

# TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

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## RESOURCE DESCRIPTION

On-the-ground access to public lands is a major factor in determining applicable management options. At present, most access is available from the Glenn Highway through strips of private land that abut the highway (see Maps 1 and 6, pages 11 and 32). More specifically, access to the Moose Range is gained via a number of roads and trails, which include: 1) Sun Valley Drive and Wendt Road; 2) Boyd Road; 3) Soapstone Road; 4) Buffalo Mine Road; 5) Mile 58 Road; 6) an unnamed road that leaves the Glenn Highway at Mile 59.9; 7) Jonesville Mine Road; 8) Permanente Road; 9) Fish Lake Subdivision; 10) Castle Mountain Mine Road; 11) Chickaloon River Road; 12) the historic Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail; 13) Young Creek Trail; 14) Purinton Creek Trail; 15) the historic Chickaloon River Trail; and 16) Boulder Creek Trail (see Map 6 on page 39). Many of the access trails and roads being used by the public are historic mining roads which were constructed during coal exploration in the mid-1900's. The legal status of the rights-of-way of many of these roads or trails is unclear and needs additional research to be verified.

The location of the Glenn Highway is critical to Moose Range access. DOT/PF is in the reconnaissance phase of evaluating the reconstruction of the Glenn Highway adjacent to the Moose Range. Several preliminary alignment alternatives have been identified by the DOT&PF for further study (see Map 2 on page 13). When this highway is reconstructed, portions of it may be realigned. There is a possibility that potential realignment alternatives could affect the southern edge of the Moose Range. The reconnaissance, environmental impact analysis, and design of this project are not expected to be completed in the near future.

The location and design of this highway reconstruction must be approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) before the project can be developed. Once the FHWA approval has been obtained, the right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation, and construction phases of the project will be carried out when funding is available. Potential scenic turnouts, which will be considered for inclusion when the highway is reconstructed, are identified on Map 6 on page 39. Maintenance or provision of public access to trailheads and public facilities will be addressed during highway reconstruction, when the exact location of the highway realignment is known.

**RESOURCE EVALUATION**

The state's current position is that there is legal public access to the Moose Range on the following roads or trails: 1) Wendt Road; 2) Boyd Road; 3) Soapstone Road; 4) Buffalo Mine Road and its spur roads; 5) Mile 58 Road; 6) an unnamed road that leaves the Glenn Highway at mile 59.9; 7) Jonesville Mine Road and its spur roads; 8) the Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail ; 9) Permanente Road; 10) Fish Lake Road; 11) Chickaloon River Road and its spur roads; 12) the Boulder Creek Trail; and 13) the Purinton Creek Trail (a portion of the Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail).

Trails which traverse through or along private lands include: 1) The partial Arkose Ridge Trail; 2) Upper Moose Creek Road; 3) Premier Mine Road (east of Moose Creek); 4) Mile 58 Road; 5) Seventeen Mile Lake Road; 6) the Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail; 7) Permanente Road; 8) Chickaloon River Trail; and 9) Purinton Creek Trail (a portion of the Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina trail). In most cases, private land owners believe that public access does not exist across their property. In many cases, validity determination of public access across private lands requires detailed historical documentation of use, the state's ability to assert public right-of-way and possibly a court decision. For the trails listed above, the state has only begun to research historical documentation and to determine validity.

Consequently the clearest legal access into the Moose Range is found on subdivision roads or roads of long-standing public use. These include Wendt Road, Boyd Road, Soapstone Road, Buffalo Mine Road, an unnamed road that leaves the Glenn Highway at mile 59.9, Jonesville Mine Road, Permanente Road, Fish Lake Road and the Chickaloon River Road.

