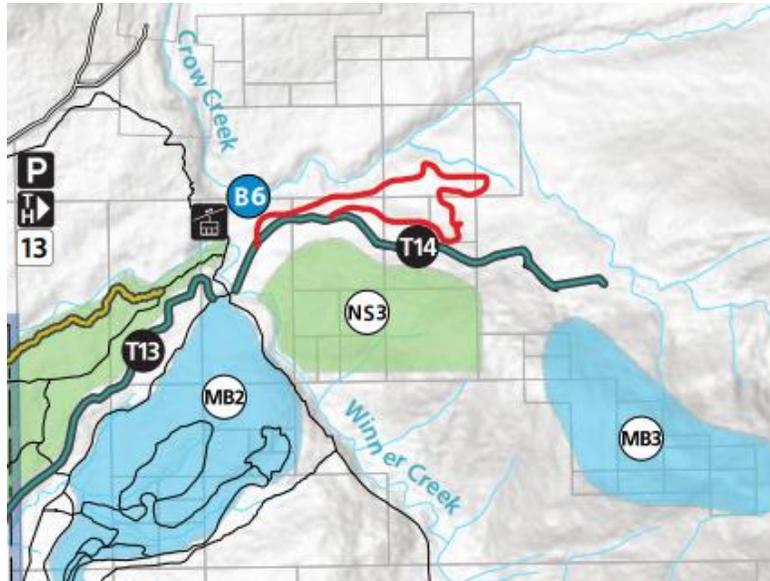
Construction of whatever the preferred option is would require normal process and permitting

Amendment #3

(Thomas)

Proposed change: Add 3-5k loop class 4 trail north of T14. (see map below)

Concern expressed that the area from the cat bridge to Notch mountain is difficult terrain, so class 4 trail may not be achievable. Dave Hamre recalls that this area is designated in the Turnagain Arm Plan and Girdwood Area plan for ski development, so there may be a conflict in this proposed trail/use. Hamre has a better idea to suggest in the future, as currently amendments to these concepts are not under consideration.



Discussion of Amendment 3 begins within the 1 hour allotment for discussion of this topic at GTC. It is clear that it will take longer than the time remaining.

Motion:

GTC moves to extend discussion for 30 minutes on Trail Plan Amendments

Motion by Justin Thomas, 2nd by Mike Edgington

Group votes by roll call, chat and polling

Roll call: 3 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstain

Chat: 15 in favor, 3 opposed, 0 abstain

Poll: 31 in favor, 13 opposed, 4 abstain*

Total: 49 in favor, 17 opposed, 4 abstain

Motion carries

* A recent update to Microsoft Teams polling defaults to anonymous voting. Identity of those who participated in polls at this meeting cannot be confirmed, so votes cannot be verified. Staff is working with IT to address this problem and have it resolved for future meetings.

Group returned to discussion of amendment 3

Concern that the routing and location of this trail are not fully developed. Justin states that this is conceptual only and open to discussion about the actual location, but opening up use of upper valley area with trail to access. Concept highlights the importance of the cat bridge in accessing the upper valley, important to make improvements to this infrastructure as area is now well-used year-round. Several speak on how often they use the area, some stating that more access is welcome while others enjoy the area without additional trail users.

Motion:

GTC moves to approve proposed addition of a 3-5K loop class 4 trail north of T14 (Cat Trail).

Motion by Justin Thomas, 2nd by Kalie Harrison

Group votes by roll call, chat and poll:

Roll call: 3 in favor, 2 opposed

Chat: 13 in favor, 16 opposed, 1 abstain

Poll: 22 in favor, 21 opposed, 6 abstain*

Total: 38 in favor, 39 opposed, 7 abstain

* A recent update to Microsoft Teams polling defaults to anonymous voting. Identity of those who participated in polls at this meeting cannot be confirmed, so votes cannot be verified. Staff is working with IT to address this problem and have it resolved for future meetings.

Consider date for Special meeting, if needed:

Special meeting March 22 at 7PM via Teams

2. Review and approval of \$TBA for Stumpy's Trail survey, as introduced in 2021, to be paid through the Parks and Rec 406 account.

This item is no longer needed as HLB will be conducting a survey related to the pre-development plan for Alyeska Village/Holtan Hills and will include survey of the trail as well.

Meeting extended past 9PM

Motion by Kalie Harrison, 2nd Barb Crews assent vote

New Business:

3. Discuss meeting style options for future GTC meetings (virtual, hybrid, in-person) (Briana Sullivan) GBOS authorized purchase of equipment to facilitate hybrid meetings successfully. Staff will be setting up and experimenting with equipment once everything has arrived.
4. Discuss mechanics of new/old Business topics and what is needed to take immediate action on new business items. GTC Rules and procedures provide for a system to deal with topics that have time for only one meeting before decision is needed. Group can review what other committees have in place and the process of the discussion at LUC and GBOS as it unfolds.

Discuss meeting date for April, as it falls on election day.

Regular meeting will be moved to April 12 to avoid election day.

Other:

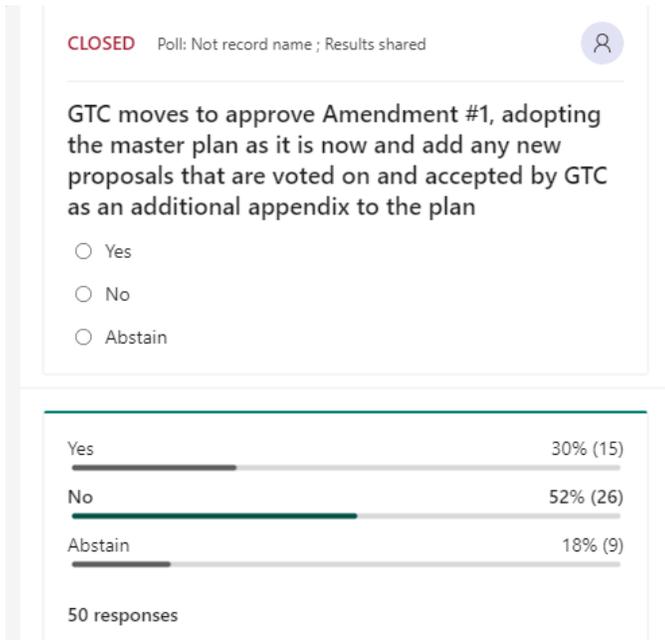
Carolyn Brodin mentions that Barb Crews, Paul Crews, [Eryn Boone](#) and Deb Essex collaborated on their proposed amendments to the trails plan because they had several areas of similar interest. This is outside of the requirement not to amend the proposals presented. The collaborated concepts are included in the meeting packet.

