

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Gold Rush International Historical Trail System
Discipline: Cultural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Utah State University
Effective Dates: 9/20/2006-9/30/2011
Funding Amount: \$110,000.00

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract:

Through this project, Utah State University and the National Park Service, working in close collaboration, will assess alternatives for the creation of a comprehensive international historical trail system in Alaska and NW Canada, based on historical Alaska Gold Rushes. The goal of this project is to identify alternative approaches to creating an international historical trail system. Through an interdisciplinary team - comprised of Utah State University, NPS staff, and others - the project will result in an evaluation of potential trail and historical system designations and a determination of the system that brings Alaskan and Canadian communities and parks the highest recreational, educational, historical and economic return. The methodology developed under this project will be applied by the NPS and interdisciplinary team to demonstrate a sustainable gold rush trail system.

A number of trail designations are possible, including National Historical Trails, National Heritage Areas, World Heritage Areas and Alaska State Park Historic Trails. This project will evaluate these and other designations as appropriate.

The work through this agreement will define the a scope of work for a reconnaissance study to refine the scope of an international trail system project, assess interest among communities and key stakeholders, evaluate and develop initial trail system alternatives, and suggest an appropriate relationship with the Iditarod National Historical Trail and with national parks related to trail attractions.

Some tasks were added in 2007, including participation in a Spring 2008 public scoping meeting.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: Due by September 30, 2008

- 1) Detailed scope of work and revised project budget
- 2) Report Analysis, trail systems and designations
- 3) Recommendation for Designation
- 4) Interdisciplinary Team Memorandum of Understanding
- 5) Final analysis, Gold Rush International Historical Trail Plan-for a sustainable trail system (Demonstration Model-Klondike Gold Rush)

Keywords: NPS-Alaska Region, Klondike-Gold Rush NHS, Utah State University, Alaska Gold Rushes, international historical trail

For Administrative Use Only:

Date Annual Report Received:

Date Final Report Received:
Publications, etc. on file: