

Comments on Proposed Project Comsat Talkeetna Lakes Park Access

I have used the Comsat Rd. continually since 1981.

Procedure Issues

Under the “Agreement Between the TCCI and the MSB with respect to Trails and Other Facility Development in the Talkeetna Area Parks” a main goal is to provide for meaningful community participation in development projects.” This has not happened regarding this proposal.

TPAC needs to contact nearby property owners to ensure meaningful participation. The Borough does this. Merely publishing a meeting notice with agenda regarding a trail or trailhead project is not enough. This should apply to working subcommittees also.

I support the concerns of the Christensen Lake property owners.

I also would like to know what permits TPAC/TCCI would have to get to go through with this project so that I can comment on them as a Comsat Rd. property owner and continual driver on the road,

Concerns

My personal goal is to lessen the amount of our human footprint on our public lands if it is not necessary. **How many trees will be cut for this proposal?** We have a thriving recreational tourism economy. But how much is too much? When is our carrying capacity going to be reached? New trails or reviving old trails is not necessarily a green environmentally friendly initiative.

Trails, parking lot, and other assorted infrastructure fragment habitat. Every recent TPAC project involves creating more human imprints that affect habitat. **For instance, the Ridge Trail received \$300K in bond funding for trail rehab. This rehab has turned into making a whole new trail plus a system of smaller trails in an area that is a wildlife corridor and habitat and a refuge for wildlife to avoid humans.** There are consequences. Scientific studies show habitat that is not fragmented by human development such as trails, roads and parking lots helps ameliorate negative climate change in ecosystems by strengthening the biodiversity and wildlife population dynamics. This fact should be taken into consideration by TPAC and TCCI.

The Safety Issue: I fail to understand why putting in a trailhead parking lot access in the midst of an ess curve is solving a supposed safety problem. That stretch of road can be extremely treacherous in the winter. It is icy due to its position in relation to the sun. Traveling on an icy ess curve and meeting two school buses is pretty thrilling. It is also thrilling meeting moose in this area which can happen year round.

Wildlife Migration Corridor: Every indication is that this is a wildlife use area for migration. Also there is wildlife located near the trail development to Christensen Lake according to property owners.

The Trail development: I looked under ADNR’s RS 2477 Trail Project to see if this trail is in a RS 2477 easement. That is I was particularly looking for an easement through T26N R 4W sections 29 and 32 which is where the 1700 foot of trail, 800 foot of which is an old tractor trail is located. I found nothing. Maybe I am a crappy researcher.

Becky Long

1/5/18

Read at 1/9/18 TPAC meeting

Sent to TCCI for the 2/5/18 TCCI meeting as suggested by TCCI Chair Jeff Lebegue

Sent to TPAC again 2/28/18 because TPAC has no record of these comments