

Chair

Aaron Hansen

Commissioners

Jason Ellingson

Kara Rodriguez

Henk Kruithof

Marvin VanDenBroek

Erin Cole

Jim Fritsch

Parks & Recreation

Director

Duncan Chisholm

**CITY OF CORDOVA
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024. 6pm
COMMUNITY ROOM A & B
CORDOVA CENTER**

REGULAR AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. Minutes from May 28, 2024, Regular Meeting.
- 4. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**
- 5. REPORTS**
 - a. 1st Review of Cordova Comprehensive Trails Plan
 - b. Director's Report including Q2 Report and update on Department projects and activities.
 - c. Discussion on FY25 Budget and department revenue options.
- 6. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**
- 7. ADJOURNMENT**

You may submit written public comments via email to parksandrec@cityofcordova.net, mail comments to Dept. of Parks & Recreation, City of Cordova, PO Box 1210, Cordova, AK 99574, or deliver them to Bidarki Recreation Center directly. Written public comments must be received by 4:00 p.m. on the day of meeting.

**City of Cordova
Parks & Recreation Commission
May 28, 2024
Cordova Center Community Rooms A & B**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present 4 – Commission member Kara Rodrigues
Commission member Henk Kruithof
Commission member Marvin VanDenBroek
New Commission member Jim Fritsch
New Commission member Erin Cole

Unexcused Absence 1 – Commission Chair Aaron Hansen
Unexcused Absence 1 – Commission Member Jason Ellingson

Also present: P&R Director Duncan Chisholm
Administration Clerk Pam Whitesell

In the Chair's absence, Commissioner Kruithof chaired the meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/VanDen Broek S/Rodrigues to approve the minutes of May 28, 2024.

Upon voice vote, motion carried 4-0.

4. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

No public business.

5. GUEST SPEAKER – Dave Zastrow

6. Dave Zastrow was unable to attend due to medical. Director Duncan Chisholm gave a brief overview of the trails plan.

7. REPORTS

a. Directors Report

Director Chisholm spoke to the Directors report. Topics covered included:

- Summer Activity Guide 2024.
- Update on Skater's cabin repairs.

8. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

VanDenBroek commented on the gazebo at the old PWSSC dock, asking for an update on the project and bid from Wilson Construction. **VanDenBroek** also commented on the summer activity guide.

Kruithof spoke on the harbor commission meeting and about the re-zoning of the proposed harbor area.

Rodrigues no comment.

Cole asked if Parks & Recreation needs anything from the parks commission with regards to the summer activity guide.

9. ADJOURNMENT

M/VanDenBroek K/Rodrigues to adjourn the meeting.

Kruithof adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm.

Approved:

Aaron Hansen, Chair

Duncan Chisholm, Director Parks & Recreation

DRAFT



Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda Item #5A

On Agenda: 8/27/2024

ITEM TITLE: Cordova Comprehensive Trails Plan – Review #1

SUBMITTED BY: Duncan Chisholm, Director Parks and Recreation

INFORMATION

MOTION

RESOLUTION

FISCAL NOTES:

Expenditure Required: N/A

Unencumbered Balance: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Parks and Recreation Commission conduct a first review and discuss the draft Cordova Comprehensive Trails Plan.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Director Duncan Chisholm will give a verbal report to the Commission on the development of the Cordova Comprehensive Trails Plan.

Plan Overview

The Cordova Comprehensive Trails Plan guides the development and implementation of trails within the City of Cordova.

The Plan proposed 5 goals to help achieve a vision of an inclusive, holistic and well-managed local trail system that meets the diverse needs of the Cordova community and fosters connections through shared stewardship.

1. **More and better trails.** Priority given to finish existing trails, expand existing trail system, improve connectivity between trails, and construct new trails.
2. **Inclusive Trails.** Increase trail accessibility for all user groups and connectivity between trails.
3. **Partnership and Collaboration.** Establish successful collaboration with community stakeholders for the stewardship of Cordova's trail system by working with landowners. Accommodate community desires and encourage community support. Establish a work plan, organize volunteer groups and advocate trail use through tourism.
4. **Trail Organization, Management and Maintenance.** Facilitate a governance group charged with the oversight, implementation, and maintenance of Cordova's trail system. Develop consistent design and classification standards, wayfinding and signage for existing and new trails. Establish sustainable trail management (sustainable trail construction/design, workforce, funding) and maintain a trail inventory document.
5. **Funding.** Identify and secure the financial resources to maintain, expand and develop Cordova's trail system now and into the future. Create a 5-year plan – including maintenance

and identify funding sources. Keep a record of funding opportunities & associated filing system and create documents to help apply for grants.

The Plan recommends specific improvements to identified projects. These range from clean and green style projects (those that could be accomplished with volunteers and Department staff) to capital improvements requiring more substantial resources.

Proposed projects:

1. Breakwater Trail

An extension of the existing trail by an additional 800 ft.

2. Odiak Pond Boardwalk

Deferred maintenance and extend the trail 1,050 ft around the entire pond.

3. Power Creek Trail

Redesign the trail section through Power Creek Valley terminating at the Power Creek Cabin for mountain bike and fat tire bikes.

4. Mike O'Leary Trail

Construction of amenities and a new trail from US Forest Service land to Scout Lake.

5. O'Leary Intertie Trail

Complete a variety of trailhead and trail structures reconstruction along entire length of trail.

6. Eyak Mountain Trail

Complete a variety of trailhead and trail structures reconstruction along entire length of trail.

7. Base of Ski Area Trails

Progress a plan for development of the ski area with an emphasis on new trails

8. Cordova Covered Spaces Project

Support the implementation of covered spaces project.

Next Steps

Further minor editing is required of the plan and this is being undertaken by the Cordova Trail Committee under the chairmanship of Dave Zastrow.

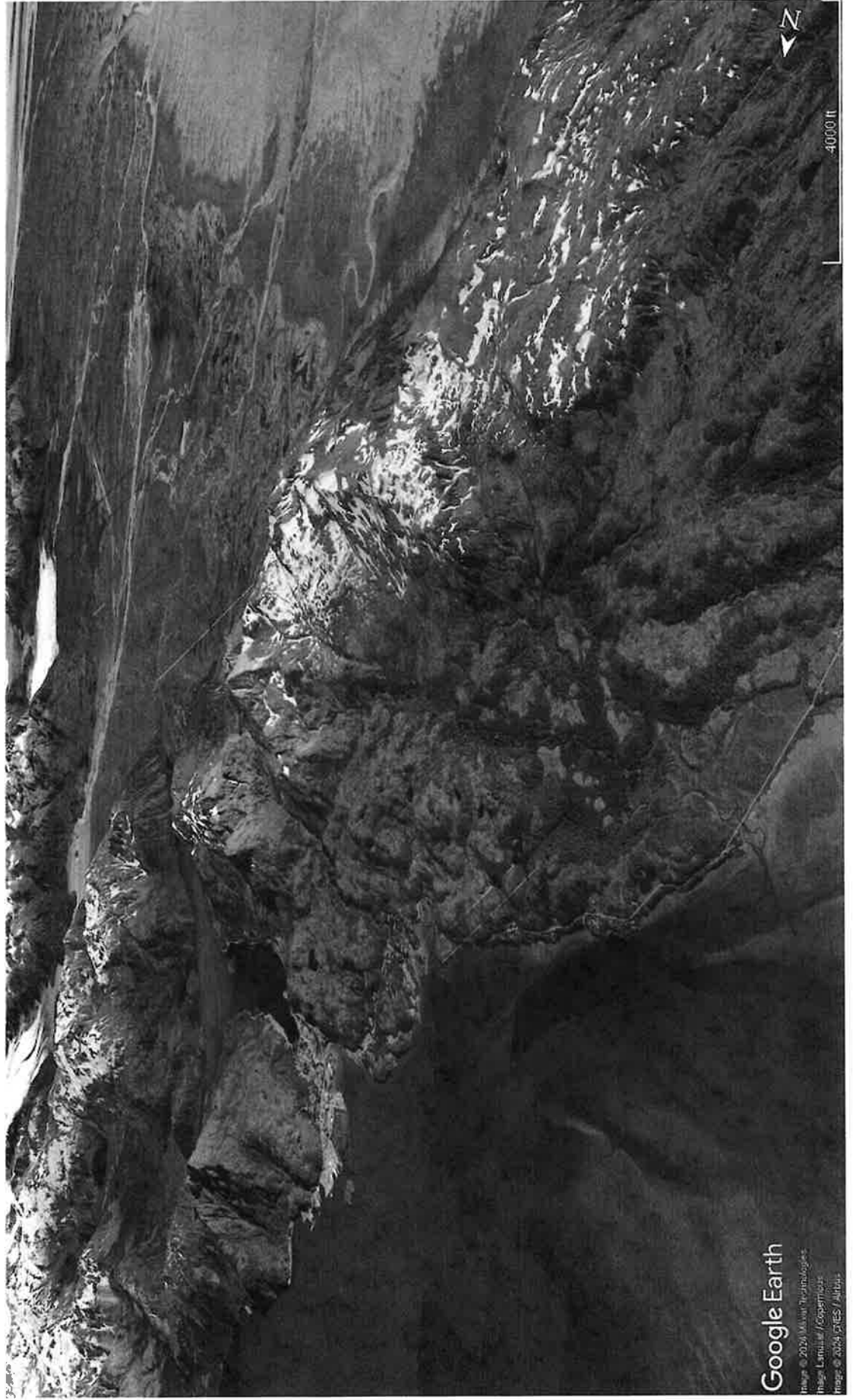
Once editing has been completed the Plan will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission for recommendation to Planning and Zoning Commission.



City of Cordova

Comprehensive Trails Plan

2023



Welcome

The Cordova Comprehensive Trails Plan is the result of a 7 year, community-wide, planning effort. This plan achieves the primary goal established in 2018 of setting a clear direction for managing, maintaining and promoting Cordova trails. "Managing" includes trail planning and design, construction, and funding. Final implementation of the plan rests upon the trail plan partners and the public. Partners to the plan represent Federal, State and City government, Native Corporation and Cordova Trails Plan committee. These partners will combine resources with individuals, businesses and foundations in order to establish a cost-effective and diversified trail system. Some examples of the cost savings that can be realized through these partnerships are the use of volunteer labor, eligibility for grants not available to governments, in-kind contributions of expertise in trail planning and design, and collaboration to supply resources for trail maintenance.

Acknowledgements

City of Cordova

Director, Parks and Recreation - Duncan Chisholm

Cordova Trails Committee (CTC)

Elizabeth Senear, Toni Godes, Ryan Schuetze, David Zastrow, Wendy Ranney, Michelle Hahn, Stormy Haught

Other Contributors:

NPS Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)

Zachary Babb, Kristin Pace, Leigh Ann Belloli, Lizzy Dean, Michael Downs, Page Seibert

Casey Planning & Design

Nancy Casey

Chugach National Forest

David Zastrow, Kate Mohatt, Dylan Charnon, Leah Mullins, Caine Daugherty

The Eyak Corporation

Tiffany Beedle

Sheridan Alpine Association

Dave Branshaw, Paul Swartzbart, John Williams, Heath Kocan, Steve Vican

Cordova Historical Society

Cordova Covered Spaces Project - Natasha Casciano, Dotty Widman

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Introduction

Cordova's trail system is a valuable community resource. Trails provide residents and visitors access to a variety of natural environments and offer opportunities for exercise, recreation, subsistence, and many other activities. Trails near town present readily accessible options to take a walk and enjoy nature and allow visitors to easily experience the spectacular scenery around Cordova. Trails outside of the immediate downtown area can be accessed by bike, walking, or vehicle.

Cordova's trails range from gentle shoreline strolls to strenuous alpine hikes and offer opportunities for a variety of experience levels and interests. Many of the trails within this system are multi-use including hiking, skiing, snowshoeing and biking. Motorized use including ATV and snow machine are allowed on some of the trails within the planning area. Cordova's tradition of respecting the rights of each group's use of these trails and common courtesy make for a friendly and safe outdoor experience.

The community has expressed a strong desire for greater connectivity between existing trails. Diverse user groups aim for safe corridors that link existing trails and popular destinations. As Cordova changes and grows it is important to maintain paths for travel around the community. The purpose of this document is to record each of these trails and develop a management plan to ensure the basic trail infrastructure is safe, usable, and the best it can be. Priorities are based upon public comment and the desire for safe, enriching outdoor experiences. Proposed projects are based upon improving user safety and trail connectivity, and developing e-maps, wayfinding and trail signage that highlights Eyak language and history.



Executive Summary

Plan Purpose

The area outlined in red highlights the planning area for the Cordova Trails Plan (CTP). At the northern edge, the area includes Power Creek Trail, and at the southern end follows the trails off Whittshed Road.

The area currently includes a total of 18 formal trails comprising nearly 40 miles of maintained trails. There are multiple landowners across the planning area, namely US Forest Service, Eyak Corporation, State of Alaska, and the City of Cordova.

The CTP is a concerted effort that brought the community together for a holistic conversation about the future of Cordova's Trail System. The CTP is a guiding document for the community, local trail and covered space organizations, agencies, and elected officials that defines the Cordova trail network and identifies projects that are supported by the community. The CTP is a framework with community-developed values, vision, and goals that local officials and partner organizations can use to make investment and project decisions.

Guide to the Plan

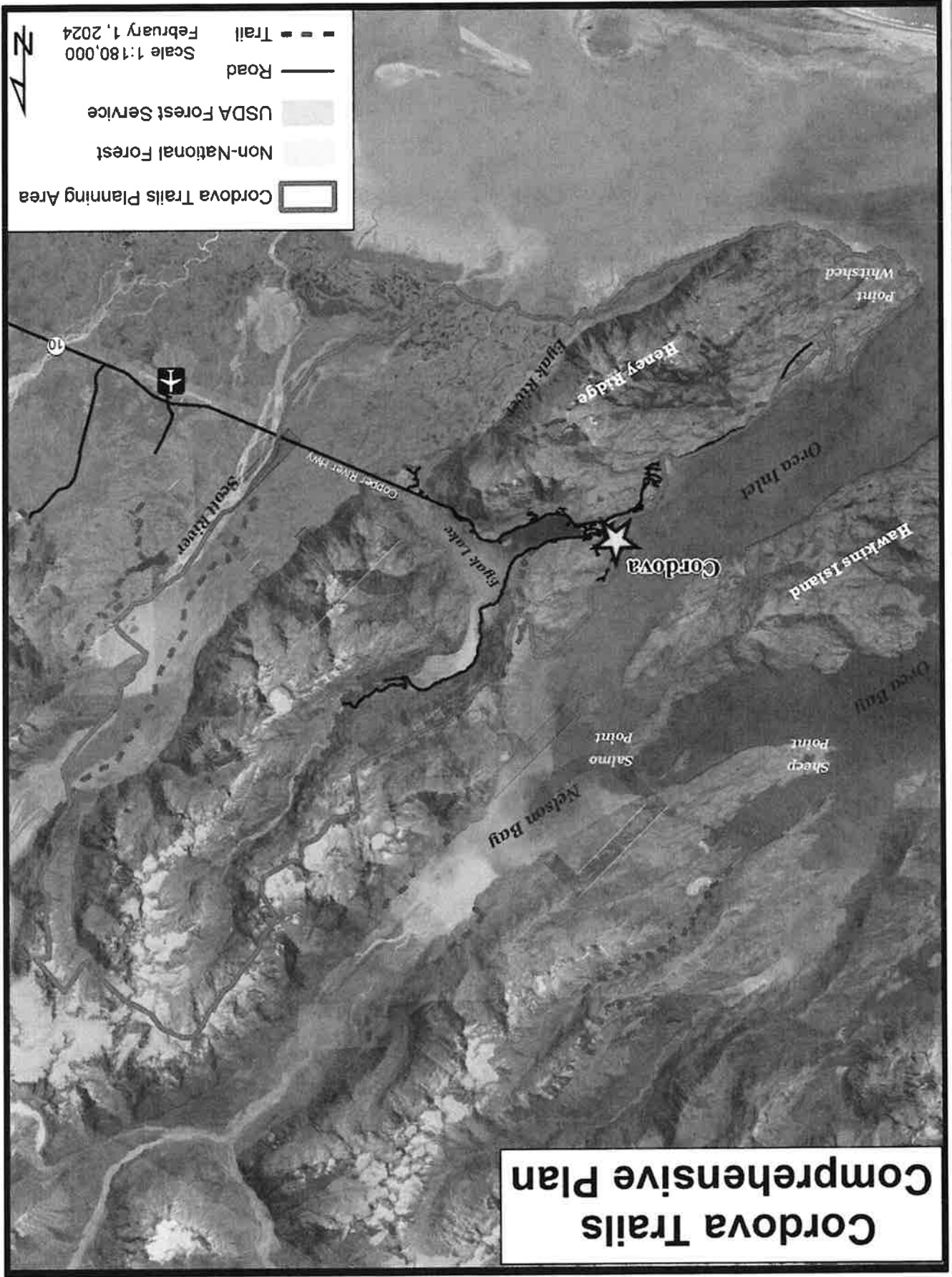
Part 1: Introduction and Existing Conditions

Part 1 of the CTP provides an overview of the existing trail system, summarizes community input, key themes, and needs.

Part 2: Recommendations and Implementation

Part 2 of the CTP identifies both broad aspirations and specific implementation actions to guide projects that will achieve the trail system that Cordova envisions.

Executive Summary



About Cordova

History and Culture

According to the oral history recorded by the **Yaakwdáat Lingit** (Yakutat Tlingit) and preserved through traditional song and dance, the **dAXunhyuu** (Eyak People) traveled on dugout canoes down the Copper River through an ice tunnel in the heavily glaciated landscape approximately three thousand years ago. Their ancestors, like the Ahtna Athabaskan, were proto-Athabaskan, living in the Copper River Valley above the massive ice fields blanketing the central and southeast coasts of Alaska during the last ice age. Their culture and language developed in isolation due to these extreme geographical conditions until their relatively peaceful assimilation with the much larger and aggressively expanding Tlingit nation. This blending of cultures and languages coincided with the time of European contact (beginning in 1741), with conflict, disease and devastating consequences beginning in the late 18th century.

At the turn of the 19th century, the Eyak had permanent villages on the northeast shore of Eyak Lake, on Mountain Slough, and alongside the Alaganik River, as well as occupying seasonal subsistence camps, including a salmon and enemy lookout over the river. The Eyak lived at a dynamic crossroads, trading not only with the Tlingit to the southeast but also with the Sugpiaq (previously referred to as Chugach Eskimo and later Prince William Sound Alutiiq) to the west, and with the Ahtna Athabaskans to the north. It wasn't until disease ripped through the communities that the remaining Eyak moved into Odiak (or Old Town) in Cordova proper, on the west side of Eyak Lake. Descendants of all of these Native groups continue to live and subsist in Cordova today.

Historically, the Eyak people subsisted on all five species of salmon, harbor seals, mountain goat, ducks, geese, upland birds, shellfish, and a spectrum of berries and edible plants. Small land mammals, bear, goats, and pinnipeds were fashioned into warm and waterproof clothing. They primarily used the spruce, hemlock, yellow cedar, and cottonwood for their yahd' (above-ground lodges), heating, and art. For all these reasons—food, shelter, clothing, art, trade, and gatherings, the Eyak people made trails, both where there were no waterways and in union with those routes. Out of respect for and in celebration of the Eyak dAXunhyuu people, the Cordova Trail's plan includes trail signage meant to honor Cordova's first people.

The indigenous Eyak (dAXunhyuu) people were Cordova's first inhabitants and trail blazers. Some of Cordova's spectacular trails undoubtedly retrace the paths of these hunter-gatherer hikers.