5. Trails Issues
Virgin Creek Falls Trailhead re-route (Kyle Kelley) – additional work in 2022 to complete trail tread and add the interpretive signs.
Trail Easements: Stumpy's Winter Trail (Kate Sandberg) – already discussed. This item will be removed from agenda.
Update on Stumpy's Winter Trail Interpretive sign project (Barb Crews) – submitted draft to the graphic designer.
Winter Grooming – thank you to the groomers and to Shane Bowlin, who is keeping the machines running!
6. March LUC/GBOS Meeting Representatives – members of executive committee will attend.

7. Written Reports to be included in meeting packet:

- Fall Storm (Oct 29-Nov 1) Damage and repair to trails.
- Financial Report & Grants Status report
- GBOS
- Other Girdwood Trail Partners Updates: GNSC; Bikewood; Friends of Girdwood Trails; Girdwild; KMTA; Imagine! Girdwood

Adjourn 9:22PM





CLOSED Poll: Not record name ; Results shared



GTC moves to approve Amendment #2 to Virgin Creek Falls Trailhead, add bullet point 4: upon completion of the study and review of suggested alternatives by GTC there will be implementation of the preferred option.

- Yes
- no
- Abstain

Yes

Updated



CLOSED Poll: Not record name ; Results shared



Motion to extend discussion on Amendment 3 for 30 minutes

- Yes
- No
- abstain



Updated





CLOSED Poll: Not record name ; Results shared



GTC moves to approve Amendment #3: adding a 3-5K loop class 4 trail north of T14

- Yes
- No
- Abstain

Yes 44% (22)

No 42% (21)

Abstain 12% (6)

49 responses

		Amendment #1 chat and verbal			Amendment #2 Chat and Verbal			Motion to Extend			Amendment #3 chat and verbal		
		yes	no	Abs	Ye s	N o	abs	Ye s	n o	ab s	Ye s	n o	abstai n
Alec	Herschleb												
Alex	Wilson												
Amanda	Sassi												
Ann	Ostroski		1		1			1			1		
Barb	Crews												
Barbara	Lydon	1											
Bayne	Salmon												
Becky	Germain												
Ben	Napolitano												
Ben	Kohler												
	Raymond-												
Brenden	Yakoubian	1			1			1					
Brian	Burnett												
Briana	Sullivan												
Camilla	Siefert												
Carolyn	Brodin												

Catherine	McDermott						
Catherine	Moncrief						
Cindi	Wilson	1		1		1	1
Clayton	Krueger					1	1
Cynthia	Christianson	1		1		1	
Dan	Kiland						1
Dave	Hamre	1		1		1	1
Deb	Essex						
Deb	Rice						
Deb	Croghan	1					
Diana	Stram						
Dinah	Merrill	1					
Donna	Evans						
Donna	Knutson						
Doug	Penn	1					1
Duffy	Daniels	1					1
Eileen	Halverson						
Eric	Steinfort						
Erik	Maurer						
Eryn	Boone						
Evan	Corral	1					1
Grace	Pleasants	1		1		1	1
Guy	Wade						
Hayley	Johnston	1					
Heather	Durtschi						
Holly	Spoth-Torres						
Jamie	Heinz						
Janeen	Hutchins						
Janet	Kiland						1
Jason	Stancil						
Jeff	Stevenson						
Jerry	Fox						
Jessica	Daniels	1		1			1
Jody	Jenkins						
John	Trautner	1		1			1
Jonathan	Lee						1
Julie	Jonas						
Julie	Raymond-Yakoubian				1		
Justin	Thomas	1		1		1	1
Kai	Penn	1					1
Kalie	Harrison						
Karen	Loso						
Kate	Sandberg						
Kathy	Trautner						
Kathy	Cronin						
Kevin	McDermott						

Kintla	Penn	1					1
Kyle	Kelley						
Lanice	Drake						
Laurie	Penn	1					1
Lisa	Maurer						
Lori	Harris	1			1		1
Lynne	Doran		1		1		1
Malcolm	Herstand						
Marc	Esslinger						
Margaret	Tyler						
Marguerite	Leeds						
Mark	Jonas	1	1		1		1
Martin	Cassens						
Mary	Thomas	1			1		1
Matt	Wedeking						
Michelle	Tenny	1	1				1
Mike	Durtschi	1					
Mike	Edgington		1		1		1
Nels	Barber						
Nick	Georgelos						
Patty	Hamre						
Paul	Allred						
Paul	Crews	1	1		1		1
Paul	Wilson	1	1		1		1
Peter	Ostroski	1	1		1		1
Phil	Ostroski	1	1		1		1
Phil	Peterson		1				1
Rachel	Steer	1					1
Randy	Brandon						
Rebecca	Reichlin						
Ron	Tenny						
Rorie	Hammel						1
Ryan	Hutchins-Cabibi						
Sabrina	Hamilton	1					1
Sarah	Mattingly				1		
saraj	Gottstein	1	1		1		1
Scott	Thomas						
Shannon	O'Brien						
Sharon	Allred						
Sharon	Samuels						
Sophie	Ostroski						
Sparky	anderson	1					
Steve	Halverson	1		1		1	1
Terin	Martinjak	1	1		1		1
Terry	Mercurio						

Tiffany
Tim
Zach
Total:

Peterson
Lydon
Behney



GTC Member Proposed Amendments to the Girdwood Trails Master Plan Jan 18 2022.
Proposed changes may not be addressed in the order shown.

Amendment #1

(Raymond-Yakoubian)

Proposed Motion: Vote to adopt the Girdwood Trails Master Plan as it is now (i.e. after incorporation of the votes on recommendations ending at the January 4, 2022 meeting), and add any new proposals that are voted on and accepted by GTC as an additional appendix to the Plan.

Motion fails 3/1/22

Amendment #2

(Tenny)

Proposed change: Title - Virgin Creek Falls Trailhead. Keep bullet points 1,2,3

Add bullet point 4: Upon completion of the study and review of the suggested alternatives by GTC there will be implementation of the preferred option.

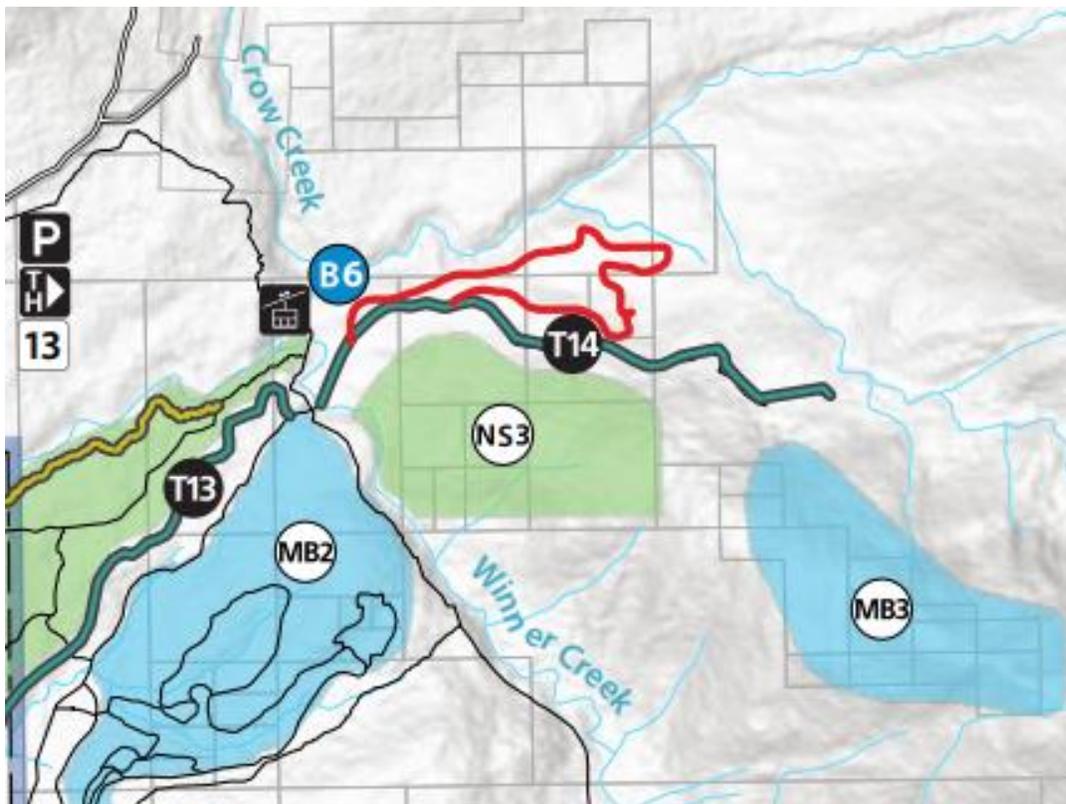
Motion passes 3/1/22

Amendment #3

(Thomas)

Proposed change: Add 3-5k loop class 4 trail north of T14. (see map below)

Motion fails by close margin 3/1/22 – needs discussion



Amendment #4

(Boone/Harrison)

Proposed change: Trailheads on residential streets should be pedestrian/bike access only (i.e., trailhead parking not allowed on residential roads). (Boone/Harrison)

Amendment #5

(Boone/Harrison)

Proposed change: Differentiate between activities allowed during winter/summer in Areas for Primitive Trails/Natural Space Areas.

Amendment #6

(Thomas)

Amend description of primitive trails as follows in red.

Areas for Primitive Trails: One way in which this plan improves the balance and diversity of Girdwood's trail system is by identifying areas where primitive trails are desired. Areas that prioritize primitive trails **without prohibiting other uses** serve a variety of purposes, including both conservation and recreation, non-mechanized recreation activities like trail walking, running, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, orienteering, foraging, wildlife viewing, education, solitude, and meditation are the primary uses.

Amendment #7

(P Crews)

Proposed Motion: Amend the approved recommended change of Natural Spaces description on P 35, **Areas For Primitive Trails** by adding the following sentence: **Primitive Trails should be routed or rerouted onto sustainable alignments and hardened when necessary to assure trail sustainability.**

Amendment #8

(Essex)

Proposed Motion: Vote to remove all primitive trail areas from the maps.

Amendment #9 (Essex) – Motion pulled Essex via email 2.21.22

Proposed Motion: Vote to connect the Upper Joe Danich trail with the Virgin Creek Trail. (Essex).

Amendment #10 *

(P Crews)

Proposed Motion: Add to the draft plan a new class 3 trail traversing parcel 6-036 and other nearby lands generally following the route that is indicated on the attached map.

