

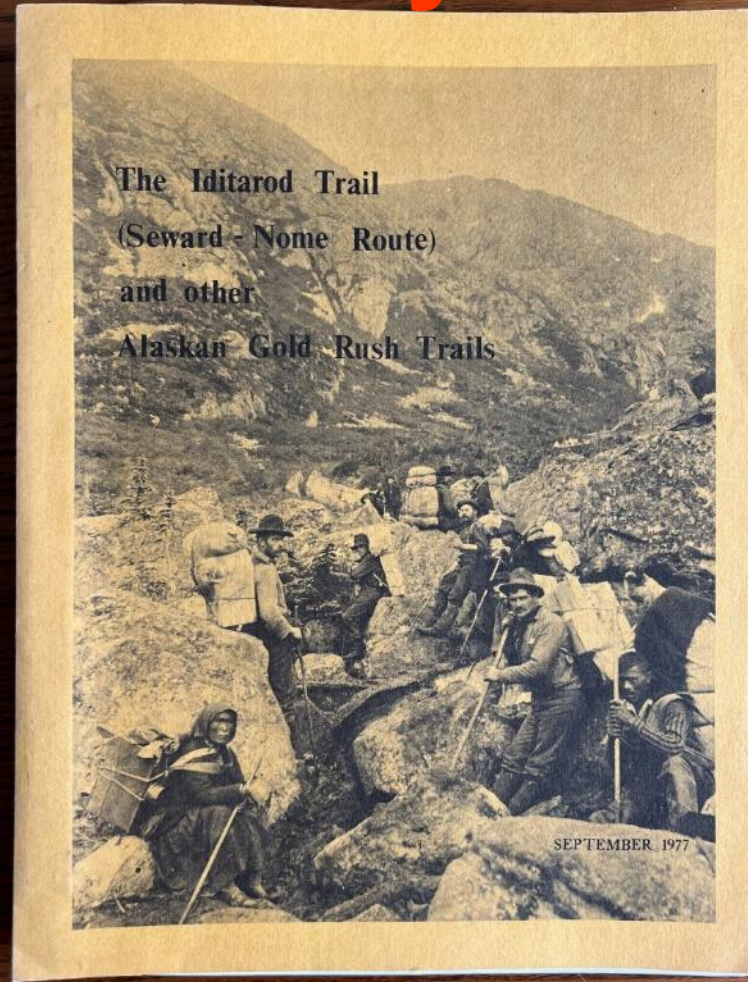
AK Long Trail & National Trails: The Iditarod NHT Experience



IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL



Feasibility Study



IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL





IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL





**NTSA 101: The difference
between National Scenic
& National Historic Trails**

IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL





**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

National Scenic and Historic Trails Inventory, Assessment, and Monitoring

Volume 2: Field Guide, BLM Technical Reference 6280-1



IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL



G.E.E.
April 16th, 1908

Alaska Road Commission,
Skagway, Alaska.

Sirs:

I have the honor to report of the Winter Reconnaissance, Seward to Nome, just completed, under written and verbal instructions of Captain Pillsbury, dated January 4th, 1908, as follows:

After having two basket sleds and 18 sets dog harness made and assembling provisions and camp outfit at Seattle, I sailed accompanied by Ross J. Kinney and three dogs purchased at Seattle, on S.S. Northwestern on Jan. 18th and reached Seward on Jan. 25th.

At Seward we spent five days in arranging equipment, "tyring out" dogs and repacking the outfit ready for the trip, and the party composed of myself, Geo. E. Pulham, R. J. Kinney and Frank Jackson left Seward on Jan 31st.

Route:

The route traversed, briefly described was as follows:

The Alaska Central Railway was followed to its end at Mile 54, thence via Turnagain Arm, Glacier Creek, Crow Creek Pass, Eagle River, across country to Old Knik, across Knik Arm to New Knik, across country to Susitna Station, up the Sugitna three miles, up the Yentna, Swentha and Happy Rivers, Pass Cree to Rainy Pass, down the Dalzell, Rohn and Kuskokwim Rivers to near the Tonson, across country to the mouth of the Tacotna at McGrath's, up the Tacotna and across country to the Tacotna Slough, over rolling hills to Gane Creek, down Gane and across country to Bphir Creek (the Innoko district) across country to Dishakaket and thence across country to the Kaiyuk Slough to the Yukon, and then up the Yukon to Kaltag, and by the Overland Mail Trail via Unalaklik to Nome.

I append a brief table of distances for comparison with the Valdez-Fairbanks route and it will be seen that the route as traversed to the Innoko District is 465 miles shorter than the Fairbanks route and to Nome is 343 miles shorter than the present used route. Also these distances may be decreased some 52 miles as will be shown on map and in more detail in this report, owing to certain cut-offs than can possibly be made.

Comparative table of distances to Nome.
Valdez -Nome Route Seward-Nome Route

Valdez to Fairbanks	354 Miles	Seward to Susitna Station	180 Miles
Fairbanks to Gibbon	275 "	Susitna Sta. to Rainy Pass	118 "
Gibbon to Kaltag	277 "	Rainy Pass to McGrath's	120 "
Kaltag to Unalaklik	90 "	McGrath's to Gane Creek	35 "
Unalaklik to NOME	222 "	Gane Creek to Kaltag	110 "
		Kaltag to Nome	312 "
Totals	1218 "		875 "
Valdez to Gane Creek	929 "	Seward to Gane Creek	464 "
	Difference 465 miles.		

As I have never been over the Valdez-Fairbanks Trail in Winter, (but was over the summer trail in 1904, Valdez to Clear Creek near Upper Tanana Crossing) I am unable to describe the route by comparison, but Rainy Pass, while some 675 feet higher in altitude than Thompson Pass, has 118 mile water grade to it to gain an altitude of 3175 feet and a descent on the West side 1735 feet in 9 miles down to the mouth of Dalzell River. Other than this the route is

IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL





SUMMIT CRAW CREEK PASS, ALASKA.

A

Archives, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

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NEW YORK EVENING POST, FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1922.