About Cordova



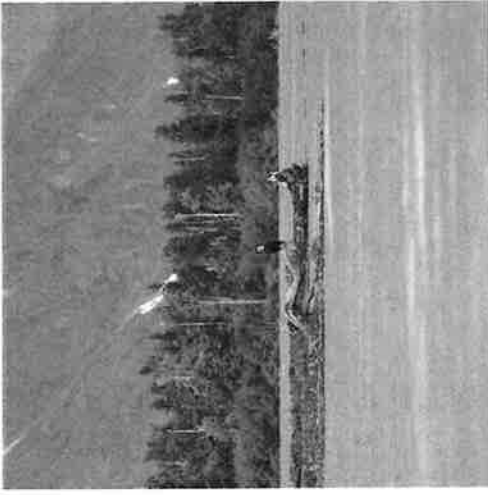
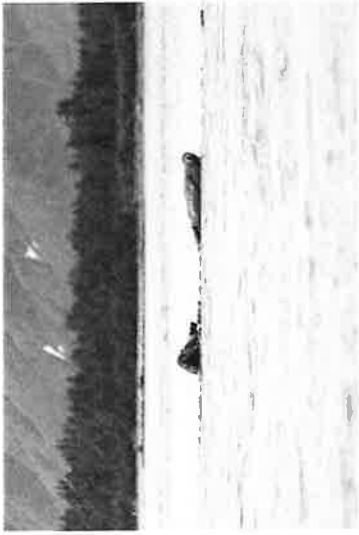
Geography

The Community of Cordova is located in the southeast of Prince William Sound, bordered on the north by the Chugach mountains and surrounded by Chugach National Forest. The town itself is located in a valley between the Chugach mountains and Heney Ridge, and between Orca Inlet (Prince William Sound) and Eyak Lake, a large freshwater lake. Directly to the east of Cordova is the Copper River Delta, a 35 square mile wetland complex providing critical habitat for migratory birds, salmon and numerous other species of wildlife. The Copper River Delta is an important staging area for the western shorebird migration. Cordova and vicinity are the ancestral homeland of the Eyak **daxunhuu** ("the people")

The town is accessed via daily air service and the Alaska Marine Highway. City and State-maintained roads connect the residents of Cordova. The Copper River Highway (AK-10) begins at the Alaska Marine Highway Terminal and passes through downtown Cordova continuing east across the Copper River Delta, past Merle K. Mudhole Smith Airport at mile 13 and ending at mile 36. Prior to the Copper River shifting course and the ensuing erosion, the highway terminated at mile 50 at the Million Dollar Bridge where it crosses the Copper River between the Miles and the Childs Glaciers. The Forest Service still maintains a campground at mile 50 which is accessible by small plane or jet boat.

Cordova supports commercial fishing, sport fishing and subsistence fishing with salmon spawning occurring in intertidal streams, Eyak Lake and streams, and lakes and sloughs on the Copper River Delta. It is located within a coastal, temperate rainforest extending up to subalpine and alpine ecosystems. There is a small ski area and helicopter skiing companies which operate out of Cordova in February and March. A Coast Guard cutter is stationed in Cordova and there is a Coast Guard air base at the Merle K. Smith Airport.

About Cordova



Flora and Fauna

Cordova lies at the nexus of a rich marine environment, lush rainforests, and a massive coastal wetland. Several trails span from sea level to the tops of mountains, allowing the trail user to immerse themselves in the diverse offerings of the terrestrial ecosystem's characteristic of the area.

Starting near sea level, several trails follow streams and provide an up-close look at where the sea meets the trees. Salmon race up these systems in the summer months, providing a spectacular show of marine derived nutrients making their way into the bellies of brown bears, eagles, and other opportunistic critters. The output from these encounters nourish the surrounding vegetation, providing nutrients for the towering Sitka Spruce and Western Hemlock tree, and productive blueberry and salmonberry shrubs.



Peatlands break up the dense forests, providing an opening for sun and a splash of plant diversity. Notable species include orchids, arnica, fleabane, and buckbean. Sundews and butterworts dot the sphagnum moss, slowly ingesting unlucky insects to get much needed nitrogen.

Above tree line, Dwarf Mountain Hemlock intermix with ericaceous dwarf shrubs such as bearberry and lichen. The zone above tree line offers stunning views of the dramatic surrounding landscape.

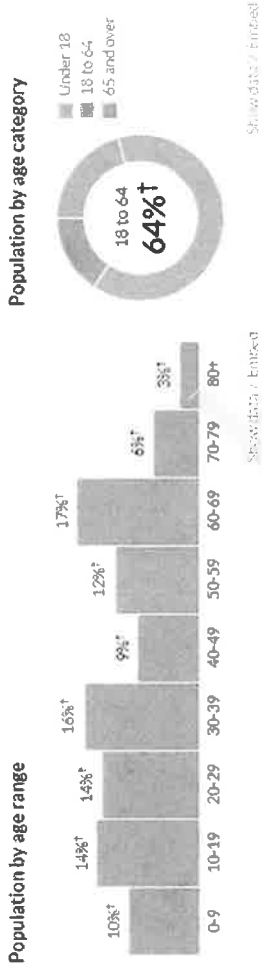
About Cordova

Age

36.9

Median age

about the same as the figure in Chugach Census Area: 37.8
a little higher than the figure in Alaska: 35.3



Sex



Race & Ethnicity



Economy

Cordova's economy relies heavily on commercial fishing and supports a large fishing fleet and several fish processing plants. The town's population doubles in size each fishing season as cod, halibut, and salmon are harvested. Fish harvesting and processing provide jobs to over half of the households in Cordova. The retail industry, public administration, science and environmental organizations, healthcare and social assistance, recreation and tourism, all provide employment and add to the economy of Cordova.

Transportation

Cordova is accessed by plane or boat. Daily scheduled jet flights and air taxis are available. It is linked directly to the North Pacific Ocean shipping lanes through the Gulf of Alaska. It receives year-round barge services and state ferry service. Harbor facilities include a breakwater, dock, small boat harbor, boat launch, boat haul-out, ferry terminal, and marine repair services. A 36-mile gravel road provides access to the Copper River Delta to the east.

<https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US0217410-cordova-ak/>

About Cordova

Health and Wellness

- An increase in screen time has created a disconnect to our outside world. Connecting with nature has many measurable health benefits. Studies show more time spent in green spaces reduces stress levels, muscle tension, and heart rates - all leading to better cardiovascular health.
- In addition to physical wellness, green spaces and a connection to nature plays an important role in mental wellness. There is a lower risk of depression and faster psychological stress recovery.
- Trails and spaces for people to gather are more crucial in today's world with isolation being another epidemic we are facing. In coastal Alaska, the amount of rain can have a negative effect on mental health. Providing more space for individuals to gather with friends and get outside to connect with the community and nature is enough of a propellant to create a comprehensive trails plan.
- Youth Engagement
 - The many benefits of outdoor recreation aren't exclusive to adults. Youth have access to the internet and social media which can negatively affect their mental health. Having a space to disconnect from the internet and reconnect with peers is essential to any community. Recreation is crucial for the social-emotional development of youth. Having a system of trail and recreation sites creates socialization opportunities for youth.
 - There are several studies on the effects of regular engagement with nature and the positive development of kids and youth.
 - Youth who engage with nature are more physically fit and in better overall health. One hour outside in nature can lead to significant improvements in overall moods. It can also increase self-esteem and problem-solving skills.
 - Youth who spend more time recreating outside have higher academic achievement and brain function. It also increases creativity while decreasing behavior problems due to an overall decrease in stress.
 - Youth who spend more time outside have a connection to and care for nature and this carries into adulthood. Time spent outside as a youth as well as having role models who care for the environment have a positive correlation to environmental stewardship in adults.

Existing Plans

Listed below are existing plans on the local, state, and federal levels that all address the need for well-designed, sustainable trails systems, their beneficial effect on the health and well-being of community members and the economic benefits engendered by well-developed trail systems. Some of the existing plans include the USFS 2017 National Trail Strategy (Federal), the 2023-2027 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (State) and locally the City of Cordova Comprehensive Plan, the City of Cordova Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and plans of the Sheridan Alpine Association for the Mt. Eyak Ski Area.

These plans range from general benefit and goals of trail plans to specific ideas as seen in the City of Cordova Comprehensive Plan which was adopted in 2019. The Parks and Recreation Commission is in the process of developing a new 20-year Master Plan, as the current plan was written in 2000. As the Cordova Trails Committee works under the auspices of the Parks and Recreation Commission, and there is a representative of the Commission at the Trails Committee meetings, this plan should dovetail nicely with the Parks and Recreation Commission Master Plan under development. The Trails Committee is also working closely with the Sheridan Alpine Association, which oversees the Mt. Eyak Ski Area, in order to coordinate plans. It is expected that the Cordova Comprehensive Trails Plan will be adopted by the City of Cordova and become part of the overall planning for the city.

Cordova Comprehensive Plan 2019

<https://www.cityofcordova.net/cordova-comprehensive-plan/>

USFS 2017 National Trail Strategy

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/trails/national-strategy>

USFS 10 yr Trail Stewardship Challenge

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/trails/10YTC>

2020 Chugach National Forest Land Management Plan

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/chugach/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprdb5408185>

Alaska 2023 - 2027 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

<https://dhr.alaska.gov/parks/scorp.htm>

Overview of Planning Process



Planning Team

City of Cordova Parks & Rec; Cordova Trails Ad Hoc Committee

2018-2021

Cordova Trails Committee activities prior to NPS Grant Award

April 8, 2021

The National Park Service (NPS) is pleased to announce an award of technical assistance to the Organizational Framework for the Cordova Trails Committee project for RTCA project year 2021 (May 1, 2021, through April 30, 2023)

July 2021

Assess existing trails and conditions

January 2022 - October 2022

Values, Mission, Vision, Goals, Stakeholder Assessment; Public Outreach; Drafting Plan

Summer 2022 - Public Outreach Phase 1

Letter to land managers; Newspaper Announcements; Public Flyer and Online Surveys; Tabling at Local Events

Fall 2022 - Public Outreach Phase 2

Open House Meeting; Survey; Interactive Map; Meeting with Land Managers

Spring 2023 - Public Outreach Phase 3

March 2023

Design Charrette in Cordova attended by RTCA, Nancy Casey, Cordova Trails Ad Hoc Committee; Cordova Parks and Rec, Sheridan Alpine Association. Site walks to proposed covered shelter locations and proposed ski hill trails.

Summer 2023

Cordova Trails Committee meeting 7/21/2023. Trails assessment.

Fall/Winter 2023/2024

Cordova Trails Committee review/edit of draft plan

Spring/Summer 2024

Final Draft Plan edits

Summer/Fall 2024

City of Cordova Parks and Recreation Commission plan review

Fall 2024

Cordova City Council review and plan adoption

Values, Mission and Vision

Community: We embrace the inclusive and diverse community of Cordova.

Stewardship: We steward our assets and resources thoughtfully.

Opportunity: We create opportunities to connect places, people, ideas, and resources.

Kinship with Life: We embody the instinctive need to seek out natural places for rejuvenation and connection



The Mission of The Cordova Trails Committee is to create, enhance, maintain, and fund a community-driven, inspiring, and varied trail system for the benefit of all Cordovans and visitors.

The Vision is to have an inclusive, holistic, and well-managed local trail system that meets the diverse needs of the Cordova community and fosters connections through shared stewardship.



Goals

Goal 1: More and Better Trails

Priority is given to finish existing trails, expand existing trail system, improve connectivity between trails and construct new trails.

Goal 2: Inclusive Trails

Increase trail accessibility for all user groups and connectivity between trails.

Goal 3: Partnership and Collaboration

Establish successful collaboration with community stakeholders for the stewardship of Cordova's trail system by working with landowners and stakeholders. Accommodate community desires and encourage community support. Establish a work plan, organize volunteer groups and advocate trail use through tourism.

Goal 4: Trail Organization, Management, and Maintenance

Facilitate a governance group charged with the oversight, implementation, and management of Cordova's trail system. Develop consistent design & classification standards, wayfinding, and signage for existing and new trails. Establish sustainable trail management (sustainable trail construction/design, workforce, funding), and maintain a trail inventory document.

Goal 5: Funding

Identify and secure the financial resources to maintain, expand, and develop Cordova's trail system now and into the future. Create a 5 year plan - including maintenance, and identify funding sources. Keep a record of funding opportunities, create documents to help apply for grants and develop an associated filing system for all trail documents.

Existing Conditions

Trail Users

Hikers

Cordova is a hiker and backpacker friendly destination. The trail system is easily accessible from town. Cordova's trail systems offer a wide variety of options for hikers of all abilities. The trails access coastline, lakes, and a variety of ecosystems including temperate, sub alpine, and alpine. There is something for everyone! Climbers, paddlers, and ice skaters also utilize the trail system to access peaks, lakes, and rivers.

ATV

In Cordova All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), and motorcycles that are not licensed for use on the highways are the predominant off-road vehicles used. In most areas where ATVs are allowed the organic material is 6-12 inches thick and acts as topsoil, beneath which lies a rocky gravel base. Due to their contribution to erosion and effect on plant life, trails supporting ATV use can most benefit from sustainable layout, surface hardening where required, and natural features that help to maintain trail alignment, while minimizing impacts on surrounding resources.



Bicyclists

The needs of trail bicyclists vary based on their experience and familiarity of the trail network. Casual trail bikers might prefer a wide trail that allows passing and side-by-side riding. Bicyclists may also prefer smooth, compact surfaces or paved surfaces with gentle to minimal slopes. Aggressive trail bikers, on the other hand, might enjoy more challenging trail experiences including the thrill of a narrow, single track trail, just wide enough to allow passage of one bicycle.

Existing Conditions

Trail Users



Skiers

Downhill, Cross-country and Back-country skiing are a primary form of winter recreation and will continue to grow as trail improvements and grooming efforts improve. There are several areas being proposed for trail expansion and establishment. There is world class Back-country skiing in and around Cordova and there is a desire from the Cross-country and Back-country community to explore and expand areas within Cordova.

Skiing is a popular winter recreation sport in Cordova. Alpine, Cross-country skiers and snowboarders are served by Mt. Eyak Recreation Area, which offers single-chair lift access to a variety of terrain, including groomed trails and a rope tow for beginners. Back-country skiers and snowboarders have many options around Cordova, but most commonly access areas above Mt. Eyak Recreation Area. Skiing is also popular at many locations around Cordova.

Snowmachiners

Snowmachiners technically do not require actual trails to operate. General routes have been developed over time, though these routes change frequently due to conditions.

Snowshoers

Snowshoers use existing trails for recreation in addition to using them for access to the backcountry.

Existing Conditions

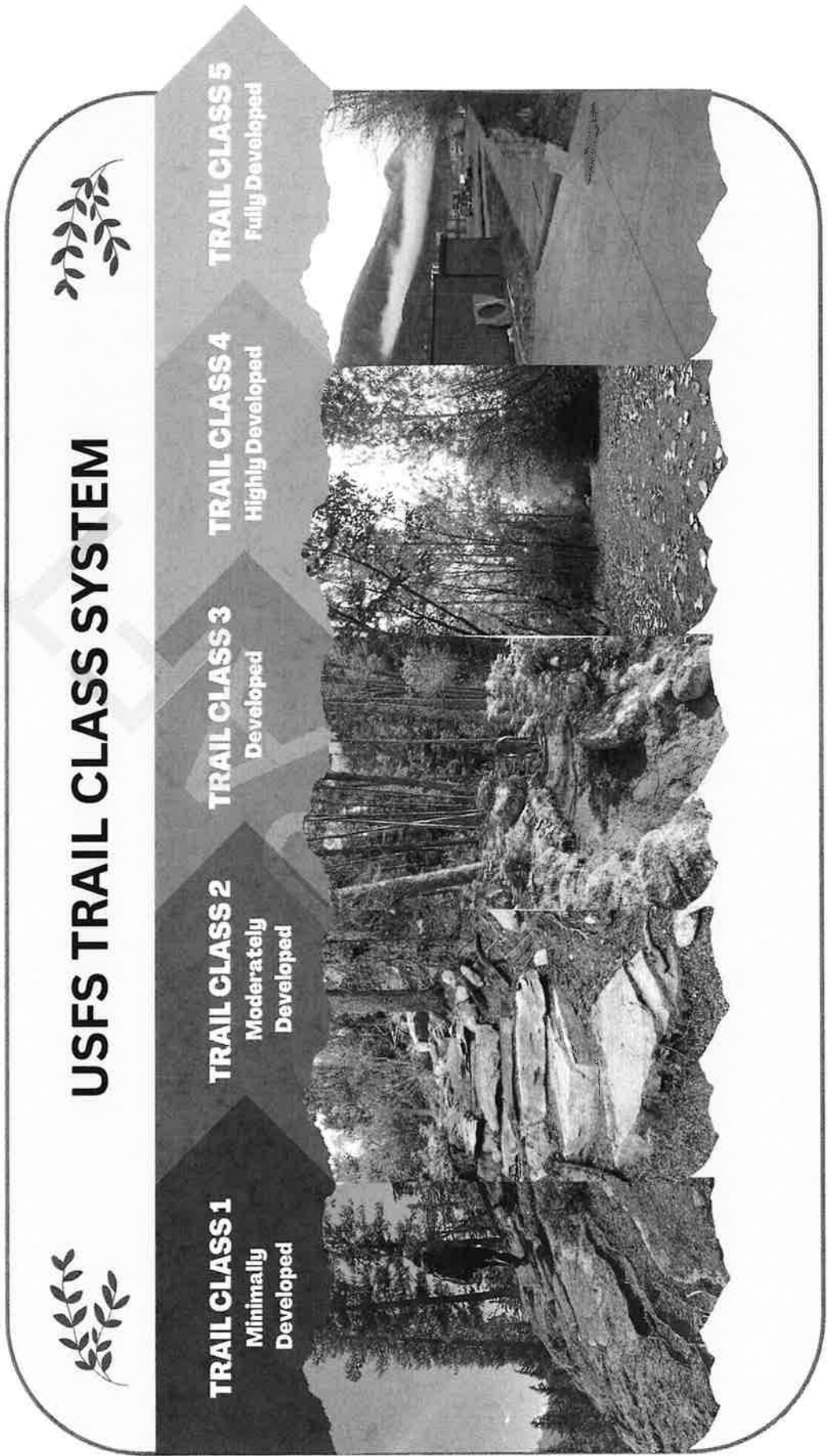
Trail Amenities

Trailhead and trailside amenities contribute to the overall user experience of the trail. What amenities are provided depends on the needs of current and potential user groups. Research, public input, and this plan will guide trail managers to identify what trailhead and trail corridor amenities would best serve current and anticipated trail users. Existing amenities include:

- Parking
 - At xx locations
- Signage
 - At xx locations
- Information kiosks
 - At xx locations
- Restrooms
 - At 5 locations
- Bike Racks
 - At xx locations
- Seating (benches, picnic tables, etc.)
 - At xx locations
- Public art
 - At xx locations
- Trash receptacles
 - At xx locations
- Cabins
 - At 4 locations

Existing Conditions

Trail Classes are general categories reflecting a trails development, arranged along a continuum. The Trail Class identified for the Cordova trail system prescribes its development scale, representing its intended design and management standards. Deviations from any Trail Class descriptor may be established based on trail-specific conditions, topography, or other factors, provided that the deviations do not undermine the general intent of the applicable Trail Class. This matrix is based on the established system used by the United States Forest Service (USFS). All MOS trails will have an identified class and are maintained to such standards:



Existing Conditions

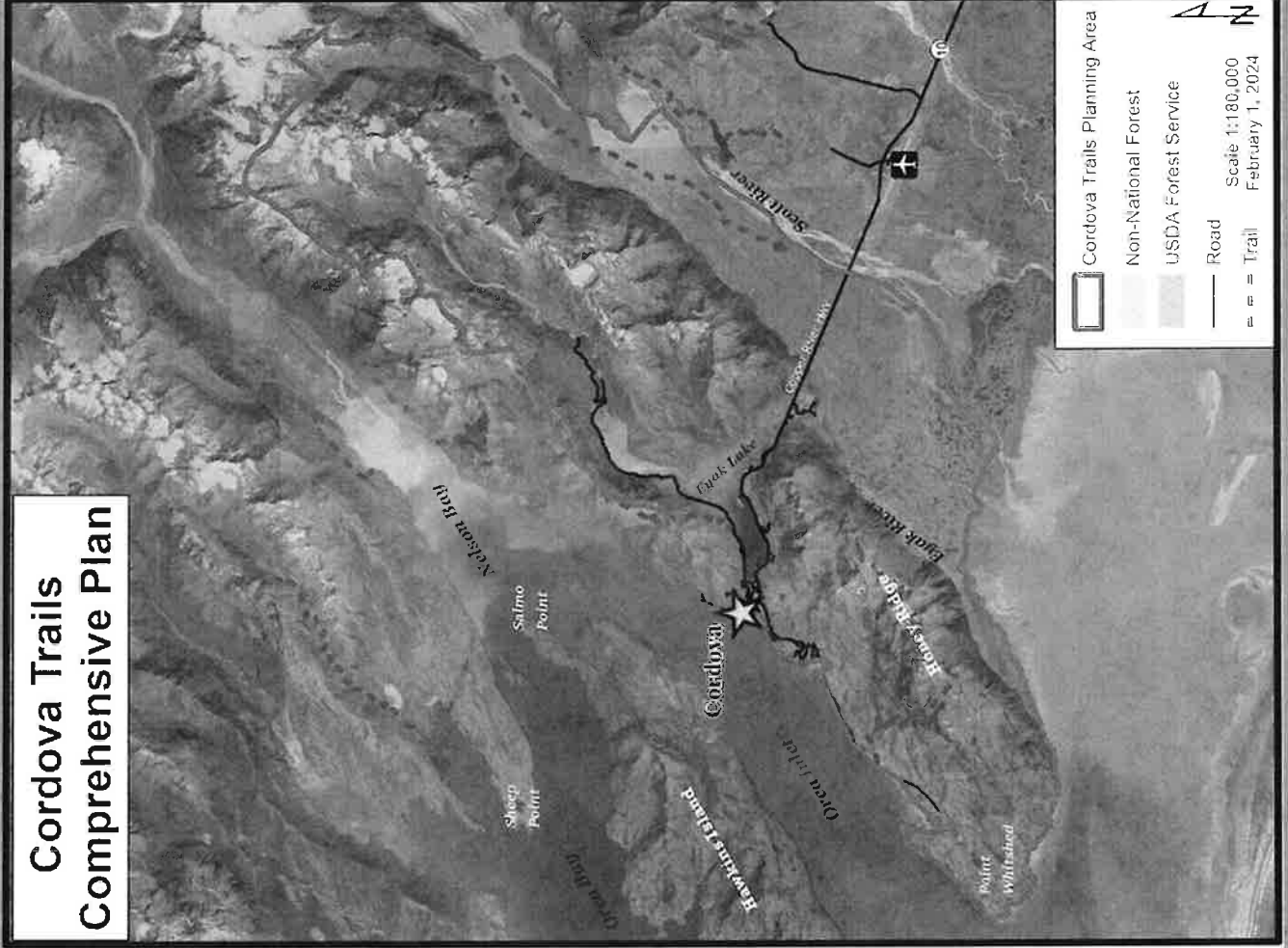
The area, on the map on the next page, outlined in red highlights the planning area for the Cordova Trails Plan. At the northern edge, the area includes Power Creek Trail, and at the southern end follows the trails off Whitshed Road.