See map next page

Amendment #11 *

(P Crews)

Proposed Motion: Add to the draft plan a new site to locate bridge 1. Remove from the draft plan the old location of bridge 1. Select the new location of bridge 1 to correspond with the southern termination of the trail described in motion 1. (eg Amendment 11)

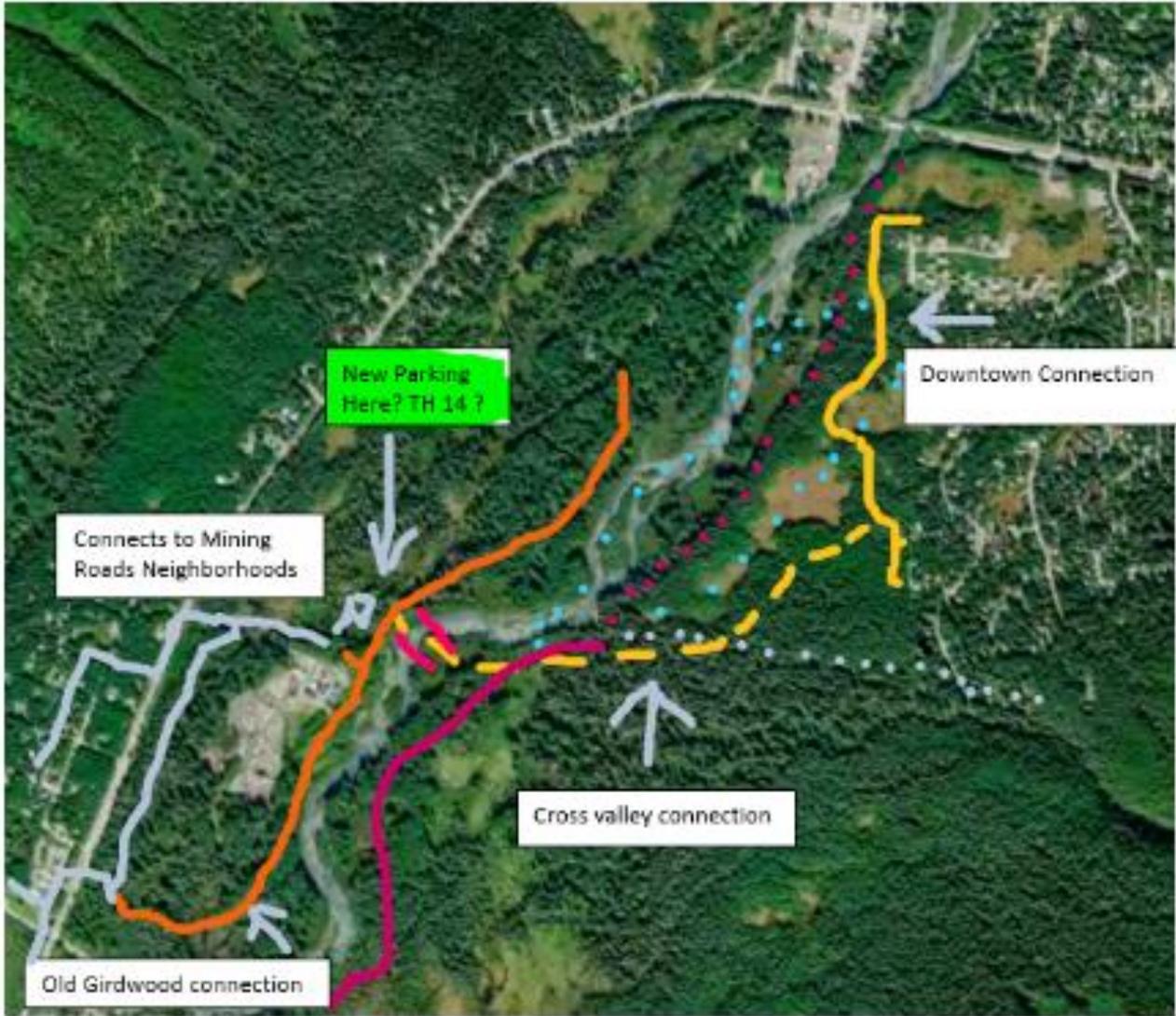
See map next page

Amendment #12 *

(P Crews)

Proposed Motion: Add new trailhead parking #14 near the southern termination of the trail described in motion #1. (eg Amendment 11)

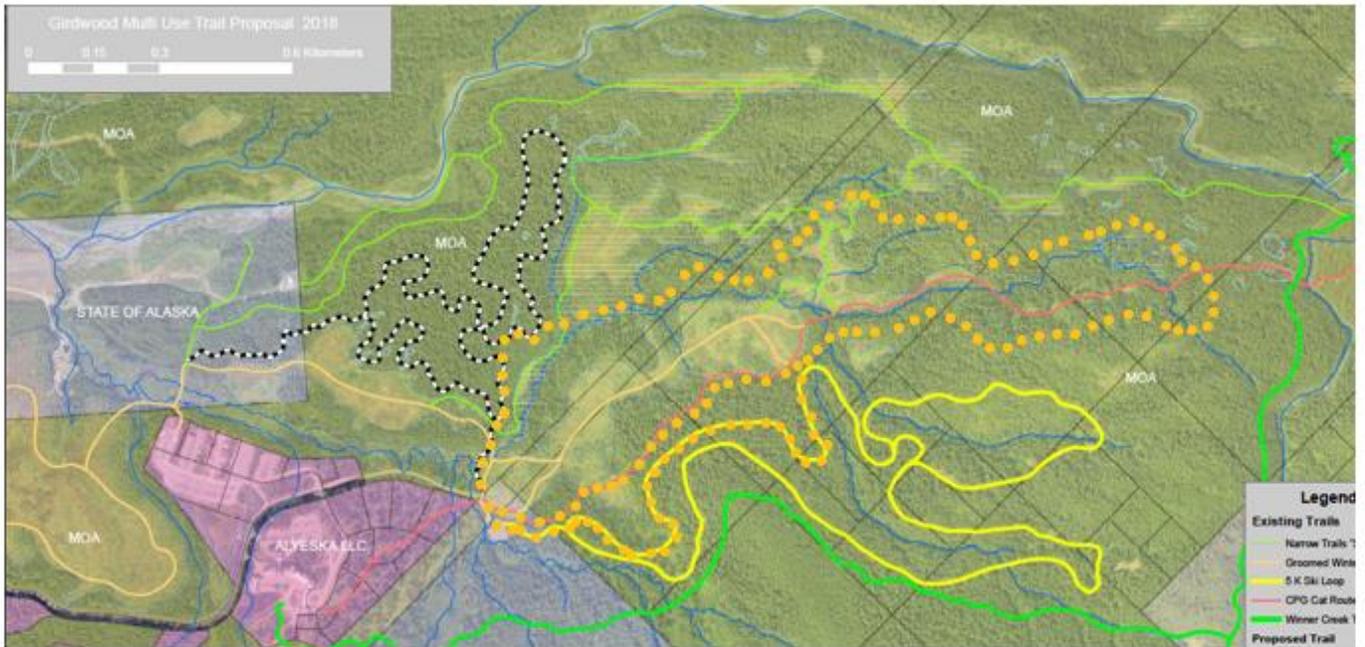
See map next page



Amendment #13:

