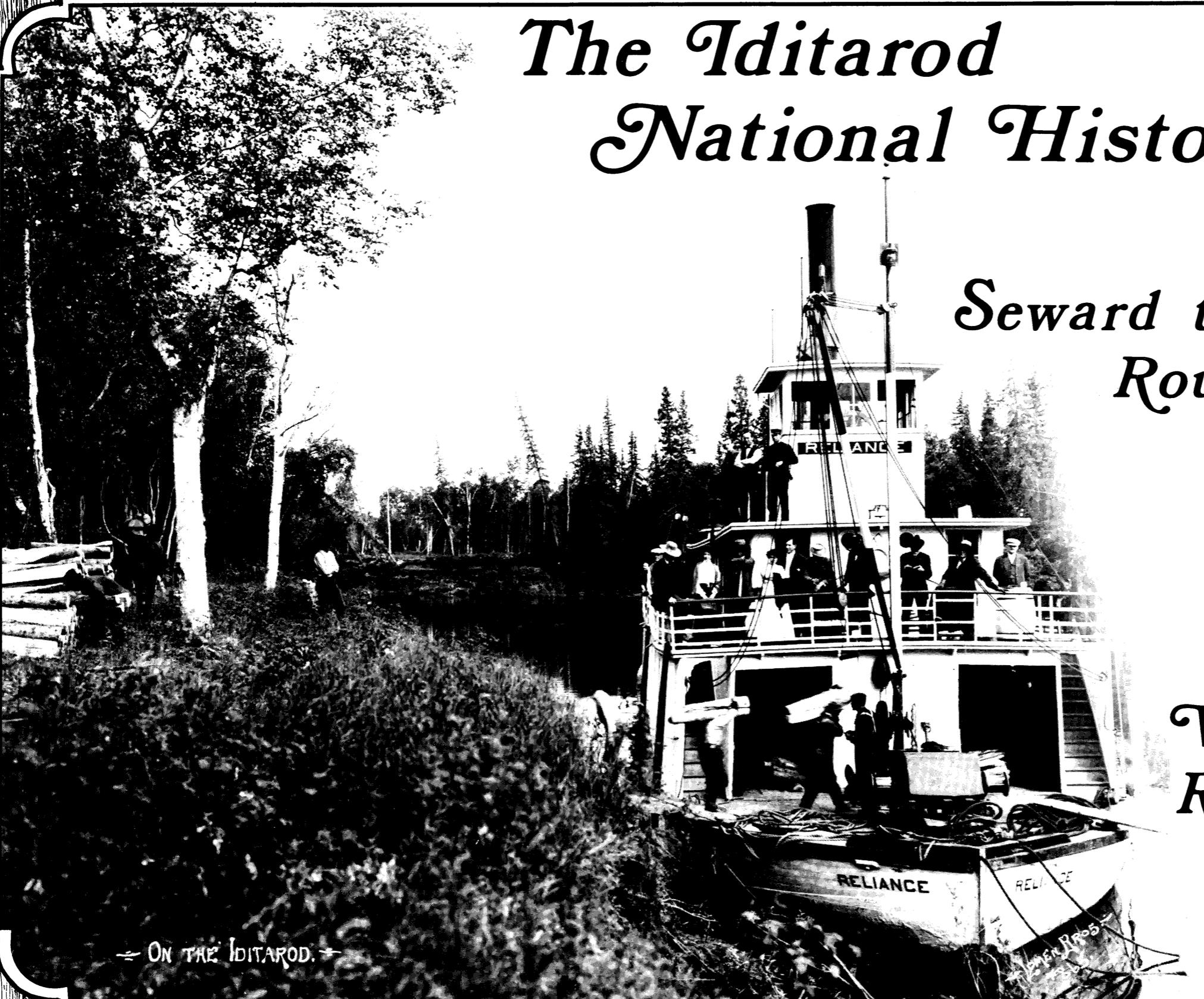


# *The Iditarod National Historic Trail*

*Seward to Nome  
Route*

*Volume Two  
Resource  
Inventories*

*- ON THE IDITAROD -*





United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Anchorage District Office  
4700 East 72nd Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

IN REPLY REFER TO

8351.1  
(010)



Dear Reader,

Enclosed for your information is the Iditarod National Historic Trail Resource Inventory, the second of a two volume report on the Comprehensive Management Plan for the Trail.

This document represents the data gathering efforts of field crews who worked on the development of the proposed management plan.