The area currently includes a total of 18 formal trails which comprise nearly 40 miles of maintained trails. There are multiple landowners across the planning area, namely US Forest Service, Eyak Corporation, State of Alaska, and the City of Cordova.

Below, each of the 18 trails are outlined in more detail with trail data and a supporting map.

Existing Conditions

Cordova Trails Comprehensive Plan



Existing Conditions

1) Definitions of Trail Uses

Managed Use:

Managed Use is a mode of travel that is actively managed and appropriate on a trail, based on its design and management intent.

- Managed Use indicates management intent to accommodate a specific use.
 - There can be more than one Managed Use per trail or trail segment.
 - The Managed Uses for a trail are usually a small subset of all the allowed uses on the trail, that is, uses that are allowed unless specifically prohibited.
 - There is a direct relationship between Managed Use and Trail Class: generally, one cannot be determined without consideration of the other.
- Not all Trail Classes are appropriate for all Managed Uses.

Designed Use:

Designed Use is the single Managed Use of a trail that requires the most demanding design, construction, and maintenance parameters and that, in conjunction with the applicable Trail Class, determines which Design Parameters will apply to a trail.

- There is only one Designed Use per trail or trail segment. Although a trail or trail segment may have more than one Managed Use and numerous uses may be allowed, only one Managed Use is identified as the design driver or Designed Use.
 - In some situations, when there is more than one Managed Use identified for a trail, the Designed Use may be readily apparent. For example, on a trail with Managed Uses of all-terrain vehicle and motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle use would be the Designed Use because this use requires wider tread widths and has lower tolerances for surface obstacles and maximum trail grades.
 - In other situations, involving more than one Managed Use, the Designed Use may not be readily apparent, as is often the case when there are fewer differences between the applicable sets of Design Parameters than in the example above. For example, on a trail that is actively managed for hiker and pedestrian, pack and saddle, and bicycle use, pack and saddle use would likely be the Designed Use because of the three Managed Uses, pack and saddle use generally has the most limiting design requirements. While the Bicycle Design Parameters are very similar to the Pack and Saddle Design Parameters, the Design Parameters for this trail may need to be adjusted to accommodate bicycles.

Current Use:

Current Use is the existing modes of travel the public are presently using on a trail. These are uses occurring on the trail regardless of the designed use or managed use.

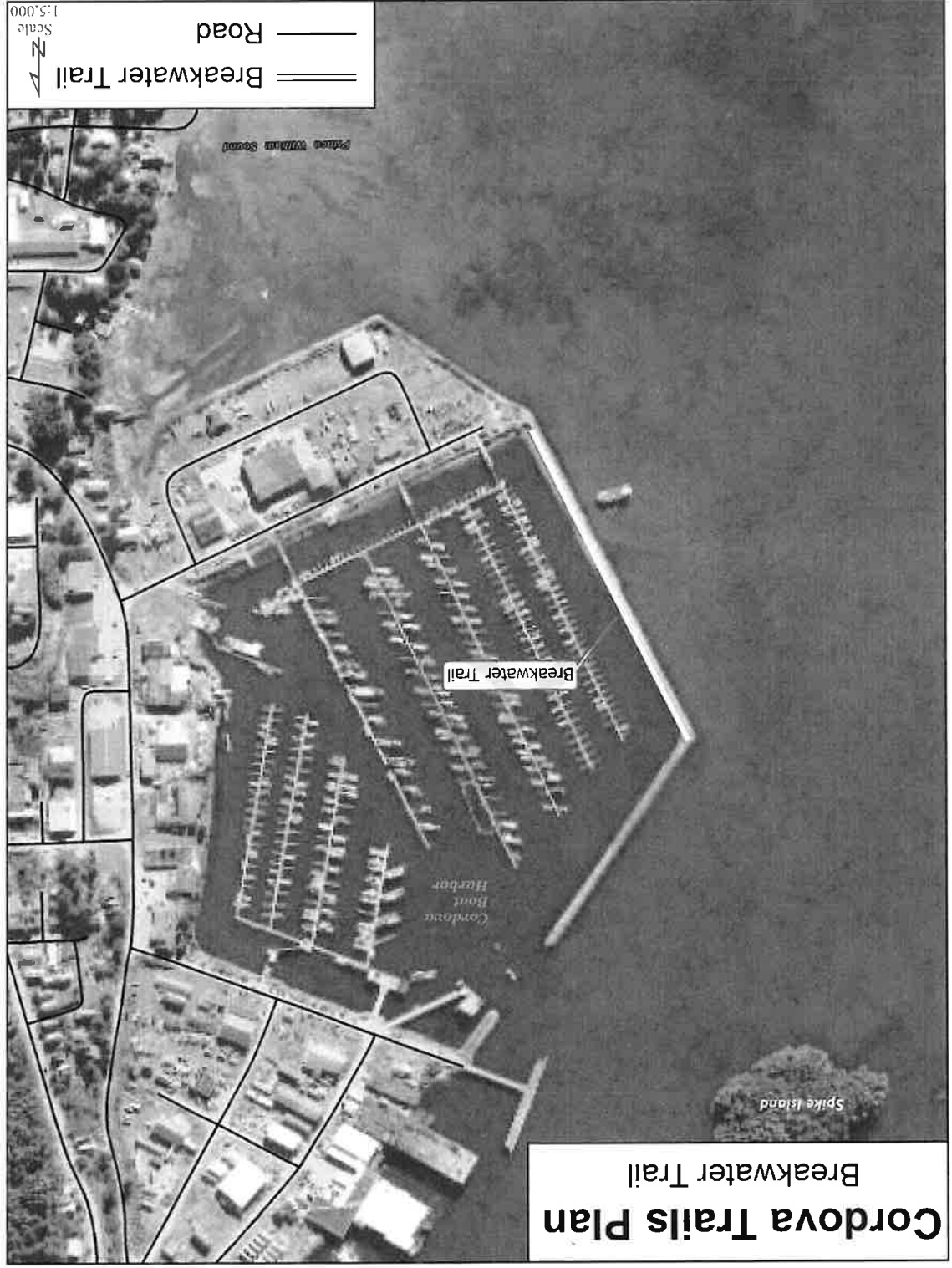
Existing Conditions

Breakwater Trail

The Breakwater trail provides excellent views of the town of Cordova, its harbors, the surrounding mountains and islands, and sea and bird life. The trail starts at the beginning of the breakwater by the Veterans Memorial where there is a bench and garbage receptacle. The 3-foot-wide trail allows pedestrians to walk along the harbor's edge, ending with interpretive signage from Cordova Parks and Recreation Department and a bench for visitors to use. The trail is near Cordova's amenities, as well as harbor restroom facilities. The maintained trail ends before the breakwater turns towards the northeast, at 0.25 mi.

Location	In-Town 60.54357, -145.76956
Land Ownership	City of Cordova
Management Agency	City of Cordova (Parks and Rec. Dept.)
Trail Length	0.23 mi
Elevation Gain	0 ft
Min/Max Altitude	0 ft
Trail Type	Terra
Class	4
Current Use	Pedestrian
Designed Use	Pedestrian
Managed Use	Pedestrian
Trail Facilities	Harbor facilities include bathrooms; Signage featured at far North end of breakwater picnic table and garbage receptacle.

Existing Conditions



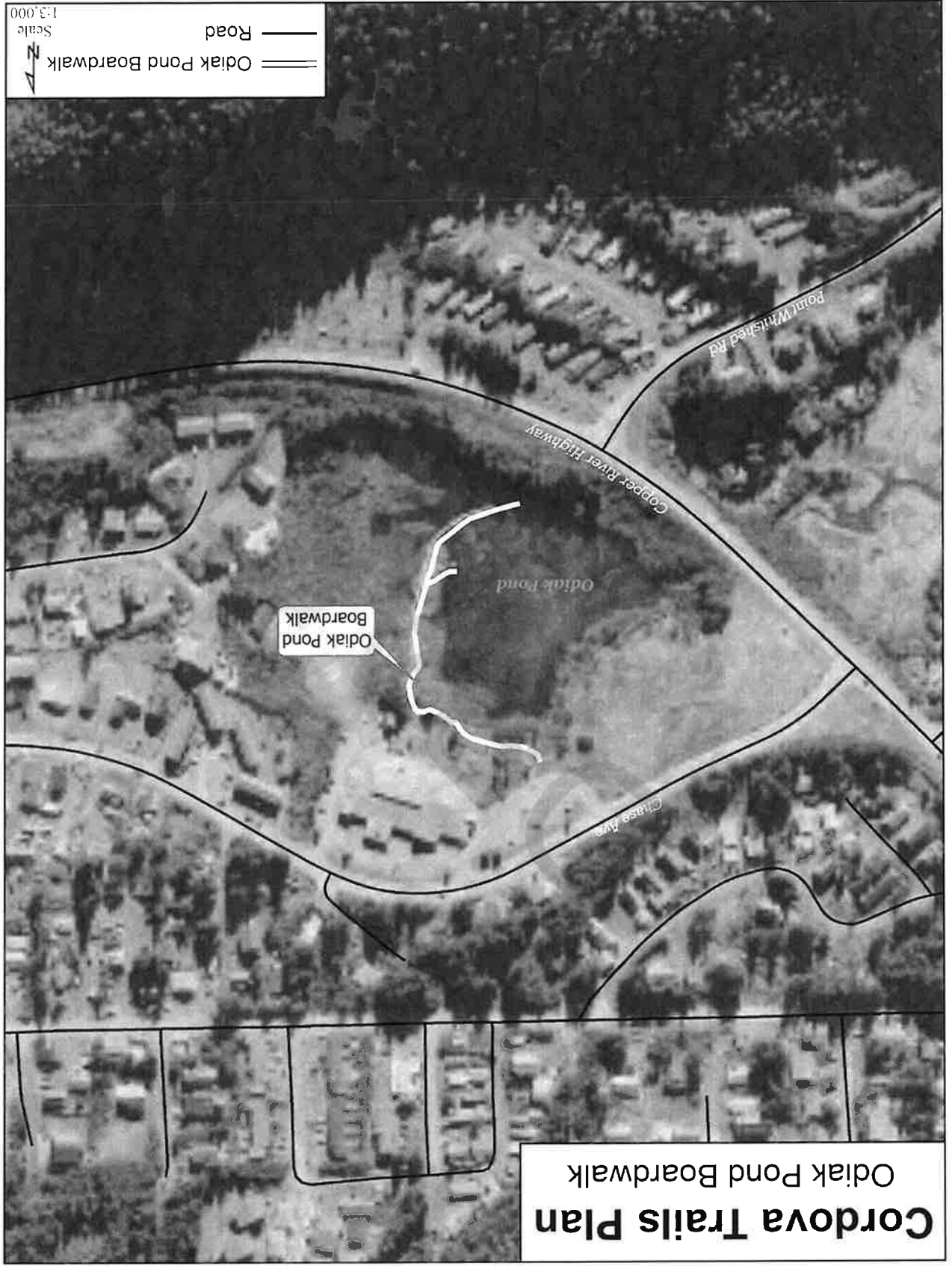
Existing Conditions

Odiak Pond Boardwalk

This out-and-back boardwalk trail takes visitors across Odiak Pond, walking over wooden boardwalks at the northeast corner of the pond after about 400ft of walking through the wooded area south of Cordova Community Medical Center. A covered pavilion at the center of the walk provides great viewing for pond-life, including birds, and features a picnic table for visitor use. The trail brings on the north side of Hollis Henrichs Park. Park facilities, including two restrooms, are provided at the trailhead.

Location	In-town Trailhead @ 60.54110, -145.75230
Land Ownership	City of Cordova
Management Agency	City of Cordova (Parks and Rec)
Trail Length	0.18 mi (one-way)
Elevation Gain	27 ft (total out and back)
Min/Max Altitude	Min. 20 ft; Max. 45 ft
Trail Type	Boardwalk
Class	5
Current Use	Pedestrian
Designed Use	Pedestrian
Managed Use	Pedestrian
Trail Facilities	Parking lot adjacent to Hollis Henrichs Park; Restroom facilities; elevated/uncovered pavilion in park; covered pavilion along boardwalk

Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions

Eyak Mountain Trail

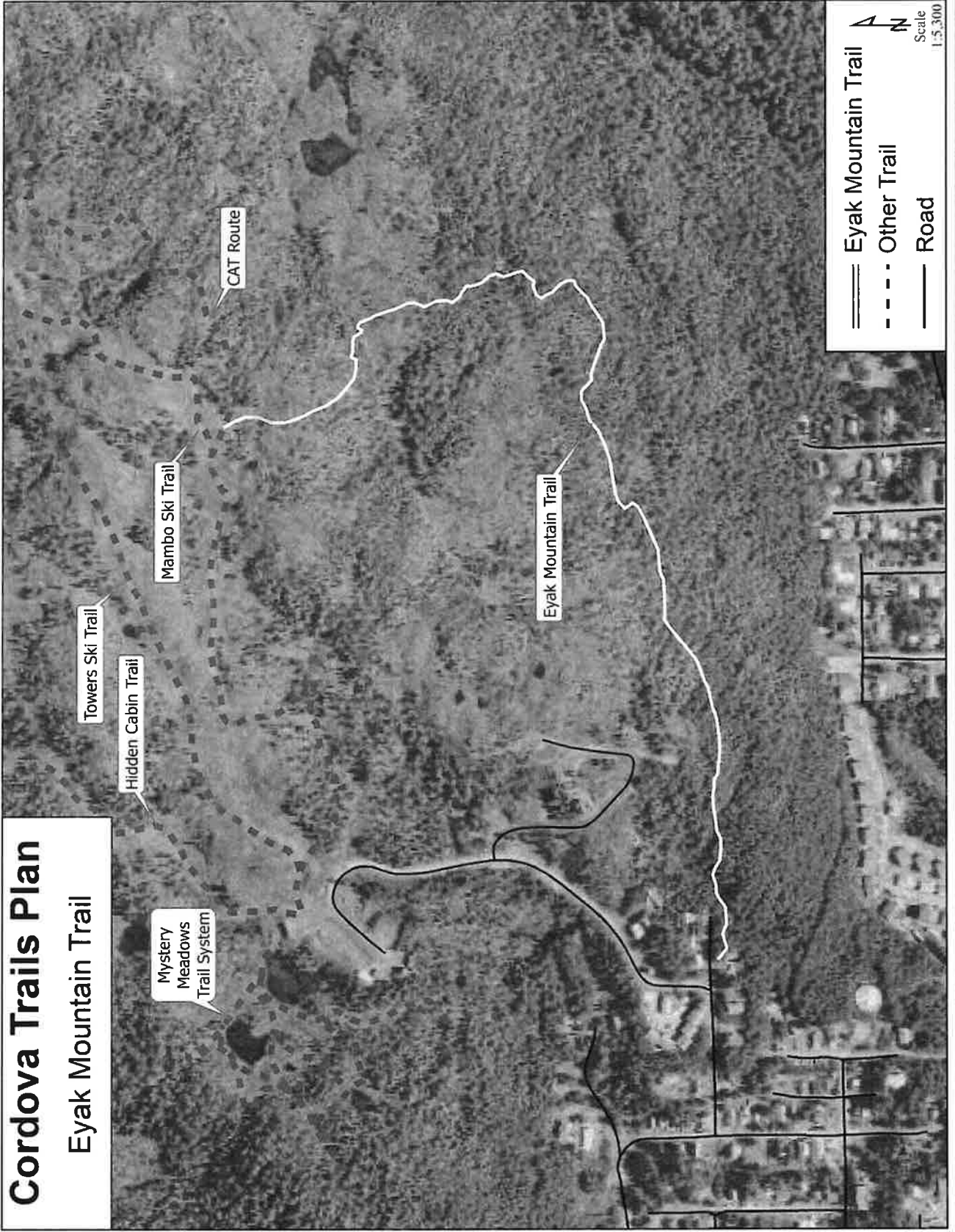
This historic trail begins where town meets the forest, passing through a mature spruce-hemlock forest before reaching open muskeg fields with stunning views of Cordova Harbor and Eyak Lake. The trail is a consistent, steady climb over rocks and roots, often crossing small inlets of flowing water. The trail brings hikers to the Mambo Ski trail, also to a flat area with a great viewpoint, looking south. Eyak Mountain Trail can be combined with the trails of the Mt. Eyak Recreation Area and further on to the Eyak Peak Trail, O'Leary Intertie Trail, and on to Crater Lake trails for a more challenging loop.

Location	Mt. Eyak Area Trailhead at 60.54515, -145.75162
Land Ownership	State of Alaska
Management Agency	City of Cordova (leased)
Trail Length	1 mi
Elevation Gain	646 ft
Min/Max Altitude	Min. 236 ft ; Max. 732 ft
Trail Type	Terra
Class	3
Current Use	Hiking, Biking
Designed Use	Hiking
Managed Use	Hiking
Trail Facilities	Parking lot at Trailhead; signage board at trailhead with and 8"x11" map

Existing Conditions

Cordova Trails Plan

Eyak Mountain Trail



Existing Conditions

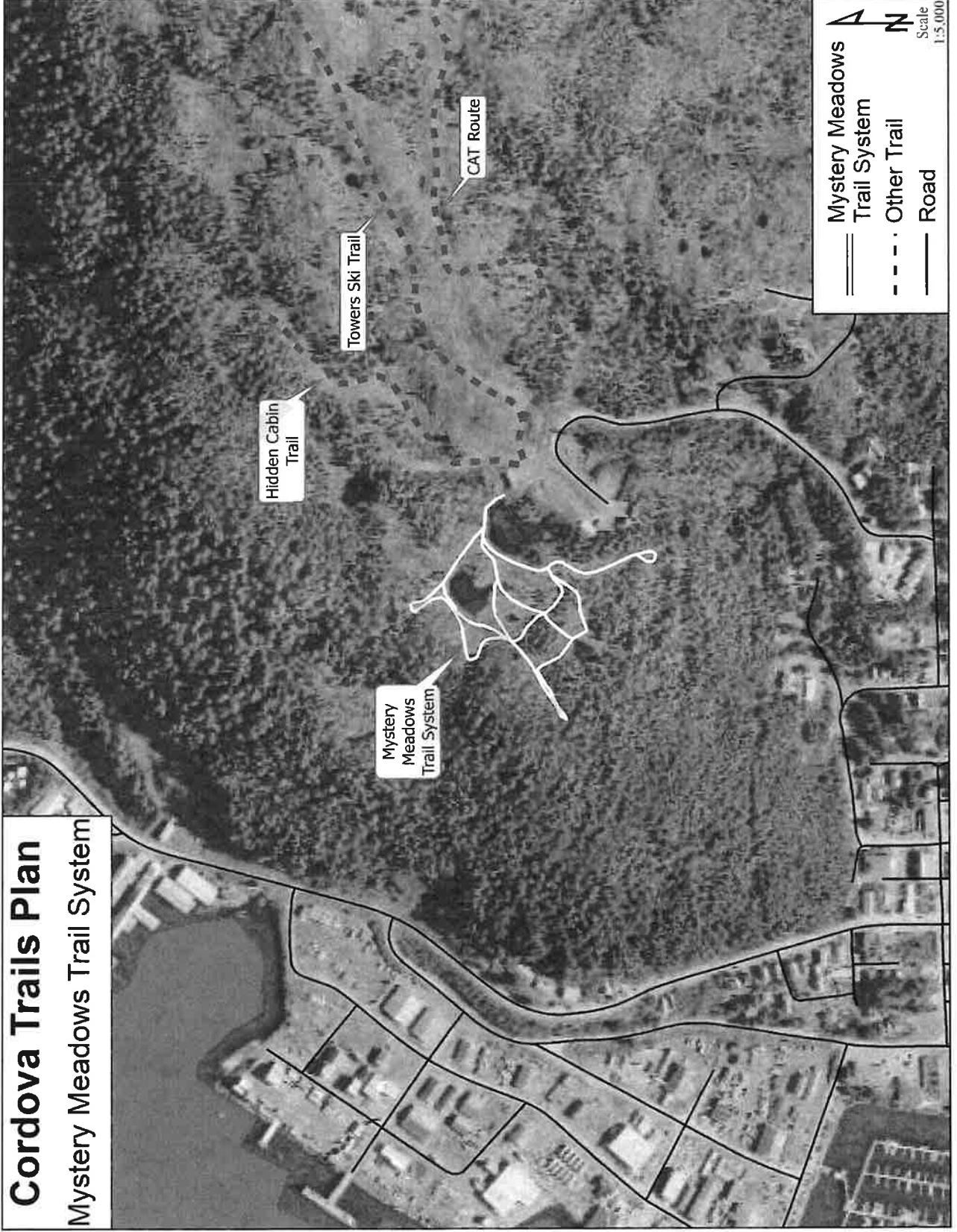
Mystery Meadows Trail System

This winter trail system is located at the base of the Mt Eyak Ski Area, beginning, and ending, on the west side of the chairlift. Snow conditions permitting, the trail system currently consists of 10 interconnected gentle undulating groomed corduroy loops, 12 feet wide. It circles, or borders, ponds, and meadows in the area, providing winter recreational opportunities for multi-user groups of differing abilities. A popular area that is easily accessed by the community, it provides the only sunny winter access to flat or gentle terrain located in a natural environment off the road system. Historically, this began as a cross country trail, with the first tracks being set in about 1988. This area receives frequent use with or without snow. Damage to the muskeg is present in some areas.