(Essex)

Proposed Motion: add back an Upper Valley Connector from the Forest Loop to the CPG CAT Track near the CAT Track Bridge. (see maps below)



Amendment #14

(Essex)

Proposed Motion: delete the “Primitive Trail Experience” paragraph on page 24 of the Master Plan.

The remaining amendment proposals are from Barb Crews:

Amendment #15

Amend T3:

Build a trail connection in the uplands, where possible, between [the Lower Iditarod trailhead and Ruane Road](#) ~~California Creek and the Alyeska Highway~~. This new lower valley trail would provide a loop in the lower valley east of the Alyeska Highway, improving connectivity and providing an alternate, unpaved looped route for lower valley residents. The trail should be constructed to Class 3 Bicycle design parameters. ~~For the most ideal trail experience, the utility easement should be avoided. Structures are permitted to traverse wetlands.~~ The trail should be located on HLB lands zoned GOS.

Amendment #16

Amend T5:

Construct an east/west trail connection in the lower valley [between the Beaver Pond Trail and the Alyeska Highway Bike Path](#). This trail would allow users to access and exit the Beaver Pond trail about midway, creating a shorter option for those who do not wish to go the entire length of Beaver Pond trail. It would provide trail connectivity for residents of a possible future [development of HLB Tract 18A](#). T5 would be constructed to Class 3 Biking design parameters. The trail alignment should use the existing Juniper Drive easement. If the trail is constructed before parcels 6-010 and/or 6-040 are developed, the trail and associated easement [may need](#) to be relocated when the HLB parcels are subdivided and developed.

Amendment #17

Amend T6:

~~*Provide a trail connection from the neighborhoods of the middle valley to town center. This proposed trail connection would provide a more direct trail connection to town center from the Alyeska Basin Subdivision by shortening the amount of time pedestrians and trail users would have to travel on roads. Avoid wetlands when possible. Boardwalk structures can be used where staying out of wetlands is not feasible. This trail should be kept outside of natural area 1 (NA1) using HLB land zoned GOS and/or GCR-1. Designed to Class 3 bicycle design parameters. Trail would tie [into the Alyeska Hwy Bike Path after crossing under the Alyeska Hwy Glacier Creek bridge](#) existing trails before crossing the highway.*~~

Amendment #18

Amend T7:

Change the sentence from “...the trail...*will be relocated*...” to “...the trail...[may need to be relocated](#) ...”. Hopefully, possible future development will be anticipated during the trail design process so that relocation is not necessary.

Amendment #19

Amend T8:

This trail is shown on many trail plans and forms a natural connection between the Beaver Pond Trail on the south, and the Iditarod on the north crossing Ragged Top Trail on the way. The route traverses an area of old growth rainforest, open marshes, small stream courses and waterfalls. The trail would require a bridge to cross over California Creek to join up with Beaver Pond Trail. This bridge could be built in coordination with the Girdwood Cemetery, whose Master Plan also shows a bridge in this area. This trail connection T8 would provide an important link in the Circum-Valley Loop. Trail would be constructed to Class 2 Hiking design parameters. The proposed route traverses HLB lands zoned both GOS and gR-3. If the trail is constructed before parcel 6-010, zoned gR-3 is developed, the trail and associated easement may need to be will be relocated when/if the HLB parcel is subdivided and developed. This trail is identified in the Crow Creek Neighborhood Land Use Study.

Amendment #20

Amend T9:

Change the sentence from "...the trail...will be relocated..." to "...the trail...may need to be relocated ...".

Amendment #21

Amend T11:

Add trail class in this trail description.

Amendment #22

Amend T12:

This proposed trail creates an upland route between Stumpy's Summer Trail and the Glacier Canyon Rim between the southern portion and northern portions of Stumpy's Summer Trail. It would replace the sections of Stumpy's Summer trail that traverse the wetlands of Perpetual, Island, and Last Meadows. The trail would create a loop option for hikers on the Winner Creek and Snowcat trails. The proposed trail should be is a primitive, non-mechanized trail constructed to Class 2 Hiking design parameters. Because the trail is located in an Area of Primitive Trails, bikes and other mechanized uses would not be allowed on the trail. The trail should be hardened as necessary would be unhardened as much as possible, however it could hardening is minimally allowed to avoid braiding of trails, resource damage, and to achieve trail sustainability if desired.

Amendment #23

Amend T13:

Add a conceptual version of the previously approved Forest Loop Trail that addresses the changes needed based on Alyeska Village development.

Amendment #24

Amend T14:

T14 is listed as 4 miles long in the Existing Trails chart on p. 20. The Draft Trail Master Plan says "improvements should be considered on both sides of Winner Creek trail" (p. 39).

Then in the chart on p. 40, T14 is listed as 1.21 miles long. Does this mean that only 1.21 miles out of the 4 mile long trail are going to be upgraded from Class 1 to Class 4?

Next to last sentence:

On the north side of Winner Creek a separate, down route for bikes should be constructed separate from the multi-use ~~T14 T13~~ and connecting MB3 to the bottom of the hill.

Amendment #25

Amend B3:

Identify a location for a trail bridge to cross Virgin Creek. A bridge would provide a safe, legal, and sustainable connection between lower Virgin Creek and the Wagon Trail ~~and complete a loop in the lower Valley~~. This project must be pursued in concert with the Virgin Creek Access Study (TH4).

