Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area

“Discover the story”

Kaylene Johnson-Sullivan
March 7th, 2017
What is a National Heritage Area?

“National Heritage Areas are places whose stories tie our Nation together.”

-- Dr. Herman Blake

- Places where outstanding natural, cultural, historic and scenic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape
- Established by Congress
- Funded through National Park Service
- Remain locally planned and driven
- Designation has no effect on property rights
Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area

The KMTA NHA includes nine communities and sections of:

- Chugach State Park
- Chugach National Forest
- Kenai Fjords National Park

Administered by KMTA CCA, a local 501 (3) non-profit organization
How do we work?

- Board members from eight NHA communities
- Twice-annual grant solicitation
- Grants must be matched 1:1 by non-federal funds
- Community-based grants and area wide projects
Hope Trail

- Safety
- Public lands connectivity
  - Resurrection Pass
  - Johnson Pass
- Economic development
  - Infrastructure
  - Trailhead parking
  - Federal highway funds
Partnerships & Support

- Community of Hope
  - Hope Inc.
  - Hope Historical Society
  - Local contractor and trails advocates
  - Hope School
- Kenai Peninsula Borough
- Alaska Department of Transportation
- Alaskan Senators Murkowski and Sullivan

- Key partner: Chugach National Forest
Opportunities

KMTA Can Help

- Establish connections between trails on federal, state, and borough lands
- Coordinate efforts of state, federal and local partners
- Facilitate development of missing links that connect trails across jurisdictional boundaries
Challenges

- Identifying agency(ies) to own and maintain trail
- Working with state, federal, and local agencies that each have their own unique processes and time-lines
- Pursuing Federal Funding in 2018
Discover the Story

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