Location	Base of Mt Eyak Ski Area
Land Ownership	State of Alaska
Management Agency	City of Cordova (Sherian Alpine Association)
Trail Length	Varies by Loop
Elevation Gain	Varies by Loop
Min/Max Altitude	Min. 300 ft; Max. 500 ft
Trail Type	Terra
Class	3
Current Use	X-country Skiing; Snow Shoeing; Walking; Dog Walking
Designed Use	Winter Activities
Managed Use	Winter Activities
Trail Facilities	Parking Lot; Restrooms

Existing Conditions

Cordova Trails Plan Mystery Meadows Trail System



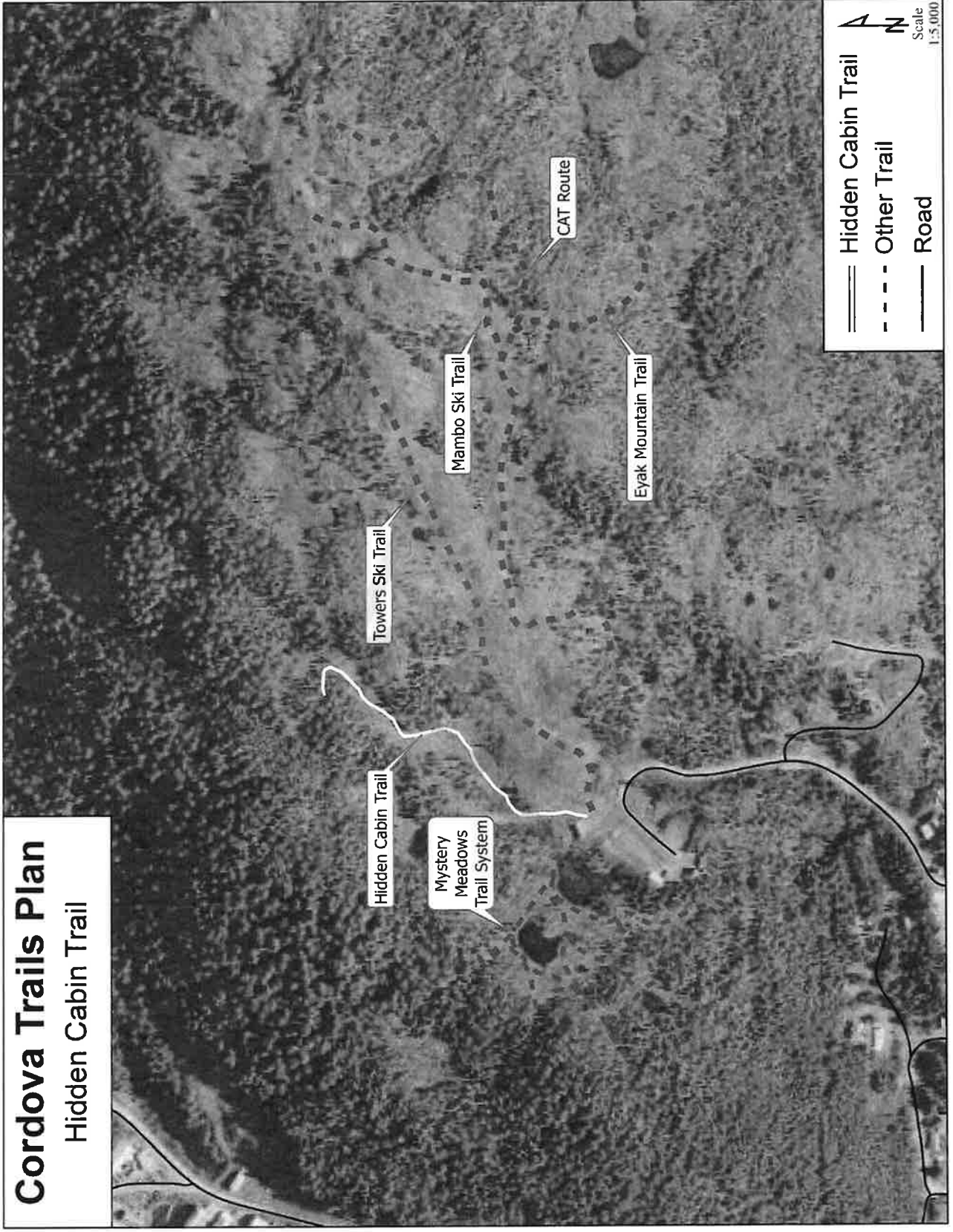
Existing Conditions

Hidden Cabin Trail

Originating at the Mt. Eyak Ski area base, this gravel trail ascends a part of the Hidden Valley Ski Trail and culminates at the Hidden Cabin, maintained by Sheridan Alpine Association (SAA). The Cabin can be reserved through the SAA and is accessible year-round. It includes an outhouse, firewood, and the cabin facility.

Location	Mt. Eyak Area Base of Trail @ 60.54985, -145.74947
Land Ownership	State of Alaska
Management Agency	City of Cordova (lease); Sheridan Alpine Association
Trail Length	0.46 mi
Elevation Gain	330 ft
Min/Max Altitude	Min. 374 ft; Max 742 ft
Trail Type	Winter and Terra
Class	3
Current Use	Hiking
Designed Use	Hiking
Managed Use	Downhill ski run and Cabin access trail
Trail Facilities	Cabin and outhouse; parking lot and ski hill amenities

Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions

General Ski Area Map

Mt Eyak Ski Area offers alpine skiing and snowboarding on Mt Eyak above the town of Cordova, Alaska. Mt Eyak uses an historic 1939 American Steel and Wire single chair lift, as well as a rope tow on the beginner slope. The base elevation is 400 feet, rising to 1200 feet at the top of the single lift, for a vertical drop of 800 feet. The annual snowfall averages 350". With approximately 30 different trail options, including a new easy trail down the hill, the area offers something for everyone (mteyak.org). A ski area map, made by MapSynergy, gives an overview of the downhill ski trails maintained at Mt. Eyak. The Sheridan Alpine Association manages the ski area.

The City of Cordova and Sheridan Alpine Association will be coordinating to create a specific plan for management of the Mt. Eyak Recreation Area that includes the Mt. Eyak Ski Area.



Existing Conditions

CAT Route @ Ski Trails

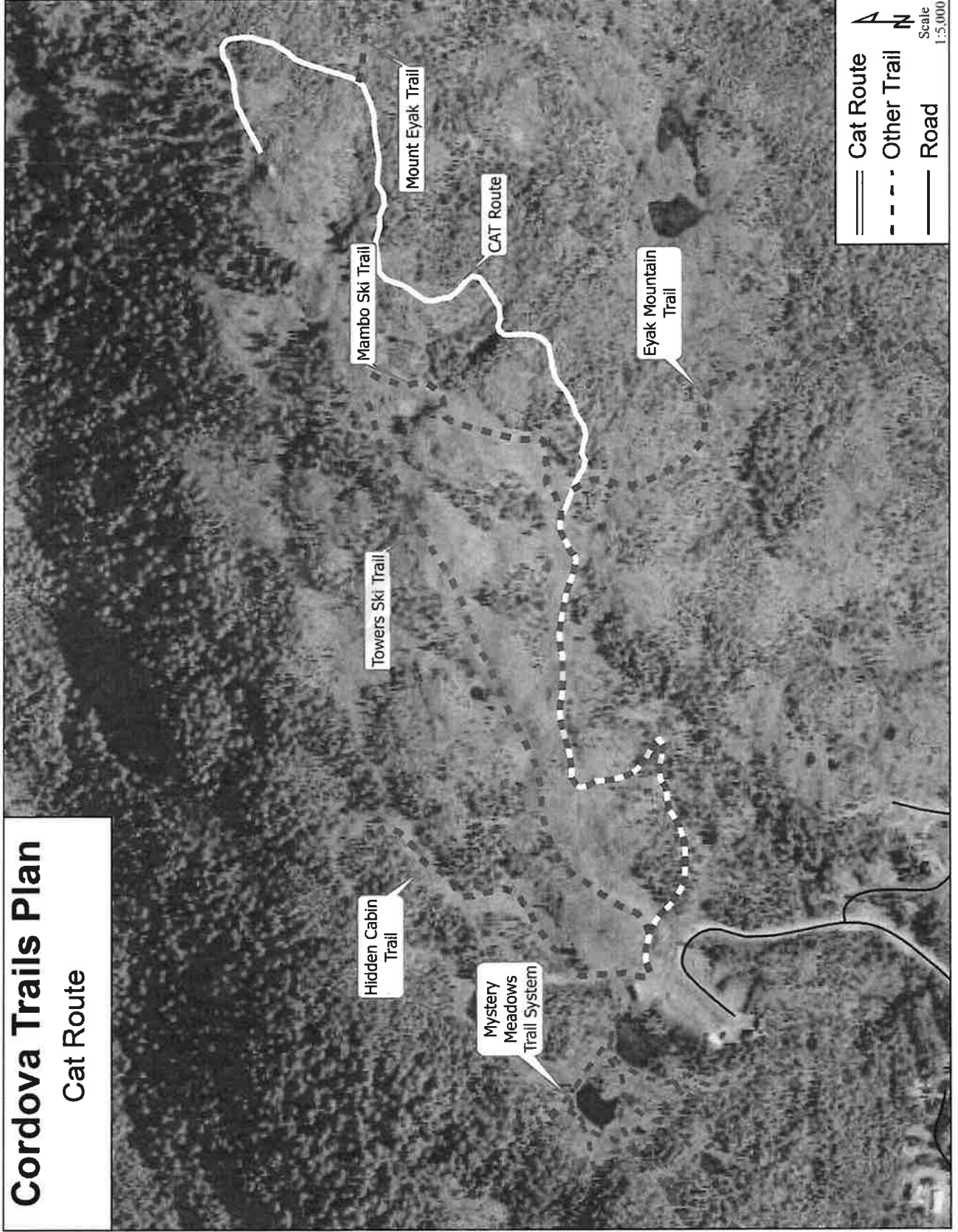
This route is maintained by the Sheridan Alpine Association (SAA) to serve maintenance needs in both summer and winter. It is open to visitors and provides great views of both Orca Inlet and Mt. Eyak from the top of Tripod Hill. The road is a fully gravel surface, bringing walkers to the top stop for the Mt. Eyak chairlift and the warming shelter. Users can find a picnic table at the summit of Tripod Hill for public use and great 360-degree views. The trail is designed for winter use but during the other seasons, you can see residents and visitors hiking and biking up the trail. During the winter, winter recreation users can ride the single seat chair lift to the top and shred down the trail.

Location	Mt. Eyak Area Base of Road @ 60.55063, -145.74075
Land Ownership	State of Alaska
Management Agency	City of Cordova (lease); Sheridan Alpine Association; End of CAT trail exits leased area onto State Land
Trail Length	0.59 mi
Elevation Gain	445 ft
Min/Max Altitude	Min. 756 ft; Max. 1183 ft
Trail Type	Winter and Road
Class	2
Current Use	Downhill ski run, hiking, biking
Designed Use	Downhill ski run and maintenance road
Managed Use	Downhill ski run
Trail Facilities	Single seat chairlift; parking lot and ski hill amenities

Existing Conditions

Cordova Trails Plan

Cat Route



Existing Conditions

Mambo Ski Trail

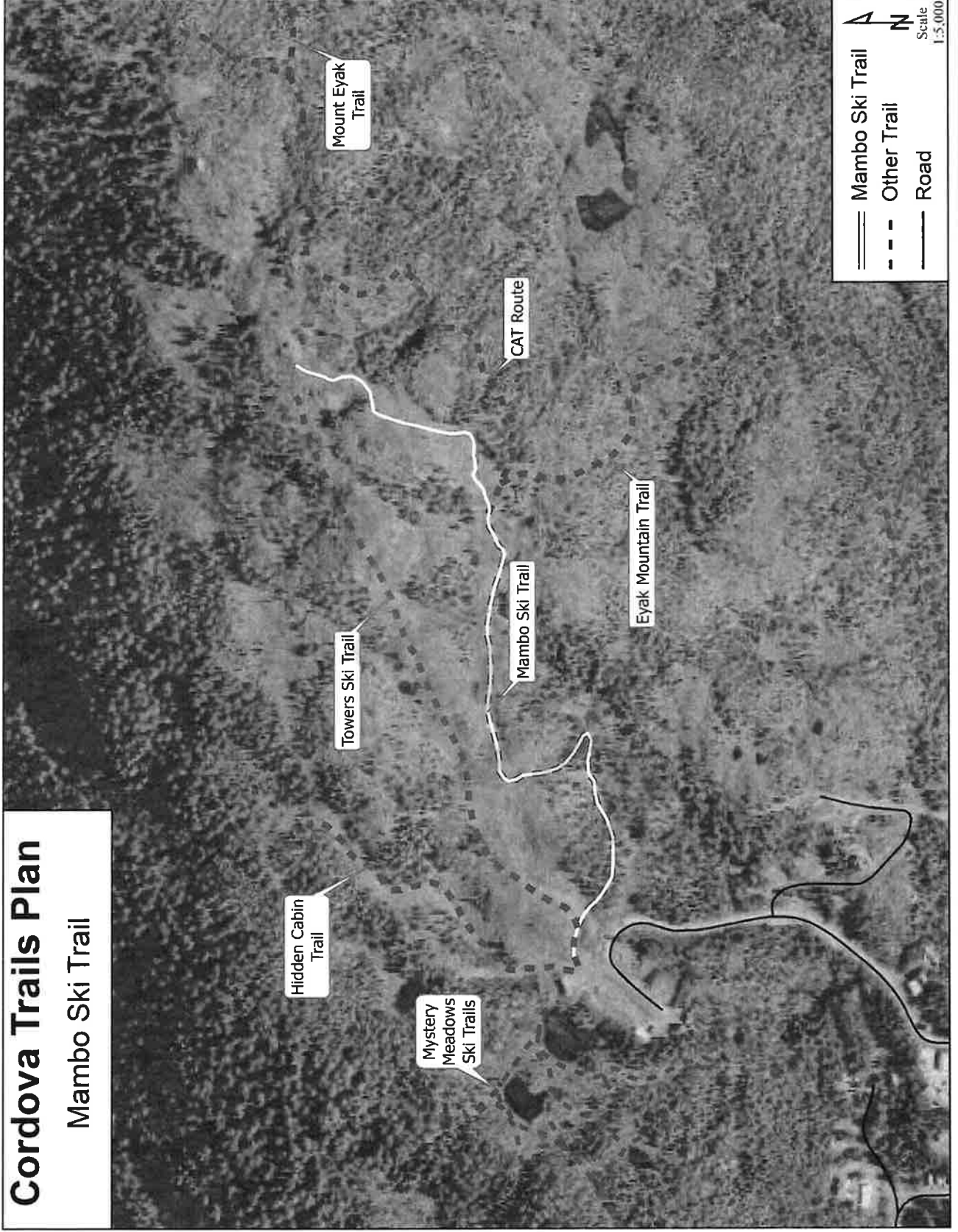
This wide ski route/trail leads up over rocky slopes that offer a great view of Eyak Lake and the Orca Inlet. A little less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, the trail ends at Midway Shack where you can adventure towards the top of Tripod Hill and have a choice of going around the south end of Mt. Eyak to connect with the USFS Crater Lake Trail or make the steep climb to the top for an excellent panoramic view. The trail is designed for winter use but during the other seasons, you can see residents and visitors hiking and biking up the trail. During the winter, winter recreation users can ride the single seat chair lift to the top and shred down the trail. The Sheridan Alpine Association maintains the trails throughout the year and when snow is not on the trail, it has sections of gravel, grass, dirt, and woodchips with moderate to steep incline. Walking on the trail, hikers can find Alaskan berries to snack on along the corridor and picnic tables at the top of Midway Shack and Tripod Hill.

Location	Mt. Eyak Area Base of Run @ 60.54982, -145.74847
Land Ownership	State of Alaska
Management Agency	City of Cordova (lease); Sheridan Alpine Association
Trail Length	0.67 mi
Elevation Gain	788 ft
Min/Max Altitude	Min. 376 ft; Max. 1047 ft
Trail Type	Winter
Class	2
Current Use	Downhill ski run, biking
Designed Use	Downhill ski run
Managed Use	Downhill ski run
Trail Facilities	Single seat chairlift; parking lot and ski hill amenities

Existing Conditions

Cordova Trails Plan

Mambo Ski Trail



Existing Conditions

Mount Eyak Trail

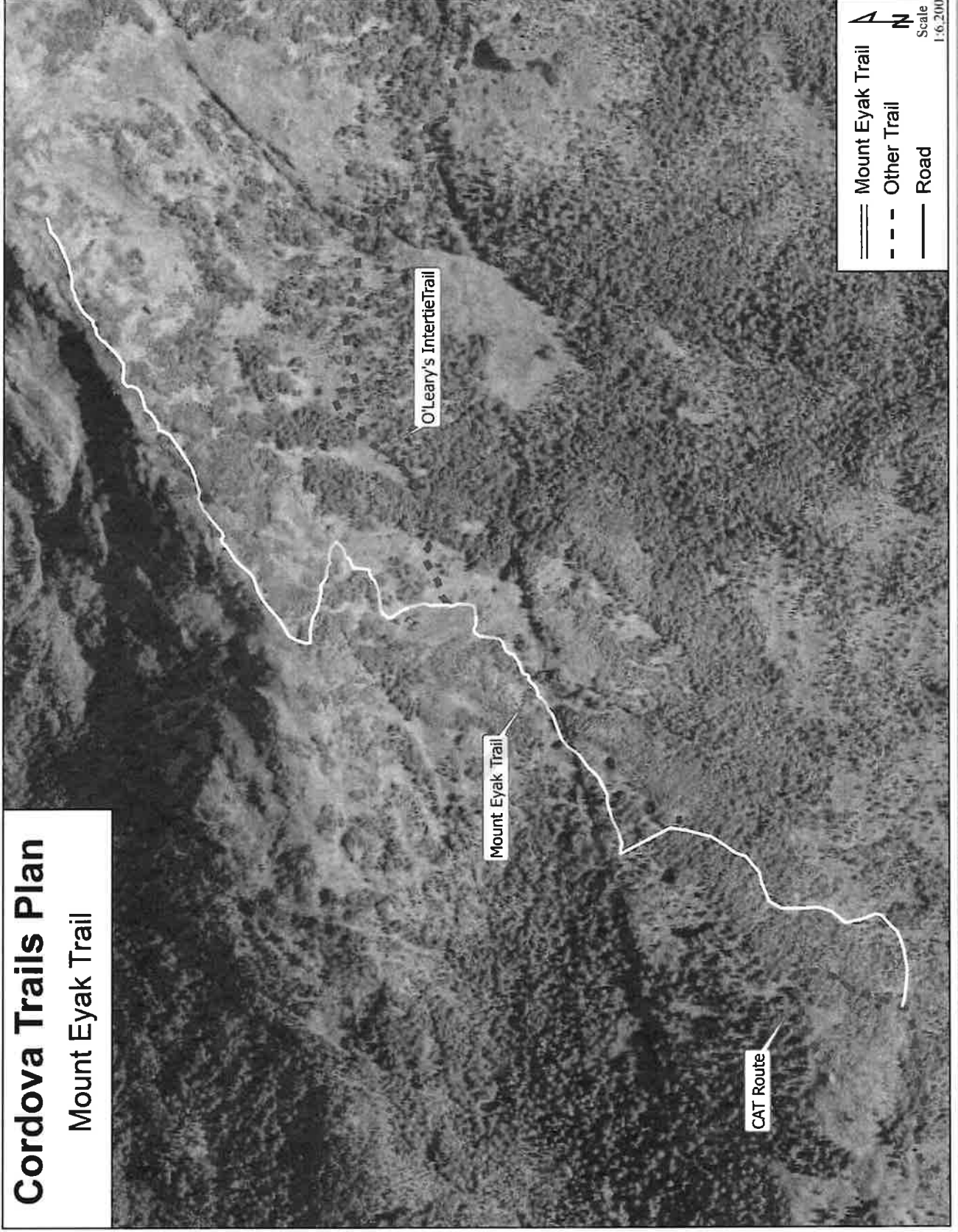
The first mile and a half of this trail leads hikers uphill over open rocky slopes, muskeg meadows, and spruce forest while offering incredible views of Orca Inlet and Eyak Lake. The trail then splits leaving a choice between walking around the south end of Mt. Eyak (approx. 1.5 miles) to connect with the USFS Crater Lake Trail, via the O’Leary Intertie Trail, or making the steep climb to the top for an excellent panoramic view [\(USFS\)](#).

