

# Recording for Longevity Effective Reporting

## State Historic Preservation Office



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# Outline

- Documentation Styles
- Digital Data Impact
- Effective Reporting



# Documentation Styles

- Old School
  - Journal or diary
  - Sketch maps and drawings
  - Early maps and compass
- Areas for Improvement
  - High variability between researchers
  - Documented what was of interest
  - Inconsistent content, may not be backed by evidence



# Documentation Styles

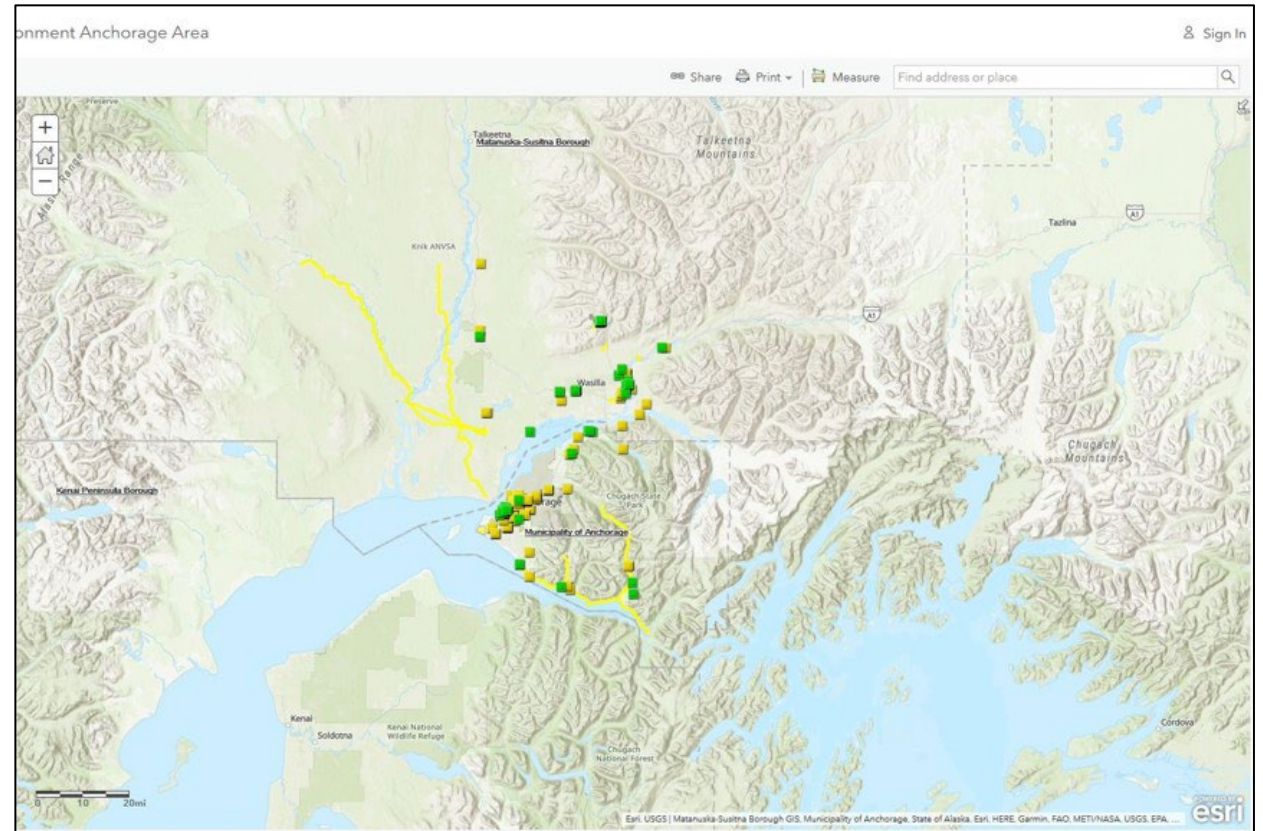
- Early Modern
  - Field notes
  - Sketch maps and photos
  - Updated USGS maps and compass
- Characteristics
  - Notes had consistent components
  - Photos reduced memory errors
- Areas for Improvement
  - Time intensive



William Hanable, First AK SHPO (1973)

# Documentation Styles

- Digital Transition
  - Standardized/electronic forms
  - Digital photos
  - GPS/Mapping software
- Characteristics
  - Standardized
  - Exact mapping
- Areas for Improvement
  - Form focus data collection



Built environment, 2018 earthquake response

# Digital Impact

- Data explosion
  - Digital photos
  - Electronic data
- Digital reports
  - No printing cost
  - Easily shared
  - All the data



# Digital Reports

- Too much of a good thing?
  - Hard to control access to sensitive data or track where it came from
  - Data overwhelm
  - Reduced focus on conveying research



# Report Refocus

- Why
  - Effective vs. Efficient
  - Public benefit
- Address data gaps in past reports
  - Uncertain methods
  - Uncertain where investigations happened
- Message Delivery
  - Why does this matter?



