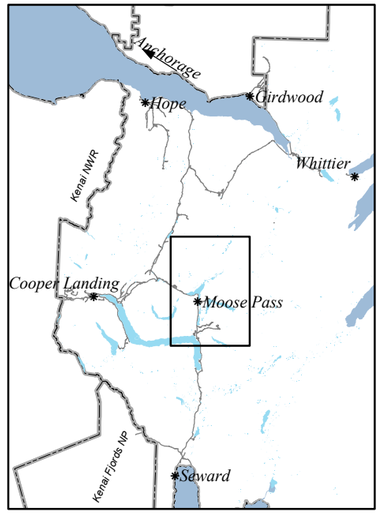
Alternative 3
Iditarod National Historic Trail
Trail Lakes Area



Trail Lakes Area (TL)
(Note: Segments RR1&2, JP2 are displayed on the area map and in table for reference, but are not included in summary text below)

Segment	Miles	1986 INHT Comprehensive Plan	DOT right-of-way or AK RR	Alternative 3 FS Action	Trail Class	Primary* Managed Use (summer)	Primary* Managed Use (winter)	Prohibited Trail Use
RR1	32.2	Primary Route	Rail Route	-	-	-	-	-
RR2	27.8	Primary Route	Rail Route	-	-	-	-	-
TL1	2.4	Prop. Side Trail	-	Main Route	3	bike, hike	snowmo, ski	summer motor
TL2	7.3	Prop. Side Trail	-	Main Route	3	bike, hike	snowmo, ski	summer motor
TL3	1.4	-	-	Access Route	3	bike, hike	snowmo, ski	summer motor
TL4	0.7	-	-	Access Route	3	hike	none	summer motor
JP1	8.3	-	-	Access Route	4	bike, hike, horse	snowmo, ski	summer motor
JP2	13.4	Connecting Trail	-	Main Route	4	bike, hike, horse	snowmo, ski	summer motor
H4	30.3	Connecting Trail	Bike Path	-	-	-	-	-

* Indicates existing, planned or proposed AK Department of Transportation or AK Railroad INHT segments.

