



The Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance

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October 31, 2018

Chugach National Forest's Supervisor's Office
Attn: Draft Land Management Plan
161 East 1st Avenue, Door 8,
Anchorage, AK 99501

RE: Chugach National Forest Draft Land Management Plan Comments

Dear Forest Supervisor:

Comments from the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance are below.

Thank you for including the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance as a collaborating partner. (page 7) Do you want to consider adding the Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers to the list?

Part 1

Iditarod National Historic Trail Desired Conditions. (Page 32)

- Add: Continue Iditarod Trail to Every Classroom (iTREC!) partnership.

Part 2

Add: Strategies addressing the Desired Conditions for the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

Management Approaches and Objectives should include at a minimum:

- Within three years of forest plan approval complete centerline survey of the Southern Trek and submit to the State of Alaska.
- Within five years of forest plan approval, receive and record final easement documents from the State of Alaska for Southern Trek trails on State land.

Collaborative Relationship Strategy, Interagency Relations, Management Approaches (Pages 40-41)

- Please add the Department of Natural Resources to the first bullet or create an additional bullet. DNR is an important partner dealing with Iditarod National Historic Trail easements, public access, cultural resource management, interpretation, outreach and education.

Partnership Opportunities. Management Approaches. (Page 42, 4th bullet)

- Insert after the word "support" the words ", expertise and resource knowledge"

Social and Economic Sustainability Strategy. (Pages 41-44)

- Add: Continue to work collaboratively with the State of Alaska, Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance and federal agencies on the Iditarod Trail to Every Classroom (iTREC!) educational program.

Part 3

Special Area Standards and Guidelines. (Page 79)

Thank you for including the Iditarod National Historic Trail comprehensive management plan. Since much of the trail is on State land with easements to the Forest Service, there is a chance that more detailed corridor guidelines/stipulations may be included by the State of Alaska within the easement decisions and documents. Therefore, we recommend that number 3 should be amended to include a statement that the Forest Plan will be consistent with both the INHT comprehensive plan and the State of Alaska easement documents.

Sincerely,

/s/

Jonathan Sewall
Vice President