



Archeological Site Condition Assessments, 2008

Participants:

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The National Park Service is the steward for many cultural resources that are important to our nation. Locally, Kenai Fjords is charged with the protection and preservation of numerous historic and archeological sites within the park boundaries. In 2006 and 2007 the park initiated a program to systematically visit each site, record and evaluate its condition, and make recommendations for monitoring and protection.

Research in the fjords has produced evidence of pre-contact and historic human use. Scatterings of stone tools in intertidal zones, middens, culturally modified trees and settlements of well-defined house depressions and pits are examples of Pre-contact sites. Trails, cabin ruins and equipment associated with early 20th century mining are evidence of historic use.



Kovac, Haskins and Iannelli fill out condition assessment forms, 2008.

On June 13, 2008 three archeological sites in Aialik Bay were visited. The purpose was two fold. One, to perform condition assessments of the sites and two, to acquaint park Law Enforcement Rangers with the archeological sites they would be monitoring for unintentional damage by campers or wildlife, or unauthorized digging.

The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 requires Federal land managers treat specific site information as confidential. For this reason precise locations have been excluded from the following entries.



KEFJ law enforcement rangers at Early Contact Site, 2008.

Early Contact Site

Kovac familiarized the Law Enforcement staff with the site located in and surrounding a small growth of spruce trees. The team discussed the site features. In 2007 it was noted that surface vegetation had been scratched off in numerous spots, most

likely the result of bear activity. Again in 2008, this disturbance was observed and was more widespread. Surface disturbance and shallow holes had exposed fire-cracked rock. Continued annual disturbance may threaten site features. Site condition: Fair



Evidence of bear activity in the vicinity of the Historic Site, 2008.

Historic Site

The team located the historic site in a large field of beach rye. Areas of previous archeological testing by Dr. Aron Crowell and his crew remain evident. Upturned rocks and disturbed surface materials were evidence of a bear digging in the area. Continued annual disturbance may threaten site features. No unauthorized disturbance was noted. Site condition: Fair

Historic Cabin Site

Kovac familiarized the rangers with the site, locating features and previously tested areas. It was noted two, one meter square, side by side units had not been completely refilled at the completion of a previous study. The team discussed the importance of evaluating and documenting unfilled excavations in order to determine if unauthorized digging had occurred. No unauthorized disturbance was noted in 2008. Site condition: Good



Evidence of beach building can be seen in the vicinity of the Midden Site, 2008.

On June 22, 2008 two archeological site assessments were performed.

Midden Site

In 2007, a site condition assessment was performed on what was thought to be the Midden Site. After consulting with Mark

Luttrell, an archeologist who had previously worked at the site, it was determined that the site thought to be the Midden Site was in fact a component of the Historic Site.

An investigation of the surrounding area revealed no evidence of the midden. Beach building was noted in the area. Recommend document search and revisiting in 2009.
Site condition: Not relocated-Unknown.



An eastern view of the tidal pond, 2008.

Pond Site

The entire edge of the tidal pond was examined and no evidence of a cultural site was found. No site disturbance was noted other than rise and fall of the water level due to cyclic tidal action. Recommend a document search and revisiting in 2009. Site condition: Not relocated-Unknown.

Conclusion:

- Condition of one site determined to be good.
- Condition of two sites determined to be fair.
- Condition of two sites unknown.
- Law Enforcement will monitor sites that may be affected by campers.
- Cultural Resource Specialist will annually provide Law Enforcement with list of sites that need to be visited for condition assessments.
- Recommend annual meeting between Resources Management and Law Enforcement to discuss concerns and observations regarding sites.
- Recommend sending English Bay & Chugach Alaska Corporation copies of site reports with photo documentation.
- Site records for all visited sites have been updated in the Archeological Sites Management Information System (ASMIS)

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8/29/08