



**Cape Nome Mining District and Discovery Sites National Historic Landmark
Nome, Alaska**

The discovery of gold at Anvil Creek in 1898 was the first large gold placer strike to be made in Alaska proper. The next year, miners discovered gold in the Nome Beach sand. This discovery created a frenzy, since a miner could not stake a claim on a beach and sand did not require strenuous digging. Many crowded onto the shores of the Bering Sea seeking an easy, quick fortune. As a result, Nome became a booming gold rush town and the focus of Alaska's greatest gold rush, both in gold yield and the increase in population. Gold production reached its peak in 1906. In total, the boom era of 1899 to 1910 yielded over \$46 million in gold. The Cape Nome discovery sites represent the culminating episode in the national gold rush phenomenon (Illustration inspired by Eric Hegg photographs, University of Washington Libraries).