Location	Mt. Eyak Area Min. Altitude @ 60.55008, -145.73964
Land Ownership	State of Alaska
Management Agency	City of Cordova (leased); Sheridan Alpine Association
Trail Length	1.95 mi
Elevation Gain	1507 ft
n/Max Altitude	Min. 732 ft; Max. 2303 ft
Trail Type	Terra
Class	1
Current Use	Hiking
Designed Use	Hiking
Managed Use	
Trail Facilities	Access via the top of the chairlift

Existing Conditions

Cordova Trails Plan

Mount Eyak Trail



Existing Conditions

O'Leary's Intertie Trail

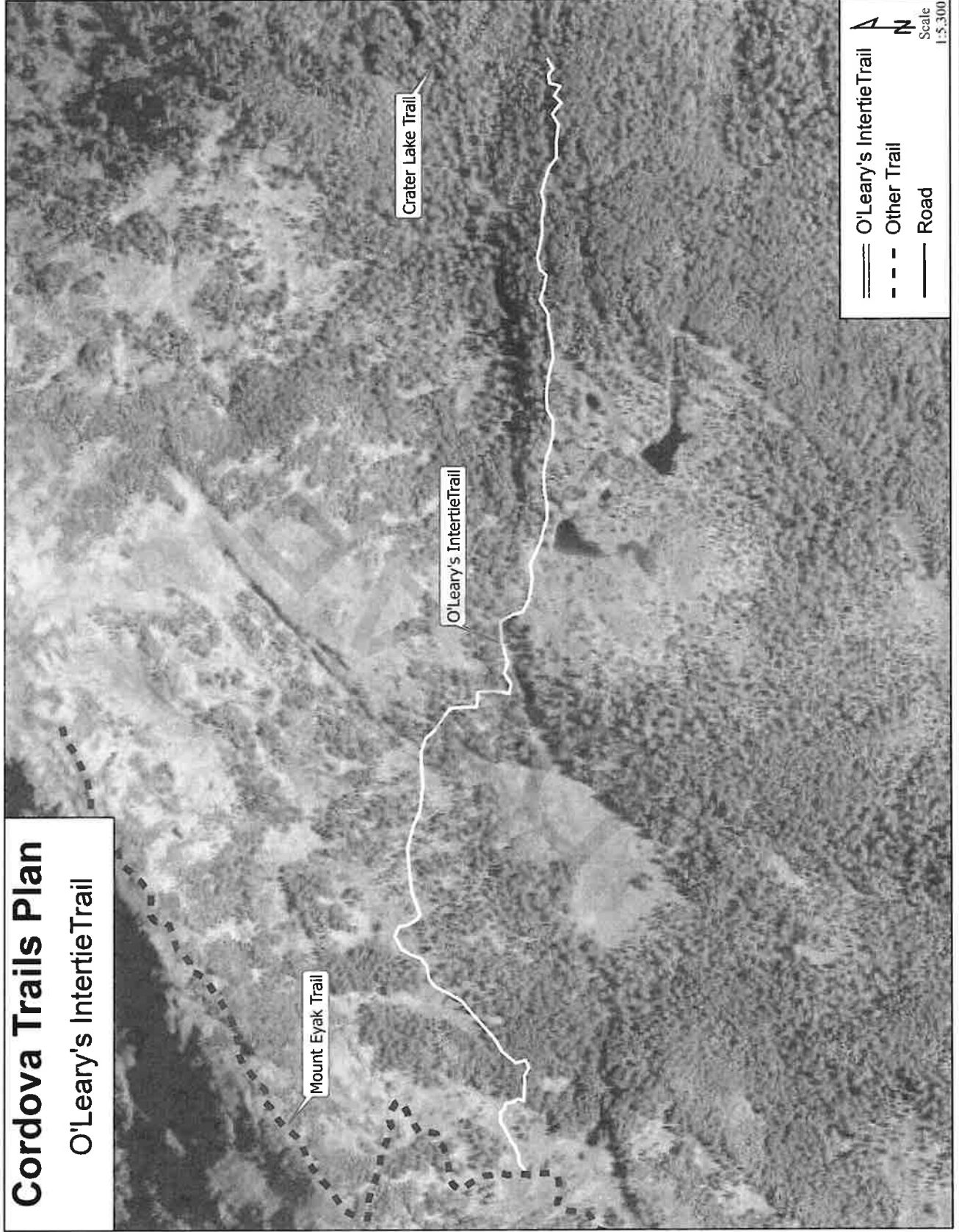
This connector route ties in Crater Lake and Mt. Eyak Trail with a larger interconnected trail system. Most hikers travel O'Leary's Intertie from east to west starting at mile 1.3 of Crater Lake Trail where it leads the hiker up several switchbacks to open muskeg meadows in Sunshine Bowl. The trail continues west maintaining elevation following a cutbank-out slope trail tread as it passes in and out of Sitka Spruce tree bands and open muskeg. There are excellent views of Eyak Peak, Eyak Lake, the Heney Mountain Range, Prince William Sound, and the town of Cordova. The trail eventually connects at mile 1.2 of Eyak Peak Trail where hikers can continue onto Eyak Peak or down to the many trails throughout the Eyak Ski Area.

Location	Mt. Eyak Area Eastern end @ 60.55743, -145.69866 Western end @ 60.55778, -145.72190
Land Ownership	State of Alaska
Management Agency	
Trail Length	0.96 mi
Elevation Gain	East to West: 523 ft West to East: 136 ft
Min/Max Altitude	Min. 1083 ft; Max. 1529 ft
Trail Type	Terra
Class	1
Current Use	Hiking
Designed Use	Hiking
Managed Use	Not actively managed
Trail Facilities	Parking lot @ Mt. Eyak Trailhead; Access from Crater Lake Trailheads

Existing Conditions

Cordova Trails Plan

O'Leary's Intertie Trail



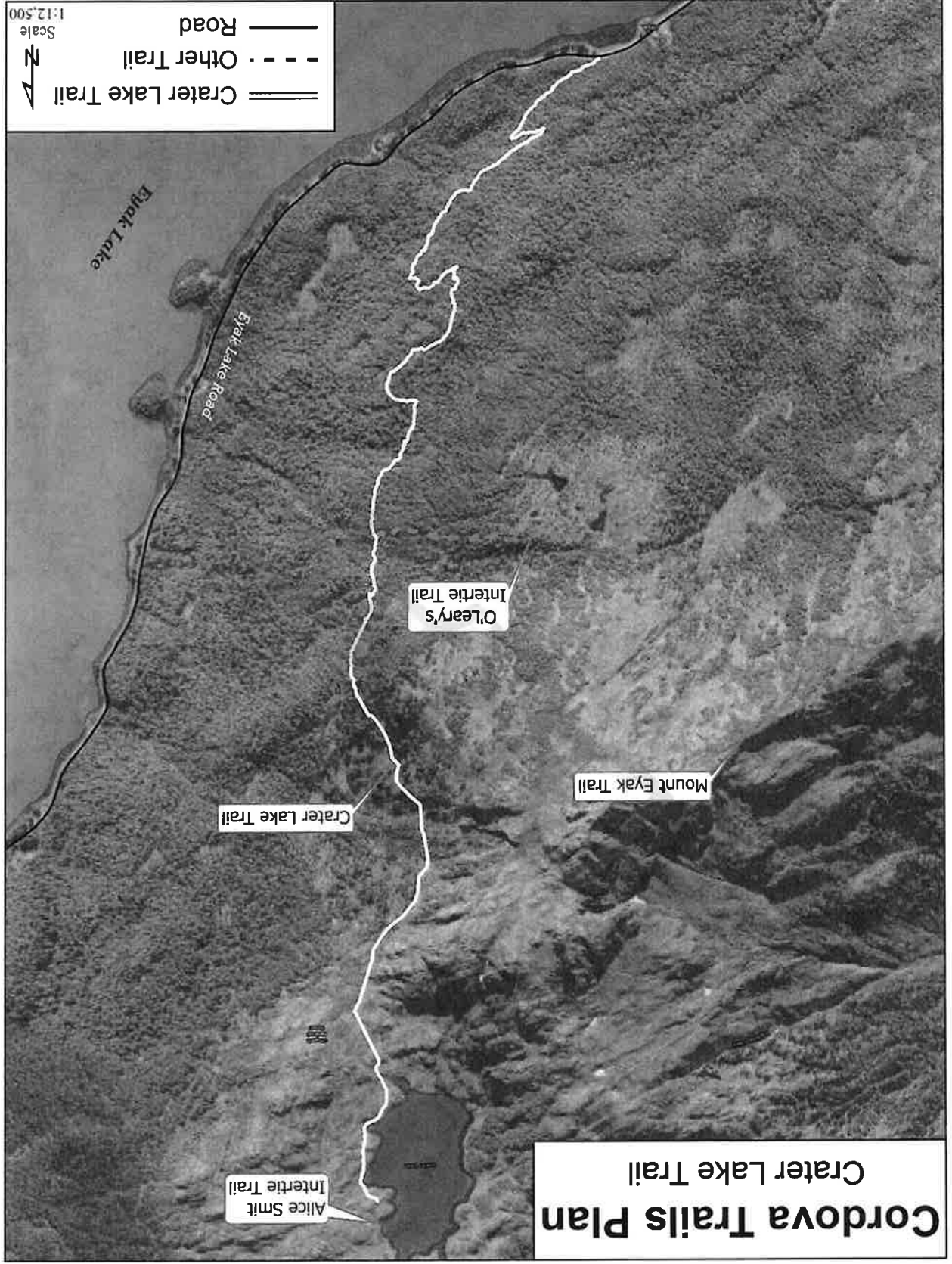
Existing Conditions

Crater Lake Trail

This trail begins at Skaters Cabin and vehicle pullout. The trail climbs a steep grade passing through mature spruce-hemlock forest to a picturesque alpine bowl where Crater Lake sits. The first half climbs over rough, rocky sections with numerous switchbacks, and muddy areas as well as wood bridges. The second half continues to climb, but at a gentler grade, through hillsides that are abundant with wildflowers during the summer months. A bench is provided midway up the trail for a great view of Eyak Lake. At 1.2 miles O' Leary Intertie Trail provides access to the Eyak Ski Hill Trail. At the lake the hiker has the option to access the Alice Smith Intertie or climb Mt. Eyak. The entire loop from Crater Lake trailhead to Power Creek trailhead is 12 miles (USFS).

Location	Mt. Eyak Area Trailhead at 60.54685, -145.70853
Land Ownership	State of Alaska
Management Agency	USFS
Trail Length	2.15 mi
Elevation Gain	1687 ft
Min/Max Altitude	Min 97 ft; Max 1520 ft
Trail Type	Terra
Class	3
Current Use	Hiking, Skiing, Snowshoeing
Designed Use	Hiking, Skiing, Snowshoeing
Managed Use	Hiking, Skiing, Snowshoeing
Trail Facilities	USFS signage, City of Cordova Skaters Cabin with garbage receptacle and vault toilet.

Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions

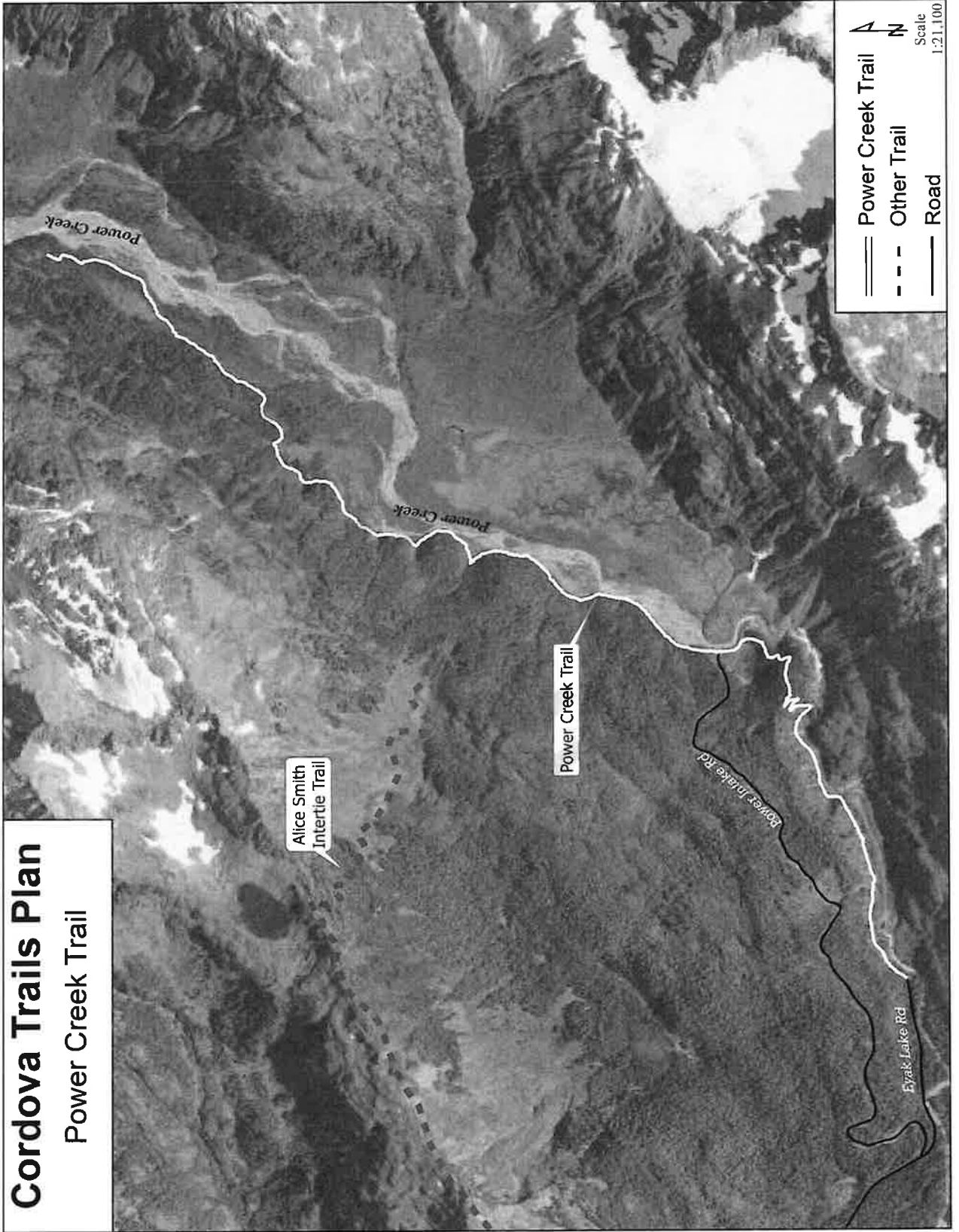
Power Creek Trail

This trail follows Power Creek through a narrow drainage, then leads the hiker up several switchbacks into Surprise Valley. Midway, at the beginning of Valley, the recently built Cordova Electric Hydropower Dam can be seen. The last half of the trail follows the creek up the Power Creek Basin, passing by several beaver ponds and hanging glaciers to the Power Creek Cabin. The cabin site has wonderful panoramic views of the valley and surrounding mountains. At mile 3.0 the Alice Smith Intertie accesses the Crater Lake Trail. The entire loop from Power Creek trailhead to Crater Lake trailhead is 12 miles.

Location	Out of Town, Mt Eyak Area Trailhead @ 60.58780, -145.60900
Land Ownership	USFS
Management Agency	USFS (easement on 2.5 mi.)
Trail Length	4.2 mi
Elevation Gain	1564 ft
Min/Max Altitude	Min. 384 ft; Max 954 ft
Trail Type	Terra
Class	2
Current Use	Hiking, X-Country skiing, Biking
Designed Use	Hiking, X-Country skiing, Biking
Managed Use	Hiking, X-Country skiing
Trail Facilities	Parking area off Power Creek Road

Existing Conditions

Cordova Trails Plan
Power Creek Trail



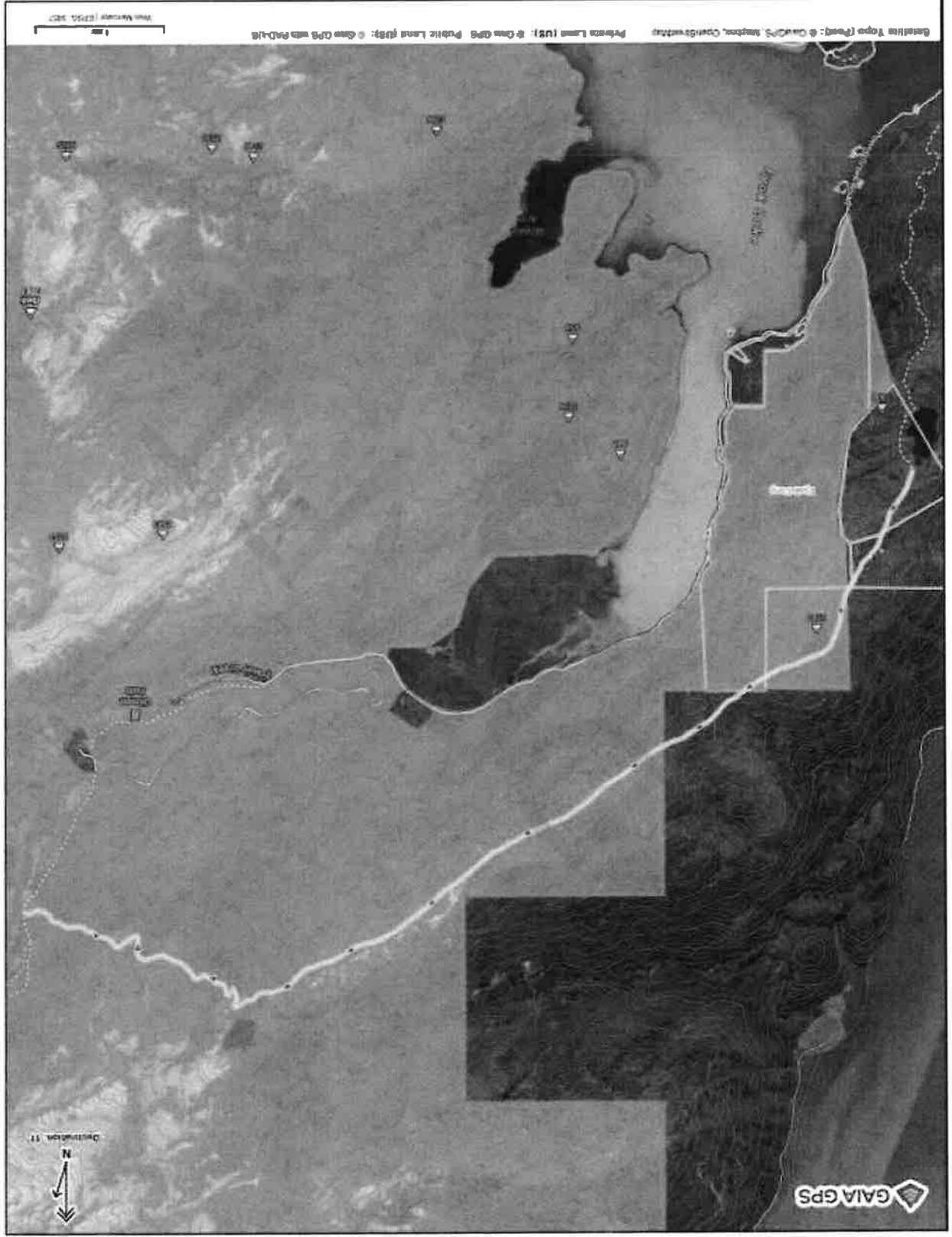
Existing Conditions

Alice Smith Intertie Trail

This ridge route is marked with rock cairns and has extraordinary views of Prince William Sound, Eyak Lake, the Copper River Delta, and the surrounding Chugach Mountains. Approximately halfway on the ridge, a small shelter (amenities not included) is available for day-use or overnight camping on a first-come-first-serve basis. There is excellent berry picking along the loop as well as good possibilities of viewing bears and mountain goats. Be aware of dense fog that can obscure the trail. The entire loop from Crater Lake trailhead to Power Creek trailhead is 12 miles (approximate time is 10 - 12 hours).