** Indicates actively managed trail use. Other trail uses allow ed unless prohibited.

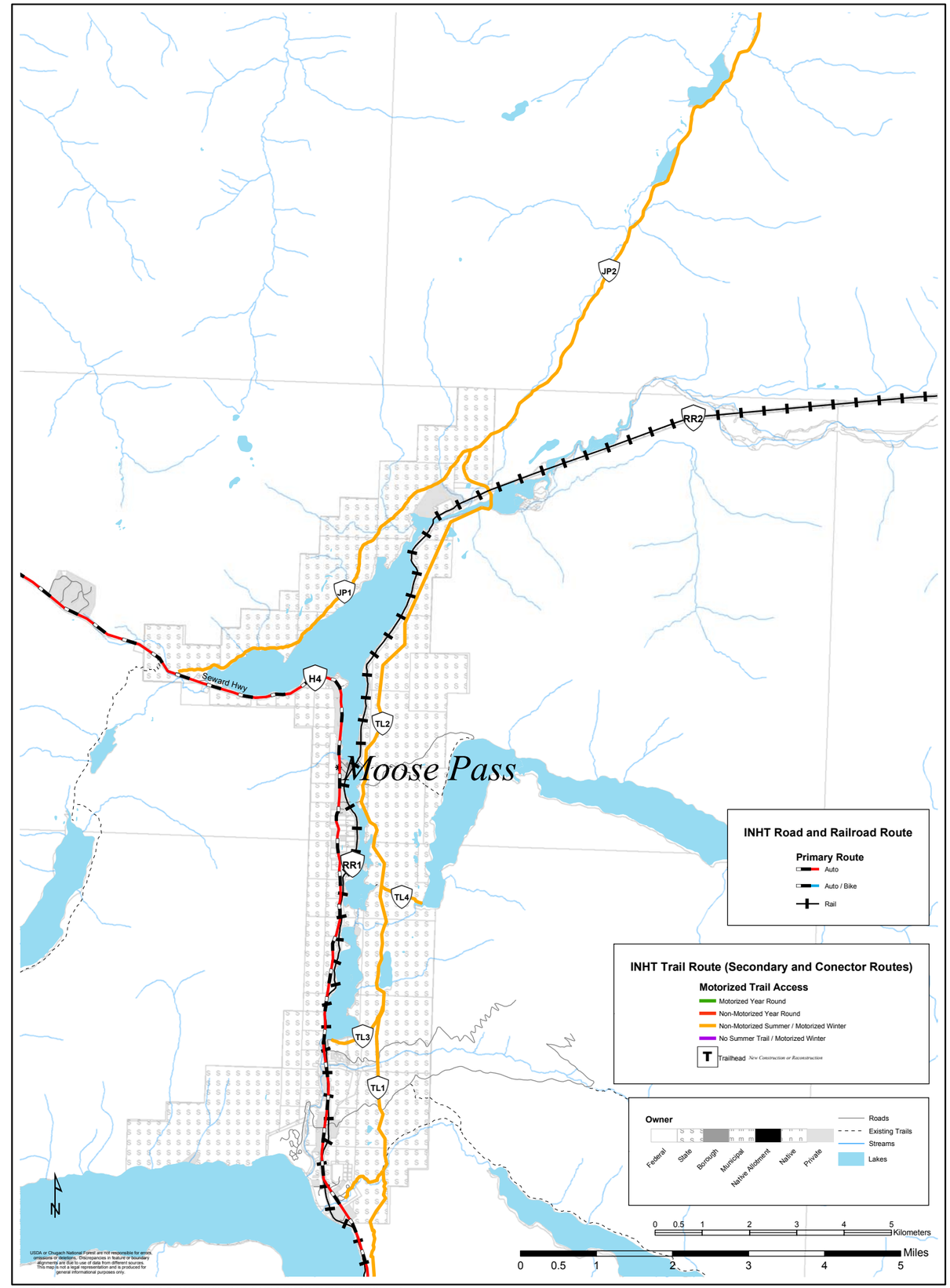
Trail Lakes Area Summary: Trail segments for Alt. 3 in the Trail Lakes Area begin at Ptarmigan Creek, crossing the creek with a single-span bridge, then proceed north through spruce-hemlock forests, crossing Falls Creek with a suspension bridge over a rock-walled gorge (TL1) and on to the Vagt Lake trail (a State Parks managed trail). Continuing north between Trail Lakes and Grant Lake, the trail would cross Vagt and Grant creeks with single-span bridges in open sub-alpine hemlock forests at about 700' elevation (TL2). The Trail Lakes area trail segments end just north of Trail Creek and the AK Railroad Crossing.

Trail Creek Bridge is the longest span proposed by this project at 270' and is located just upstream from an existing AK Railroad bridge.

The Forest Service would construct 9.7 miles of new trail, and reconstruct 10.4 miles of existing access trails. All 20.1 miles would be available for year-round use as shown above. Most of these trails cross State-owned lands.

Bike Path: Segment H4 would be a bike path located along the Seward Hwy. This is recommended for AK DOT to consider as it reconstructs the corresponding sections of Hwy (MP25.5-MP57).

Trailheads: Access to the Trail Lakes Area is provided at three existing trailheads. They are Ptarmigan Creek at MP23 of the Seward Hwy (shown on the Kenai Lake Area Map), Vagt Lake (MP25.5) (to be reconstructed as part of the Seward Hwy MI 18-25.5 project) and Johnson Pass South (MP32.6). Interpretive and informational signs would be installed at all sites. A vault toilet is planned to be added at the Vagt Lake site during reconstruction. All three sites have existing trails that would connect to the Main Trail. KL7 is the access from Ptarmigan Creek Trailhead; TL3 is from Vagt Lake Trailhead and JP1 connects the Johnson Pass South Trailhead to the Main Trail at Johnson.



USDA Forest Service, Chugach National Forest, Seward Ranger District. This Map (K:\plan\projects\projects_GZ\dir_iditarod\inht_alternative1_web_map_girdwood_area.mxd) was produced on 5/22/2003 at 6:43:17 AM