



ALASKA
PUBLIC LANDS INFORMATION
CENTERS



Mountain Biking Interior Alaska

Whether you want a nice, easy ride on an old roadbed or a grueling trail up technical switchbacks leading to a spectacular view, Alaska is the place to do it. From hour long rides to multiple day rides, you can find whatever your legs desire. As always, remember to stay on the trail, respect trail closures and give the right of way to the horses and hikers that you encounter. So grab your water bottle, pop on your helmet and enjoy an Alaskan mountain bike adventure! For more information, contact the Fairbanks Cycle Club:

www.fairbankscycleclub.org

Chena River State Recreation Area Trails

State Parks Northern Area Office
3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907) 451-2705

Generally, state parks do not allow mountain biking on their hiking trails. However, the Chena River State Recreation Area is an exception. Mountain biking is permitted at the following areas:

Bicycling is permitted on the ATV trails, which are marked at the trailheads. The best ones for summer use are:

- *Stiles Creek Trail*: 15 miles, Trailheads at MP 31.4 and MP 36.4 Chena Hot Springs Road.
- *Chena Dome Trail*: 24 miles, Trailheads at MP 49.1 and MP 50.5 Chena Hot Springs Road. (Boulder fields in this trail).
- *Two Rivers Ski Trails*: Trails behind Two Rivers Elementary School. 10 miles 1000' elevation gain.

Ester Dome

- *Back Door Trail*: 8 miles, 2 hours, 800' elevation gain.

Begin just before the turnoff into Ester. Ride up Henderson Road to the Mine, then turn left on the Marathon Trail.

About a half-mile down the trail, bear left and take the Back Door Trail back into Ester. This trail is down hill for 90% of the distance (about 4 miles). May be muddy in early season with puddles as deep as 18--24 inches.

- *Ester Mine Trail*: Take Ester Mine Road to the top of Ester Dome. Go down Alder Chute, then pick up the Back Door Trail back into Ester. Expect to spend 40 minutes pushing your bike up the steepest part, but it's followed by a 7 to 8 mile ride that is at least 90% downhill. Note: Alder Chute is difficult. Those not fully confident should walk their bike down this hill -- about 3/10 of a mile.

Goldstream Valley

There are many rides in the Goldstream for the skilled rider. Those rides can be found at:

www.fairbankscycleclub.org



Bikers on the Richardson Highway.

Murphy Dome

- *Lincoln-Cache Creek*: 23 miles, 2400' elevation gain. Start at 7 mile Murphy Dome Road. After about 3 miles, turn left onto Abraham which leads into Lincoln Creek subdivision. Follow Abraham to its end. It turns into a trail with a two-mile descent down to Cache Creek Rd. There are about 9 miles of rolling dirt road back to cars.

- *Treasure Creek*: 16 miles. 2400' elevation gain.

Start at the intersection of Old Murphy Dome Road and the Elliot Highway, about 3.5 miles north of Fox. Ride west on Old Murphy Dome for about 6 miles, turning right onto the double track trail along ridge. There are two forks in the trail. Go right, then left. After 6 miles on this trail, connect with the pipeline corridor, and follow it back to Old Murphy Dome Road.

Bureau of Land Management

The National Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management do not restrict mountain biking on their trails. However, some of their trails are not recommended for bicycling. Some of the recommended trails in Southcentral Alaska for Chugach National Forest and Bureau of Land Management are listed below. Please contact their district offices or the Alaska Public Lands Information Center for further information.

- *Denali Highway*: Connects Paxon and Cantwell, 135 miles of gravel road.
- *Maclaren River Road*: MP 43.5 Denali Highway, 3 miles north, one-way, ending at the Maclaren Glacier.
- *Maclaren Summit Trail*: MP 37 Denali Highway, 3 miles north, one-way, mostly uphill. DIFFICULT.
- *Oscar Lake Trail*: Also MP 37 Denali Highway, 5 miles south, one-way.
- *Landmark Gap South Trail*: MP 24.8 Denali Highway, first 1/2 mile may be flooded out by beaver pond. Keep right at the fork, 5 miles, one-way. DIFFICULT.
- *Klutina Lake Trail*: MP 101.5 Richardson Highway, along Copper Center bypass. Turn west at Brenwick-Craig Road sign and cross under the oil pipeline. From the pipeline, it's about 25 miles to Klutina Lake on bare dirt gravel. Surface may be muddy.
- *Bernard Creek Trail*: MP 78.9 Richardson Highway. This is a 15-mile old loop road, hardpack dirt, uphill with some Creek crossings. Trail ends at a small lake near Kimball Pass.
- *Tiger Mine Trail*: MP 39.8 Edgerton Highway, 8 miles uphill.

State Land

Fairbanks Area State Forestry Office
3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907) 451-2600

Bicycling is one of the "generally allowed uses on state land." However, this doesn't include land owned or managed by other state agencies such as the University of AK Dept., of Transportation and Public Facilities, or the AK Railroad. Before beginning an activity on state land, the user should check to be sure it is allowed in that particular area. A couple of popular areas are listed below.

- *Tanana Valley State Forest Road System*: Over 15 miles of forest roads. Logging trucks, ORV's and horses are also allowed on the roads. BE ALERT!
- *Fairbanks to Circle Historic Trail*: 58 miles, trailhead at MP 3.3 Fairbanks Creek Road or at MP 85.5 Steese Highway.
- *Stampede Trail to East Toklat River*: Trailhead is at Mile 25 I parks Highway. Trail goes approximately 20 miles to Denali National Park boundary (Bikes are only allowed on the road inside the park).

A helpful bicycling reference is:
Mountain Bike Alaska: 49 Trails in the 49th State,
Richard Larson, Glacier House Publications, 1991,
Anchorage, Alaska.

It is available online from:
Alaska Geographic
750 W. 2d Ave., Ste 100
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 274-8440
<http://www.alaskageographic.org/>



Want to experience Alaska and get exercise at the same time?
Go for a ride!

