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Juneau Community Foundation  
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Contact:

Amy Skilbred, Juneau Community Foundation (907) 523-5450  
Katie Sechrist, Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game (907) 267-2541  
Erik Boraas, Trail Mix, Inc. (907) 957-2392  
Paul Robbins Jr., USDA Forest Service (907) 228-6201

**Juneau Community Foundation  
Alaska Department of Fish & Game Awards Foundation \$660,000 Grant  
Supporting Treadwell Ditch Trail Renovation Project**

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) has awarded the Juneau Community Foundation a \$660,000 grant in support of the Treadwell Ditch Trail Renovation Project on Douglas Island. The ADF&G funding source is the Pittman–Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The grant will pay for 75% of the estimated total project cost with a 25% local match required.

The Treadwell Ditch Trail Renovation Project is a top priority of the Juneau Community Foundation’s Parks, Trails & Recreation Fund. In partnership with Trail Mix, Inc., USDA Forest Service (USFS), ADF&G, and the City & Borough of Juneau (CBJ), the Foundation will administer the grant that funds five years of work with lead project partner Trail Mix providing the trail work expertise. When completed the 14-mile Treadwell Ditch Trail will once again become a premiere trail in Juneau and a destination trail for hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, and other outdoor recreation activities.

*“This grant is a big deal, great news for trail users in Juneau. The Treadwell Ditch has been Trail Mix’s top priority for years. We have accomplished a lot, but there is a lot more to do, and thanks to our partners, volunteers, and overwhelming community support we’ll get it done!”* Erik Boraas, Executive Director, Trail Mix, Inc.

*“This is a great example of the Community Foundation’s Parks, Trails & Recreation Fund having impact; supporting local partners, priorities, and projects. Trail Mix has been making steady progress on this community priority. These funds will expedite completion much sooner than previously imagined.”* Reed Stoops, Board Member, Juneau Community Foundation

The project goal is to maintain public access to off-road areas of Douglas Island by renovating, repairing, improving, portions of the Treadwell Ditch Trail that extends through land managed by the USFS. Major project expenses include several large and smaller bridges, helicopter time and gravel for the trails. The Community Foundation has committed \$220,000 for the required non-federal match; which includes \$100,000 from the CBJ. The Foundation and Trail Mix will be reaching out to the community to help raise the remaining \$120,000 in matching funds.

*"We use our trails, and we care about our trails. That high level of participation and sense of ownership for projects that improve and expand our recreational trails bodes well for raising the local match."*  
Amy Skilbred, Executive Director, Juneau Community Foundation

The historic trail follows the Treadwell Ditch, a 14-mile-long aqueduct constructed between 1882 and 1889 to supply power and water for the Treadwell Mines, at the time the largest gold mining complex in the world. The trail has been used by recreation enthusiasts since its creation. Over the decades, it has fallen into a state of severe disrepair. With the support of this partnership and the community, the trail is taking on a new life as part of Juneau's world-class trail system.

Since 2010, six timber frame bridges over 35' have been installed; over twenty timber bridges between 6' and 20' were installed; and thousands of pounds of gravel have been spread to harden the surface of miles of trails. In 2018 alone, Trail Mix, Inc. documented over 2,000 volunteer hours, 2,000 paid trail crew hours, and \$100,000 in material and transportation costs.

*"We are proud to be a part of this creative collaboration. Unique partnerships like this are often required to accomplish trail improvements on this scale. We are pleased to see this vision for the trail moving forward,"* Brad Orr, Juneau District Ranger for the Tongass National Forest.

The historic trail started at Cropley Lake and Hilda Meadows at Eaglecrest Ski Area and extends to the Treadwell Mine just beyond Douglas. This summer the Juneau Community Foundation in partnership with Eaglecrest will complete construction of an overnight public use cabin at the Hilda Meadows end of the trail.

For more information on this project or to find out how you can support this project, contact Jamie Waste at the Juneau Community Foundation office at 523-5450 or [jamie@juneaucf.org](mailto:jamie@juneaucf.org) or visit the Foundation website at [www.juneaucf.org](http://www.juneaucf.org).

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