



The Telluride Adaptive Sports Program (TASP) is ecstatic to announce its continued partnership with Mountain Trip Guides (Ophir, CO) to offer an adaptive mountaineering course in the Ruth Gorge of the Alaska Range. TASP is formulating an integrated team of climbers with a range of disabilities and abilities in an attempt to be the first adaptive team to summit the West Face of Mt. Dickey (9,545 feet).

This is the fourth trip where TASP and Mountain Trip have joined forces to offer adaptive mountaineering trips in the Alaska Range. Previous training trips have taken clients with traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, visual impairments, and a variety of neurological disabilities into Alaska to teach the basics of glacial mountaineering including efficient touring strategies, traveling as a rope team in crevassed terrain, simulated crevasse rescue, rappelling, rope ascension, and personal care in the high mountain environment. The previous teams have visited the Coffee Glacier in 2009 and the Pika Glacier (i.e. Little Switzerland) in 2010 for 6-day mountaineering courses. These courses were the first of their kind both in the mountaineering industry and the adaptive sports industry.

Starting June 6, 2011, a team of disabled and able-bodied mountaineers will convene in Anchorage after a long spring of training to make an attempt on the West Face of Mt. Dickey. Team members will pursue the level 1 climb, pure snow route of Mt. Dickey with pitches reaching 40 degrees vertical. After spending two nights in Anchorage prepping gear and food as a team, TASP guides, Mountain Trip guides and adaptive athletes will advance to Talkeetna to fly into the Alaska Range with Talkeetna Air Taxi. The team will spend its first days establishing rope team traveling systems to advance up the Ruth Glacier and into the approach gully up Mt Dickey. TASP and Mountain Trip have allotted two weeks for this 5,000 foot climb which should leave ample time for an appropriate travel pace complete with rest days and potential weather delays. After a successful 12-days in the range, the team will be picked up by the Twin Otter bush planes of Talkeetna Air Taxi for a flight back to civilization and departure home on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

The 2011 Mount Dickey expedition hopes to formulate systems and prepare interested adaptive athletes to attempt a climb on Denali in the next one to two years. The Mt. Dickey trip is scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, and will cost participants \$3,000 each not including domestic airfare and meals while "in town". For more information on this summers climb please contact:

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