Table 3: EVALUATION OF ACCESS

The chart below describes the main accesses:

Assertion Priority	Access Trail/Road	Beginning Point	Physical Capability In Dry Areas	Legal Status ** Clear Public Access	Comments
	Arkose Ridge Trail	MP 8.4 Fishhook Road	Undeveloped Trail	No known R/W	● Begin on private land. Only portions of the trail are existing.
	Wendt Road (off Sun Valley Drive)	MP 6.7 Fishhook Road	2-Wheel Drive	Section Line Easement Road	● Public road and section line access - roads in Moose Range are Division of Forestry(DOF) roads.
	Boyd Road	MP 5.8 Fishhook Road	2-Wheel Drive	Section Line ** Easement Road	● This also accesses DOF logging roads.
	MEA R/W off Soapstone Road	MP 52.8 Glenn Highway	4-Wheel Drive	ADL #202787	● This trail follows a power-line to Sutton.
4	*Buffalo Mine Road	MP 53.1 Glenn Highway	2-Wheel Drive	ADL #57529 **	● There are a number of trails that branch off from this Rd.
	Murphy Road	MP 3.3 B. Mine Road	2-Wheel Drive	ADL #56187 **	● Some DOF roads begin here.
	Upper Moose Crk.	MP 5 Buffalo Mine Road	4-Wheel Drive	ADL #56975 **	● Continuation of B. Mine Road which crosses private land
	Premier Mine Rd. (Baxter Mine Rd.) (and mining roads east to Jonesville Rd.)	MP 3.6 B. Mine Road	2-Wheel Drive	ADL #52715	● Part may be transferred to CIRI; it is the state's intent to maintain public access. Until determined, present use of road may constitute trespass.
	Mile 58 Road	MP 58 Glenn Highway	2-Wheel Drive	ADL #18704 (partial coverage)	● This is the road to the correctional center and Seventeen Mile Lake.
	Unnamed Road	MP 59.9 Glenn Highway	2-Wheel Drive	Undetermined	● This is an old mining road that goes up to the Jonesville Mine.

Note: See actual case files for status on ADL's

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Table 3: EVALUATION OF ACCESS (continued)

Assertion Priority	Access Trail/Road	Begining Point	Physical Capability In Dry Areas	Legal Status ** Clear Public Access	Comments
6	*Jonesville Mine Rd	MP 61 Glenn Highway	2-Wheel Drive	Alaska Railroad R/W **	● Parts of the R/W were transferred to CIRI. Possible RS2477, it is the state's intent to maintain public access.
	Seventeen Mile Lake Road	MP 1.7 Jonesville	2-Wheel Drive	ADL #52715	
	Old Mining Roads (east of Eska Creek)	MP 2.2 Jonesville	4-Wheel Drive	Unknown	
1	Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail	MP 66.7 Glenn Highway	Undeveloped 18.5 miles. 2-wheel Drive 2.5 miles.	ADL #52374	● Portions of trail are covered by roads and do not have public rights-of-way.
5	Access Road to Little Granite Creek Bench	MP 64.3 Glenn Highway	2-Wheel Drive	Undetermined	● Possible RS2477 and Potential to upgrade to Borough standards.
2	Permanente Road	MP 71.8 Glenn Highway	4-Wheel Drive	ADL #03131, section line 17B reservations	● This is a well-used ORV trail/road built to explore limestone potential. Parts of R/W were transferred to CIRI and/or CMCNA for admin.
	Fish Lake Road	MP 73 Glenn Highway	2-Wheel Drive	Public sub-division road**	● C-K-N Trail Rd. continues to the east from the road.
1	*Chickaloon R. Road	MP 77.5 Glenn Highway	2-Wheel Drive	Alaska Railroad R/W **	● C-K-N Trail intersects and continues to the east.
	C-K-N Trail	MP 1 Chickaloon Road	Undeveloped (to east)	ADL #52374	
1	Castle Mountain Mine Road	MP 1.5 Chickaloon Road	4-Wheel Drive	ADL #52374	
3	Chickaloon River Trail	MP 1.3 Chickaloon River Rd	Undeveloped	17B reservation RS2477	● Trail crosses through 1 mile of private lands before entering public lands.
	Bonnie Lake Road	MP 83 Glenn Highway	2-Wheel Drive	ADL #27166 **	● Access to state park facility and private homes.
1	Purinton Crk. Trail (a portion of the C-K-N Trail)	MP 89.2 Glenn Highway	2-Wheel Drive	ADL #52374	● Possible RS2477 on private lands (approximately .25 miles at beginning).

\* Major Access Routes

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