

Cultural Resources

Goal

Cultural Resources. 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

A. Cultural Resources Identification. Identify and determine the significance of cultural resources on state land through the following actions:

1. Cultural resources surveys conducted by qualified personnel;
2. Research about cultural resources on state land by qualified individuals and organizations; and
3. Cooperative efforts for planned surveys and inventories between state, federal, and local or Native groups.

B. Cultural Resources Protection. Protect significant cultural resources through the following actions:

1. The Office of History and Archeology (OHA) within the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) reviews authorizations, construction projects or land uses for potential conflict with cultural resources. The office determines if there may be an adverse effect on heritage resources and makes recommendations to mitigate these effects.
2. Cooperating with concerned government agencies, Native corporations, statewide or local groups, and individuals to develop guidelines and recommendations on how to avoid or mitigate identified or potential conflict.
3. Require the establishment of buffers (50’ or greater) around significant cultural resources³ as part of the overall protection process when subdividing or otherwise using state lands.

C. Cultural Resource Surveys Prior to Land Offerings. If determined by OHA during an agency review of a proposed land disposal that a cultural survey may be required, further coordination between OHA and DMLW prior to the land disposal is warranted. Cultural

³ Cultural resources, for the purposes of this management guideline, do not include trails or routes.

1 surveys should be considered where OHA reported sites exist or where there is a high
2 potential for such sites to exist. The extent and type of the cultural survey within the area of
3 the proposed land disposal shall be determined by OHA in consultation with DMLW.
4 Detailed procedures exist governing when a survey is required and extent of the cultural
5 resource survey and are to be consulted by DNR adjudicators.
6

7 **D. Cultural Resources in Timber Management Areas.** The Office of History and
8 Archaeology (OHA) will review proposals for timber management activities through the
9 interagency review process for the Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales and Forest Land Use
10 Plans for individual sales and provide comments and information about areas of concern
11 within the review deadline. OHA may recommend archaeological surveys in timber sale
12 areas with a high potential for cultural resources. Areas of reported historic, archaeological,
13 or paleontological sites that retain historic integrity should not be disturbed. Timber
14 operations shall not occur within 300 feet of the boundaries of known sites unless the OHA
15 determines, in consultation with the Division of Forestry, that certain activities can occur
16 without significant adverse impacts to the cultural resource. The OHA shall assess the extent
17 and significance of the cultural resource and work with Division of Forestry to develop site-
18 specific mitigation measures to protect the cultural sites while allowing timber management.
19

20 **E. Cultural Resources Adjacent to Recreation Facilities.** Recreation facilities that might
21 subject cultural sites to vandalism because of the increased public use should not be placed
22 adjacent to the cultural sites.
23

24 **F. Heritage sites should be reported when found.** The Alaska Heritage Resources Survey
25 (AHRS) is an inventory of all reported historic and prehistoric sites within the State of
26 Alaska and is maintained by the Office of History and Archaeology (OHA). The AHRS is
27 used to protect cultural resource sites from unwanted destruction. By knowing of possible
28 cultural remains prior to construction, efforts can be made to avoid project delays and
29 prevent the destruction of cultural sites. While over 22,000 sites have been reported within
30 Alaska, this is probably only a very small percentage of the sites which may actually exist
31 but are as yet unreported. The AHRS is not complete or static, so heritage sites, when found,
32 should be reported to the OHA.
33

34 **G. Other Guidelines Affecting Cultural Resources.** Other guidelines will affect cultural
35 resources. See other sections of this chapter.
36