



(Cooper Landing Historical Society)

## Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area

America's 49th state now has one of 49 National Heritage Areas across the Nation. Designation of Alaska's Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm as a National Heritage Area recognizes that the unique history and culture of the region, combined with its scenic and outdoor recreational values, is as an outstanding part of the fabric of our country.

From the glittering waters of Resurrection Bay to the breathtaking Chugach Mountains along Turnagain Arm, the Kenai Mountain-Turnagain Arm Corridor cradles one of the most interesting regions of Alaska's history.

The Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area (KMTA NHA) also encompasses a distinctive landscape of mountains, lakes, rivers and fjords. The area is located in a region that runs north/south from Bird/Indian to Moose Pass and Seward. To the west, the area includes Cooper Landing, Sunrise, and Hope. To the east lie Portage, Whittier, and the clear blue waters of Prince William Sound.

National Heritage Areas are designated by an Act of Congress and administered by a local coordinating entity identified in the Act. Designation has no effect on property rights. Funding for locally-initiated projects that enhance and preserve local historic, cultural, scenic, and outdoor recreational resources is provided by the National Park Service through the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm Corridor Communities Association (KMTA CCA).

This Annual Report highlights some of the achievements of the KMTA CCA for 2011 and features several projects in which KMTA CCA grants have helped to protect and promote the cultural, historical and natural assets of the region.

For more information about the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage area, please contact the KMTA CCA Program Manager, Kaylene Johnson at [kaylene.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:kaylene.johnson@gmail.com) or visit our website. Guidelines for project proposals are available from Kaylene and included in page 127 of the Draft Management Plan that is posted on our website.

<http://kmtacorridor.org>

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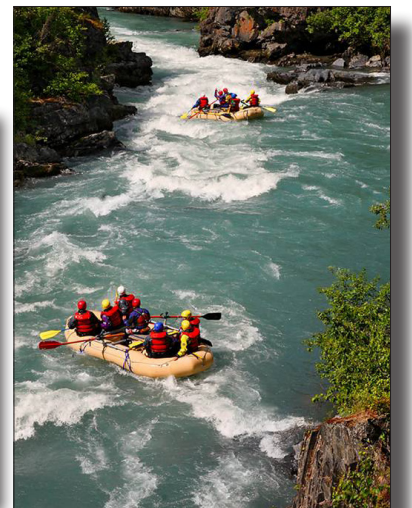
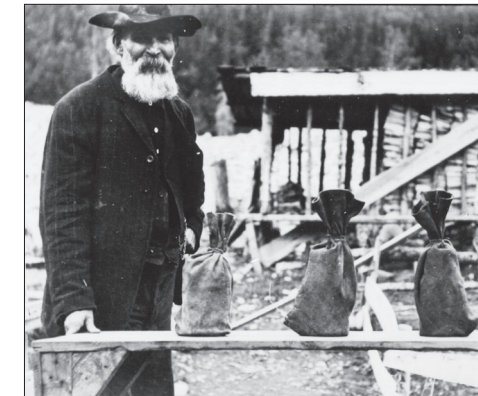


Petroglyphs (Darin Yates, Chugach Alaska Corporation).

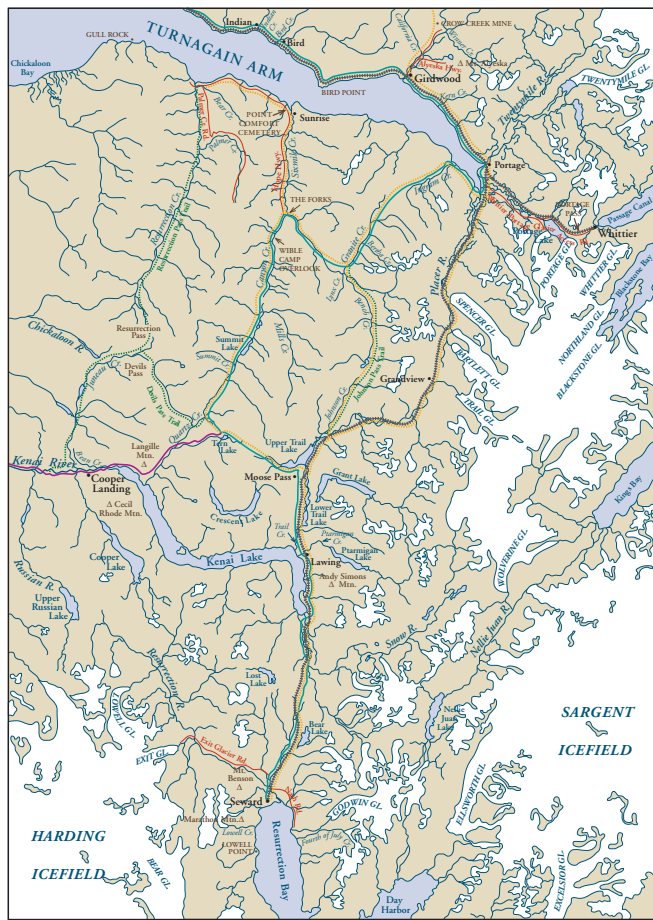
Photo credits for cover: Robert Mathison with gold (Hope & Sunrise Historical Society); woman with dog team (Anchorage Museum at Rasumson Center); bicyclers and rafters (National Park Service).



## Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area



2011  
Annual Report

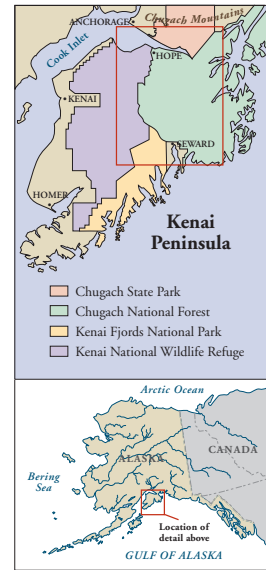


### The Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm

SCALE OF MILES  
0 5 10

- SEWARD HIGHWAY
- STERLING HIGHWAY
- SECONDARY ROADS
- TRAILS
- IDITAROD TRAIL NETWORK
- ALASKA RAILROAD

(©2005 Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm Corridor  
Committee Association; map by Kathy Doogan)



NOTE: This map shows the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm Corridor. National Heritage Area boundaries and resources can be found on GIS maps within the Management Plan.



Estes Brothers Grocery & Waterwheel is a well-known historic stop along the KMTA NHA corridor. The sign next to the 10-foot waterwheel with a sharpening stone reads: "Moose Pass is a peaceful little town. If you have an axe to grind, do it here." The waterwheel had come into a state of disrepair. The Moose Pass Sportsman's Club, Moose Pass Advisory Planning Commission, Jaffa Construction and KMTA CCA partnered to restore the waterwheel to good working condition.

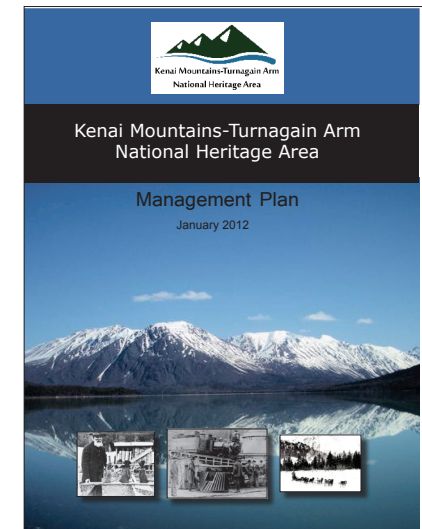
## Summary of 2011 Projects

- Moose Pass Estes Water Wheel Repair (Partners/funding sources: Moose Pass Sportsman's Club, Moose Pass Advisory Planning Commission, Jaffa Construction.)
- Divide Ski Area Historic Trail Preservation (Partners/funding sources: Seward Nordic Ski Club, Chugach National Forest Service, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Iditarod Trail Blazers, City of Seward.)
- Prince William Sound Museum Oral History/Museum Development (Partners/funding sources: City of Whittier, Whittier Museum Association, Prince William Sound Economic Development District, Sundew Services, Ted Spencer.)
- Exhibit Planning for Seward Museum (Partners/funding sources: Seward Museum and Seward Community Library, Resurrection Bay Historical Society, Seward City Council, Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers, Seward Historic Preservation Commission.)
- Slab of History sign restoration. (Partners/funding sources: Cooper Landing Historical Society and Museum, Jonathan Osowiecki, Contractor.)
- Iditarod Monument Base is ongoing with construction of the monument nearly completed. (Partners/funding sources: Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers, Historic Iditarod Trail Alliance, Afognak Logging, Inc., Seward Dry Dock.)

## Management Plan Complete and Awaiting Approval

Following nearly two years of public meetings, public comment, and inputs from communities and government entities within the KMTA National Heritage Area, the KMTA management plan is complete and on its way to the Secretary of the Interior for approval. The document is available to read on the KMTA NHA website:

<http://kmtacorridor.org>



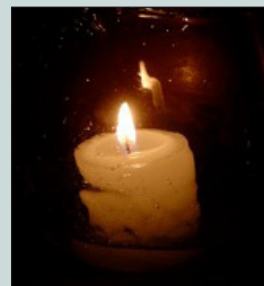
## FINANCIALS

### 2011 Projects Completed or Pending Final Documentation

Project	KMTA Award	Amount of Match
Moose Pass Water Wheel Restoration	\$5960	\$ 6740
Seward Divide Ski Trail Improvements	5000	6749
Whittier Museum Exhibit Plan	10000	13506
Seward Museum Exhibit Plan	5000	10100
Cooper Landing Slab of History renovation	1500	1500
Seward Iditarod Trail Monument	10000	38000
Contract with Program Manager	8500	8500

### Contracts to be completed in 2012

Girdwood Nordic Ski Trail	10000	11170
Hope Archeology & Historic Fences	7000	7000
Seward Mariner's Memorial	10000	55000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$72,960</b>	<b>\$158,265</b>



The Divide Ski Area Historic Trail near Seward was quickly being decimated by motorized traffic. The Seward Nordic Ski Club – in partnership with KMTA CCA, the Chugach National Forest Service, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Iditarod Trail Blazers and the City of Seward – worked to restore the damaged trail and put gates up to restrict access to motorized vehicles. This holiday season 200 people participated in a Luminary Ski with lighted ice candles along the trail – a celebration of the New Year and testament to the success of the project.