Amendment #26

Add B7: (this is a new bridge that I propose be added to the Plan)

Construct a pedestrian trail bridge across California Creek as part of the T8 trail project connecting Beaver Pond Trail to the Toe Slope Trail. This bridge is also included in the Girdwood Cemetery Master Plan, so bridge planning and construction could be shared between the GTC and the Girdwood Cemetery.

Amendment #27

Amend TH5 & TH6: (this is a variation on TH5 and TH6)

Combine TH6 and TH5 (Kariolus) into a TH by the ballfields.

Amendment #28

RE: TH8: (Beaver Pond Trailhead)

The Beaver Pond trailhead is often full. Implementing ~~other simple trailhead~~ improvements at other trailheads (Town Square, Girdwood PreK-8 School, Girdwood Cemetery, and improved signage and wayfinding), may reduce the demand for on-street parking in this location. As required, coordinate with AK DOT&PF to investigate the feasibility of an official trailhead in this location.

Amendment #29

Amend TH9:

Pursue an official parking agreement with Anchorage School District ~~Girdwood PreK-8 School~~ to provide authorized trail parking in the dirt lot adjacent to the AWWU road. ~~this location~~. Install trailhead, wayfinding, and informational signage as authorized. A trail should be constructed that connects this parking lot to the Middle Iditarod trail. This new connector trail should be located off of the AWWU road, given the planned development of the Holtan Hills subdivision. Perhaps this trail connection could be built as part of the Holtan Hills development.

Amendment #30

Amend TH11:

Propose an additional 30 spots at a minimum.

Amendment #31

Amend Natural Space Description on Page 35:

Areas for Primitive Trails: One way in which this plan improves the balance and diversity of Girdwood's trail system is by identifying areas where primitive trails are desired. Trails in these areas would be limited to class 2 standards unless use of trails within these areas warrants improved trail tread to protect the surrounding environment. Areas that prioritize primitive trails serve a variety of purposes, including both conservation and recreation, where non-mechanized recreation activities like trail walking, running, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, orienteering, foraging, wildlife viewing, education, solitude, and meditation are the primary uses. Mechanized trail use, such as bikes or one wheels, is not authorized.

Amendment #32

Amend language in NS1(Virgin Creek Area of Primitive Trails)

(NS2 and NS3 also should adopt this amendment):

Create a natural space in the Virgin Creek area that is kept in its primitive natural state. Allowed uses include primitive, non-mechanized recreation activities like trail walking, running, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, orienteering, foraging, wildlife viewing, education, solitude, and meditation. Mechanized trail use, such as bikes or one wheels, is not authorized. Trails in these areas would be limited to class 2 standards unless use of trails within these areas warrants improved trail tread to protect the surrounding area. ~~Trails in the area should be kept to Class 1 and Class 2 Design Parameters.~~ Trail boardwalk or bridge structures are authorized to avoid wetlands and streams. Signage should be kept to a minimum. ~~Parking for this level of development would be required either via TH9, TH10, or TH2.~~

Amendment #33

Amendment 1 to NS1: (wording from the staff recommendation for NS1)

Recommend adjusting the east boundary of NS1 to include the Wagon Trail.

Amendment #34:

Amendment 2 to NS1: (wording from the staff recommendation for NS1 with my modifications in blue)

The western boundary should be adjusted to remove the **Lower** Joe Danich Trail from NS1. This would allow the Lower Danich Trail to be upgraded to a Class 3 trail IF AND ONLY IF:

- B1 is ever built and
- a Class 3 connector trail from Lower Danich to Turin and/or Carlina Drive cul-de-sacs is built.

Because this connector trail would be a Class 3 trail within NS1, it would have to be granted an exception to the NS conditions stipulating primitive trails and no mechanized travel.

Upper Joe Danich would remain in NS1.

Amendment #35

Amendment 3 to NS1:

Construct a neighborhood connector trail (Class 3, bicycle design parameters) in uplands from the Turin and/or Carlina Drive cul-de-sacs to connect to T6, the Barren Ave to Alyeska Highway Connector. Because this connector trail would be a Class 3 trail within NS1, it would have to be granted an exception to the NS conditions stipulating primitive trails and no mechanized travel.

Amendment #36

Amendment 4 to NS1:

Bikes are allowed on the Lower Danich only during the winter.

Amendment #37

Amend MB1:

Provide purpose-built mountain biking flow trails (Class 2-3 bicycle design parameters) to the west of Abe's trail and Beaver Pond trail, in the area between the California Creek drainages. This mountain bike area would alleviate user conflicts around the Abe's Trail/Beaver Pond/California Creek area. Beaver Pond Trail (out of trailhead 20) and a new built up-track would be the up route for bicycle traffic and the proposed T7 Crow Creek Road to Beaver Pond Trail would be the down route. Design intent is to mitigate user conflict in this area to the greatest extent possible by providing purpose-built mountain biking trails and removing faster-speed bicycle traffic from multi-use trails built for hiking. Trailhead access for this area would be located at Town Center, the improved Beaver Pond Trailhead, Cemetery trailhead, or Girdwood Pre-K-8 School ~~Four Valleys Community School.~~

Amendment #38

Amend MB2:

Provide purpose-built mountain biking flow trails (Class 2-3 bicycle design parameters) within and around the 5K Nordic Ski Loop. All trails in MB2 should minimize impacts to the Winner Creek Trail viewshed. Trailhead access to the area is from the Arlberg Trailhead, Alyeska Resort for resort guests, Alyeska Resort for the general public if a parking agreement is in place, and the Winner Creek Gorge Trailhead once the bridge over Glacier Creek at the Hand Tram is in place. Additional trails in MB2 will not be authorized until a parking agreement is in place, Arlberg is expanded, or another parking solution is identified.

