

Heritage/Cultural

Background

The Alaska Historic Preservation Act (AS 41.35.010) states, “It is the policy of the state to preserve and protect the historic, prehistoric, and archeological resources of Alaska from loss, desecration, and destruction so that the scientific, historic, and cultural heritage embodied in these resources may pass undiminished to future generations. To this end, the legislature finds and declares that the historic, prehistoric, and archeological resources of the state are properly the subject of concerted and coordinated efforts exercised on behalf of the general welfare of the public in order that these resources may be located, preserved, studied, exhibited, and evaluated.”

The Knik River valley has been used extensively by Native Alaskans and early European settlers. Artifacts related to Alaska Natives and early non-native settlers exist in the PUA.

Goal

- The Alaska Historic Preservation Act establishes the State’s basic goal: to preserve, protect, and interpret the historic, prehistoric, and archaeological resources of Alaska so that the scientific, historic, and cultural heritage values embodied in these resources may pass undiminished to future generations.

Management Guidelines

- Heritage Resources Identification. Identify and determine the significance of all heritage resources on state land through heritage resource surveys or inventories. These should be conducted by the Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) in areas this agency determines to have a high potential to contain important heritage sites and for which there is insufficient information to identify and protect these sites. This effort can be supplemented through:
 - Research on heritage resources on state land by qualified individuals and organizations; and
 - Cooperative efforts for planned surveys and inventories between state, federal, local, and/or Native groups.
- Heritage Resources Protection. Significant heritage resources within the PUA should be protected through the review of proposed projects by OHA as part of the process. If OHA determines that there may be an adverse effect on heritage resources, OHA will provide recommendations to minimize these effects.

- 1 • Recreation Facilities Adjacent to Heritage Resources. Recreation facilities that might
2 make heritage sites more susceptible to damage and disturbance because of increased
3 public use should not be placed adjacent to the heritage sites without mitigating
4 measures. Prior to new construction or modification of existing routes, or facilities,
5 the OHA should be contacted to determine if historical, archeological, or pre-historic
6 site(s) are reported. This data set is continually being updated and, should be
7 consulted on all proposed projects.

- 8 • Reporting of Heritage Sites. Staff will report the presence of new heritage sites to
9 OHA. OHA will add this information to the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey
10 (AHRS) database. The AHRS database is an inventory of all reported historic and
11 prehistoric sites within the State of Alaska.
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