

# Heritage Resources

## Goal

**Heritage 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. Heritage Resources Identification.** Identify and determine the significance of all heritage resources on state land through the following actions:

1. Heritage resources surveys conducted by Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation;
2. Research on heritage resources on state land by qualified individuals and organizations; and
3. Cooperative efforts for planned surveys and inventories between state, federal, local, and/or Native groups.

**B. Heritage Resources Protection.** Protect significant heritage resources through the following actions:

1. As part of the agency review process, the Office of History and Archaeology within DPOR reviews authorizations for potential conflict with heritage resources. The office determines if there may be an adverse effect on heritage resources and makes recommendations to mitigate these effects. Heritage resource surveys or inventories should be conducted in areas the Office of History and Archaeology determines have a high potential to contain important heritage sites and for which information is inadequate to identify and protect these sites.
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.

**C. Heritage Resource Surveys Prior to Land Offerings.** Heritage resource surveys or inventories should be conducted prior to the design of land offerings in areas the state Office of History and Archaeology determines have high potential to contain important heritage sites and for which information is inadequate to identify and protect these sites.

**D. Heritage Resources in Timber Management Areas.** The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) will review proposals for timber

management activities through the interagency review processes for the Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales and Forest Land Use Plans for individual sales. Areas of known historic, archaeological, or paleontological sites should not be disturbed. Timber operations shall not occur within 300 feet from the boundaries of known sites unless the OHA determines, in consultation with the Division of Forestry, that certain activities can occur without significantly impacting the heritage resource. The OHA shall, within the limits of staffing and funding, assess the extent and significance of the heritage resource and work with Division of Forestry to develop site-specific mitigation measures to protect the heritage sites while allowing timber management.

- E. Heritage Resources Adjacent to Recreation Facilities.** Recreation facilities that might subject heritage sites to vandalism because of the increased public use should not be placed adjacent to the heritage sites.
  
- F. Heritage Sites Should be Reported to the Office of History and Archaeology When Found.** The Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) will add information to the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS), an inventory of all reported historic and prehistoric sites within the State of Alaska. The AHRS is used to protect heritage resource sites from unwanted destruction. By knowing about possible heritage remains prior to construction, efforts can be made to avoid project delays and prevent unnecessary destruction of heritage sites. While over 22,000 sites have been reported within Alaska, this is probably only a very small percentage of the sites that may actually exist but are as yet unreported. The AHRS is not complete or static, so heritage sites, when found, should be reported to the OHA.
  
- G. Other Guidelines Affecting Heritage Resources.** Other guidelines may affect the protection and management of heritage resources. Sections in this chapter that should also be referred to include but are not limited to:

- Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Harvest
- Forestry
- Recreation and Tourism
- Stream Corridors, Shorelands and Instream Flow
- Trails and Public Access