OUTINGS--A GREAT TRAIL FROM MAINE TO GEORGIA

2,000-Mile Trail On Appalachian Ridges Planned

Benton MacKaye's Idea Supported by Institute Of Architects

New York and New Jersey Hikers Asked to Carry Path Through Their Section

By Raymond H. Tracy
From nearly big things we realize out of the trail movement in the past few years if its development grows to the point it now shows. The spread of idea of connecting wilderness outdoor recreation through trails for hikers and mountaineers which you have discovered by many factors in the last few or three years, and more will see it necessarily expanding.
For a long time after its formation, in 1915, the Appalachian Mountain Club was about the only trail-making organization in the United States. It worked steadily for some years, but

Appalachian Trail suggested by Benton MacKaye, for the committee on community planning of the American Inst. of Architects

HIGH TRAIL
BLANCH TRAIL
RAILROAD
INTERURBAN
STATE LINE
CITIES
MOUNTAINOUS AREAS SHADED



Scouts Working on White Bar Trail

40-Mile Route Circles Lake Kanawake Camps

Path With Permanent Camps in Wildest Sections of Intra-state Park

When plans were being carried out for the White Bar Trail, a scout will be able to go on a week's hike in the region of the Lake Kanawake mountains in the Adirondack Park without carrying gear or shelter tents. This is the plan of Chief Scoutmaster of the State Scouts and it is now being carried out by Scouts of Troop 124, The Beavers.
A trail is being laid out to encircle the Lake Kanawake system. Scoutmaster will be over 40 miles long, as measured on a map. The hills and valleys will make this distance 50 to 60 per cent more. It will be called the White Bar Trail, it is not a brand new trail, such as the Gorge-Deserberg system, but it is a linking of old trail trails already in existence. Where there were some sections, a new trail will be cut. It was started several years ago and the various parties worked. Unfortunately, the mountain men—who were a trail long, packed with—were not spending in some years, who took their own equipment, or perhaps used

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35 CENTS FEBRUARY 22, 1965

U.S. News & World Report

The United States News World Report

Distributed During Week of Feb. 15 On Newsstands Until Cover Date

WHAT VIETNAM WAR MEANS TO U.S.

HF-Biog.
JOHNSON, Lyndon Baines. 1908-1973.
JOHNSON, Claudia "Lady Bird" [Taylor]. 1912-

WAYS TO BEAUTIFY AMERICA

Exclusive Interview With the First Lady




IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL



National Scenic Trails Oriented Around Major Geographic (Scenic) Features:

- *Appalachian Trail – Appalachian Crest*
- *Pacific Crest Trail – Pacific Crest*
- *Continental Divide Trail – Continental Divide*
- *Ice Age Trail-extent of glaciers in Wisc.*
- *North Country Trail – same, and Great Lakes geography*
- *Etc...*

IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL



What salient Alaskan scenic feature has significant national and international recognition?

- **What geographic feature is hugely popular among Alaskans and visitors alike?**
- **What feature could become the organizing “positive control point” for the planning and layout of the physical trail?**
- **What feature could encourage cooperation and engagement of reluctant stakeholders?**
- **What feature could become the main theme for interpretation and marketing?**

IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL



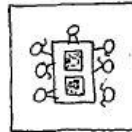


IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL



PROCESS FOR ORGANIZING A TRAIL PLANNING WORKSHOP(S)

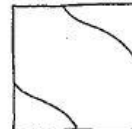
Trail Planning Training Workshop
Inform County Committees/volunteers
of the trail planning process



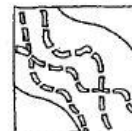
- Identify players
- Establish Workshop Planning Group
- Listening
- Identify issues
- Identify needs and Group's trail planning goals



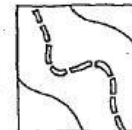
- Draw up a workplan/schedule
- Research/gather info
- Identify gaps - opportunities and constraints
- Publicity and advocacy
- Enlarge constituency



- Workshop 1 - Define trail corridor**
- Trail Planning Criteria - list and prioritize
 - Collect and check technical and land resource information
 - Update maps (data bases)



- Workshop 2 - Define options for trail alignments within corridor**
- Collect and check technical and land resource information
 - Update maps (data bases) & add alignment options
 - Prioritize trail planning criteria/Objective Ranking Tables
 - Field surveys/ assessors office (or agency office)
 - Target landowners



- Workshop 3 - Select an option/trail alignment**
- Follow-up, approval and implementation
Continue to gather support and involvement to encourage implementation and stewardship of the trail

Figure 3





The Iditarod National Historic Trail Seward to Nome Route

A Comprehensive Management Plan

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
1986

IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL





IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL



The Iditarod National Historic Trail



*Seward to Nome
Route*

July 1982

Prepared by:

Iditarod National Historic Trail Project Office
Bureau of Land Management
Anchorage District Office
Anchorage, Alaska

In cooperation with:

Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks
State of Alaska
Anchorage, Alaska

