



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Iditarod Dog Sledding Historic District Workshop

Tuesday, June 28, 2011

Willow Area Community Organization Center, Willow, Alaska

Discussions at the June 28th Iditarod Dog Sledding Historic District (IDSHD) Workshop primarily focused on access, safety, and connectivity concerns. This document summarizes comments on these topics recorded during the workshop to facilitate discussions during the Small Focus Group Workshop on July 7, 2011. The purpose of the Small Focus Group discussion is to review and clarify workshop comments and discuss options for addressing the issues.

- Recommendations for additional crossings or trails:
 - Separated grade crossing (bridge) for the historic Iditarod Trail between Crossings #10 and #11 (north of the actual Iditarod Race route)
 - Crossing for the Iron Dog trail [*is this Crossing #7?*]
 - Crossing for the existing trail used by mushers to avoid Iron Dog traffic (between Crossings #5 and #6)
 - Crossing for contributing trail between Crossings #13 and #14 [*is this trail in use?*]
 - Crossings at seismic and/or section lines in Big Lake area (Crossings #2 through #9)
 - Trail parallel to the proposed rail right-of-way

- Safety issues:
 - Recommend increasing clearance under bridges to more than 12 feet to account for snow depth and removal of snow from rail portions over bridges
 - Reroutes and combining trails (e.g., routing snowmachiners off of seismic lines onto Crossing #11) may “bottleneck” users and increase the potential for collisions and user conflicts between snowmachiners and mushers
 - Concerns about locations and/or types of crossings (e.g., Crossing #9 is currently proposed to be an at-grade crossing in a high vehicle traffic area)
 - Concerns about design (e.g., span width, crossing approaches)

Additional comments recorded during the June 28th Workshop did not pertain to the IDSHD or are outside the scope of these workshops. These comments are not included in this summary document and will be addressed as appropriate during later meetings with mushers and other recreational trail users in the project area.