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First name: Dan

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Organization: Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers

Title:

Comments: 2016 USFS Proposed Revised Land Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest

Whereas the Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers is a private, non-profit corporation incorporated in 1982 and;

Whereas the Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers was formed to:

- 1.promote the establishment of a connected trail from Seward to Nome,
- 2.support historical societies and government agencies in the establishment, maintenance and preservation of historic sites,cabins,and other objects related to the Iditarod National Historic Trail System,
- 3.oversee the location,construction,maintenance and promotion of the Iditarod National Historic Trail from Seward to Crow Pass,
- 4.hold regular meetings and other activities for the recreation,instruction, and education of the members as well as the general public; and

Whereas the Trail Blazers;

- *is the oldest established, continuous Trail Blazers organization in existence
- *have published numerous trail related articles in local and regional newspapers
- *promote the Iditarod National Historic Trail through merchandising: pins, patches,hats, tees, trail markers,1st Day covers and medallions
- *provide annual presentations on INHT to schools and organizations
- *provide trail brochures for public distribution
- *have applied for and received trail grants
- *received a grant and funded the Centennial Monument in Seward
- *have procured trail easements from private owners
- *cooperate and advise the USFS from Seward to Girdwood
- *provide on-going trail maintenance, improvements and clean-up and;

Whereas the Iditarod National Historic Trail connects the communities of Seward and Girdwood with a trail system that features world class summer and winter recreation opportunities and celebrates the rich history of the area and;

Whereas all trail easements for segments crossing non-federal lands are obtained to preserve the historic characteristics for which the trail was designated and;

Whereas local communities and partner agencies and organizations are actively involved in maintenance of the trail and;

Whereas activities within the 1000 foot trail corridor for the INHT should be consistent with the INHT Comprehensive Plan and;

Whereas scenic integrity objectives and landscape character goals for the Iditarod Trail are VERY HIGH, which is defined as: generally provides for only ecological changes in natural landscapes and complete intactness of landscape, character in cultural landscapes;

Now therefore, by Resolution 2016-01, the Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers support the Plan's commitment to preserve the integrity of the world-class Iditarod National Historic Trail corridor by managing it for its scenic, historic and cultural characteristics consistent with the INHT Comprehensive Plan.

Signed,
Dan Seavey
President, Trail Blazers
February 16, 2016