*Volume Two
Resource
Inventories*

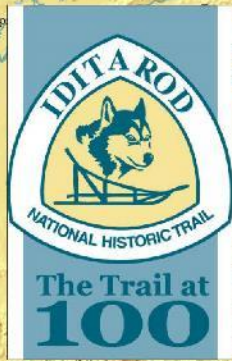
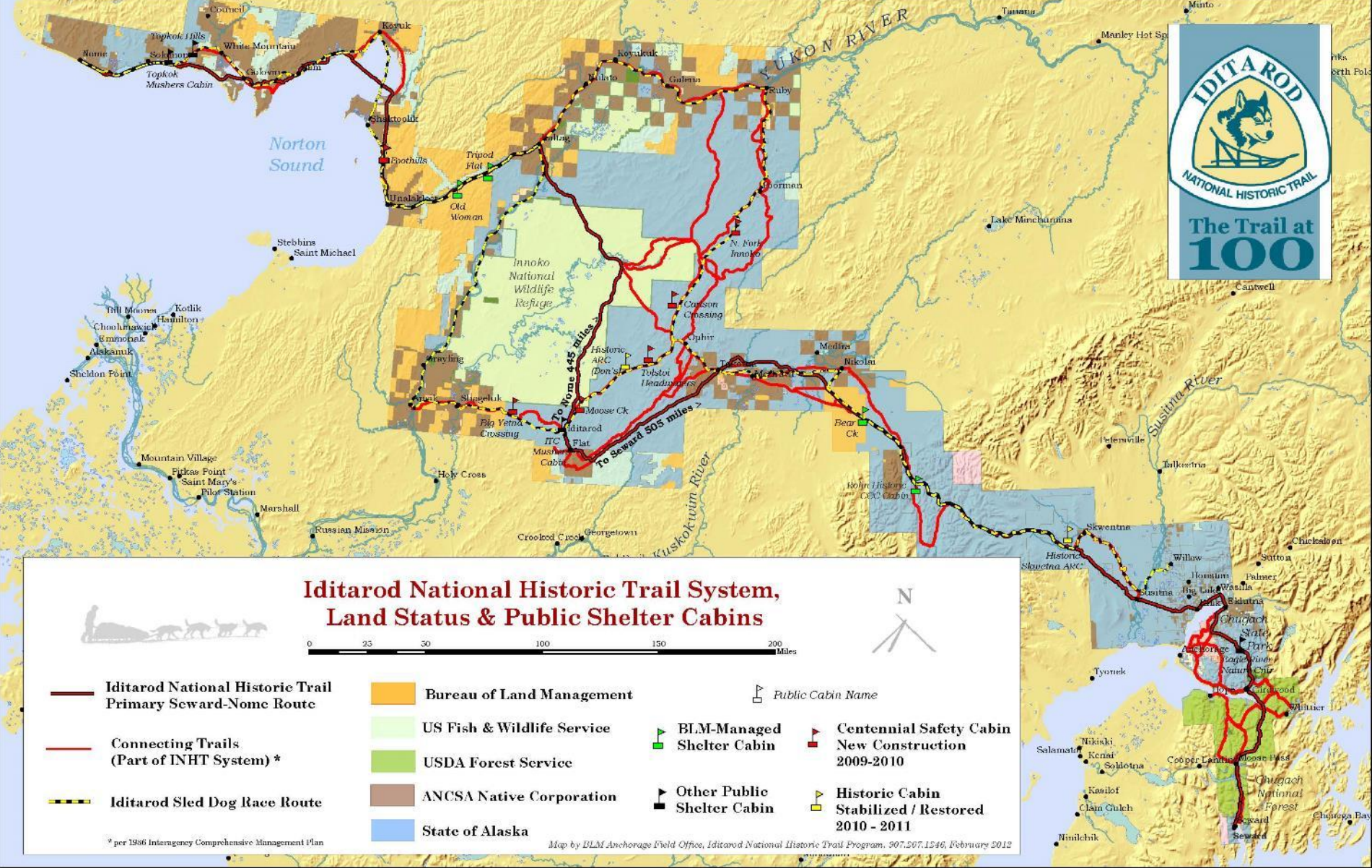
IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL





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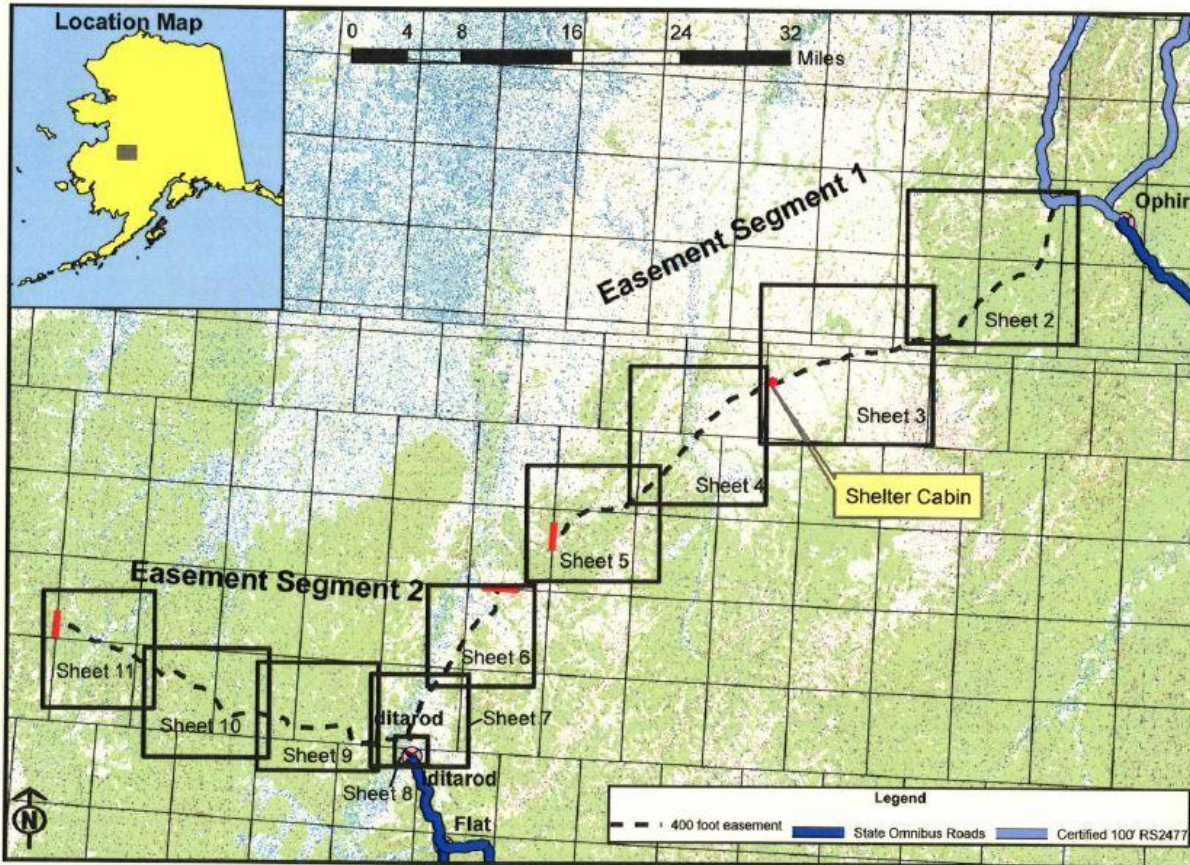


