

# INDEPENDENCE MINE STATE HISTORICAL PARK– PRESERVATION PLAN

## Summary of Public Comments and Agency Responses



The Alaska Department of Natural Resources has been working to develop the Independence Mine State Historical Park Preservation Plan since December 2010. As part of this effort, a draft of the plan was issued for review on July 29, 2011. The public comment period extended until August 29, 2011. A summary of these comments and responses are listed below. Since they are not “issues,” comments regarding editing, document organization, and non-management issues are not included in this summary.

ISSUE	COMMENT	RESPONSE
<b>Building and Land Use</b>	Develop a Mountain Center at Independence Mine that serves as a research base for alpine ecology and natural history.	Use of Bunkhouse #2 was elaborated to include uses by other community organizations. Also research facility was included as a possible use for Bunkhouse #1.
<b>Building and Land Use</b>	Events could include mountain art and craft sales, film and book festivals, photography exhibits, etc.	Noted.
<b>Building and Land Use</b>	There is no analysis for the statement, “Bunkhouse #1 should be used for visitor lodging and accommodations.”	Possible uses for Bunkhouse #1 were expanded. Public comments and the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation were used to determine appropriate possible uses.
<b>Building and Land Use</b>	Visitor lodging is available at Hatcher Pass Lodge. I object to state government competing directly with the private sector	Lodging will only be provided in the future by a concessionaire through a competitive process; therefore, it would be provided by the private sector and not the state of Alaska.
<b>Partnerships</b>	Any use of concessionaires should be subject to careful study and analysis.	The study of a concessionaire program will take place during development and prior to implementation.

<b>Partnerships</b>	Poorly supervised concessionaires could cut corners to make a profit. The rehabilitation of the buildings is the responsibility of the State of Alaska.	The section on partnerships and concessions is now placed before the discussion of individual buildings to clarify the need for State Parks to supervise rehabilitation for adherence to standards.
<b>Partnerships</b>	Suggest adding the City of Anchorage, Palmer Chamber of Commerce, Wasilla Chamber of Commerce, Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, Valley Mountain Bikers & Hikers, Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association.	All of these organizations were added to the list of potential partners.
<b>Building and Land Use/Interpretation</b>	Discuss the potential for underground mine tours.	This component was added to the Water Tunnel section and will be addressed in the water tunnel study.
<b>Implementation Priorities</b>	Move #17, Formalize the non-motorized trail system, up the list to possibly #11.	Changes to the priority list are permissible depending on funding and is stated at the beginning of implementation priorities.
<b>Trails</b>	Develop trails in cooperation with adjacent landowners. Include this in the goals and objectives.	Inclusion in the goals and objectives is too specific for this plan. However, improve infrastructure is now included in partnerships.