# The Good, the Bad, and the Long

## Longer does not mean better.

- What was the plan
- Where did we go
- What was accomplished
- What did we learn from it



# Effective Reporting

## Match Audience

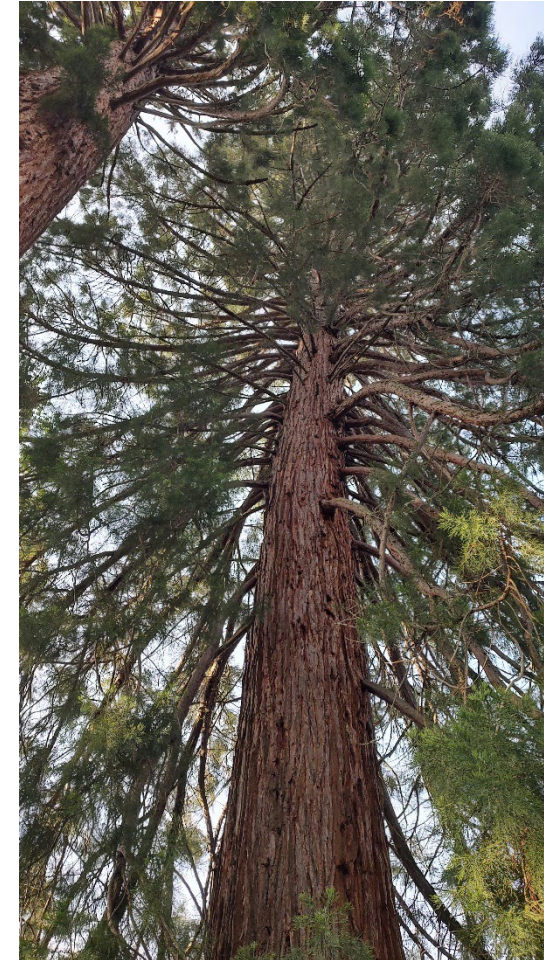
- Efficient to have one report for everyone but...
- Redact as needed
- Jargon and length blur message for consulting parties



# Effective Reporting

## Expand from Start

- More than a description of finds
- Analysis and synthesis
- Improve GIS models
- Multi-year projects



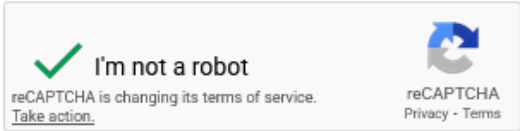
# Effective Reporting

## Manage Content

- Plan for redaction
  - Create summaries or consolidate
- Copy-paste and AI
- Check citations
- Appendices
  - Research design or permit
  - Sensitive resource description/analysis

### Confirm Humanity

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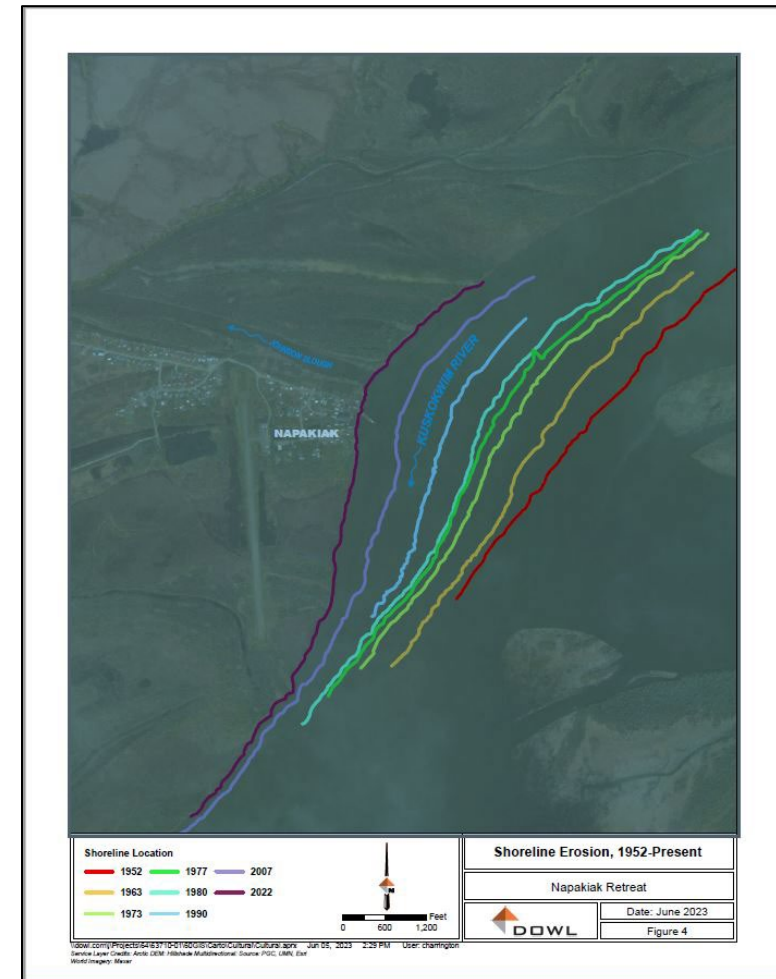
reCAPTCHA  
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# Effective Reporting

## Photos and Maps

- Placement
  - Imbed photos and maps that aid narrative
  - Appendices for all digital photos and full map sets
- Survey area
  - More than the area of potential effect (APE)
  - Survey tracks or survey coverage



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# Summary

**Effective can be efficient  
- with planning.**

## Effective Reports

- Align with audience
  - Confirm with client and SHPO
- Conveys information well
  - Concise and clear
  - Content has a purpose
- Longest shelf life



# Questions?



# Thank you



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