Exhibit A - Easement Location Drawing

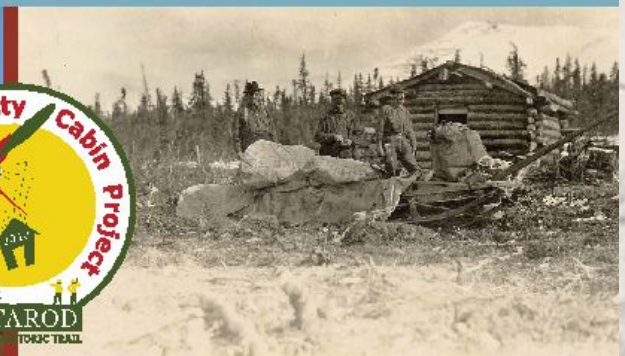
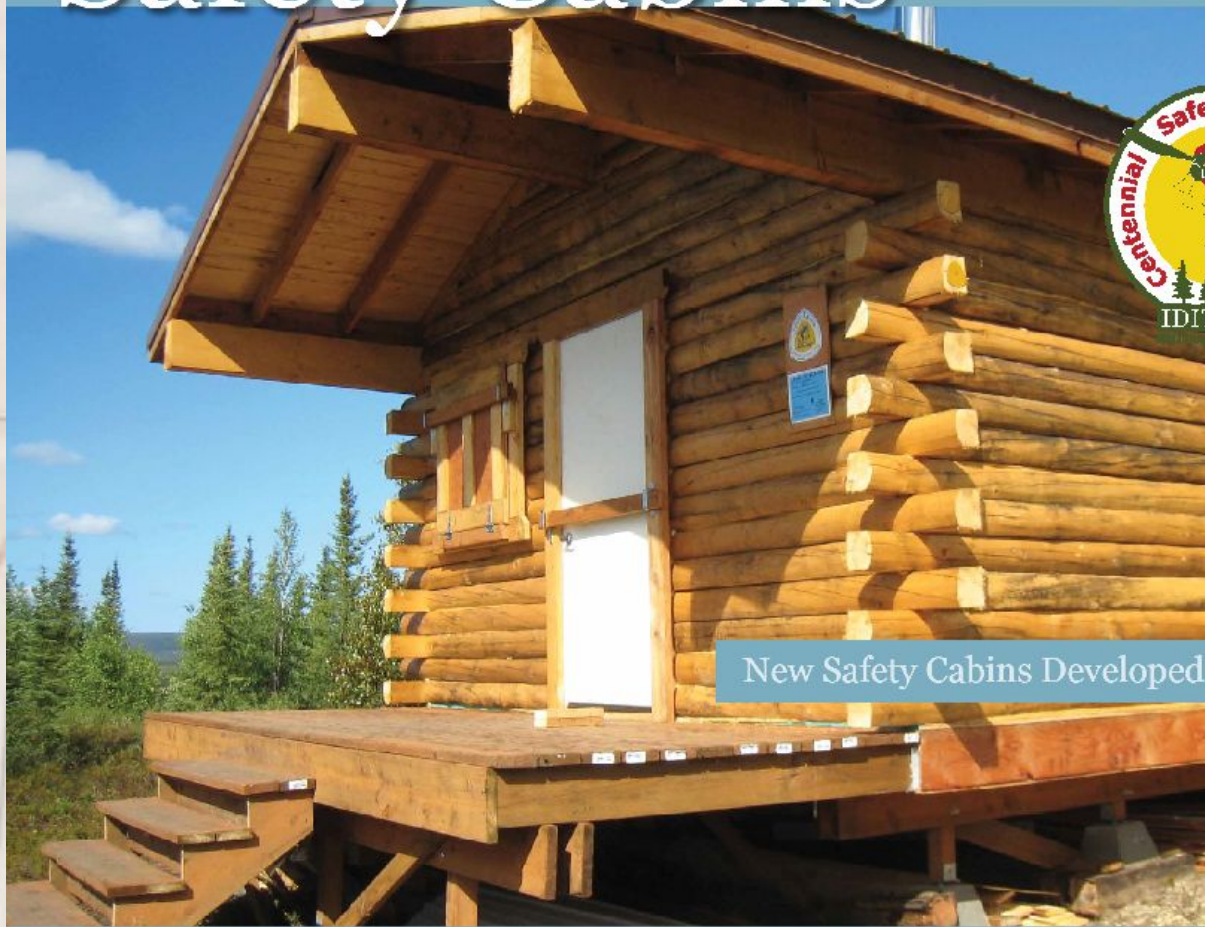
Date Mapped: 3/15/2001	Equipment: Garmin 76S	Field Crew: ITC
Easement Location Drawing - ADL 230023-B		
Current Iditarod Trail: Ophir towards Shageluk		
LOCATED WITHIN		
Secs. 13, 14, 23, 26, 35 of T27S, R11E; Secs. 2, 3, 8-10, 17-19 of T28S, R11E; Secs. 24-26, 33-35 of T28S, R10E; Secs. 4-6 of T29S, R10E, Kateel River Meridian, Alaska. Secs. 31-34 of T34N, R41W; Sec. 36 of T34N, R42W; Secs. 1-4, 7-9, 18 of T33N, R42W; Secs. 12-14, 21-23, 28, 29, 32, 33 of T33N, R43W; Secs. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 19, 20, 30 of T32N, R44W; Secs. 25, 33-36 of T32N, R45W; Secs. 4, 5, 7, 8, 18 of T31N, R45W Secs. 4, 5, 8, 9, 17-19 of T30N, R46W; Secs. 24, 25, 35, 36 of T30N, R47W; Secs. 2, 10, 11, 15, 21, 22, 28, 31-33 of T29N, R47W; Secs. 1, 2, 5 of T28N, R48W; Secs. 26-29, 31, 32, 35, 36 of T29N, R48W; Secs. 19, 25-30, 36 of T29N, R49W; Secs. 6-10, 13-16, 24 of T29N, R50W; Secs. 1-4 of T29N, R51W; Secs. 30-34 of T30N, R51W, Seward Meridian, Alaska.		
Mt. McKinley Recording District		
State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Mining, Land & Water Anchorage, Alaska		
Drawn By: Lesli Schick	Date: 10/16/2007	Approved:
Checked By: 	Date: 11/21/08	Sheet: 1 of 11

IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL



Safety Cabins

Shelter from the Storm



Winter safety cabins, sometimes known as relief cabins, were a common feature on the Iditarod Trail in the early 20th century. Trail users could travel almost entirely from Iditarod to Seward and enjoy a roof over their head every night. Relief cabins were spaced about 20 miles apart—a typical day's travel in the snowshoe and dogsled era.

New Safety Cabins Developed on Historic Iditarod to Aid Trail Users

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Iditarod National Historic Trail - volunteers, rural communities, and government agencies, including BLM (the federal coordinator for the trail) developed six new public winter safety cabins on remote, uninhabited segments of the trail.



IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL



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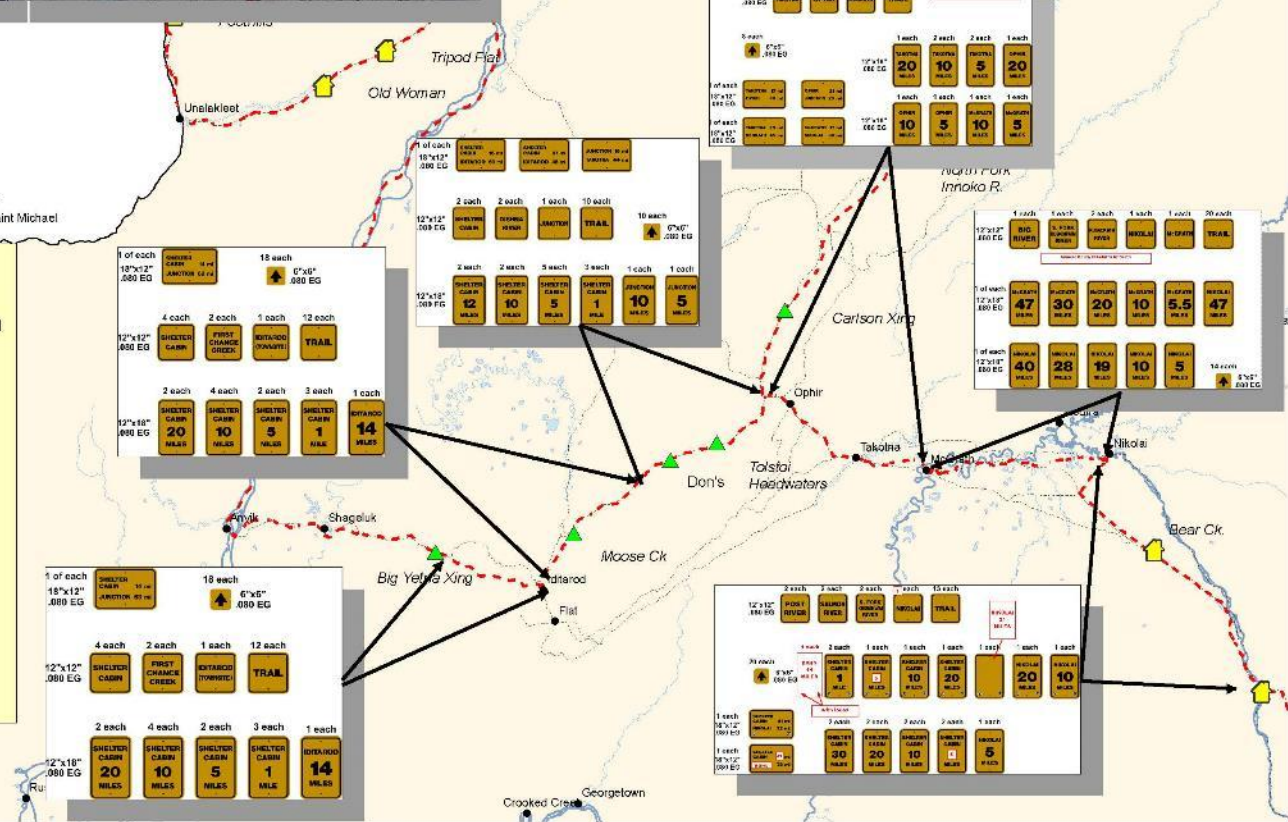
2013 Waymarking / Safety Sign Project: Rohn to Big Yetna River



Legend

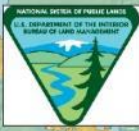
- Iditarod NHT Safety Cabins on BLM Lands
- Iditarod NHT Safety Cabins on State of AK Lands
- Iditarod Race Trail
- Iditarod National Historic Trail

**Draft Map by BLM Iditarod NHT Program
Anchorage Field Office, April 2013**

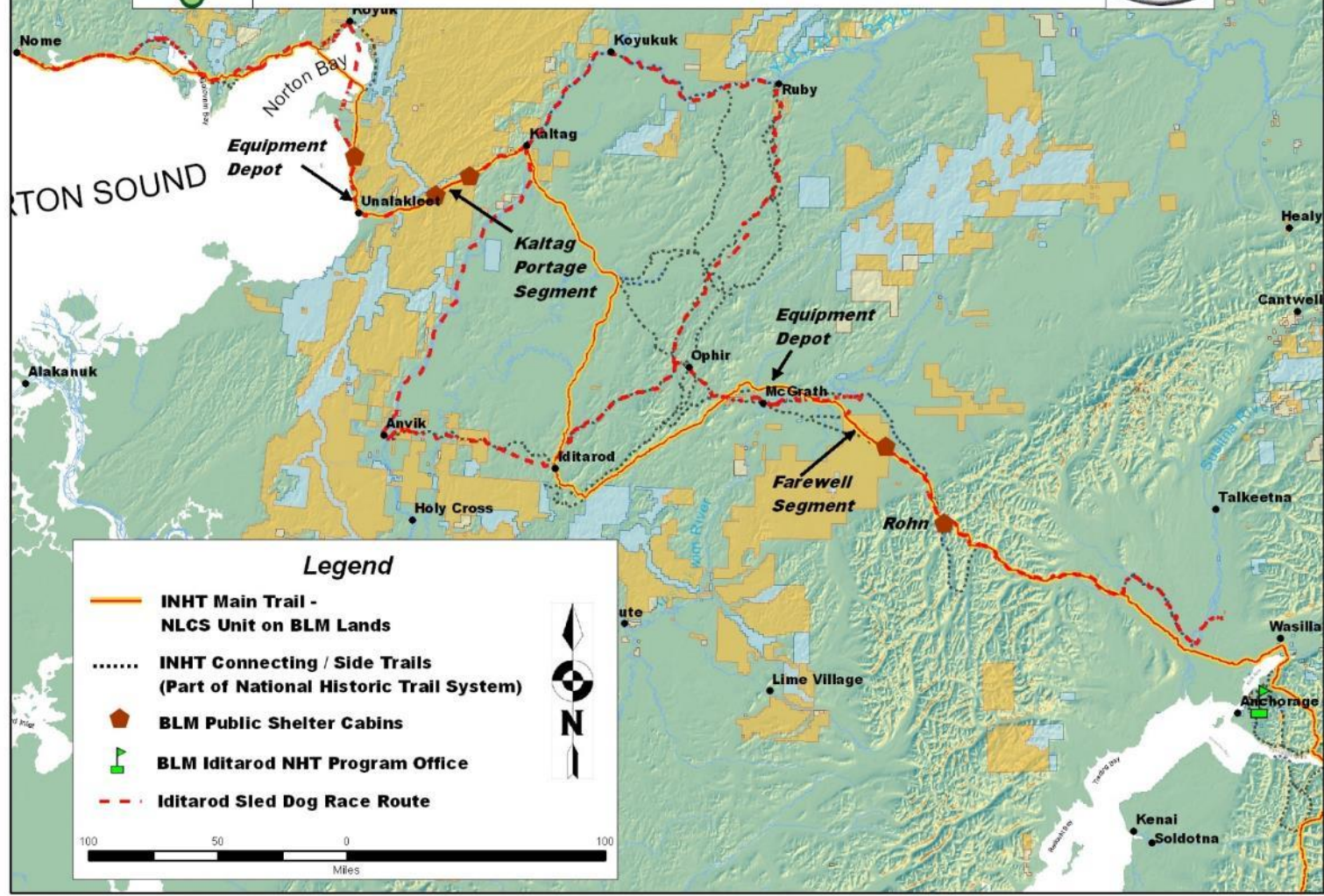
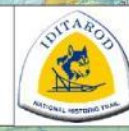