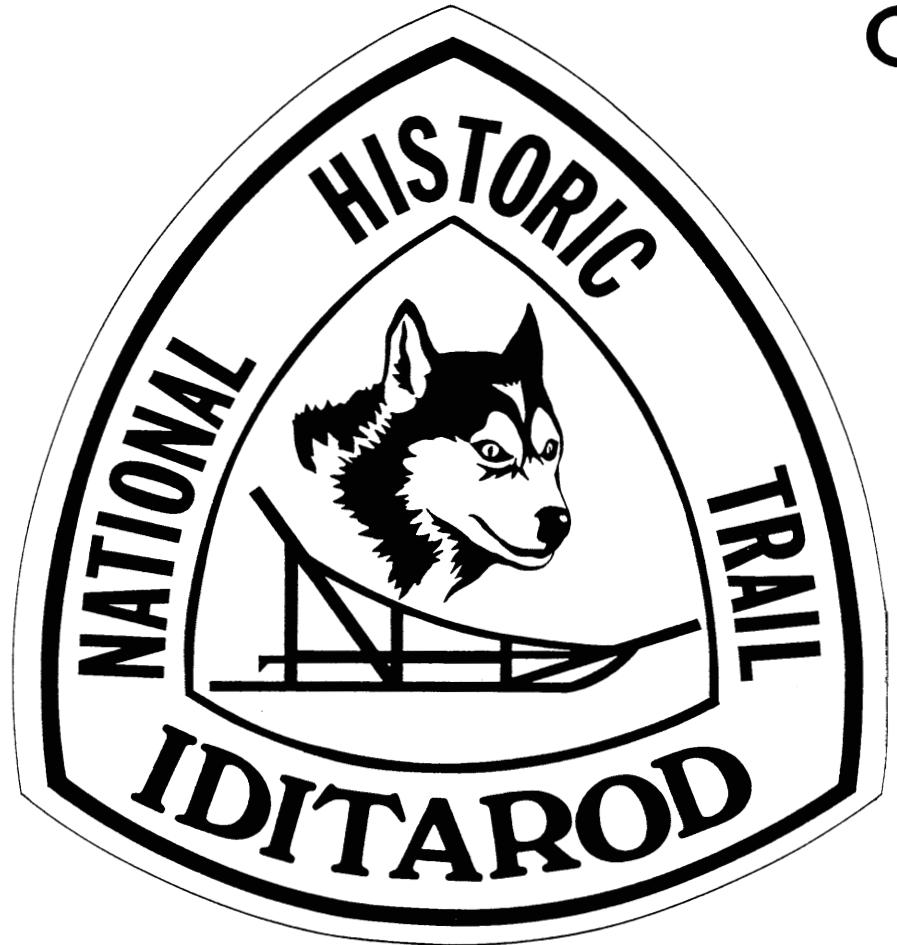
Any recommendations in Vol. II which have not been carried forward in Vol. I are solely those of the project team and are to be evaluated by the particular land manager for application.

Sincerely yours,

*Richard J. Vernimen*

Richard J. Vernimen  
Acting Anchorage District Manager

# *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*

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# IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL PROJECT TEAM EVALUATIONS

## Introduction

The National Trails System Act (Public Law 90-543), as amended by the National Parks and Recreation Act (Public Law 96-625), required that a comprehensive plan be completed for the management and use of the trail. The plan must include, but not be limited to the following items:

specific objectives and practices to be observed in management of the trail, including the identification of all significant natural, historical, and cultural resources to be preserved.--The National Trails System Act as amended (through P.L. 96-625, November 10, 1978), Section 5(e)(1). (Emphasis added.)

To qualify as a National Historic Trail, the trail had to:

...have significant potential for public recreational use or historical interest based on historic interpretation and appreciation. Section 5(b)(11)(c). (Emphasis added.)

To meet these congressional requirements, the Iditarod Project Team and specialists from other State and Federal agencies determined the "significant" natural, historic, cultural, and outdoor recreation resources associated with the Iditarod. Because of vast mileage of the trail system and the hundreds of historic, cultural, and natural sites associated with the Iditarod Trail, determination of most "significant" portions was accomplished through analysis of each specific resource. Then the specialists discussed trail management alternatives until they could agree on a recommendation for each site or segment. The recommendations usually tended to reinforce one another. For example, the trail segment over Rainy Pass is not only highly significant from a cultural/historical standpoint, but it also is a highly scenic area, which offers outstanding recreational opportunities in both summer and winter.

The inventories and analyses were done to widely varying standards and degrees, with emphasis on the historic component.

The management recommendations found in the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) are by no means final. Instead they are starting points for Congress to use in establishing the historic trail and for land owners/managers to consider in viewing how their properties fit the total picture of historic trail management.

Chapter I of this volume presents inventories and evaluations of the historic and cultural resources associated with the Iditarod National Historic Trail. Using the Historic Overview (Volume I, Chapter II) as the theme and focus, specialists identified the most significant historic and cultural sites along the trail.

Chapter II presents inventories and evaluations of the natural and scenic resources of the primary route of the Iditarod Trail. The evaluations helped planners recommend right-of-way widths for the various portions of the trail.

In Chapter III the outdoor recreation opportunities of the Iditarod Trail system are discussed. The outdoor recreation opportunities and the historic interpretation opportunities of sites along the trail, along with the scenic and historic/cultural evaluations are the basis for the ACTIVE or MINIMUM management recommendations presented in Volume I.

In Chapter IV are discussions of the research and indexes of information generated during the project.

