



The Kanatak Trail

***History, Recreation, and Partnership
in
Becharof National Wildlife Refuge***

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Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife Refuges**

What: A 2,000 year old route between the Pacific Ocean and Becharof Lake.





Where: Southwestern Alaska

Yukon Delta
NWR

Togiak
NWR

King Salmon

Becharof NWR

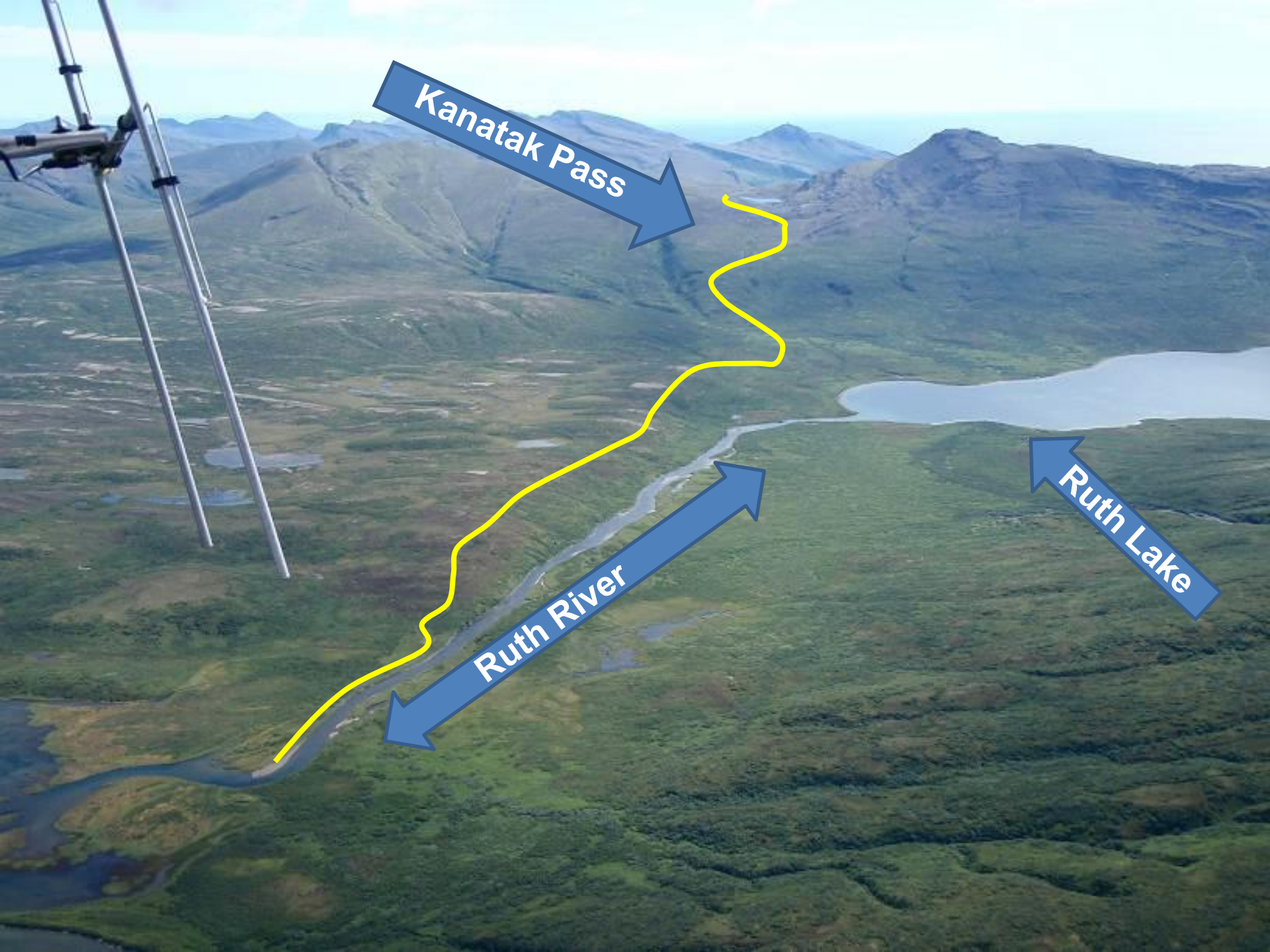
Kanatak

Kodiak
NWR

Izembek
NWR

Alaska Peninsula NWR

Alaska
Maritime
NWR



Kanatak Pass

Ruth River

Ruth Lake



Pacific Ocean

Summit Lake

Why:

