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March 23, 1983

Re:

Janet Burleson
Matanuska-Susitna District
Division of Land and Water Management
P.O. Box 4006
Wasilla, Alaska 99687

Dear Ms. Burleson:

Mr. Robert Schenker (801 Airport Heights Drive, #243, Anchorage, Alaska 99504) has contacted this office in regard to actual location of the Iditarod Trail in T16N, R3W, Sec. 21, NW $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$, S.M. A right-of-way application (ADL 200644) is affecting Mr. Schenker's property.

Right of-way Application ADL 200644 requests a 300' wide right-of-way for the "Iditarod Trail." ADL 200644 application covers several parallel and intersecting trails and not a single trail within T16N, R3W, S.M.

This letter discusses three parallel routes referred to as the "Iditarod Trail." For clarification, enclosed is a state status plat with each of the trails marked and labeled: Trail A, Trail B, and Trail C.

Trail A

Trail A transects sections 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23. This trail was originally surveyed by the U.S. Government in 1911 and was labeled the "Knik to Susitna Trail" on U.S. Surveyor General's Office Plat for T16N, R3W, dated October 14, 1914.

Trail A is partially marked on 1952 (revised 1965) USGS Quad (1:63,360 scale) as the "Iditarod Trail" (Sections 16, 21, 22, 23, 24). The portions of Trail A within Sections 16, 17, 18, 21 and a portion of Section 23 were surveyed and platted by the state in 1978 (ASLS 79-14) which established a 300' corridor for the Iditarod Trail.

A current survey contact is beginning to establish the "Iditarod Trail" beginning at the township line between 16N R3W, S.M. and 10N 4W, S.M. where ASLS 79-14 ended.

Janet Burleson
March 23, 1983
Page 2 -

On Matanuska-Susitna Borough Road System Maps Trail A is identified as the "Iditarod Bypass Trail" on GB8 and the state-surveyed "Iditarod Trail" on GB7 and GB2. It is not identified or indicated on Map G6.

ADL 200644 right-of-way application covers Trail A. Trail C is used at least partly by the Iditarod Trail Committee during the Iditarod Sled Dog Race.

Trail B

Trail B transects sections 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23. This trail is located on 1952 (revised 1965) USGS Quads (1:63,360 scale), but is not named. In T16N R4W, S.M. this trail does not lead toward Susitna Station on the USGS quad.

Trail B has not been surveyed by the State of Alaska, and there are no current plans to survey it.

Trail B has been identified a "non-public road/or ROW unknown" on Matanuska-Susitna Borough Road System Maps (dated 12-31-79). Trail B has been identified as the "Iditarod Trail" in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Trails System Plan (dated 8/82).

The Bureau of Land Management has identified Trail B as the Iditarod Trail in the easement identification process (E.I.N. 4 D2-Knikatnu Inc.) in Sections 22, 23, 24.

ADL 200644 right-of-way application covers Trail B. Trail B is not used by the Iditarod Trail Committee for the Iditarod Sled Dog Race.

Mr. Schenker's property is transected by Trail B, and he reports that there is no evidence of a trail on the ground.

No trail or ROW is indicated on Matanuska-Susitna Borough Road System Map GB7 through Mr. Schenker's property (Lot D-3 in Section 21).

The Joint State-Federal Iditarod Trail Office does not consider Trail B to be part of the Iditarod Historic Trail, but makes no opinion as its existence as some other trail.

Trail C

Trail C branches from Trail A in Section 22 and transects that section and Sections 19, 20, 21.

Trail C is not shown on USGS quads and has never been surveyed by the state.

Trail C shown and identified as the "Iditarod Trail" on Matanuska-Susitna Borough System Road System Map GB6 and GB8, but neither shown or labeled on GB7.

Janet Burleson
March 23, 1983
Page 3 -

State land status plats indicate a 25' R/W Permit 63389 Application for portions of Trail C.

Trail C might be used in part by Iditarod Trail Committee during the Iditarod Sled Dog Race.

Though Trail C might be used in the Iditarod Sled Dog Race, the Joint State-Federal Iditarod Trail Office does not consider this route as the Historic Route.

Mr. Schenker has requested a withdrawal of the right-of-way notation from his land. From the standpoint of the Iditarod National Historic Trail System, the Joint State/Federal Iditarod Trail Office has no objection to this request.

Recommendation

We are recommended that the Mat-Su District of Division of Land and Water respond to Mr. Schenker's inquiry. We recommend that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the Bureau of Land Management be contacted to see if the route and portion of the right-of-way application should be retained for any other reason.

The Iditarod Trail Blazers should also be contacted since they have been involved in locating the historic route and also have competed in the sled dog races. Contact: Joseph Redington, Sr., Box 5460, Knik Road, Wasilla 99687, phone 376-5562, or Dave Olson, Box 5403, Knik Road, Wasilla 99687, phone 376-5558.

Sincerely,

Neil C. Johannsen
Director

By: Terry O'Sullivan
Trail Coordinator

attachment: Current Land Estate Plat - T10N R3W, S.M.

cc: Robert Schenker
Gary Thurlow, Matanuska-Susitna Borough Manager
John Merrick, Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management

TOS:clk