Location	Out of Town, Mt Eyak Area
Land Ownership	USFS, Eyak Corp
Management Agency	USFS
Trail Length	5.8 mi
Elevation Gain	2789 ft
Min/Max Altitude	Min. 488 ft; Max. 2060 ft
Trail Type	Terra
Class	2
Current Use	Hiking and Skiing
Designed Use	Hiking and Skiing
Managed Use	Hiking and Skiing
Trail Facilities	Access via Crater Lake Trail and Power Creek Trail. Shelter (not pictured).

Existing Conditions



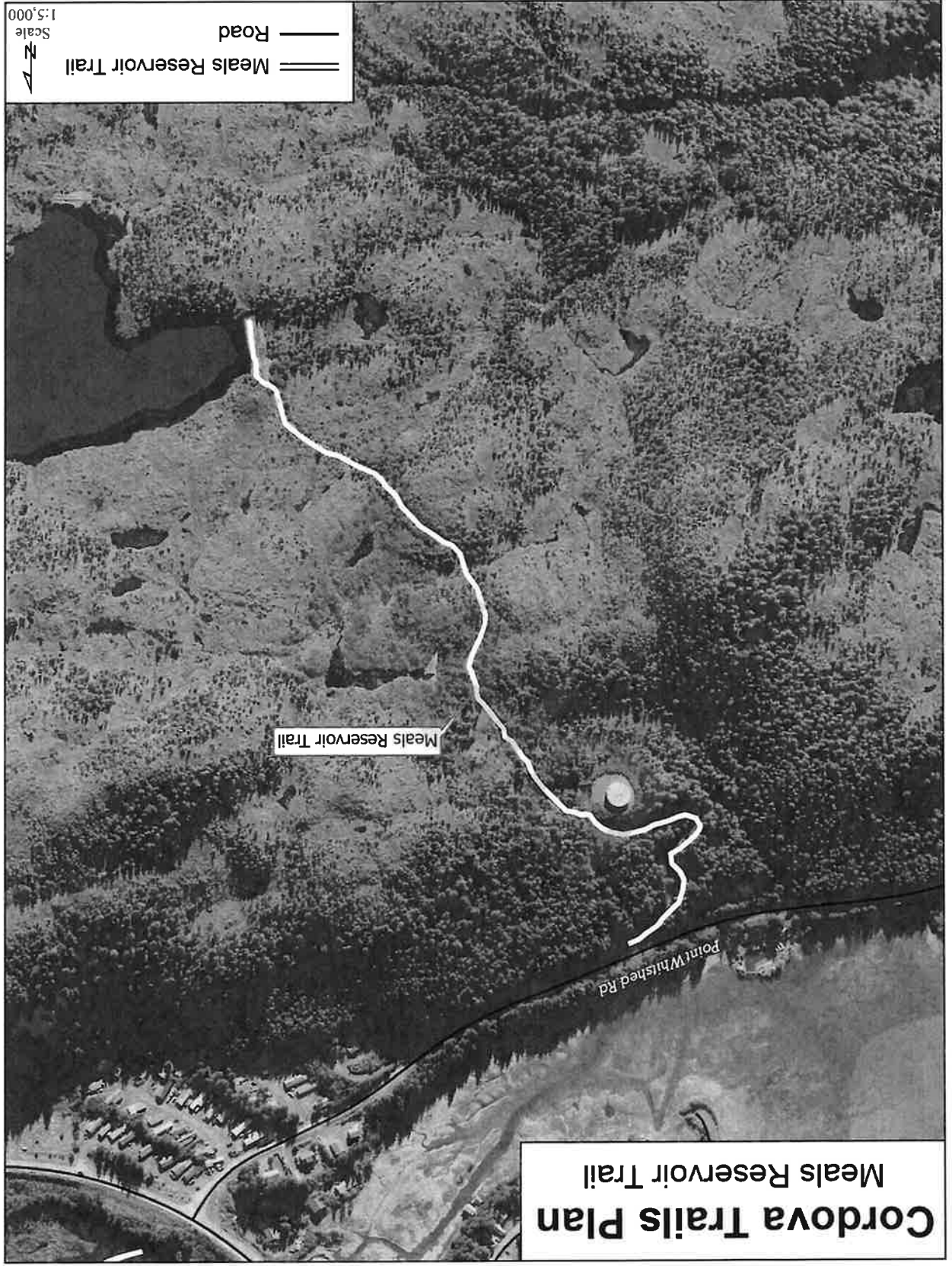
Existing Conditions

Meals Reservoir Access Road

A narrow gravel road brings visitors to the Meals Reservoir, the source of drinking water for the City of Cordova. The maintained road varies from switchbacks and gradual climbs to steep, rocky ascents. Just before flattening out and arriving at the dam at the Reservoir. The Disc Golf Club has set up a 9-hole disc golf course starting near the dam and winding through the muskeg. The Reservoir itself provides a great sun-exposed spot to recreate above the city.

Location	Out of Town, Whitshed Road Parking @ 60.53692, -145.76123
Land Ownership	City of Cordova
Management Agency	City of Cordova (Water Dept)
Trail Length	0.62 mi
Elevation Gain	353 ft
Min/Max Altitude	Min. 69 ft; Max. 354 ft
Trail Type	Road
Class	3
Current Use	Hiking and Maintenance
Designed Use	Hiking and Maintenance Road
Managed Use	Maintenance Road
Trail Facilities	Small parking lot off Whitshed Road

Existing Conditions



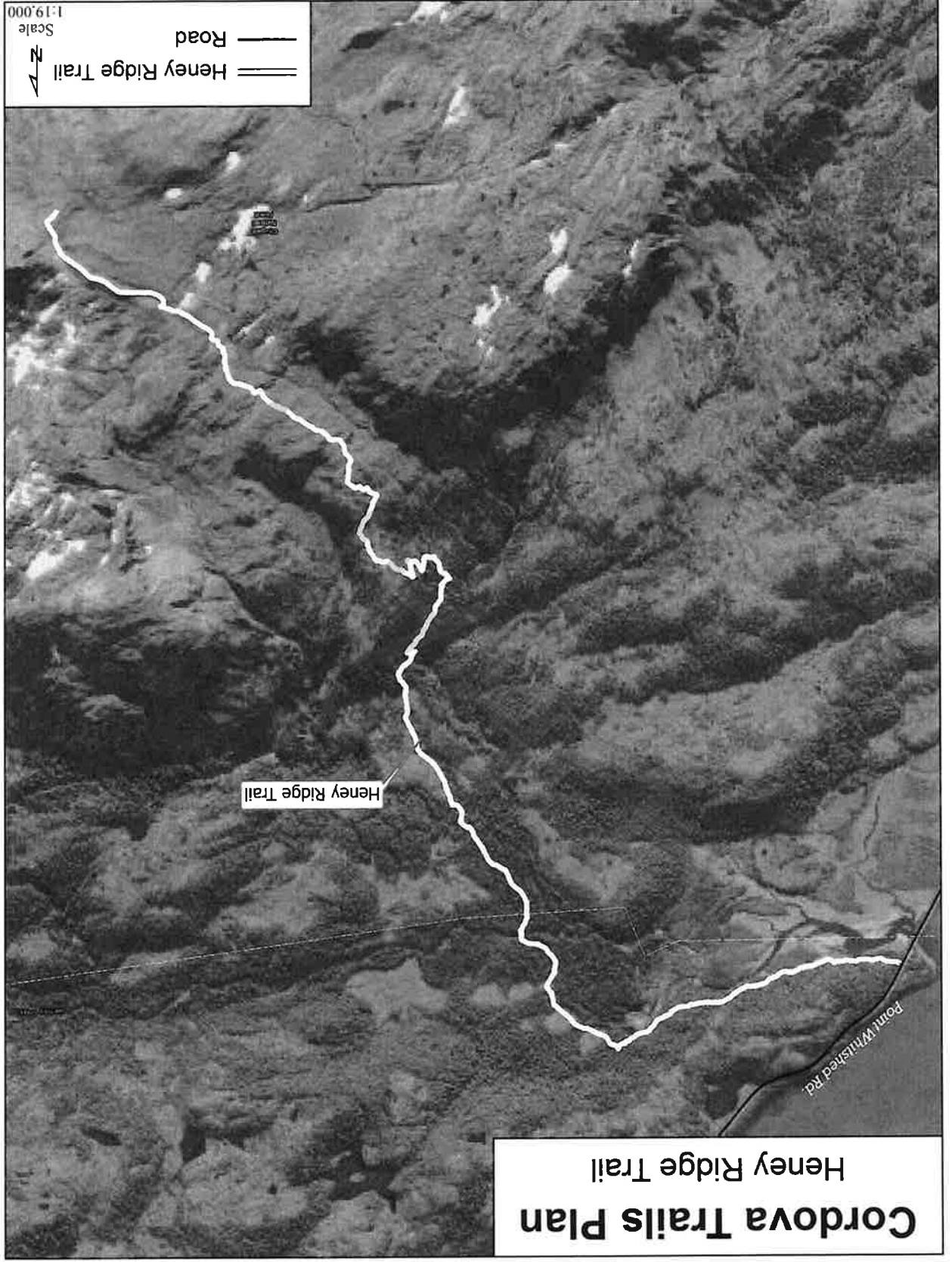
Existing Conditions

Heney Ridge Trail

The first section of trail follows the contour of Hartney Bay and offers excellent birdwatching and wildlife spotting opportunities. Spawning salmon may also be viewed from mid-July to August. The first mile of trail is a "17(b)" easement. The next two miles moderately climb through spruce-hemlock forest and muskeg areas scattered with wildflowers. The last mile is a steep climb onto Heney Ridge following rock cairns above tree line. Once on the ridge you are treated to spectacular views of the Copper River Delta, the Prince William Sound, and Kayak Island (on clear days). There are many unique wood structures to assist hikers with traversing the varied terrain. The trail is muddy and wet in places, especially after heavy rain [USFS].

Location	Out of Town, Whitshed Road
Land Ownership	Eyak Corp, State of Alaska, USFS
Management Agency	USFS (easement)
Trail Length	3.88 mi
Elevation Gain	2487 ft
Min/Max Altitude	Min. 14 ft; Max. 1894 ft
Trail Type	Terra
Class	3
Current Use:	Hiking
Designed Use	Hiking
Managed Use	Hiking
Trail Facilities	USFS Signage at Trailhead

Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions

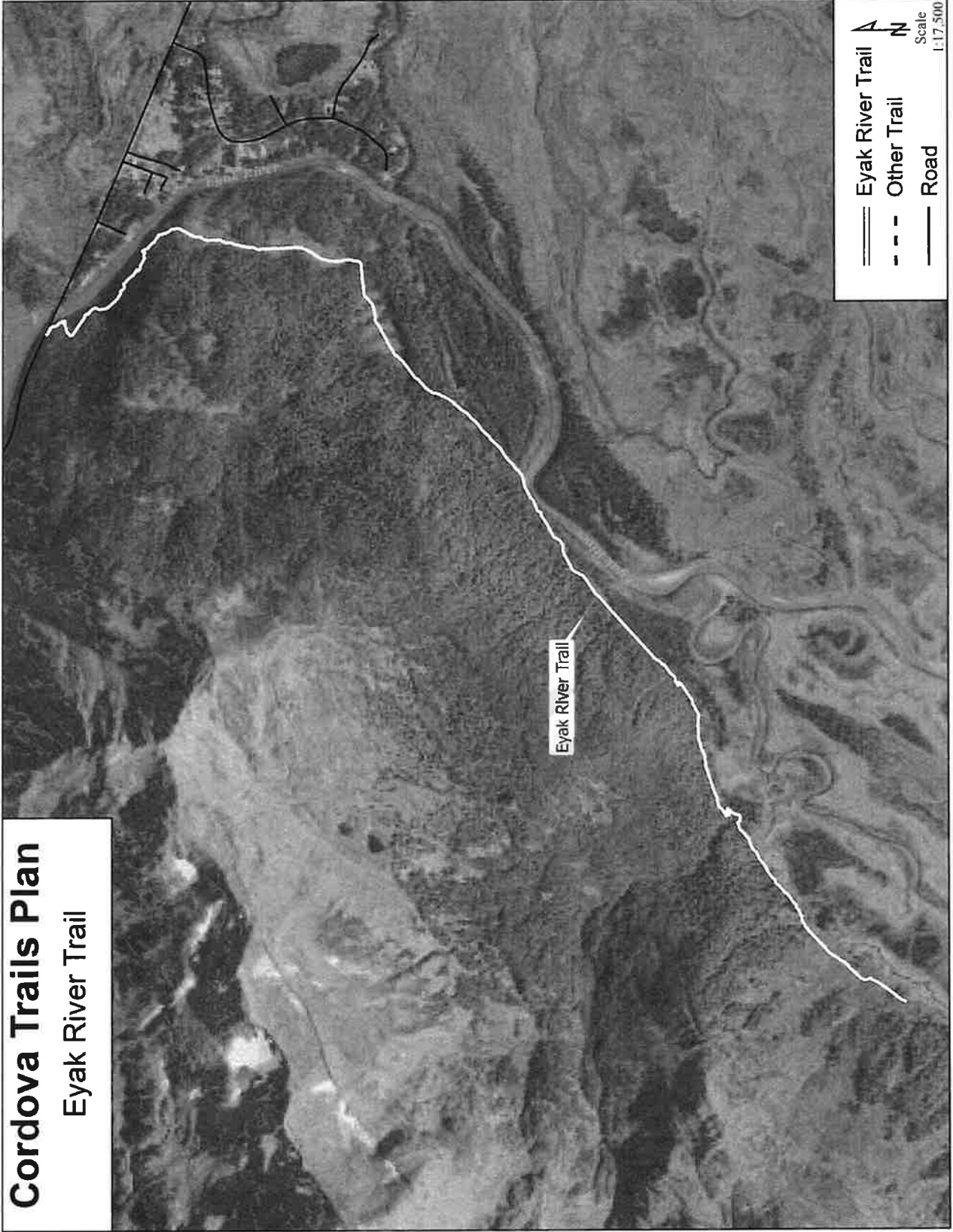
Eyak River Trail

This trail follows the west bank of the Eyak River for one quarter mile through mature Sitka spruce forest before opening into rolling muskeg meadows. At mile 1.5 the trail reunites with Eyak River for the remainder of the distance before reaching Mountain Slough. At the end of the trail the flora composition changes to a typical delta habitat of dense alder and grasses. This is a popular access site for anglers during the coho salmon season from August to mid-September. The trail is muddy and wet in places, especially after heavy rain. Portions of this trail are "17(b)" easements. [USFS]

Location	Out of Town, Copper River Highway
Land Ownership	Eyak Corp
Management Agency	USFS (easement)
Trail Length	3.20 mi
Elevation Gain	1031 ft
Min/Max Altitude	Min. 24 ft; Max. 194 ft
Trail Type	Terra
Class	3
Current Use	Hiking
Designed Use	Hiking
Managed Use	Hiking
Trail Facilities	Signage at trailhead; Parking available in a large pullout across the Copper River Highway
Color on Map	Green

Existing Conditions

Cordova Trails Plan
Eyak River Trail



Existing Conditions

North Ibeck Creek Trail

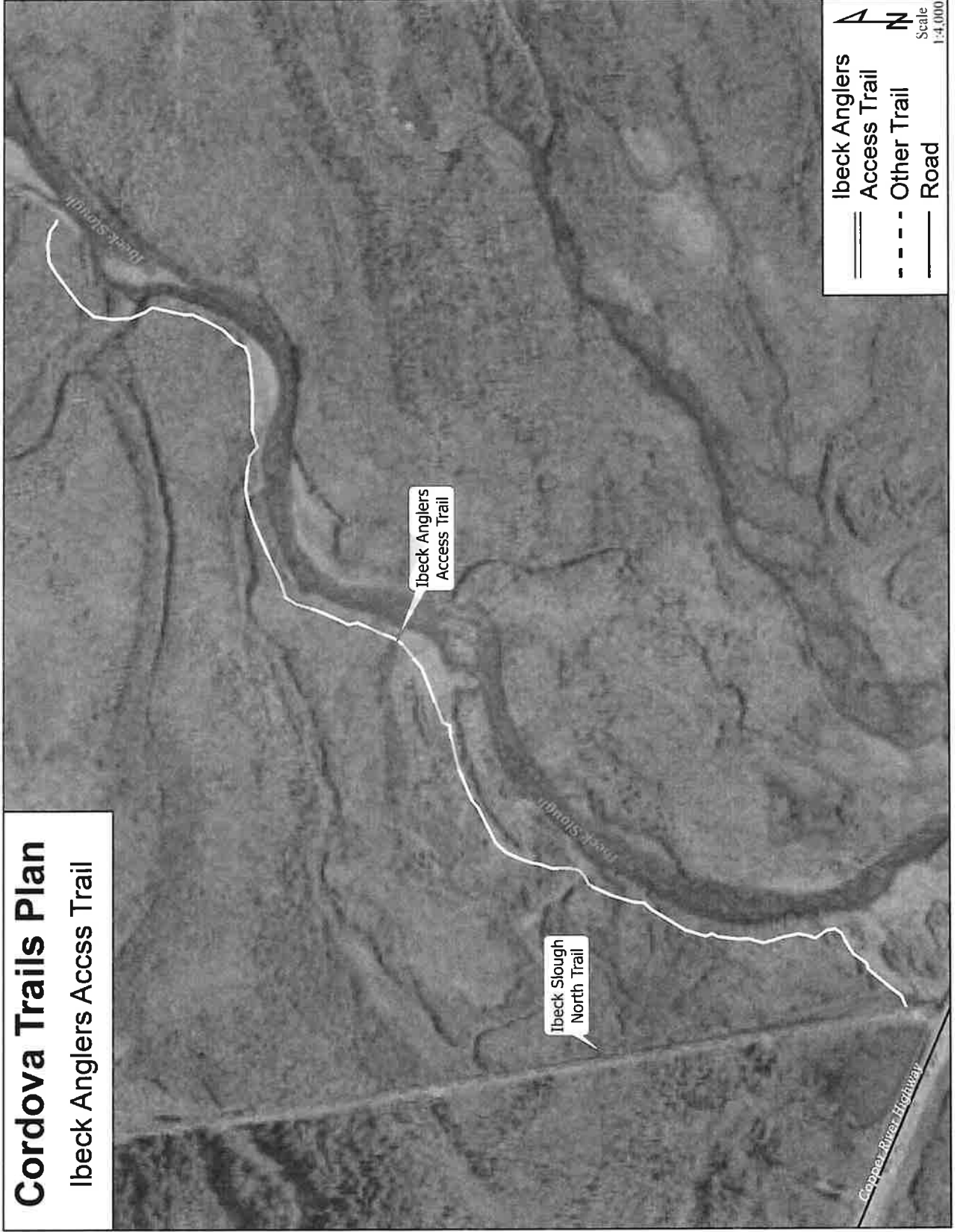
This trail is a heavily used 0.60-mile angler's access trail to popular sport fishing on North Ibeck Creek. The trail aids in spreading out anglers along the creek alleviating pedestrian congestion at the road where anglers tend to congregate and fish. It follows North Ibeck Creek starting at mile 7 of the Copper River Highway. It receives heavy use during Coho salmon sport fishing in mid to late summer. However, it has become a very popular early Spring and summer hiking trail for individuals and families looking for an easy hike near town in an open, sunny area of the Copper River Delta. The trail utilizes puncheons, overlapping rock steps, and step/run boardwalk to follow the creek accessing multiple gravel beaches where the public can relax and explore. (USFS)

Location	Out of Town, Copper River Highway
Land Ownership	USFS
Management Agency	USFS
Trail Length	0.60 Mile
Elevation Gain	10 ft
Min/Max Altitude	Min. 30 ft; Max. 40 ft
Trail Type	Terra
Class	3
Current Use	Hiking
Designed Use	Hiking
Managed Use	Hiking
Trail Facilities	Signage at trailhead; Parking area available for 3 vehicles, garbage receptacle and portable outhouse during peak Coho salmon fishing.

