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Alaska Safe Riders here with your weekly Backcountry Trail report thanks to support from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and this station.

Snow, snow, snow! Riding and touring options across southcentral keep getting better. It's been a long, hard wait for many, but patience will pay off as trail conditions continue to improve, ensuring underlying vegetation will not be harmed.

Remember that all the new snow has increased avalanche hazards across the region so carry safety gear, check the weather and get the latest avalanche forecasts before you head for the hills at alaskasnow_dot_org.

Trails north toward Willow and Trapper Creek are groomed and reported in good condition. Head toward Eureka and Lake Louise, and the trails are reported to have nearly 18 inches of fresh powder.

Navigating in the mountains can get confusing fast. Particularly in dense trees, fog, a whiteout, or if you're generally unfamiliar with the terrain. Consider carrying a GPS or an app like Gaia on your smartphone. With these devices, you can set a route or follow a trail back to a starting point. It's also wise to carry a good old-fashioned compass and have an understanding of your route directions so you can find your way safely if your electronics fail.

The light may be limited but the snow is not so get out and ride! Learn more at Alaska_Safe_Riders_dot_org

That's it for this week. Have a fabulous holiday season out there riding with and coming home safe to family and friends!