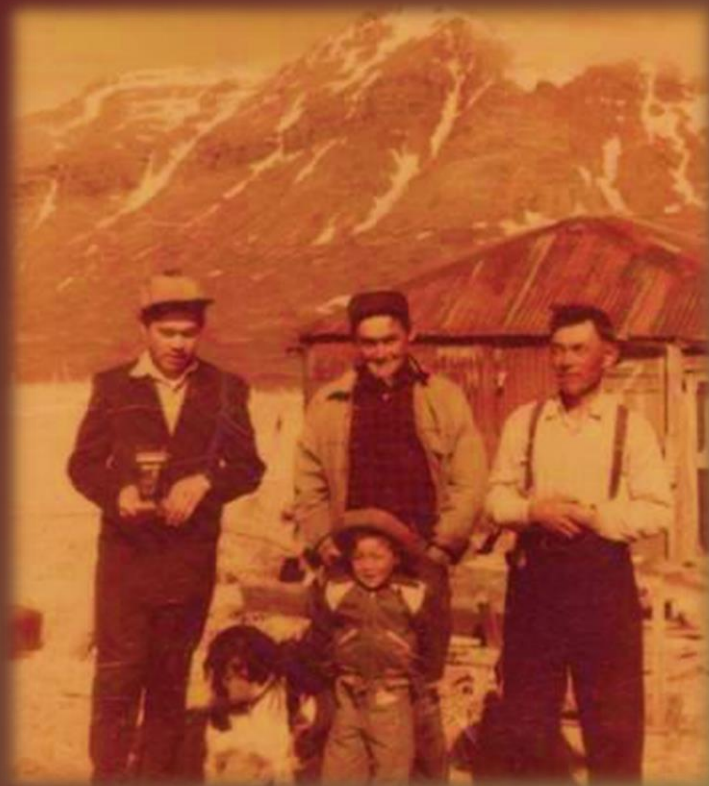
- **Historic importance and recognition**
- **Route disappearing under brush**
- **Elderly advisors**
- **Visitor opportunities**





Visitors to Kanatak circa 1930s

Photo B.1964.1.354 courtesy of Anchorage Museum





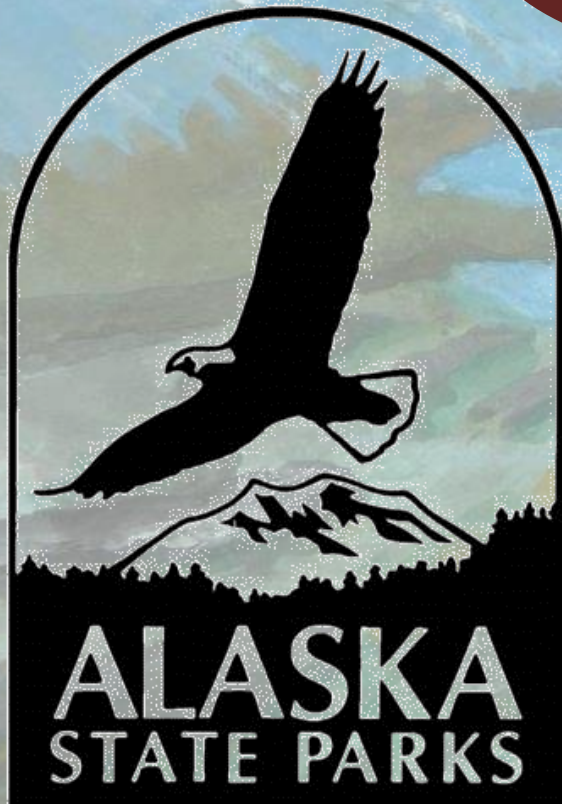




State Historic
Preservation Office

Who:

Elder Paul
Boskoffsky



Native Tribe
of Kanatak

Archeologist
Pat McClenahan



Lesson 1: frequent communication



Role: Funding

Best Practice: clear objectives and scope





State Historic
Preservation Office



Archeologist
Pat McClenahan

Best Practices:
compliance; trust

Roles: permitting
and recording;
advising



May 30-June 3, 2011

Lesson 2:
local
expertise is
critical

Role:
personal
knowledge
and interest

Elder Paul
Boskoffsky

Best Practice:
early participation



June 9 - July 3, 2011

Role: labor



Best Practice: clear objectives and scope

Lesson 3: accurate pre-project assessments are key

A hiker with a blue backpack is walking away from the camera on a steep, rocky trail. The trail leads down towards a large, calm lake. In the background, there are rugged mountains with some snow on their peaks under a cloudy sky. The foreground is a steep slope of grey and brown rocks.

Native Tribe
of Kanatak

Role: history, respect

**Best Practice: good
communication and
transparency**

**Lesson 4: relationship
building takes time**

Wildlife viewing



Who benefits?





Wildflower photography





Hunters,
anglers,
researchers,
hikers,
Kanatak
tribal
members,
guides,
locals...



We are seen as good partners by all the local and regional organizations. This project drives other partnerships.





May 2012

Successes:

- National recognition
- Positive local opinion
- Happy partners
- On-going results and relationships
- New research area
- Increased visitation and attention
- History preserved

