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Department of
Natural Resources

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Independence Mine historic buildings to remain closed this summer

(Anchorage, AK) – Visitors to the Independence Mine State Historical Park in Hatcher Pass will be welcome to explore the park and the outside of historical buildings this summer, but reductions in park resources and staff will keep the buildings closed to interior visits.

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation has traditionally relied on seasonal employees to staff the park soon after the winter snow melts, to maintain the historical mine buildings, ensure the safety of visitors touring the insides, and protect the integrity of the ageing buildings and the sensitive artifacts within.

Reallocation of scarce state resources, however, means the division will be unable to provide for such staffing, leading park managers to decide to keep the buildings closed during the summer months that attract most visitors. Parking facilities and the park grounds themselves will remain open, and visitors are encouraged to take self-guided walking tours around the complex.

Parks managers regret the necessity of this decision, and appreciate the patience, understanding and cooperation of the public and commercial operators who may be affected by it.

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