Existing Conditions

Cordova Trails Plan

Ibeck Anglers Access Trail



Existing Conditions

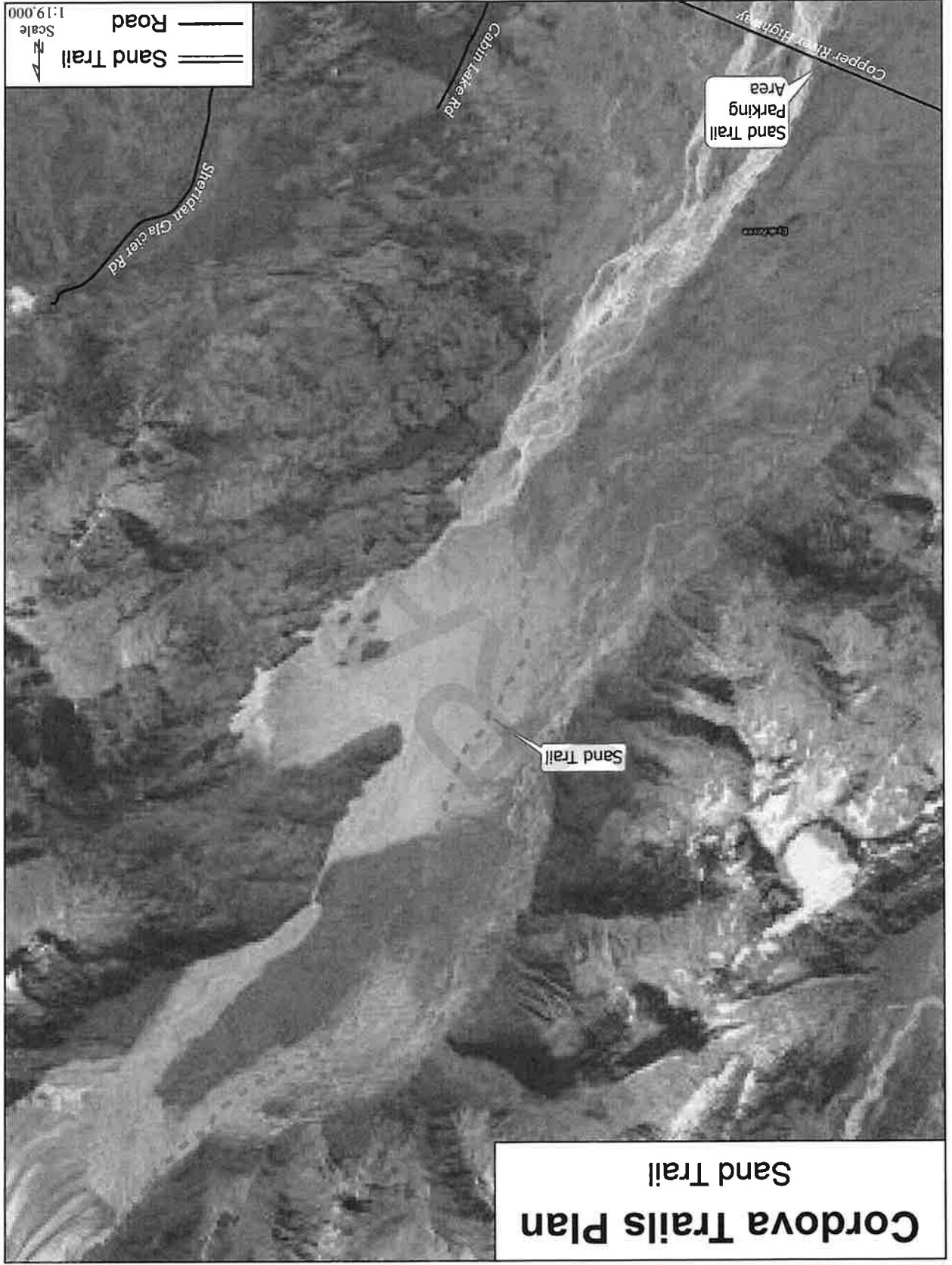
Cordova Formal Trails – Existing Condition

Sand Trail

Sand Trail begins at Mile 9 of the Copper River Highway providing motorized access up Scott Valley. The trailhead parking area has capacity for 8 vehicles with OHV trailers. The trailhead and trail are managed primarily for year-round OHV users. It is 12.2 miles on an easy class 3 motorized trail with little elevation change along most of the route. Scott Valley is the first location on the Copper River Delta east of Cordova where the public can find a variety of hunting, fishing, and recreation opportunities. In the Spring, summer, and fall most people OHV or bike up Sand Trail. In the Winter most people snowmachine while others ski up Sand Trail. The trail passes through dense alder with some black cottonwood for the first 6 miles then breaks out into open outwash gravels with spectacular views towards Scott Glacier and the Chugach Mountains. The trail ends at the northwest end of Scott Valley near the west face of Scott Glacier. (USFS)

Location	Out of Town, Mile 9 Copper River Highway
Land Ownership	USFS
Management Agency	USFS
Trail Length	12 Mile
Elevation Gain	260 ft
Min/Max Altitude	Min. 40 ft; Max. 300 ft
Trail Type	Terra
Class	3
Current Use	Motorized (ATV/Snowmobile), Bike, Ski
Designed Use	Motorized
Managed Use	Motorized
Trail Facilities	Signage at trailhead; Parking area available for 8 vehicles w/trailers, picnic table.

Existing Conditions



Recommendations

Prioritization

Prioritization of the maintenance and improvements to Cordova's trail system drafted in this plan are based upon consideration of the following variables.

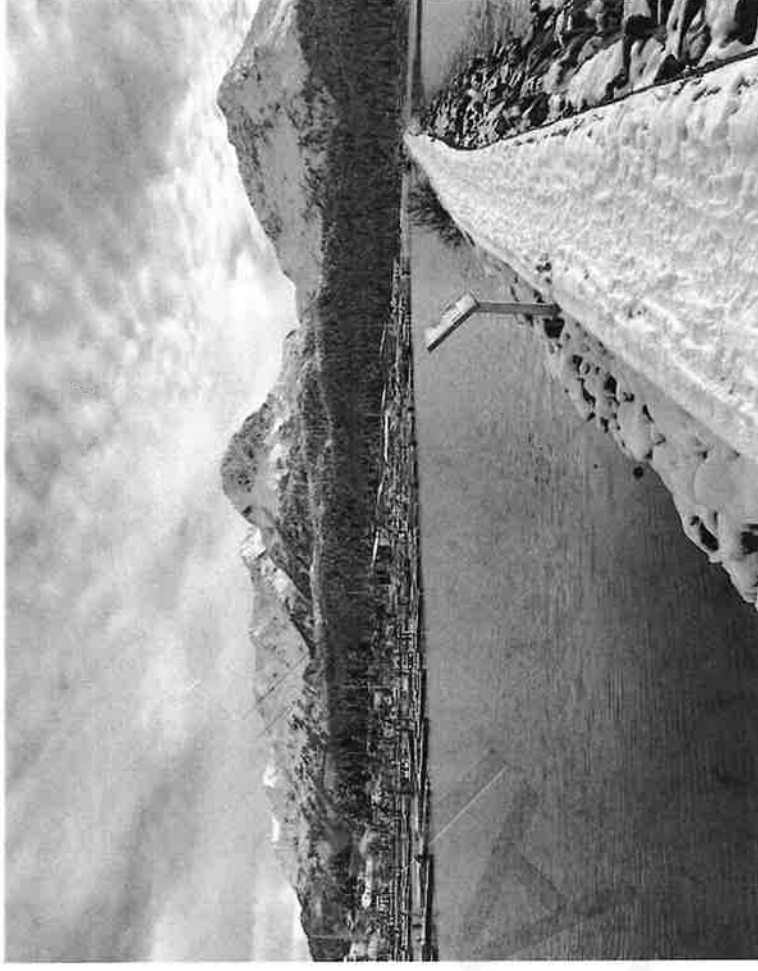
- Public Safety
- Frequency of Trail Use
- Availability of Trail for Multiple Use, including ADA accessibility
- Proximity to Town
- Ease of Project Completion
- Expense/Availability of Funds

Top trail projects are identified as:

- Trails that have not been maintained for a long period of time resulting in trail degradation.
- Trails that need to be improved for safety and accessibility, utilizing official trail building standards
- Trails which provide a good cross section of trail types, locations, and difficulty to meet the desires of multiple user groups within the community of Cordova and visitors to Cordova

Proposed Project

Trail Name	Breakwater Trail
Use	walking/hiking
Class	4
Length	.23 mile + 775 feet
Partners	City of Cordova/USFS/State-DNR



Work Priority Highlights

- Deferred Maintenance
- Extend the existing 1100-foot trail an additional 800 feet

Proposed Project

Trail Name	Odiak Pond Trail
Use	walking/hiking
Class	5
Length	.18 + 555 feet
Partners	City of Cordova/USFS/State-DNR

Work Priority Highlights

- Deferred Maintenance
- Extend the existing 500-foot trail an additional 1050 feet

Proposed Project

Trail Name	Power Creek Trail
Use	walking/hiking/biking
Class	2
Length	4.2
Partners	USFS



Work Priority Highlights

- Redesign the trail section through Power Creek Valley terminating at the Power Creek Cabin for Mountain Bike/Fat Bike users

Proposed Project

Trail Name	Mike O'Leary Trail
Use	walking/hiking
Class	3
Length	1.2
Partners	USFS

Heavy deferred maintenance



Work Priority Highlights

- Work with US Forest Service and Alpine Properties, John Harvill, to establish a trailhead parking area to access and construct a hiking trail to Scout Lake

Proposed Project

Trail Name	O'Leary Intertie Trail
Use	walking/hiking
Class	3
Length	x
Partners	City of Cordova/USFS/State-DNR



Work Priority Highlights

- Complete a variety of trail tread and trail structures reconstruction along the entire length of the trail

Proposed Project

Trail Name	Eyak Mountain Trail
Use	walking/hiking
Class	1
Length	1.95 miles
Partners	City of Cordova/USFS/State-DNR

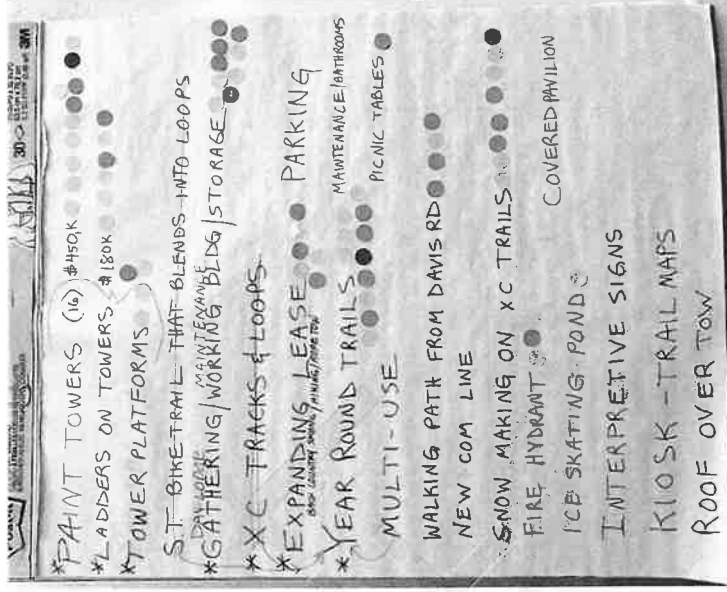
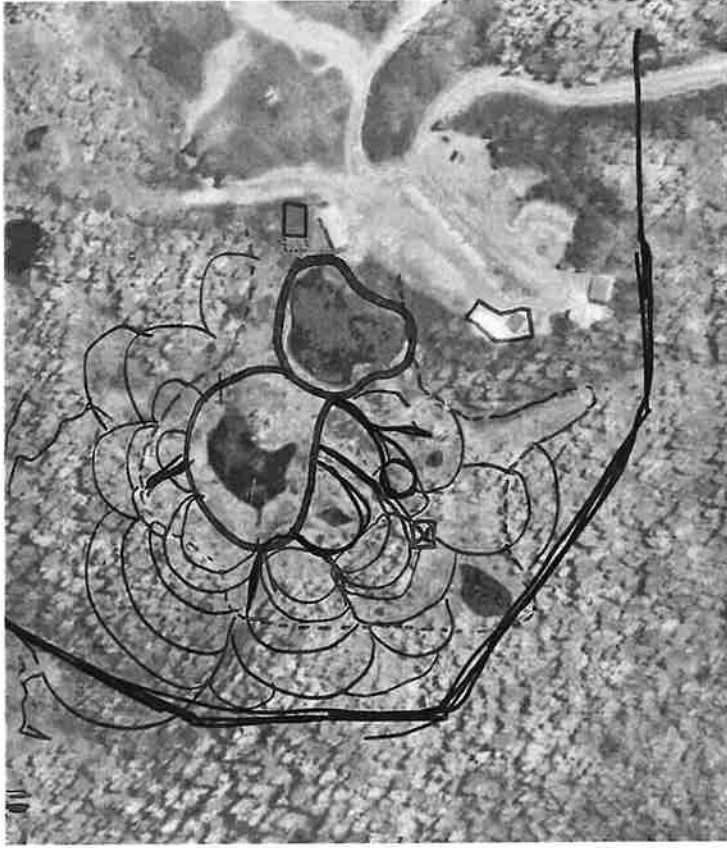


Work Priority Highlights

- Complete a variety of trail tread and trail structures reconstruction along the entire length of the trail

Proposed Project

Base of Ski Area Trails



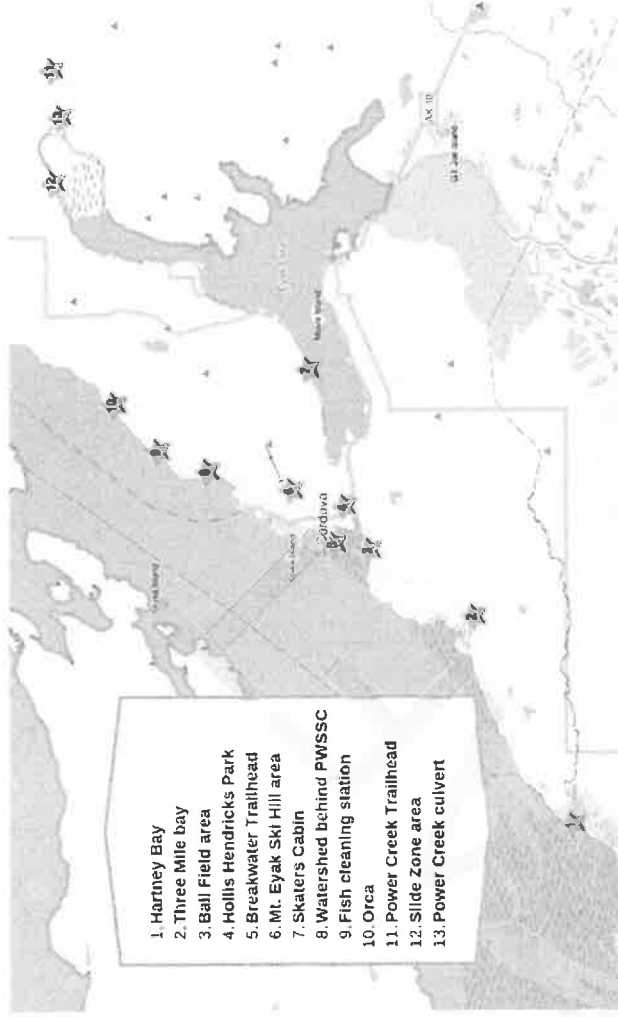
This area receives frequent use, with or without snow, and ideas, plans, and designs are being explored for a year-round system of interconnected trails for multi-user groups of varying abilities.

The City of Cordova and Sheridan Alpine Association will be coordinating to create a specific plan for management of the Mt. Eyak Recreation Area that includes the Mt. Eyak Ski Area.

Proposed Project

Cordova Covered Spaces Project

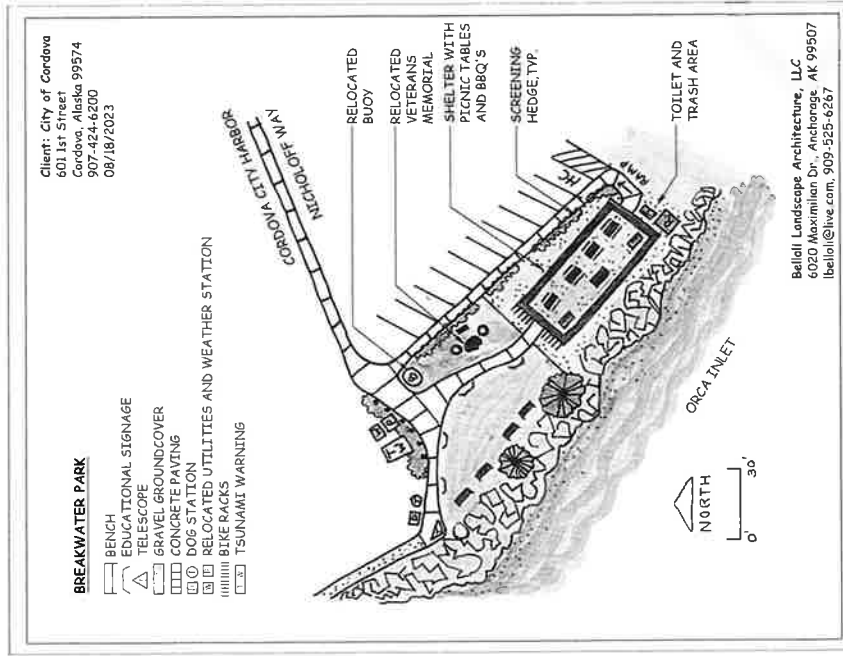
Proposed sites Fall 2022



1. Hartney Bay
2. Three Mile bay
3. Ball Field area
4. Hollis Hendricks Park
5. Breakwater Trailhead
6. Mt. Eyak Ski Hill area
7. Skaters Cabin
8. Watershed behind PWSSC
9. Fish cleaning station
10. Orca
11. Power Creek Trailhead
12. Slide Zone area
13. Power Creek culvert

Map rendered by 2/22 Kenay Brown via ArcGIS online

<https://visitcordovaalaska.org/cordovacoveredoutdoorspacesproject.html>



Client: City of Cordova
601 1st Street
Cordova, Alaska 99574
907-424-6200
08/18/2023

Baliloi Landscape Architecture, LLC
6020 Maximilian Dr., Anchorage, AK 99507
lbaliloi@live.com, 907-525-6257

STRUCTURES

	Small	Medium	Large
Dims	12 x 16	24 x 16	24' x 40'
capacity	up to 16	32	4-6
picnic tables	2	4	Hex
Roof type	Gable	Gable - rect	Hex
features	N.bine wire to post	1/2 walls - back side	Cordic Spring.

Posts - Metal
 Post - Metal
 other - Timbers - local
 X walls - Stone
 Framing -
 Post base Stone



Maintenance

This is by far the most important and usually the most neglected aspect of trail systems. Trails are exposed to constant environmental conditions and erosional factors. It is imperative that there is staff and a budget in place to support the trail system. Without this the system will rapidly fall into disrepair especially in this area. The City of Cordova, State of Alaska DNR, and US Forest Service all play a role in this.

Annual inspection & inventory of trail assets, especially multi use trails helps ensure that damage is minimized, risks are identified, and repairs can be made in a timely manner, enhancing safety and protecting investments as well as natural and cultural resources.

Trails built and maintained within the USFS will follow the FS Standard Trail Plans and Specifications found at this web address: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/trails/trail-management-tools/trailplan>

and follow the USFS Trail Construction and Maintenance found at this web address: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/t-d/pubs/htmlpubs/html07232806/index.htm>

The USFS and NPS tend to be the go-to organizations nationally on best practices on design, tools, and techniques for trail construction and maintenance.

- Trails that are on USFS managed lands will be built and maintained by the USFS. This includes the Mike O'Leary Trail and Power Creek Trail.
- The City of Cordova Parks & Recreation supported by partnerships with USFS, State DNR, and local organizations will be the lead in building and maintaining trails on City of Cordova and State of Alaska DNR lands. This includes the Breakwater Trail, Odiak Pond Trail, O'Leary Loop Trail, and Eyak Mountain Trail.



