



Congressional Intent for the Nature & Purposes of the Iditarod National Historic Trail per National Trails System Act¹

The Iditarod Trail

“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 trails², 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 National Historic Iditarod 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.”*”

¹ (from text establishing the National Historic Iditarod Trail, Senate Report 95-1034, p.12: “National Historic Trails”, by Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, May 17, 1978).

² Emphasis added.