

News about the
BLM's Campbell Tract
Anchorage • Alaska

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The Campbell Tract Leaf

Trails TLC

It's that time again—spring breakup. Time to put away the cross country skis and break out that new pair of hiking boots.

On May 8, however, several inches of new snow fell, and for a little while, it looked more like March than May. The sun came out and melted the new snow quickly, but several late season snowfalls during breakup have left area trails very susceptible to damage.

So the BLM teamed up with Anchorage Parks and Recreation to temporarily close Campbell Tract and Far North Bicentennial Park trails to mountain bike and equestrian use.

"We're also asking other users to avoid using soft and muddy trails to avoid causing permanent damage," explains BLM outdoor recreation tech Brad Muir.

While trails are always vulnerable during breakup, several late-season snowfalls during April and even May may delay drying of trails. So avoiding those trails that are soft, muddy and especially fragile will result in better trail conditions later this spring.

"Damage that occurs now usually remains well into the summer," adds outdoor recreation planner Doug Ballou. "Please help us take care of your trails by limiting your use during breakup, and we'll all enjoy the results this summer."



This photo of BLM's Smokejumper Trailhead was taken the morning of May 8. While this trail is well compacted, late snowfall may cause delayed drying of other Campbell Tract trails.

BLM smokejumpers to "drop in" on National Trails Day

Local trail enthusiasts are invited to join the **BLM, REI and Anchorage Parks and Recreation** for our annual National Trails Day event on June 3. This is your chance to roll up your sleeves and help us give the trails of Campbell Tract and Far North Bicentennial Park some much-deserved TLC.

This year we have a special surprise for our volunteers. Following a morning of trail projects, everyone is invited back to the BLM Campbell Creek Science Center for a volunteer recognition luncheon (free pizza!) to share what they accomplished during the morning. Then if weather conditions permit, smokejumpers from the BLM Alaska Fire Service will treat everyone to a special

National Trails Day is Saturday, June 3.
Registration begins 8:30 a.m. at the
BLM Campbell Creek Science Center,
and trail projects start at 9 a.m.
Wear work boots, rain gear and gloves.
For more information, call the
Science Center at 267-1247.





A BLM smokejumper makes a training jump April 5 at Fort Wainwright. (Photo by Kevin McIver/Alaska Fire Service)

demonstration jump at Campbell Tract Airstrip as part of the smokejumpers' annual spring training program.

“All smokejumpers are required to complete training jumps prior to the start of fire season,” explains Anchorage Field Manager Gary Reimer. “This is a great way to help them meet that requirement. It also reinforces the fact that Campbell Tract Airstrip is an active runway. We’d like to remind trail users to steer clear of the runway and instead enjoy the twelve miles of safe, scenic outdoor recreation trails on the tract.”

So join us for National Trails Day and enjoy the smokejumper demonstration. Then help us encourage others to enjoy the Campbell Tract trail system and keep the aircraft operations area free of pedestrian use.

By working together on National Trails Day and throughout the year, we can maintain a safe airstrip and a beautiful trail system that we can all enjoy.

The Campbell Tract Leaf is published quarterly to provide news about the 730-acre BLM Campbell Tract, located adjacent to Far North Bicentennial Park in Anchorage, Alaska.

Bear Facts

The bears are awake. There were numerous bear sightings on Campbell Tract in April and early May. BLM reminds trail users to practice good bear sense when using the Campbell Tract trail system and adjacent Far North Bicentennial Park.

BLM will continue to use the color-coded bear signage system developed by the Alaska Interagency Bear Safety Education Committee. So be alert for red “Danger” or green “Bear Alert” signs in response to sightings or potential threats to human safety.

For more safety tips, visit www.wildlife.alaska.gov.



Celebrating Women in Science



Nine-year-old Dorrie from Kincaid Elementary looks at water quality samples at a USGS booth during the Science Center’s Celebrating Women in Science educational event April 1.



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