

FAQ for Iditarod National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan Revision

Q: What is the timeline to complete the CMP Revision?

A: We endeavor to complete the CMP revision by Fall of 2026, and plan to keep the public updated to any changes or adaptations in the schedule.

Q: What types of uses could be allowed on the INHT?

A: Potential trail uses allowed on designated components of the national trails system may include, but are not limited to, the following: bicycling, cross-country skiing, day hiking, equestrian activities, jogging or similar fitness activities, trail biking, overnight and long-distance backpacking, snowmachining, and surface water and underwater activities.

Q: How can I keep up to date on the project and upcoming meetings and comment periods?

A: The BLM will be hosting a newsletter on a quarterly basis. Sign up for the newsletter on the project website at: <https://arcg.is/0CbiWz0>

This project website will also be continually updated throughout the process with upcoming engagement opportunities.

Q: What is the Iditarod National Historic Trail?

A: The Iditarod Trail, otherwise known as the Seward-Nome route, is composed of a number of trails and side trails developed at different times during the Alaska Gold Rush era. The Iditarod strike began in 1908; it was the last of the major Alaskan strikes and prompted the Alaska Road Commission to improve the Rainy Pass-Kaltag section of the Seward-to-Nome trail. Because the Iditarod mining district was the most common destination of travelers in this last phase of the Gold Rush era, the name Iditarod Trail has become a term of convenience to describe the many geographic and historic segments of the Seward to Nome trail. "These trails, aggregating 2,037 miles, offer a rich diversity of climate, terrain, scenery, wildlife, recreation and resources in an environment largely unchanged since the days of the stampeders. It is the isolated, primitive quality of this historical environment that makes the Iditarod National Historic Trail proposal unique. Nowhere in the National Trail System is there such an extensive landscape, so demanding of durability and skill

during its winter season of travel. On the Iditarod, today's adventurer can duplicate the experience and challenge of yesteryear.

Q: What is a National Historic Trail?

A: The National Trails System Act of 1968, as amended, calls for establishing trails in both urban and rural settings for people of all ages, interests, skills, and physical abilities. The act promotes the enjoyment and appreciation of trails while encouraging greater public access. It establishes four classes of trails: national scenic trails, national historic trails, national recreation trails, and side and connecting trails.

National historic trails recognize original trails or routes of travel of national historic significance including past routes of exploration, migration, and military action.

Q: What is a Nature & Purpose Statement?

A: The "Nature and Purposes" of a National Trail is a statement describing the character/characteristics and the congressional intent for a National Trail. This includes the resources, qualities, values, and associated settings (RQVAS), the primary use or uses, and activities promoting the preservation of, public access to, and enjoyment of, and appreciation of National Trails.

Q: What is the Congressional Intent of the INHT?

A: The Iditarod Trail, otherwise known as the Seward-Nome route, is composed of several trails and side trails developed at different times during the Alaska Gold Rush era.

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Q: What is a National Trail System Act Right of Way?

A: A NTSA ROW is the area selected by the National Trail administering agency in the trail wide Comprehensive Plan, which includes the area of land that is of sufficient width to encompass National Trail resources, qualities, values, and associated settings, and the primary use or uses (BLM Manual 6280). Selection of NTSA ROW and publishing to Federal Register is required per the NTSA (6250. 3. iv.; 6250. 3. iv.d, and 6250. 3. xi.) and it is not included in the 1986 CMP. A NTSA ROWs are not BLM land use allocations because the NTSA does not transfer management responsibility to the National Trail administering agency. The NTSA ROW becomes a key consideration in designating the National Trail Management Corridor in a Resource Management Plan. The National Trail Right-of-Way, in the context of the NTSA, differs from a Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) Title V right-of-way, which the BLM is authorized to grant pursuant to FLPMA authorities.

The National Trail Administrator shall follow the specific requirements identified in Sections 5 and 7 of the NTSA, and consider the following when selecting the National Trail Right-of-Way:

- Input from other agencies, adjacent landowners, and stakeholder interests.*
- High potential historic sites and high potential route segments as satellite areas that are separated from the primary corridor. Satellite areas may include landmark features observed by early travelers or similar circumstances that warrant inclusion and protection.*
- The National Trail Administrator shall identify and map the selected National Trail Right-of-Way in the trailwide CMP, including the identified high potential historic sites and high potential route segments; and prepare the National Trail Right-of-Way map and description for the required Federal Register notice.*
- For National Historic Trails, the trailwide CMP may be updated based on data regarding high potential historic sites, high potential route segments, National Register eligible properties, acquisition of key properties, relocation of the National Trail Right-of-Way, or for other purposes.*

Q: What are the CMP revision roles from partner groups?

A:

- CMP Revision Cooperator – Help shape the plan’s goals, objectives and content as a Partner, Agency, or Tribe*
- NEPA Process Cooperator – A NEPA cooperating agency is any other federal agency, state or local government or Indian tribe that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise. Formally participate via a Cooperating Agency MOU.*

- *Long-term Partner/Implementation after plan approval – Formally participate via a Partner MOU created at the conclusion of this planning process.*
- *Other involvement*
- *Newsletter updates*
- *General public meetings and comment periods*
- *Tribal Consultation*

Q: How will the INHT CMP plan incorporate the Executive Order 14153 and the Secretary' Order for "Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential?"

A: The development of the INHT CMP does not prevent or impede any of the goals of this Executive Order. The INHT itself often serves as a transportation route between rural Alaskan villages. The continued efforts to maintain, mark, and provide security along the trail system would support the culturally significant hunting and fishing heritage, including statutory subsistence priority use required by ANILCA.

Additionally, the activities that many agencies permit on the trail help to meet the goals for the Executive Order to Make America Healthy Again by engaging a cross-jurisdictional collective effort to update the comprehensive management plan for the over 1,000+ miles of the Iditarod National Historic Trail that spans multiple jurisdictions across federal, state, tribal, borough, and municipal lands to support the many different physical activities enjoyed along the trail in support of healthy lifestyles.