

IN REVIEW

2025

IDITAROD HISTORIC TRAIL ALLIANCE

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS AND STEWARDS FOR THE NEXT CENTURY OF THE HISTORIC IDITAROD TRAIL

Partnership is core to Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance's purpose. In a time of uncertainty for public lands, the Alliance is thrilled to report that our partnerships are stronger than ever and we are growing.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) demonstrated its commitment to the Iditarod National Historic Trail by welcoming Robin Lewis into its Trail Administrator position despite nationwide staffing cuts. In addition, BLM's continued support of the Alliance provides the stability we need to focus on long-term goals.

For the first time since our founding in 1998, the Alliance has an Executive Director! Betsi Oliver came on board in March, bringing seventeen years of experience with nonprofits that serve Alaska's public lands. This increase in capacity comes at an important turning point for the Alliance.

We have said goodbye recently to several long-time Iditarod advocates, and now it's time to build new momentum. Looking ahead, we are dedicated to cultivating new and existing relationships with the communities, agencies, and trail groups that manage, use, or live along the Trail. Community stewardship is the very essence of National Trails, and we're here to help.



Left: Betsi Oliver, Executive Director
Right: Robin Lewis, BLM Trail Administrator

Could you be a part of our growing network? We are eager to hear from you and work together to care for the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

The Iditarod National Historic Trail has a new way to honor its champions:

INTRODUCING THE GOLDEN TRIPOD STEWARDSHIP AWARD



In March 2025, the Alliance presented its first annual volunteer award to Aaron Burmeister, recognizing his crucial role in restoring the trail after Typhoon Merbok. When the 2022 storm left miles of the Iditarod Trail not passable, Burmeister brought together multiple partners to clear the debris, re-mark the route with heavy equipment, and save a critical section of the trail. Thanks Aaron!

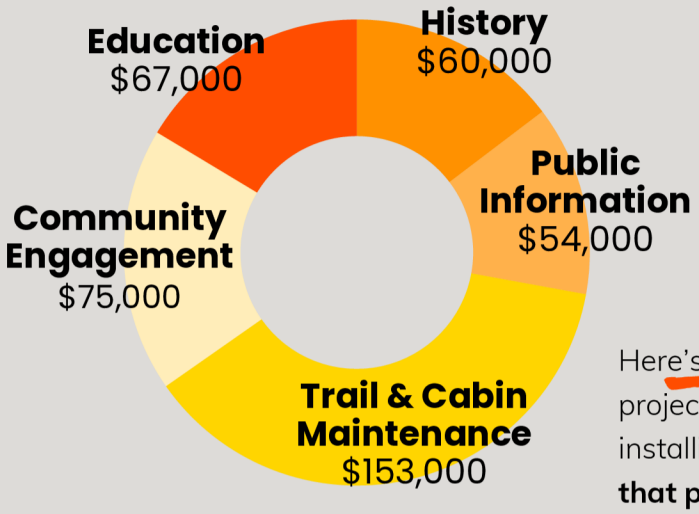
Photo: Board members Stephanie Johnson and Kirsten Bey present Aaron Burmeister the Golden Tripod Stewardship Award

FOCUS 2026:

Strengthen our internal capacity as an organization, with an emphasis on collaboration and partnerships with people and communities who have meaningful connections to the Iditarod Trail.



Photo: Remembering Dan Seavey, 1937-2025



Here's a sneak peek at how our next two years of committed project funds will be allocated. From fixing up safety cabins to installing new trail signs and beyond, we invest in **projects that protect and promote** the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

TRAIL ▪ STORY ▪ STEWARDSHIP

YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

Your membership dues and donations enable us to build support for Alaska's trails and public lands. Thanks to our ongoing advocacy, **critical funding keeps coming** to BLM-Alaska and the Chugach National Forest for the Iditarod Trail and our community partnerships. These funds go far at the Alliance. We put them to work where needed, when needed.

Here's an example: Late in 2025 we quickly provided funds to repair damage caused by Typhoon Halong. As a result, Topkok safety cabin and seventy miles of trail between Unalakleet and Kaltag will be ready to use this winter.

YOUR PROJECT COULD BE NEXT!

Now soliciting project ideas:

Cabin & Trail maintenance
Safety improvements
Community signs
Historic preservation
Education & Youth programs

We work with trail users, volunteers, organizations, and communities to protect and promote the Iditarod Trail.

Have a need or an idea? **We are here to help!** Email us today to learn more.

WE'VE MOVED!
PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW MAILING ADDRESS

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