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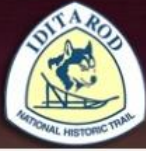


BLM-NLCS Unit: Iditarod National Historic Trail & BLM Trailside Public Shelter Cabins



IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL





Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance



Home

About Us

The Trail

The Story

Stewardship

Contact Us

Support Us

Store

Cart (0)

The Trail

This website is in the final stages of development- we welcome you to explore our new site! Meanwhile, please feel free to contact us at iditarodHTA@gmail.com with any questions about the trail or our programs. Thank you. (1/13/16)

The trail for all seasons

The Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance promotes public awareness and protection of the Iditarod National Historic Trail and its gold-rush and Alaska Native heritage. How do we do this? By encouraging education programs and historical research to tell **the story** of the Trail. By assisting in the protection, improvement, maintenance and marking of **the trail**. And, by developing partnerships that foster **stewardship** commitments and support from land owners, local communities, organizations and others.

The Trail

The Story

Stewardship

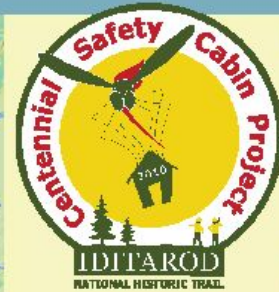
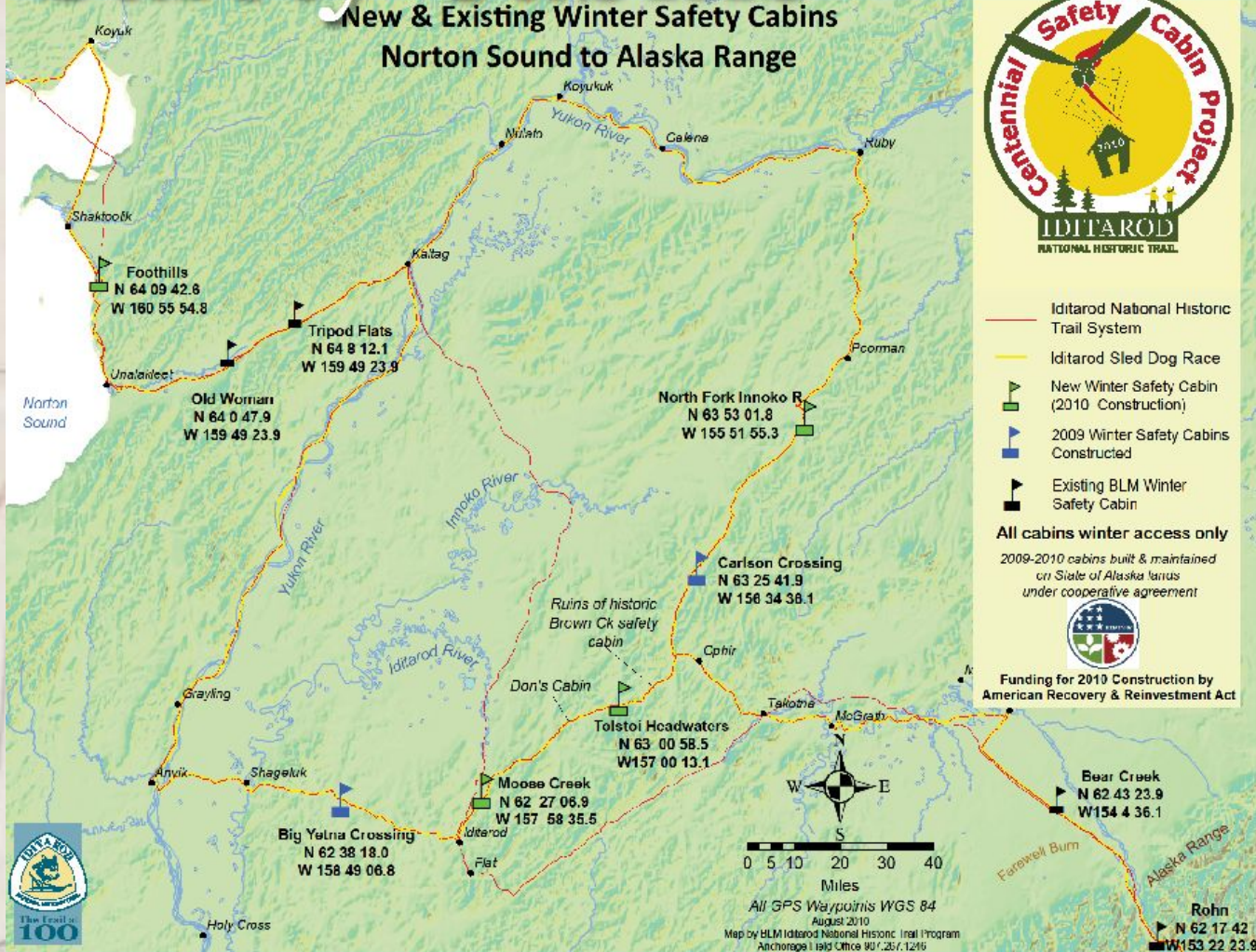
In the News

IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL



Safety Cabins *Centennial Safety Cabin Project*

New & Existing Winter Safety Cabins Norton Sound to Alaska Range



This project could not have been possible without the help and support of the following:

Partners

- City of McGrath
- City of Ruby
- City of Shageluk
- Takotna Community Association
- McGrath Iditarod Trailblazers
- Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance
- Youth Restoration Corps
- BLM Anchorage Field Office & Iditarod NIIT Program

With Support From

- AICC Flight Dispatch & Aviation Management
- AK DNR Forestry ~ McGrath Base
- AK DNR Lands ~ Iditarod Trail Easements Project
- AK Job Corps Center
- Colorado Creek Mine
- Ganes Creek Mine
- Innoko National Wildlife Refuge
- Native Village of Unalakleet

IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL





Across Crow Pass

on the Old Iditarod Trail

***Iditarod Alliance seeks Project Coordinator:
Contact IditarodHTA@gmail.com***

1:00



IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL





DMLW is now on Facebook!

Dig into our new Facebook page to stay current with our projects and events!

[DMLW's Facebook](#)

Recent News

3/29/2024

Public Notice: DNR's Carbon Offset Program is soliciting public and agency input on draft regulations

[DNR Press Release](#)

3/15/2024

Public Notice: Request for Public Input on the Management of Relinquished Cabins within the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge

[Notice at State of Alaska Online Public Notices](#)

3/15/2024

Public Notice: Pogo Mine Renewal Application and Draft State Decisions

[Notice on the Pogo Mine page](#)
[Notice at State of Alaska Online Public Notices](#)

2/28/2024

Major Programs

[Land Sales](#)

[Mining](#)

[Lands Section - Easements, Leases, Permits, and Material Sales](#)

[Appraisals](#)

[Aquatic Farming](#)

[Contract Initiation and Revenue Recovery](#)

[Dam Safety](#)

[Land Use Planning](#)

[Municipal Entitlements](#)





Eliminate Iditarod Trail Oversight and Management Savings: \$237.0K

The Department of Natural Resources would cease oversight and close management of the historic and well-used trail network utilized by many user groups in the state throughout the year in addition to a number of world renowned events. This funding provides for many efforts related to preserving the transportation route, including establishment of legal easements on the route, correcting inaccuracies on existing surveys and land records along the route, and resolution of access disputes. The unit shares a management partnership with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on much of this trail network.

Delete Positions:

- Permanent, Full-time Natural Resource Specialist III, Anchorage
- Permanent, Full-time, Natural Resource Specialist II, Anchorage



IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL





2022 Alaska Statutes

Title 41. Public Resources

Chapter 21. Parks and Recreational Facilities

[← Previous](#)

[Next >](#)

- Article 1. Administration.
- Article 2. State Parks.
- Article 3. Alaska Marine Parks.
- Article 4. State Recreation Areas.
- Article 5. Special Management Areas.
- Article 6. Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve.
- Article 7. Historic or Scenic Sites, Roadside Rests, and Beaches.
- Article 8. Trails, Footpaths, and Campsites.
- Article 9. Conservation Action Corps; Youth Hostel System.
- Article 10. General Provisions.



IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL



KATY TRAIL STATE PARK



IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL



Downstream from Skilak Lake, all power boats are limited to six passengers on board, including the operator. In July, guides are limited to a total of five people on board including the guide.

Both state and federal law requires that life jackets be worn at all times by children under the age of 13 when in an open boat or on deck.

Remember, you are not only responsible for your boat, but also your wake. Be sure to approach other boats, docks and riverbanks carefully. To reduce bank erosion and disturbance of spawning beds, use appropriate speeds and travel mid-river whenever possible to keep your wake low.

Camp Regulations

Camping is only permitted in developed campgrounds. All other undeveloped state lands, river islands and day-use facilities are closed to camping. Federal Lands have different regulations so check with the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge at (907) 262-7021 or www.fws.gov/refuge/kenai and with the U.S. Forest Service at (907) 224-3374 or www.fs.usda.gov/chugach.

Fires are permitted only in provided metal fire rings or in metal-bottomed fire pans with sides. Use only dead and down wood. Never leave your fire unattended until the embers are cold.

Please respect private property along the river. Do not trespass, dock, bank-fish or camp on private lands without written permission.

