

Heritage Resources

A. GOALS

1. Identify and protect significant heritage resources.
2. Provide educational and interpretive information regarding heritage resources.

B. MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The known cultural resources in the Hatcher Pass area tend to be associated with mining development and support industries. State law requires that these cultural resources be taken into account when any activity may have an impact on them, and mandates that the Department of Natural Resources shall "investigate reported historic, prehistoric or archaeological resources and appraise them for any future excavation, preservation and interpretation" (AS 44.37.040).

C. GUIDELINES

1. RESOURCE SURVEY

In order to adequately protect sites, the department needs to know what sites are there. The first step is a comprehensive, on-the-ground survey for cultural resources. The areas to be surveyed can be identified through a literature search as well as through interviews with individuals knowledgeable about the area's mining history. Those sites which have structures and artifacts remaining on the ground can then be located, identified and assessed for their relative historical importance. This type of information can form the basis of a phased program for interpreting the area. DNR will conduct such research, surveys and assessments with the assistance of knowledgeable and/or interested volunteers as funding is available.

2. INTERPRETATION

Any program for the interpretation of historic sites in the Hatcher Pass region needs to take into account protection of the site. A building which could be subjected to vandalism should not have attention drawn to it without adequate protective measures being taken.

Options for Interpretation. Several avenues are open for the interpretation of Hatcher Pass sites:

- a. Brochure. An early option is the development of a brochure that would be available to individuals driving the road that would locate and identify significant features and events. The research and production of such a brochure could take advantage of volunteer and intern labor to minimize its cost to the state.
 - b. Signs. A second option for interpretation is the location of fixed bulletin boards or signs at significant locations. This allows anyone driving the road to have access to the information without first acquiring a brochure. The signs are more expensive to produce and are subject to vandalism and weather.
 - c. Visitor Centers. A third option is to provide interpretive information in local and regional visitor centers that will orient the individual to the significance of Hatcher Pass.
 - d. Site Rehabilitation. This option may merit consideration where structures are still in reasonably restorable condition, such as the Thorpe Mine mill structure. Another possibility is reconstruction to historical standards of structures which no longer exist. Such has been proposed by a private sector entrepreneur for the Fishhook Inn.
3. NEW DISCOVERIES

At any time when a cultural or historical resource is located through an administrative action, or by a member of the public, the office of History and Archaeology, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation will be notified and the site will be protected until an evaluation of the resource values can take place.

4. NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTERS

Trails, structures and other heritage resources determined by the state Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation to be significant and containing potential for qualifying on the National Register of Historic Places should be recommended for placement on the Register, as funding is available.