

SCR

13

HOUSE COMMITTEE REP

(9)

Date Referred: March 11, 1994

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 4/8/95

SCR 13

The RESOURCES Committee considered:

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13

GOLD RUSH CENTENNIAL DECADE

Relating to the Gold Rush Centennial Decade.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

be replaced with _____ the same title

have attached amendments(s)

do pass

do not pass

no recommendations

individual recommendations

additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s): (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

fiscal impact _____

fiscal note(s) _____

zero fiscal note _____

zero fiscal note(s) Senate Resources Comm/2-9

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Bill Hudson</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Joseph D. ...</i>			
<i>John ...</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<i>Janette Jones</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<i>David ...</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<i>W.R. Williams</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<i>Ed ...</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

W.R. Williams
CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR
BERT SHARP

DISTRICT P

CHAIRMAN
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

MEMBER
FINANCE COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT COMMITTEE
HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES



Senate

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Bill Williams, Chairperson
House Resources Committee

FROM: Senate Bert Sharp 

RE: Request for Hearing - SCR 13

DATE: March 15, 1994

I am requesting Senate Concurrent Resolution 13, relating to the Gold Rush Centennial Decade, be heard before the House Resources Committee as soon as possible.

The intent of this resolution is to educate Alaskans and visitors to Alaska as to the importance of gold mining to our state's establishment, development and future. The resolution recognizes the years 1994-2004 as the Gold Rush Centennial Decade and urges schools, public and private organizations, and the people of the state to coordinate statewide celebrations of the 100th anniversary. This will serve to promote an understanding of the importance of the Gold Rush Era in Alaska's history and enhance tourism opportunities.

SCR 13 also recognizes the Alaska Gold Rush Centennial Task Force as coordinator and promoter of statewide centennial activities. For your information, on February 16, 1994 the Gold Rush Task Force Executive Committee and Annual Task Force meeting will be held in Juneau.

Thank you for your consideration.



REPRESENTING
GOLDEN HEART
OF ALASKA

ALASKA GOLD RUSH CENTENNIAL TASK FORCE

1993 Annual Report

Introduction Alaskans, realizing the potential of tourism, education, and preservation opportunities provided by the gold rush centennials, called for the creation of a statewide task force. In October 1992, at the direction of the Governor and Lt. Governor, the Department of Commerce and Economic Development and the Department of Natural Resources formed the Alaska Gold Rush Centennial Task Force.

Mission The Alaska Gold Rush Centennial Task Force's mission is to coordinate statewide celebrations of the 100th anniversaries in order to promote the understanding of the importance of the gold rush era in Alaska's history and to enhance tourism opportunities.

Recommendations for Legislative Action

- Officially recognize 1994-2004 as the gold rush centennial decade, make the gold rush centennials a high priority state project, and officially recognize the Alaska Gold Rush Centennial Task Force.
- Fund the Division of Tourism's FY95 capital request for \$100,000 for gold rush centennial projects.
- Fund a coordinator for \$60,000 to assist in implementing the recommendations in this study, to coordinate events and programs, to raise money for Task Force projects, and to organize Task Force members and projects.
- Fund tourism marketing programs of the Division of Tourism, Alaska Tourism Marketing Council, Alaska Marine Highway System, and other agencies as the Task Force has no tourism funding and must rely on existing programs.

Background

The discoveries of gold in Alaska and the Yukon in the late 1890s set off the last great American gold rush. Thousands of men and women headed north, some to escape economic depression, others to seek adventure. Most crossed the Chilkoot or White Pass trails or traveled by boat to the gold fields. Prospectors searched all Alaska, from Southeast Alaska and the Kenai Peninsula to the Seward Peninsula and through the Interior. They discovered gold and other precious metals and founded new towns, among them Circle, Nome, Skagway, Fairbanks, Hope, Iditarod, and Valdez. Along with the prospectors came people to provide services to the miners, both honest and corrupt. It was an exciting time, and it changed Alaska forever.

The gold discoveries stimulated the development of transportation routes, civil government, and communications in Alaska. While the participants were predominantly white males, women, Alaska Natives, Asians, and African-Americans were also part of the story. The Native way-of-life changed dramatically. Land rights, hunting grounds, and trade and travel routes were impacted.

Task Force Objectives

To accomplish its mission, the Task Force has established the following objectives:

- Coordinate and promote statewide commemorative activities;
- Ensure state programs and activities are integrated and coordinated;
- Support education, research, documentation, and preservation of historical significance from the gold rush era;
- Develop funding proposals;
- Provide Task Force recommendations to appropriate agencies;
- Serve as a network for information exchange and technical assistance;
- Serve as liaison with international agencies and organizations; and
- Recommend improvement of infrastructures to accommodate visitors.

Committees

To carry out the objectives of the Task Force, seven committees have been formed:

- Executive
- Marketing and Promotion
- Historic Resources
- Events and Activities
- Interpretation and Markers
- Infrastructure and Facilities
- Education

Membership The Task Force has 124 members from 25 Alaska communities, Washington, and the Yukon Territory Canada. The newsletter is sent to an additional 369 people. Members represent federal, state, and municipal governments, tourism organizations, historical groups, museums, libraries, the news media, private businesses, educational institutions, and Native organizations.

Cooperative Efforts The Task Force is implementing its programs by encouraging cooperative efforts by state, federal, and local governments, non-profit organizations, and private businesses. Each of these groups is expected to contribute to the success of the Task Force. To promote this cooperative effort, the Task Force encourages special federal appropriations as needed to support gold rush projects by federal agencies.

Gold Rush Grant Program The Division of Tourism received \$50,000 in FY94 capital funds for gold rush centennial projects. This money is available for tourism attraction development, visitor information services, historic resources, and historic restoration projects. Individuals and groups in 30 communities submitted 151 letters of intent. The requests totalled \$657,100. Proposed projects included visitor brochures, interpretation projects, documentation of historic buildings and sites, restoration of gold rush era properties, publication of histories and photo collections, planning for museum displays, and preparation of educational materials. The Executive Committee will review the applications and make awards in February 1994.

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Accomplishments

- Expanded membership to 124 members from 25 Alaskan communities, Washington, and the Yukon Territory, Canada.
- Created the Alaska Gold Rush Centennial Task Force newsletter.
- Established six committees that hold monthly, statewide teleconferences.
- Received an Alaska Humanities Forum grant to design a gold rush participant database.
- Developed a grant program to award \$50,000 for tourism attraction development, visitor information services, historic resources, and historic restoration projects.
- Represented on the Yukon Anniversaries Commission to ensure collaboration with Canada on gold rush tourism.
- Designated community representatives in Skagway, Nome, Fairbanks, Juneau, Anchorage, and Eagle.
- Requested Department of Public Safety to redesign the Alaska license plate with a gold rush theme.
- Submitted to Department of Transportation and Public Facilities recommendations for transportation enhancements for gold rush interpretive signage along Klondike Highway, Dyea Road, and Haines Highway, and plans to construct interpretation viewpoints along the Haines Highway and the Chilkat/Klehini River.
- Gave presentations at the annual meetings of the Alaska Historical Society, Museums Alaska, the Alaska Visitors Association, and the Alaska Miners Association.
- Briefed the Governor's Office prior to meeting with Yukon government leaders on gold rush commemorations.
- Communicated with California, Washington, Yukon Territory and British Columbia regarding cooperation on gold rush centennial tourism.
- Worked with National Trust for Historic Preservation representatives on gold rush heritage tourism.