Maintenance

Routine Maintenance	Function	Frequency
Trail Triage	Essential trail failure repairs	Spring, summer, fall, post storm event
Condition assessment	Larger repair improvement planning	20% assets per year
Spring clearing and hazard assessment	Clear dead fall, identify and repair immediate hazards	May-June as trails clear, post storm event
Drain work, clear, repair, establish	Erosion control	Spring-summer, post storm event
Tread assessment, trail integrity, hazard removal, grade reversals, outslope repair	Trail durability, stabilization, erosion control	Summer-fall
Brushing	Improve sight lines, remove vegetative encroachment	Summer



Partnerships



National Park Service

RTCA

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program



The Native Village of

EYAK



CITY OF CORDOVA

PARKS & RECREATION



CORDOVA

HISTORICAL SOCIETY



US Forest Service

Chugach National Forest, Cordova Ranger District

Appendix

Public Involvement Methods

Committee Meetings

XXXXXX

Stakeholder Meetings

XXXX



THE CITY OF CORDOVA TRAILS COMMITTEE IS CREATING A COMPREHENSIVE TRAIL PLAN. WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

Our Vision
An inclusive, holistic and well-managed local trail system that meets the diverse needs of the Cordova community and fosters connections through shared stewardship.

Plan Focus
An in-depth look at trail maintenance, improvement and development, increased accessibility and diversifying trail use, funding opportunities, and trail advocacy.



Community Input
We look forward to engaging with the community to hear your thoughts. Follow the QR code to take a quick survey!

Contact Planning Team at:
cordovatrails@gmail.com



Cordova Trails Open House

When Tuesday, September 20th, 11am to 8pm.
Speaker and raffle prizes start at 6pm.

Where The Cordova Center, Lower Atrium

The City of Cordova Trails Committee wants your input on the future of Cordova's trails!

- This event will be an opportunity to discuss your ideas for trails, write them down, and put them on the map.
- Bring the kids! A map coloring activity will be provided.
- Coffee, tea, and cookies provided 6pm to 8pm.

Featuring...
A FREE BIKE GIVEAWAY
From Cordova Gear

And enter to win...
A free night at a cabin!



Contact for more information or accommodations:
cordovatrails@gmail.com



Can't make the event? Take the survey and use the interactive map!

Appendix

Wish Lists, Community Concerns & Comments

Trail suggestions:

- Lake Ave to 5th street
- Odiak pond trail; make loop
- Trail connecting 2nd St to chase Ave
- Trail behind orca lodge up to crater lake
- Trail up to Wolverine ridge from the road
- Trail to queens chair that doesn't require kayaks
- Old Sheridan mountain trail that goes straight up to the ridge - seems like an old logging trail that starts on the right of the trailhead
- Crater lake cabin or Eyak ridge below summit
- Bikes on ski hill
- 5th street/ Lake Ave
- CTC path 2nd street to Alaskan
- Railroad row/2nd St walk path to railroad tracks/park
- Whitshed road path to ball park/ along steep section to Cordova
- Three-mile Bay

Appendix

Wish Lists, Survey Results, Community Concerns & Comments

Date	What do you love about Cordova trails?	What is your favorite trail?	What is missing from the trail experience in Cordova?
6/9/2022 14:30:54	There are various environments to hike in, e.g., mountain trails, muskeg trails, forest trails, etc. Our trails have had a lot of effort put into them, which is necessary for our ecosystem, climate, and landscape.	Depends on mood, weather, time, dogs, and who I'm hiking with	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developed and maintained trails/pedestrian paths in town. There are several under-developed right of ways that could be maintained as trails throughout town, such as Fifth Street from Lake to Browning and in general Ski Hill/Lake Ave area. 2. Development of trails in and around the immediate town area. The trail behind the old Porterhouse building that connects to the Ski Hill trail is an incredible trail located right in town. It would be great to see more investment/maintenance in similar trails around town, specifically the hillside above Vina Young, the Ski Hill area north towards Hippie Cove, Hippie Cove area, Crater Lake trailhead back towards town, etc. 3. ADA trails. Hopefully if harbor boardwalk happens, that can be an ADA "trail." Currently Alaganic is the only ADA trail and is located far out of town. Perhaps there is boardwalk potential around Ski Hill, Nirvana Park, Hippie Cove/Science Center, or other areas? 4. Information/maps about trails for people new to town. I'm not sure people know about the Porterhouse trail or some of the pedestrian routes through town, such as the stairs up Fourth Street, Breakwater Trail, etc. 5. More investment/maintenance in some of our existing trails accessible from town, such as Mike O'Leary trail and upper trail to Eyak Peak
6/9/2022 17:05:13	I love that they provide a way to access and recreate in our incredible surroundings; I love the diversity of views/habitats that we can experience on our trail system; I like that they aren't too crowded but do get a lot of use.	Crater Lake	I would like to see more hike-in cabins. I'd also like more peak/ridge climbs; also flat/low elevation trails are nice for kids & older folks who want to get out in nature.
6/9/2022 21:59:23	They are fun. We get out of town and into the forest. We get to explore new places.	Most of them need some upkeep; I like too many to have a favorite.	Some trails are not marked sufficiently.
6/10/2022 6:57:59	Ability to safely travel around Cordova, not in a car	Ski hill	Safe side of the road paths for biking, walking, ATVs or snowmachines
6/11/2022 19:50:28	That we have them!	Ever single one of them are wonderful to be able to experience	Trail Connections
6/18/2022 9:08:09	I love that we have some trails in town, and many more out of town.	Power creek	Good trail out Whittshed Road
6/27/2022 11:02:19	how they are so accessible, so many great ones that begin right in town	ski hill, crater lake	an event re hiking, like Mt. Marathon

Appendix

Wish Lists, Survey Results, Community Concerns & Comments

8/12/2022 16:11:02	How well maintained they are. Easy to navigate				
8/12/2022 22:12:30	Accessibility and views	My eyak	Better mt bike trails and generally trails for bikes. The missing connection is the white shed ballfield with town		
8/12/2022 22:28:12	So easy to access and use.	Reservoir area	An established 5 kilometer loop that could be used for high school cross-country running races instead of running them on the road.		
8/12/2022 22:49:41	Proximity/access	Pipeline lakes	Bike trails		
8/12/2022 23:23:25	Various terrain and well maintained trails by the Forest Service. Netting on the boardwalks is much safer to walk on and much appreciated!	Mount Eyak summit on a clear day			
8/13/2022 0:21:14	Variety, topography, distance, views	Sheridan Glacier, Reservoir, Ski Hill	Better signage for the Alice Smith Interine Trail near Crater Lake		
8/13/2022 11:02:39	There are so many of them and they are all over!		Poop bags & trash cans @ trailheads		
8/13/2022 23:59:55	Views	I don't have a favorite! They are all great in their own ways!	Nothing! Our trails our fabulous! I actually think that if Cordova is allocating more money to trails than they normally do then we have a problem. This money should go towards something we actually need like more teachers and police.		
8/15/2022 10:57:57	Their close proximity to town, ease of access and lack of crowds.	... Sheridan Mountain but there are so many I love	Maybe more signs about the area and history		
8/20/2022 10:06:55	Easy to get to many trails	Crater Lake trail	More access points to the alpine.		
8/29/2022 20:40:08	How close some are to town for convenient lunch breaks, not crowded, epic views, beautiful bountiful rain forest....	It really depends on my mood, the weather and other factors. I've never been one who can pick out a favorite	I would love it if there were more trails a half mile or longer in length one way in town that weren't steep but were of a moderate up and down grade. I like hiking the ski hill and crater lake but sometimes I want something that isn't as steep but I don't want to drive to Pipeline or McKinley. I realize the terrain around town doesn't easily lend itself to that but there might be places where that is possible.		
7/16- 7/17	Reservoir trail - close to town, great views!! Haystack - short, easy	Heney ridge	Covered space for picnics, gathering, even lean to for camping		
7/16- 7/17	Sheridan Glacier - the end reward is fantastic.	Ski Hill - great view at top but steep for "old knees!"	7.5 Mile dike improvements, brushing & maybe a covered place near the end, Mt. End. A board walk out to the lake/wetland E of lake Eyak wier & just W. of the dike trail		
7/16- 7/17		Fishing trail off Alagamik Slough road - fishing. Pipeline lakes trail - scenery, fishing, berry/ mushroom picking	More accessible to town. Create a loop: hospital - Whiteshed Rd bike path - across the lough to high school, back to the CR highway		
			Other ideas. Like to see sheltered spaces - 3 sided so rain doesn't blow in. Petersburg has some long shelters good for group picnics, events. 2 Fishing pier at pullout just beyond Hippie Cove. Easy access for kids. Short pier could access 40' water, suitable for halibut - Eyak Corp land will need some negotiation		

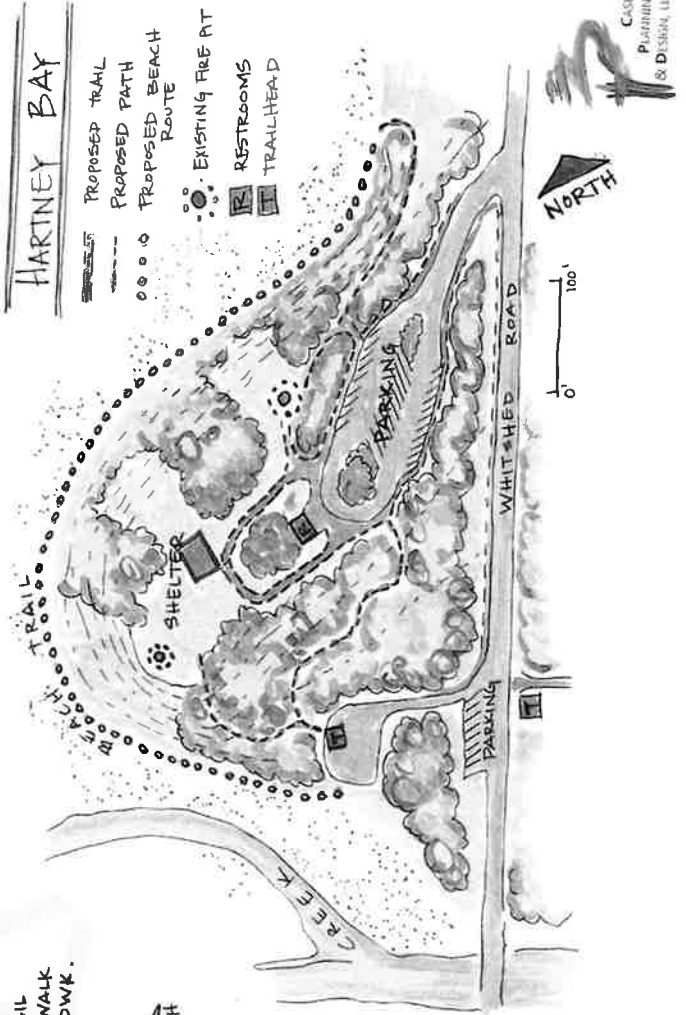
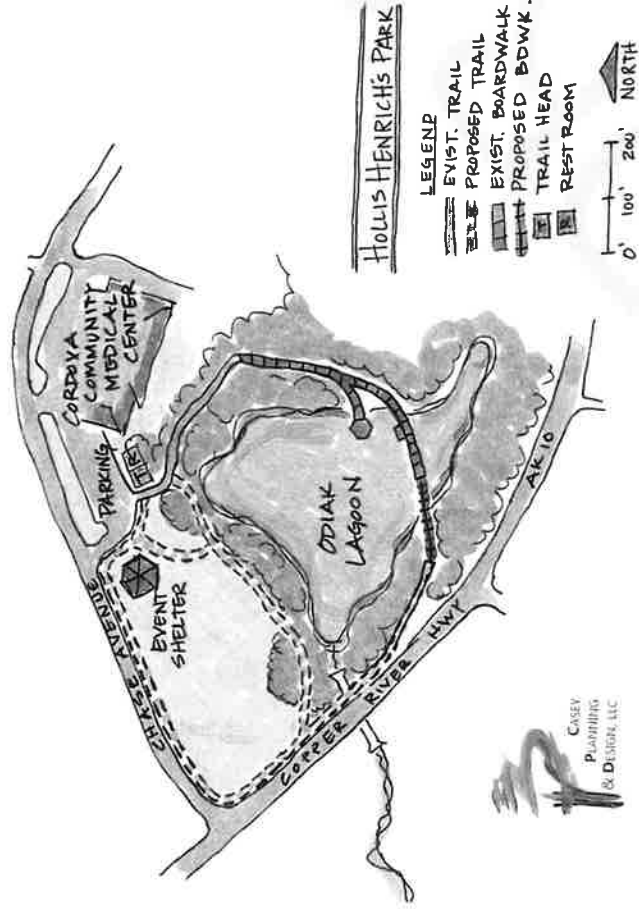
Appendix

Wish Lists, Survey Results, Community Concerns & Comments

7/16- 7/17						
7/16- 7/17						
7/16- 7/17						
7/16- 7/17						
7/16- 7/17						
7/16- 7/17						
5/5 - 5/17	Terrain diversity, ridges (with views), along river, to mountain lakes		Crater Lake			
5/5 - 5/17	Accessibility		Haystack		Maintenance on existing trails as they wear. More trails refurbished and covered picnic areas in the vicinity	
5/5 - 5/17	Accessibility		Crater Lake trail but there are so many, haystack etc, 5th and lake		More trail markings on trails, i.e. Reservoir, Ski Hill,	
5/5 - 5/17	That we have them!		All of them		More covered picnic areas near trails close to Cordova Town center	
5/5 - 5/17	It is a benefit to our community to have trails with easy access.		Ski Hill		It would be a nice addition to have covered areas near trails to get out of the rain	
5/5 - 5/17	Peaceful, scenic wildlife, pristine I like them alot		Crater lake		Places to get out of the rain, more connection of existing trails	
7/15/2022 18:02:26						
7/15/2022 18:22:54	The scenery!		Sheridan Mountain		Picnicing sites!	
7/16/2022 16:21:38	Accessibility and well maintained.		Mt Eyak Trail		An extensive bike trail from town to the airport.	
7/16/2022 16:28:07	Accessibility and upkeep		Crater Lake Trail		Bike or running paths	
7/16/2022 18:34:17	They are very well maintained.		Ski hill trail		Hut to hut trail hiking.	
7/17/2022 11:35:18	They're an awesome Connection to the beautiful wilderness of Alaska.		Mt Eyak is at the top of the list followed closely by Heney Ridge		I think the development of a trail up to Mt Eccles would be a great addition in the future if possible. Besides that, all other trails are well maintained and accessible.	
7/17/2022 14:35:17	Informative		Crater Lake		Signage on Ski Hill trail	
7/17/2022 16:42:33	Yes		Surprise Valley or Power Creek		Don't know right off. Have really liked the lopped trails	
8/12/2022 12:29:16	There are so many and varied		Pipeline		I love it	
8/12/2022 12:46:02	I love trails that have good visibility for bears, humans, etc, but still feel like you can connect with nature.		Ski Hill, hands down. Reservoir close second		BIKE trails!!! Especially kid-friendly bike trails, or lower grade trails that don't have intense inclines. Ski hill would be a fantastic place for more trail development, but would love to see a bike trail network throughout town that keeps kids further from cars. But also without dense brush coverage because of bears.	
8/12/2022 14:28:11	Good views are also a plus.		Mt eyak...its right out my back door		Would also love to see a less steep, and longer trail to access the reservoir area for hikers of varying abilities or those with joint issues.	
8/12/2022 15:25:34	There are many readily accessible. The ski hill trail system		Hidden valley loop		More benches, places to rest and enjoy the views.	
					Covered picnic Areas	

Appendix

Proposed Covered Space and Trail Site Examples





Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda Item #5b

On Agenda: 8/27/24

ITEM TITLE: Directors Report

SUBMITTED BY: Duncan Chisholm

INFORMATION

MOTION

RESOLUTION

FISCAL NOTES:

Expenditure Required: N/A

Unencumbered Balance: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

For reporting/informative purposes only.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Director Duncan Chisholm to give a verbal report to the Commission. Director's Report to include:

- Q2 2024 Report
- Update on Capital Projects
- General Department Update

Parks and Recreation Performance Summary: Quarter 2 2024

Key performance indicators. May 1 to June 30.

Measure Type	Service Area	Performance measure	FY23 Benchmark	Q1 FY24	Q2 FY24	Q3 FY24	Q4 FY24	Total YTD	Indicator
Output	Recreation	Number of visits to Bidariki Recreation Center.	19,482	4,446	2,775			7,221	😊
Output	Pool	Number of visits to Bob Korn Memorial Swimming Pool.	10,479	3,696	2,587 ²			6,283	😊
Outcome	Department wide	Annual Survey: Quality of Parks & Recreation facilities. % Excellent or Good.	NEW MEASURE	N/A	N/A				😐
Output	Recreation	Total number of registrations on recreation programs.	NEW MEASURE	24	0			24	😐
Output	Pool	Total number of registrations on pool programs.	NEW MEASURE	117	12			117	😊
Output	Pool	Total number of times lifeguard intervention was required by users of the Pool.	NEW MEASURE	0	0			0	😊

Measure Type	Service Area	Performance measure	FY23 Benchmark	Q1 FY24	Q2 FY24	Q3 FY24	Q4 FY24	Total YTD	Indicator
Output	Recreation	Total number of hours rented at Bidarki Recreation Center.	NEW MEASURE	29	14			43	😊
Output	Pool	Total number of hours rented at Bob Korn Pool.	NEW MEASURE	401	184 ³			585	😊
Output	Odiak Camper Park	Total number of nights used.	NEW MEASURE	N/A	317			317	😐
Output	Eyak Lake Skater's Cabin	Total number of nights used.	NEW MEASURE	43	45			88	😊

Notes

- 1: 2,151 member visits & 624 daily visits.
- 2: 2,044 member visits & 543 daily visits.
- 3: 112 hrs School Swim Program, 48 hrs Iceworm Swim Team & 24 hrs other



= on target



= in progress



= not on target

Quarter 2 Highlights

Department Administration

- The department started utilizing the CivicPlus Recreation Management software at the start of Q2.
- The Cordova Comprehensive Trails Plan is continuing with additional edits including improving the GIS maps used in the Plan. The plan is expected to be released for endorsement by the Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning and Zoning and the City Council in Q3.
- Phase 1 of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan has been completed by Corvus Design. Phase 1 encompassed a public meeting and an assessment of the City's current facilities and amenities. Phase 2 of the plan has been put on hold due to financial constraints.
- Development of a Summer Activity Guide was completed and 500 copies of the 20-page guide were distributed around Cordova in early June, with activities programed under mid-September.

Bidarki Recreation Center

- The Bay to Bay in May was held on May 11, 2024, from Harney Bay to Orca Bay. The event attracted approximately over 75 entrants. The department assisted with logistics and registration.
- Eyak Lake Appreciation Day was held on June 16 in partnership with Copper River Watershed Project, Prince William Science Center and the Native Village of Eyak. The day featured various family orientated activities including paddle races on the lake. The races attracted over 30 participants.

Bob Korn Memorial Swimming Pool

- A second round of swimming lessons for pre-K children was completed from May 8 to June 13. This round included both Level 1 and Level 2 lessons.
- A series of adult swim lessons were also planned but were canceled due to lack of enrolment.
- A celebration for the retirement of Jeff Hamburger from the Cordova School district was held on May 11.
- First Aid, CPR & AED courses have continued to be delivered to all parks and recreation staff.
- Work is continuing with RenoSys Corporation around replacement of the pool liner. It is estimated that this project will begin in August and last approximately four weeks.

Parks

- Reservations opened for Odiak Camper Park in April. Staff are expecting under 10 seasonal residents based on enquiries. The park will open in May and close at the end of September. Staff are seeing increased demand for short-term sites.

- Improvements are under way at Meals Reservoir Disc Golf course with the introduction of an additional 9 holes. Improvements will continue over summer and into fall and time and weather allows.
- A registration of interest has been lodged with the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Alaska Community Forest Program to undertake a tree inventory and Tree Canopy Assessment in Cordova. DNR will issue a Request for Proposal to undertake the inventory and assessment on the City's behalf. There is no cost to the City for this.
- The department was successful in receiving support from the Prince William Sound Resource Advisory Committee for the Eyak Mountain Trail Improvement Project Phase II. This project is to improve trail conditions which run from the top of Fifth Street up to Ski Hill. This project is scheduled for summer 2025.



Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda Item # 5C

On Agenda: 8/27/24

ITEM TITLE: Discussion on Parks and Recreation Department budget and fees for fiscal year 2025.

SUBMITTED BY: Duncan Chisholm

INFORMATION

MOTION

RESOLUTION

FISCAL NOTES:

Expenditure Required: N/A

Unencumbered Balance: N/A

Funding Source: General Fund

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Commission have an initial discussion on a Fiscal Year 2025 Parks and Recreation Department Budget, and Fees and Charges, and provide recommendations to the Director.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The City Council is beginning discussions on FY25 budget with initial indications from the City Manager that the direction is likely to be to reduce costs and increase revenue from other sources.

The Director wishes to begin a discussion with the Commission on areas of potential savings and ways to increase department revenue.