Amendment #39

Amend Population description p. 13

Population

The original people of the Girdwood Valley were the Dena'ina Athabascan who may have visited the valley ~~used the land~~ to trap, hunt, and fish. (in our research for the Iditarod signs, we learned that it is doubtful an Dena'ina lived in the Girdwood valley). The town of Girdwood was established by goldminers in 1896, and by 1906 had grown to 1500 goldminers and railroad workers. In the 1950's the population of the Girdwood Valley was low and mostly supportive of rail and (the ARR was completed in 1923) highway construction efforts after gold mining ended during WW2. As Alaska began to develop its resources throughout the state, the population began to increase. After the Alyeska Hotel was completed in the mid-1990's population growth slowed as development became constricted by lack of land and available local jobs. During peak times, population in the town can reach 4000 people – double ???? *something's missing here!*

Amendment #40
 Amend p. 15 with revised chart



Amendment #41

Amend p. 16 to remove reference to the Hand Tram from the Existing Physical Conditions section.

Amendment #42

Amend p. 26 to remove references to the Hand Tram from the Connectivity section.

Amendment #43

Amend Access section:

*Parking for trail access is available **year-round** at the USFS Ranger District Office, Beaver Pond Trail, **Arlberg Lot** and Moose Meadows Ski Trails. The following parking options are only accessible during summer: Crow Pass, **Winner Creek Gorge**, **Middle Iditarod**, and ~~Upper Iditarod Trail~~, Upper Virgin Creek Trail.*

Amendment #44

Amend p.35 as follows, under Areas of Primitive Trails description

*One way in which this plan improves the balance and diversity of Girdwood's trail system is by identifying areas where primitive trails are desired. **Trails in these areas would be limited to class 2 standards unless use of trails within these areas warrants improved trail tread to protect the surrounding environment.** Areas that prioritize primitive trails serve a variety of purposes, including both conservation and recreation, where non-mechanized recreation activities like trail walking, running, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, orienteering, foraging, wildlife viewing, education, solitude, and meditation are the primary uses. **Mechanized trail use, such as bikes or one wheels, is not authorized.***

Amendment #45

Amend p. 40 to allow biking on the Toe Slope Trail.

Virgin Creek Area:

Combination of amendments by Paul and Barbara Crews and Deb Essex.

The goal of this edit is to put all the amendments regarding the Virgin Creek area into one coordinated idea. The hope was that this consolidation would make it easier to see the overall plan and to avoid repeat or conflicting votes.

As a result of this edit, I have eliminated 3 of my amendments and consolidated 1 page of my writing, 1 page of Deb's writing and 8 pages of Paul's writing down to one page.

I have included the January 18 text in red. I have included who wrote the original text and what motion it was, in case you want to cross-reference my citations. While it is true the words are not exactly the same, the proposed ideas are the same. Please read over them and decide if you agree.

These are the only modifications from the original text.

- Two of Paul's motions have been broken down into two separate motions, so that it is possible to vote on only one idea at a time.
- Timberline to Downtown Access Trail went from "class 3 trail" in Paul's motion and a "class 3 bicycle design" in Barb's motion to a "class 3 walking only" trail.
- To protect the Upper Joe Danich route, the first half of the Virgin Creek Access Trail is to use the alignment proposed by Paul in the Timberline to Downtown Access Trail rather than Deb's original idea (however, the trail alignment looks the same on Deb's original map and the consolidated map). Also, the trail is now listed explicitly as class 3 hiking only trail.

Each of the 7 amendments proposed below is to be voted on separately.

Original text from January 18

Timberline to Downtown Access Trail

Create a class 3 walking only commuter trail from Turin/Karolinus through the uplands to T6 (the new trail from Barren Ave to Alyeska Hwy). This trail is on a different alignment from the Upper Danich, and combined with the Timberline to Ruane Trail, would essentially replace the Upper Danich, which is more a route than a trail.

January 18 text from Paul, motion 1, phase 1:

Add to the draft plan a new class 3 trail traversing parcel 6-036 and other nearby lands generally following the route that is indicated on the attached map.

January 18 text from Barb, amendment 3 to NS1:

Construct a neighborhood connector trail (Class 3, bicycle design parameters) in uplands from the Turin and/or Carlina Drive cul-de-sacs to connect to T6, the Barren Ave to Alyeska Highway Connector. Because this connector trail would be a Class 3 trail within NS1, it would have to be granted an exception to the NS conditions stipulating primitive trails and no mechanized travel.

Reasoning:

- Connects our neighborhoods; allows trail access to downtown without walking on city streets.
- This is to be an easy trail that all walkers can use.
- Moves trail users away from the river bluff and farther from wildlife zones.
- Provides Timberline residents convenient trail opportunities within walking distance of their homes, thereby reducing the number of parking spaces needed at our trailheads.

Virgin Creek Access Trail

Extend the Timberline to Downtown Access Trail to Lower Virgin Creek Trail. This new Class 3 hiking trail would cross Virgin Creek at B3, continue up Virgin Creek on the southern bank, then cross Virgin Creek again to join up with the Virgin Creek Falls Trail.

January 18 text from Deb, motion 2:

I move to connect the Upper Joe Danich trail with the Virgin Creek Trail.

Reasoning:

- This would help alleviate Timberline traffic and over-crowding at Virgin Creek Falls trailhead.
- This trail loop could provide a safe connection to Hightower Town Square for the Virgin Creek area.

Timberline to Ruane Access Trail

Create a Class 3 multi-use trail that connects Turin/Karolinus to Ruane Road. This trail would start at Turin and Karolinus, join up with Lower Virgin Creek Trail near its junction with Lower Danich Trail, then turn west and cross Glacier Creek on a new bridge near Ruane Road. This trail would only be built if the Ruane bridge is funded.

January 18 text from Paul, motion 1, phase 2:

Add to the draft plan a new class 3 trail traversing parcel 6-036 and other nearby lands generally following the route that is indicated on the attached map.

Reasoning:

- Creates a new cross valley link and shortens the pedestrian travel distance between Turin Drive and Hottentot Road by half.
- Designating the trail and bridge as a pedestrian corridor may open funding opportunities.

