



**Kenai Fjords National Park
McArthur Pass RAWS Installation
Archeological Site Clearance, June 18, 2008
Submitted by Shannon Kovac**

On 6/18/2008 Bruce Giffen and Chuck Lindsay of the Southwest Alaska Network (SWAN), and Shannon Kovac, Kenai Fjords National Park cultural resource specialist, flew into the McArthur Pass for the installation of the Kenai Fjords National Park's Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS). In order to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, archeological site clearance was conducted by Kovac while the SWAN team prepared equipment and supplies for the installation.

Project description: RAWS is a tri-leg tower with a footprint of approximately 12'. It houses a temperature, relative humidity, solar radiation, wind speed and direction, and snow depth sensors, a GPS antenna and a GOES satellite transmission antenna. A steel equipment enclosure is located near the base of the structure and houses two sealed batteries and the electronic equipment. A 20' tall mast is mounted to the north leg of the tower. All parts were delivered to the site via helicopter and assembled on site. The tower feet were set on mineral soil. Three expansion bolts were placed in granitic bedrock. Climbing anchors attached to the bolts were then connected to steel cables and attached to the weather station.

Description of area surveyed: The McArthur Pass site is an undeveloped, coastal, ridge top site at an elevation of 1300'. Bedrock is exposed and a mat of moss, lichen, grass and ericaceous plants form low tundra on and around the exposed bedrock. The site is located near the tree-line of a hemlock/spruce forest.

Survey Procedure: A pedestrian survey of the ridge top was performed. Encompassing an area of approximately 50m x 25m, the project area was examined for indications of cultural features. The bases and crowns of large rock formations were examined, as were the edges of a small pond formed in the rock. No subsurface shovel tests were excavated, but top soil was examined when the tower legs were anchored.

Description of Cultural Resources Located: No cultural resources were located as a result of the survey.

Effect of the Project on Resources: It is not anticipated that the project will have an adverse effect on any archeological resources.

7/2/08: After Kovac left installation site on 6/18/08, Giffen moved rocks to weigh down feet of RAWS. Rocks were gathered inside the survey site and within a hundred foot circumference of the station.



Ridge at McArthur Pass RAWS installation site.
Note the tower base in the background. 6/17/08



Pond in relation to RAWS installation site. 6/17/08



RAWS tower base in place. Note the footprint. 6/17/08



McArthur Pass RAWS with antenna in place. 6-18-08



Expansion bolts anchored into bedrock. 7-02-08



Note the rocks anchoring the feet of the RAWS. 7-2-08