



Kachemak Nordic Ski Club
PO Box 44
Homer, AK 99603

Kenai Peninsula Borough
Land Management
144 N Binkley St
Soldotna, AK 99669

10 April 2019

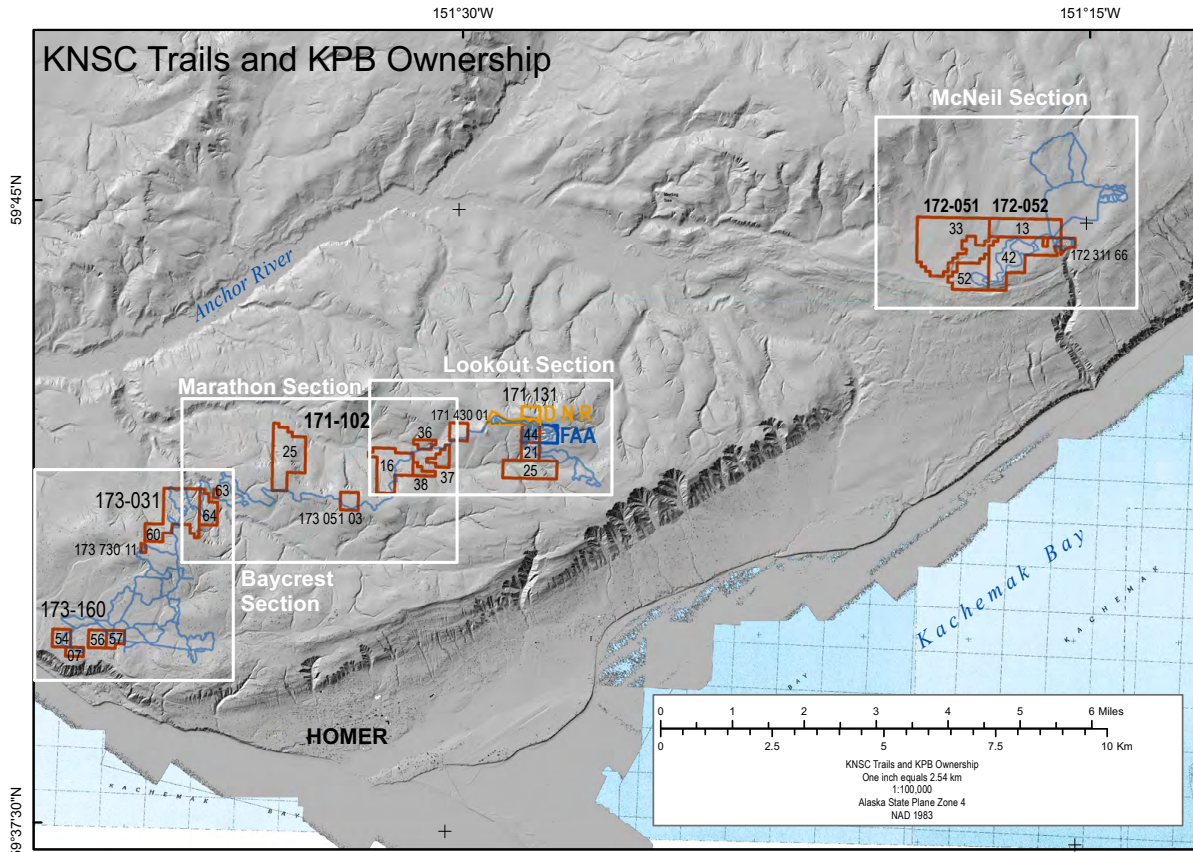
Re: CTMA 2018-01 Annual Report

Overview of participation, facilities and maintenance activities

During the 2018-19 ski season Kachemak Nordic Ski Club maintained over 90 km of ski trails; 25 km of those trails cross land owned by the Kenai Peninsula Borough covered under CTMA 2018-01. Additionally, two KNSC maintenance buildings are sited on KPB lands covered under the Agreement: one between the McNeil Canyon EMS station and the McNeil Canyon Elementary School (parcel #172-311-66), and the other on Harbinson Lane, off Ohlson Mountain Road, adjacent to the Lookout Mountain Trail system (#171-131-45). KNSC operated four ATVs, six snow-machines, two mowers, and 16 grooming implements during the 2018-19 season.



The two maintenance buildings house three tracked ATVs, and four snow-machines along with two tow-behind mowers and 12 grooming implements. Other equipment is stored at private residences on the trail system. The building on Harbinson Lane also serves as a warming shelter and meeting and registration space for events and programs. A third maintenance building will soon be constructed on the same parcel as the Diamond Ridge EMS station (173-730-11). Once the site is snow-free, Techno-metal® posts will be driven for the foundation and construction of the building will begin. We anticipate completion by August 2019. The building will house one ATV, at least one snow-machine, and grooming implements.



The trails at McNeil and Lookout were mowed in the fall. Grooming by snow-machines towing rollers, drags, and Ginzu-groomers began as soon as snow depth was sufficient. Trails at the McNeil system were groomed approximately once per week beginning in January by a 16' DeLorean sno-cat under contract to Wise Construction. No ground disturbance or tree-cutting was required this season on trails crossing KPB lands.