Ruane Bridge Addition

This bridge is a component of the Timberline to Ruane Access Trail. The bridge at Ruane would replace B1 down at the RR area.

January 18 text from Paul, motion 2:

Add to the draft plan a new site to locate bridge 1. Select the new location of bridge 1 to correspond with the southern termination of the trail described in motion 1.

Reasoning:

- Creates an emergency access route in case of a catastrophic Ayleska Highway bridge failure.

New Mid Valley Trailhead at Ruane

Add new trailhead parking near the Transfer Site at the southern end of the Timberline to Ruane Access Trail. This parking lot would only be built if the bridge at Ruane is funded.

January 18 text from Paul, motion 3:

Add new trailhead parking #14 near the southern termination of the trail described in motion 1.

Reasoning:

- Parking adjacent to the Transfer Site would be easy to find and would attract our out-of-town users. It would reduce parking pressure at the Forest Service, Downtown, and Karolius Trailheads as well as reducing traffic farther up valley.

Lower Valley Bridge Deletion

Delete B1 from the Draft Plan.

January 18 text from Paul, motion 2:

Remove from the draft plan the old location of bridge 1.

Reasoning:

- With the Lower Danich Trail being Class 1 and the T2 connections to Wagon Trail being eliminated, funding for this bridge is not likely to be feasible. It would be better to direct our resources elsewhere.

PT1 Expansion to Wagon Trail

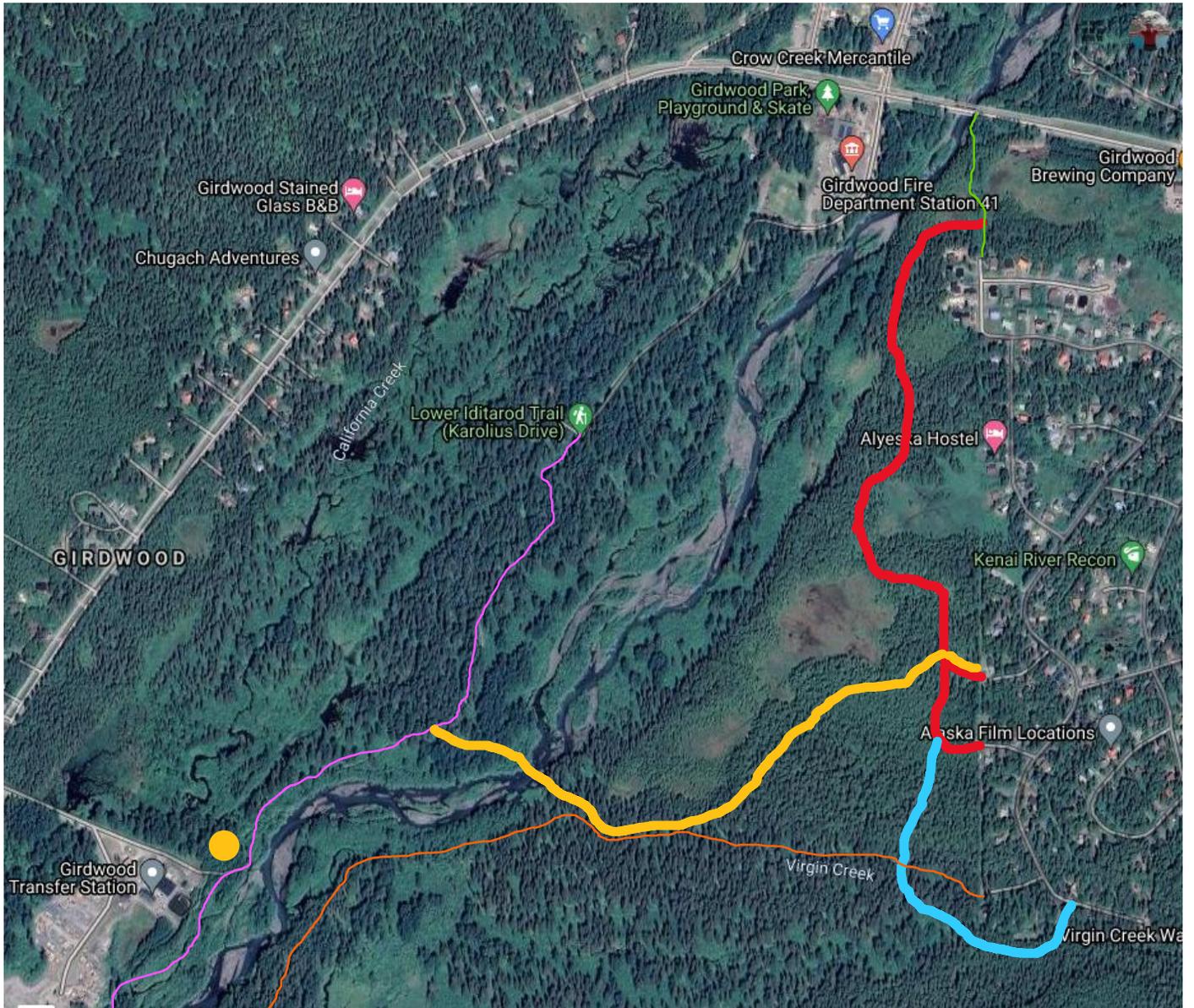
Expand PT1 east to include Wagon Trail.

January 18 text from Barb, amendment 1 to NS1:

Recommend adjusting the boundary of NS1. The eastern boundary should extend and include Wagon Trail.

Reasoning:

- Wagon Trail is a Class 1 trail and would be a good landmark to delineate the eastern boundary of PT1.



- Timberline to Downtown Access Trail (Class 3 hiking only)
- Virgin Creek Access Trail (Class 3 hiking only)
- Timberline to Ruane Access Trail (Class 3 multi-use)
- T5 Barren Avenue to Alyeska Highway (proposed in Trails Master Plan)
- Lower Virgin Creek/Lower Danich Trails (existing)
- Lower Iditarod Trail (existing)
- Ruane Road Trailhead Parking