

UAF North Campus Subcommittee Agenda July 11, 2012; 12 p.m. (noon) Facilities Services Conference Room, RM 122	No agenda available
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UAF North Campus Subcommittee Meeting Documents

July 11, 2012

Notes

Problem Statement

The new ASF antennae on West Ridge will block an existing ski trail. The ski trail:

- Is used for several UAF ski classes;
- Receives heavy use throughout the winter;
- Is an access trail for the public;
- Provides access to the trails from the ski hut;
- Provides connectivity among several trails;
- allows skiers to complete a loop; and
- In addition to the winter use, the trail serves as a start/finish for collegiate and high school cross-country running races.

Improvements on this section of trail to better facilitate UAF ski classes were scheduled to be complete Spring 2012, but were put on hold due the pending construction of ASF antennae.

Potential Solutions

On July 11, 2012, a subgroup of the North Campus Subcommittee consisting of Scott Jerome, Mark Oldmixon, Dan Callahan, Kara Axx, and Peter Fix met with Scott Arko and Wade Albright to discuss the plans for the antennae and propose solutions. The subgroup discussed several potential solutions to the displacement of trail users. While discussion is still needed to develop a preferred alternative, several principles were agreed upon and the alternatives can serve as a starting point for planning.

Principles for mitigation agreed to by committee members:

- Preserve a loop
- A teaching area must result from any mitigation
- An area with a level surface for cross country running meets must result from mitigation
- Public access must be maintained.

Discussion was also initiated regarding placement functionality of the ski hut. It was noted that during the day, there is no public parking near the ski hut. Also, congestions occurs when parents drop off children at the ski hut. Of question is whether a better placement of the ski hut could provide better access for the public and alleviate traffic congestion.

Three main alternatives were discussed. Note, any discussion of moving the ski hut is contingent upon the ski hut physically being able to withstand a move.

1. Dedicate a public trail access parking area at the existing overlook, move the ski hut to the overlook, and create a teaching/beginner area near the parking area/ski hut. Re-vegetate existing trail.

Advantages

- Provides a service/outreach to the public.
- Alleviates congestion associated with the current location of the ski hut and makes ski hut more functional for the public.
- Locates the teaching/beginner area in a sunny area.

Disadvantages

- Creates a new trail clearing/does not utilize existing trail (more trees removed, visual impacts).
- If parking is "official" lines, parking blocks, etc., might result, limiting the available parking spots.

- Potential aesthetic impact of ski hut lower on hill?
- Potential for a long planning period

2. Move ski hut to NW corner of Elvey parking lot, upgrade existing stadium area to beginner area and cross country ski race start/finish. Loop trail around new antennae, use as much of the existing trail as possible.

Advantages

- Less trail construction, resulting in quicker turn around on planning and construction.
- Utilizes existing trails.

Disadvantages

- No public parking near ski hut (could be added).
- Would need to create pull out/turn around to avoid congestion in this area
- Sunlight is limited during winter.

3. Keep ski hut in current location, loop trail around new antennae, improve the existing trail west of antennae for teaching purposes. Construct pedestrian path from overlook parking to ski hut.

Advantages

- No need to move ski hut.
- Minimal construction of new trails (teaching area improvement already approved).
- Utilizes existing trails.

Disadvantages

- Teaching area not adjacent to ski hut.
- Might not alleviate traffic congestion at ski hut.

3a. Further discussion of alternative 3 brought up an idea to move the ski hut west of its existing location and to the south of the trail. A trail could then be constructed from the overlook parking area and the West Ridge area to the ski hut. The ski hut would not be excessively visible from the approach to campus, but would be relatively accessible to the public and in a sunny location.

Costs

Alternative 1 would be the most costly, perhaps costing up to \$50,000. Alternative 2 would likely require landscape modifications for the ski hut and a pull out/turn around for ski hut access, in addition to the trail

improvements. This might cost as much as \$30,000. Alternative 3, without moving the ski hut, likely would be the least costly, perhaps around \$15,000. A ski hut move for Alternative 3 would increase the cost.