



Cultural Resource Division Projects, FY 2009

Administrative History

PMIS 46819

CESU Task Order Number TA J9845070031

Cooperative Agreement Number H9922070003

Ted Catton, of Environmental History Workshop, continues to work on Kenai Fjords' Administrative History. KEFJ staff, ARO staff, and interested parties have reviewed and commented on two drafts to date. In addition to presenting a detailed record of the park's establishment and operation, this lengthy document includes personnel rosters, visitation statistics and a list of key management documents. Expected completion date is December of 2009.

Scope of Collection Statement

PMIS 145935

Allen Bohnert visited Kenai Fjords in June to gather information to update the park's *Scope of Collections Statement*. This will be the first update since 1988 and the document will address object acquisition, deaccession, use of collections, restrictions and management actions. This much needed document is scheduled to be finished by the end of 2009.

Museum Emergency Operations Plan

PMIS 147176

As part of a region wide project, Stephanie Stephens, Alaska Regional Curator, contracted with Donald Cumberland, of DBA Cumberland Curatorial, to write a *Museum Emergency Operations Plan* for KEFJ. Donald spent the week of August 3rd in Seward compiling information and meeting with park staff and representatives from the City of Seward. This required document for museum collections was completed in September. It corrects deficiency E8 on the Automated Checklist Program (ACP).

Historic Archeology Research and Recording

PMIS 145948 (unfunded; Park Base funds used)

Becky Saleeby, Logan Hovis and KEFJ staff made visits to five historic archeological sites the week of June 15th. The team visited three mine sites where adits are scheduled for closure in 2010. The sites were examined for all reported adits and raises. Adits were measured and photographed.

The team also recorded the remains of Robert Hatcher's cabin in Nuka Bay and examined the tree stumps surrounding the cabin site in a 150 meter radius. Hovis examined a tidewater adit associated with the cabin site which appears to have been excavated with hand tools and is filled with 75cm of standing water. On the advice of Saleeby, the AHRS record for the site was enlarged to include Hatcher's adit. This site is a contributing feature to the Nuka Bay Historic Mining District Cultural Landscape which is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.



Logan Hovis measuring the adit portal at Rosness Larson Mine site, 2009.

The Tetreau Private Reserve Site is located just to the west of the two steams and on the lowest bench from the water's edge. Site was examined with a metal detector and positive hits were identified within a 30' radius of the hearth feature and extended down a path to the water's edge. A 50 x 100 cm test pit was excavated in front of a U shaped, concrete block hearth to a depth of about 10 inches Metal fragments, barrel straps,

nails, wood and charcoal were present. The blocks on the east side of the hearth were cleared of moss and the bricks were measured. At the northeast corner of the hearth, a pipe was present and extended north toward the trees. In the same location a hollow spot was identified under the moss and topsoil. A buried wooden barrel was present in the hollow.



Becky Saleeby measuring a hearth site in Aialik Bay, 2009.

Site Condition Assessments for ASMIS

Condition assessments were performed at six archeological sites and all associated data was entered into ASMIS. Records for three additional sites were created in ASMIS and plans are being discussed to visit these sites during the 2010 field season.

Section 106 Compliance

Compliance research and documentation was performed for the installation of a tent pad at Holgate Cabin in Holgate Arm. Research is currently being conducted in preparation for adit closures in Nuka Bay in 2010.

Archeological Reconnaissance

In June Becky Saleeby, Shannon Kovac, Logan Hovis, Fritz Klasner and Justin Craver performed a pedestrian survey along the trail easement between the public use cabin on McCarty Fjord and Delight Lake.

McCarty Fjord was glaciated until the early 1900s and moraines are visible through the undergrowth along the trail. Though it is possible the area was populated in the past, glacial retreats and advances would have destroyed evidence of such human use. No cultural resources were encountered on the trail that would be impacted by brushing.

Shannon Kovac and Mark Luttrell (volunteer) performed pedestrian surveys along approximately five miles of beach along Thunder Bay, Taroka Arm and Porcupine Cove. These beaches are subject to high surf and consequently receive heavy amounts of debris. These surveys will assist staff with plans for future beach cleanups.



Delight Trail in McCarty Fjord, 2009

Cultural Resource Orientation Programs

Resource Management staff provided cultural resource information to the park's interpretive rangers during their annual Spring training. Topics covered coastal archeological sites, compliance work, the park's museum and archive collection, and an update on scheduled 2009 projects. Also covered was an overview the Nuka Bay Mining District where operations began in the early 1900s at approximately twelve locations. Related news articles from the Seward's first newspaper, the *Seward Gateway*, were read lending a turn of the century perspective to the presentation.

Shannon Kovac also provided cultural resource orientation for park staff and volunteers on board the MV Norseman during weekend coastal cleanups.



Bags of debris picked up in Thunder Bay during the coastal cleanup, 2009

Volunteers in the Park

Resurrection Bay Conservation Alliance partnered with KEFJ to perform coastal cleanups in July and August. Mark Luttrell logged 54 hours while volunteering as an onsite archeologist during the weekend cleanups. Approximately 18,960 lbs of fishing related gear and household/recreation debris were collected from over six miles of beach along Porcupine Cove, Bulldog Cove, Fox Island Spit, Thunder Bay, Taroka Arm and Driftwood Bay.

Student Research

Heather Ralston, a graduate student at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, is processing a collection made from a privy pit on Block 10, Lot 25 (Shea lot) of the original Seward Town site. Named "Number 1 & Number 2" by Susan Bender, this collection promises to shed some light on the early days of Seward.

Museum Management-Backlog Cataloging

In August Stephanie Stephens (ARO), Margaret Anderson (ARO), Blair Davenport (DEVA) and Shannon Kovac spent three days inventorying and packing approximately 10,000 archeological objects collected during fieldwork done by Aron Crowell in Kenai Fjords. Once packed, the collections were moved from the Arctic Studies Center to the Alaska Region Curatorial Center in Anchorage. Margaret Anderson will enter the catalog records into ANCS+ with funding provided by Ocean Alaska Science and Learning Center.

Shannon Kovac created 985 natural history catalog records and 19 archeology catalog records which were entered into ANCS+ using CRPP Museum Collection Backlog Cataloging funds.

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