Lake Trout—
in lakes in the Kenai River system

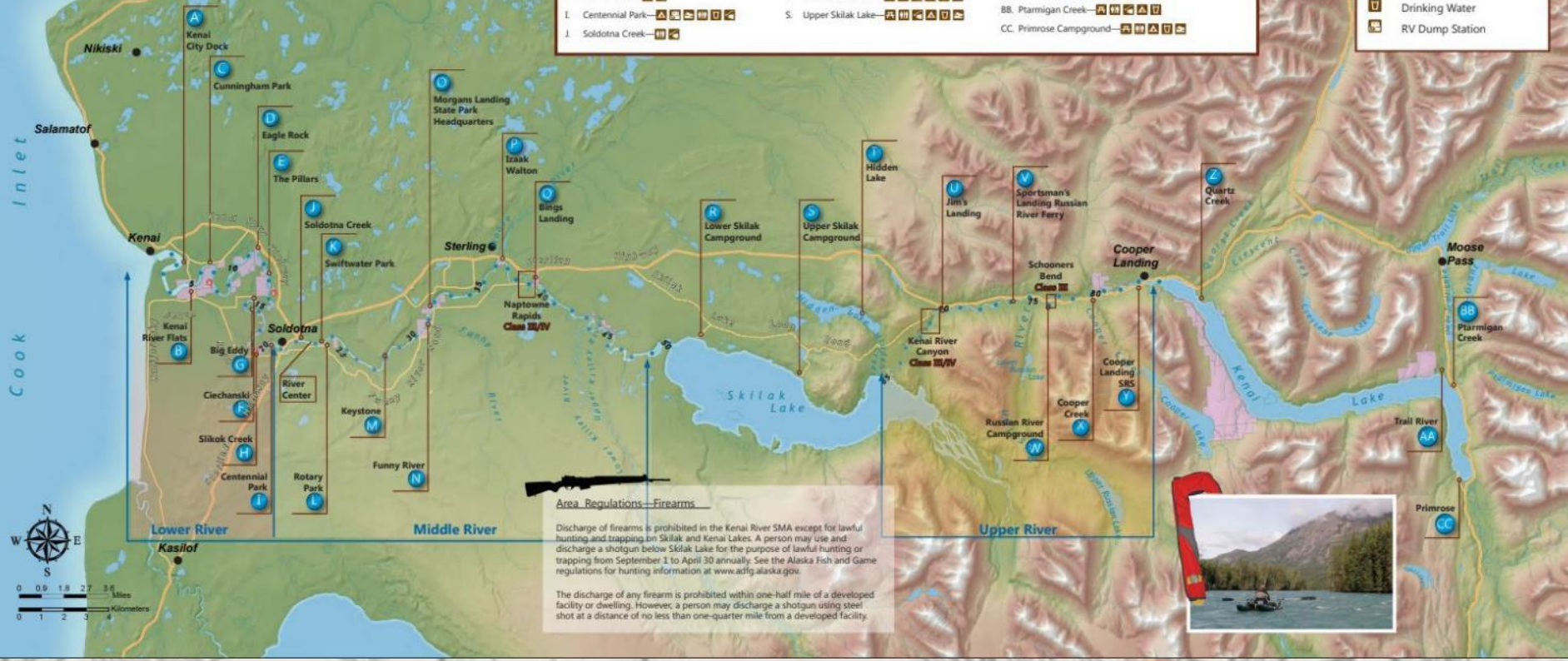
—ENTIRE YEAR—

Kenai River Special Management Area—Amenities

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| A. Kenai City Dock—[A][M][T] | K. Swiftwater Park—[A][M][T][F] | T. Hidden Lake—[A][M][T][F] |
| B. Kenai River Flats—[A][M][T] | L. Rotary Park—[M] | U. Jim's Landing—[A][M][T] |
| C. Cumingham Park—[M][T] | M. Keystone—[M] | V. Russian River Ferry/Sportsman's Landing—[M][T][F] |
| D. Eagle Rock—[A][M][T] | N. Funny River—[A][M][T][F] | W. Russian River Campground—[A][M][T][F] |
| E. The Pillars—[A][M][T] | O. Morgan's Landing—[A][M][T][F] | X. Cooper Creek—[A][M][T][F] |
| F. Ciechanski—[A][M] | P. Izaak Walton—[A][M][T][F] | Y. Cooper Landing—[M][T][F] |
| G. Big Eddy—[A][M][T] | Q. Bings Landing—[A][M][T][F] | Z. Quartz Creek—[A][M][T][F] |
| H. Slikok Creek—[M] | R. Lower Skilak Lake—[A][M][T][F] | AA. Trail River—[A][M][T][F] |
| I. Centennial Park—[A][M][T][F] | S. Upper Skilak Lake—[A][M][T][F] | BB. Ptarmigan Creek—[A][M][T][F] |
| J. Soldotna Creek—[M] | | CC. Primrose Campground—[A][M][T][F] |

Legend

- KRSMA Area Boundary
- Highway
- Road
- Gravel Road
- ADF&G Fish Sonar Counter
- Boat Launch
- Restrooms
- Camping
- Picnicking
- Fishing
- Drinking Water
- RV Dump Station



Area Regulations—Firearms

Discharge of firearms is prohibited in the Kenai River SMA except for lawful hunting and trapping on Skilak and Kenai Lakes. A person may use and discharge a shotgun below Skilak Lake for the purpose of lawful hunting or trapping from September 1 to April 30 annually. See the Alaska Fish and Game regulations for hunting information at www.adfg.alaska.gov.

The discharge of any firearm is prohibited within one-half mile of a developed facility or dwelling. However, a person may discharge a shotgun using steel shot at a distance of no less than one-quarter mile from a developed facility.



IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL



1.2 Statutory Authority

The requirement for a Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan derives from Alaska Statute (AS) 41.21.506, establishing the Kenai River Special Management Area, and the authority of the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources to develop and revise a Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan. The Kenai River Special Management Area encompasses specific areas of the surface estate of the state land and waters within and adjacent to the Kenai River. The subsurface estate is not included within KRSMA, although it is closed to mineral entry under AS 38.05.181 - .280, excluding oil and gas leasing under AS 38.05.180.

The purpose of KRSMA, by statute, is:

- “To protect and perpetuate the fishery and wildlife resources and habitat in the unit and adjacent area,” (AS 41.21.500 (2), and
- “To manage recreational uses and development activities in the unit and adjacent area” (AS 41.21.500(3).

Chapter 1 - Introduction & Scope of Plan

2

*Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan
December 1997*

The KRSMA enabling legislation states:

“The river’s fishery and wildlife are it’s most important resources. The highest priority uses of the river and its adjacent land derive from its fishery and wildlife resources which must be protected and preserved to ensure their renewability and continued usefulness.”

The authority to develop and revise the Management Plan is given to the DNR Commissioner, in consultation with the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The Commissioner is also required to appoint an advisory board to participate in the development of the Management Plan. This board is the Kenai River Advisory Board (KRAB).

The purpose of the Management Plan states, in part:

“the Kenai River Management Plan is to provide effective direction to the management of the fishery and wildlife resources, sensitive habitat areas, recreational, and development activities in the Kenai River Special Management Area and those areas adjacent to it.”

AS 41.21.506 gives the authority to the DNR Commissioner to adopt regulations under the Administrative Procedures Act to implement the plan. These regulations must:

- “designate incompatible uses and prohibit or restrict them,” and
- “establish a registration, licensing or comparable procedure for professional fishing guides and such additional fishing guide controls as the Commissioner considers necessary.”

The DNR Commissioner may adopt regulations that are consistent with and that implement the legislative purposes of KRSMA. These authorities are necessarily general in order to give DNR flexibility to effectively manage KRSMA. The scope of regulations to implement these purposes are also allowed to be broad.

The regulations only apply to land owned by the State, “but does not apply to land not owned by the State that is located within the boundaries of a municipality unless the regulation has been approved by the municipality.” Recommendations in the plan that relate to non-state land are advisory. Local unit of government or federal agencies may adopt regulations or ordinances that implement plan recommendations.

IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL





**Comments / Questions /
Discussion**

IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