KNSC serves 700 members. However, non-members are always welcome, and frequently seen on KNSC trails. We charge no fees for trail use but do encourage membership, donations, and event participation to fund operations. KNSC sponsored three programs, three clinics, and five events on trails crossing KPB lands. Additionally,

KNSC trails were used by four elementary school ski programs, two school ski teams and for three Borough-wide school ski races. The continuity KNSC has been able to provide with trails and programs beginning with the youngest skiers contributed to the success of the girls on the Homer High School Ski team, who were the Division II State Champions this year.



2018-2019 Activities and Use

This past season, which is not over as this report is being written, has been a good one for snow cover. The entire trail system was groomed for at least one week. A total of 9196.6 miles were added to the odometers of ten grooming machines. With mowing this summer, KNSC will put over 10,000 miles on its grooming fleet.

Baycrest Area

The trails crossing the two KPB parcels near the DOT facility (173-60-07 & -54) were groomed the least, because snow cover was inadequate on these trails, which are at the lowest elevation of any in KNSC's system. The remaining trails crossing parcels on the Lower Baycrest system (173-160-56 & -57) were groomed frequently following snowfalls in January and were maintained through March. During late February these trails were used frequently by the 21 skiers on the Homer Middle School Nordic ski team for training for the Borough Ski Championship race on March 1st. Six Homer Middle School girls and one boy achieved top-ten positions in that race. The Sea-to-Ski race was held on these trails on 31 March, but the race course this year did not include any trails that cross KPB-owned land.

Marathon Connector Trail

The trails crossing the parcels along the Marathon connector trail, which traverses from Ohlson Mt. Rd. to Diamond Ridge Rd. (173-031-60, -63, -64; 171-102-16, -25, -36, 37, 38; 171-430-01; 173-051-03), saw grooming activity only for about two weeks. The grooming was in preparation for the KNSC-sponsored Marathon Ski Race held on 9 March 2019. During and immediately following the race a blizzard closed the trail, and it was not re-opened. Fifty-four hearty skiers completed the Marathon race in the near-

blizzard conditions. Many others had the chance to ski the route during the brief window when the trail was adequately groomed before the race.



McNeil Canyon Trails

The McNeil Canyon Trails were groomed consistently from mid-November until early April. Dog waste and control was of special concern to many groomers and trail users, especially early in the season. Signage was posted reminding users to pick up after their pets, to keep them in control, and to only bring one dog per skier. Dog waste bags were also posted. The signs and bags appear to have reduced the number of infractions to KNSC dog policy. A porta-potty was placed at the trailhead beginning in February, it will be removed on 15 April.

Many school children from the adjacent McNeil Canyon Elementary school participated in an after-school ski program in January and February. Additionally, the Homer High School and Homer Middle School Nordic Ski teams used the trails for training on many occasions. Because snow was lacking on the central peninsula, the Homer High School Team hosted an informal Borough-wide ski race at McNeil, where conditions were excellent, to replace a cancelled event. The race was attended by ~35 skiers from Homer and the Central Peninsula. The Junior Nordic Program was held at the McNeil trails on 2 February. Over 100 children aged 4-12 participated in that program.



Lookout Mountain Recreation Area Trails

The Lookout Mountain trails are KNSC's premier trail system (parcel #171-131-21, -25, -44 & -45. Only one trail barely crosses the NW corner of #171-131-25). These trails were groomed consistently from mid-November until today. Skiers from all over the state use the system, especially during the early season when it was one of the few groomed systems in the state with snow.

These trails are the venue for several events and programs. The Homer High and Middle School teams used the trails at least four times per week during their respective seasons. The High School team used the maintenance building to wax skis. Kachemak Selo School, West Homer Elementary, and Fireweed Academy all used the trails for after-school ski and winter activity programs. The Kachemak Women's Nordic program drew 40 participants overall. A dozen or more of them attend training and instructional sessions at Lookout four times per week, October through March. The Junior Nordic program served 106 children aged 4-12. It was held on Saturdays from 26 January until 23 February, except on 2 February, when it was held at the McNeil trails due to the conflict with the High School Invitational Race. A beginners' clinic was offered to parents of Junior Nordic participants on the same dates as the Jr Nordic Program; it attracted 12 participants. A co-ed ski clinic offered twice per week from 26 Jan - 23 February attracted 15 participants. The table below summarizes the participation in the other events that were held at the Lookout Mountain Trail Recreation Area.

Lookout Mountain Trails Events and Participation

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Participation</u>
15-16 December	Beginners' clinic	28 participants
26 December 2018	Ski Your Age (in Kilometers)	96 participants
18 & 19 January 2019	Friday Night Lights	110 participants
1-2 February	Homer High School Invitational	35 racers
3 February	Ski For Women	81 participants
10 February	Wine & Cheese & Wooden Ski Tour	102 participants
15 February	Homer Middle School Invitational	74 racers
9 March	Homer Ski Marathon	54 finishers

Thanks to Kenai Peninsula Borough Lands Management for support of this agreement, which contributes to the wintertime health and well-being of many hundreds of its residents.