

CULTURAL RESOURCES

In accordance with the Alaska Historic Preservation Act of 1971 (AS 41.35) 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.

Examples of cultural resource sites that could be encountered include (but are not limited to): historical cabin remains (collapsed, standing, or foundations); historic trails; adits; dredges or other mining equipment; cultural depressions or pits; graves or cemeteries; prehistoric tools or artifacts; and paleontological (fossilized) remains.

GOALS

1. Preserve and protect cultural resources within HSRMA consistent with AS 41.35.
2. Cultivate relationships and systems of information sharing with local interest groups that foster respectful exchange and protection of information related to cultural resources to the extent consistent with state law.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

1. Cultural Resource Identification

DNR identifies and determines the significance of cultural resources in the Forest through:

- A. Cultural resources surveys conducted by qualified DNR personnel or pre-qualified and agency approved professional individuals and organizations.
- B. Encouragement of research on cultural resources within the Forest by qualified individuals and organizations.
- C. Cooperative efforts between state, federal, and Alaska Native groups for planned surveys and inventories.
- D. Investing in relationships with local interest groups, including governments of Federally recognized Tribes, to continue strategy development for sharing of cultural resource information in a manner that acknowledges the sensitivity of such information.

2. Cultural Resource Protection

Protect cultural resources through the following actions:

- A. Review proposed management activities for potential conflicts with cultural resources values.
- B. Cooperate with agencies, Alaska Native organizations, statewide or local groups, and individuals to develop guidelines and recommendations on how to avoid or mitigate identified or potential impacts to resources.
- C. Information related to cultural resources will be stored in the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS), a data repository maintained by the ANDR Office of History and Archaeology. Access to AHRS is restricted by state law to prevent unauthorized use and to protect identified cultural resources from unwarranted destruction.

3. Cultural Resources in Timber Management Areas

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) 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 decision documents, Best Interest Findings 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 150 feet of known sites unless the OHA determines, in consultation with the DFFP, that certain activities can occur without significantly impacting the cultural resource. The OHA will, within the limits of staffing and funding, assess the extent and significance of the cultural resource and work with the DFFP to develop site-specific avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures to balance heritage preservation needs with timber management.

4. Report Cultural Sites When Found

The Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) is an inventory of all reported historic and prehistoric sites within the State of Alaska and is maintained by the OHA. The AHRS is used to protect cultural resource sites from destruction. By knowing of possible cultural resources prior to the start of a project, efforts can be made to avoid project delays and prevent unnecessary destruction of cultural sites. The AHRS is not complete or static, so cultural sites, when found, should be reported to OHA.

5. Other Guidelines Affecting Cultural Resources

Other guidelines in this chapter may affect the management of cultural resources. For details of those guidelines, see the following sections of this chapter:

- Forest Timber Resources
- Transportation