

# Iditarod National Historic Trail Safety Shelters



September 2010

BLM-Alaska and numerous partners recently completed four new public safety shelters that will make

winter travel safer on the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

The new shelters are the result of a partnership of BLM, the State of Alaska, the nonprofit Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, the Youth Restoration Corps, the Alaska Job Corps, and several local communities. The project is part of an effort to commemorate the Centennial of the opening of the Trail.

As federal coordinator for the National Historic Trail, BLM received funding for the project under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and provided project management and administration.

## Public Safety

For dozens of rural Alaskan villages between Nikolai and Nome, the Iditarod NHT is the only winter travel option other than expensive aircraft.



The sturdy 16x16-foot log shelters are made from Alaskan spruce and designed to provide refuge from severe Alaskan winter conditions. Each shelter includes bunk space for at least six travelers and a wood stove. The shelters are open to all without reservation or fee.

Shelter locations were based on local partner input. All are located on public lands. For sites on state lands, the shelters were built and under permit from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

The new shelters will be maintained by local communities under agreement with the State or BLM. Due to their remote location, the shelters are accessible only in winter.

## Economic Benefits

The project provided meaningful work, income and job skills training for often-underemployed rural Alaskan youth.

BLM worked with the nonprofit Youth Restoration Corps to hire four local youth ages 16-19 for each of the four shelters. The youth crews were led by a Youth Restoration Corps carpenter, and joined by Alaska Job Corps carpenter trainees.



Each shelter took about a week to build, including project mobilization.

Additional economic activity was generated in the building supply, aviation, fuel, retail, and visitor accommodations sectors of the economy for the eight-week project.



# New & Existing Winter Safety Cabins Norton Sound to Alaska Range



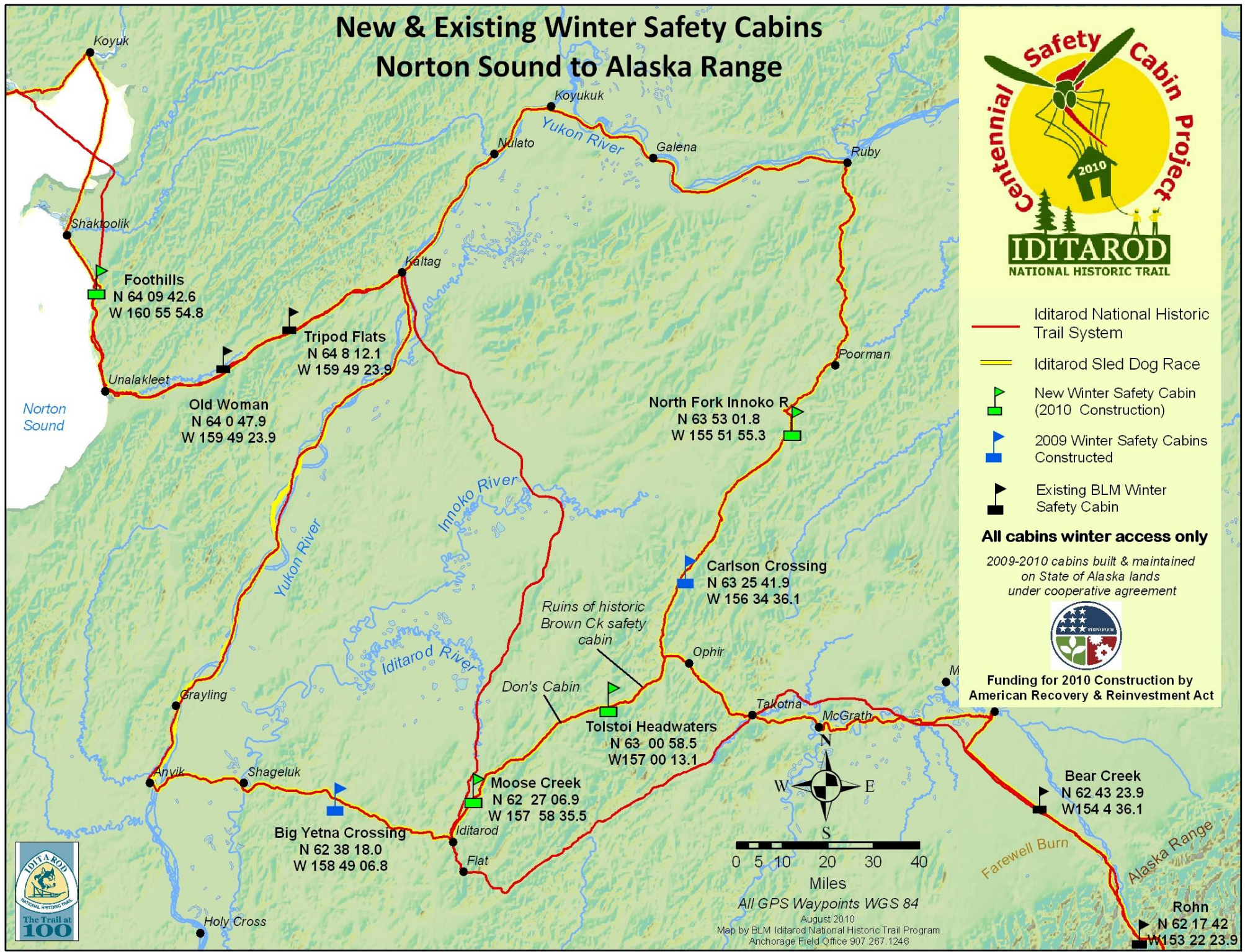
-  Iditarod National Historic Trail System
-  Iditarod Sled Dog Race
-  New Winter Safety Cabin (2010 Construction)
-  2009 Winter Safety Cabins Constructed
-  Existing BLM Winter Safety Cabin

**All cabins winter access only**

*2009-2010 cabins built & maintained on State of Alaska lands under cooperative agreement*



**Funding for 2010 Construction by American Recovery & Reinvestment Act**



All GPS Waypoints WGS 84  
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Map by BLM Iditarod National Historic Trail Program  
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