



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, ALASKA
P.O. BOX 6898
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF RICHARDSON, ALASKA 99506-0898

Environmental Resources Section

Ms. Judith Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Office of History and Archaeology
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, AK 99501-3565

Dear Ms. Bittner:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District (Corps), in partnership with the Denali Commission, notified your office in a March 17, 2011, letter of an undertaking to install barge mooring points in Akiachak, Goodnews Bay, Kongiginak, Upper and Lower Kalskag, Napaskiak, and Crooked Creek. We concluded that there would be no effect to historic properties at Akiachak and Kongiginak, and proposed pre-construction archaeological surveys at Goodnews Bay, Upper and Lower Kalskag, Crooked Creek, and Napaskiak. Your office concurred with these assessments of effect in an April 11, 2011, letter. The purpose of this letter is to update your office on these undertakings and provide the archaeological survey results.

Goodnews Bay

On August 25, 2011, Corps archaeologist Aaron Wilson examined the area of potential effect at Goodnews Bay, Alaska (figure 1; Section 21, T12S, R73W, USGS Quad Goodnews Bay A-7). The results of his survey are presented below.

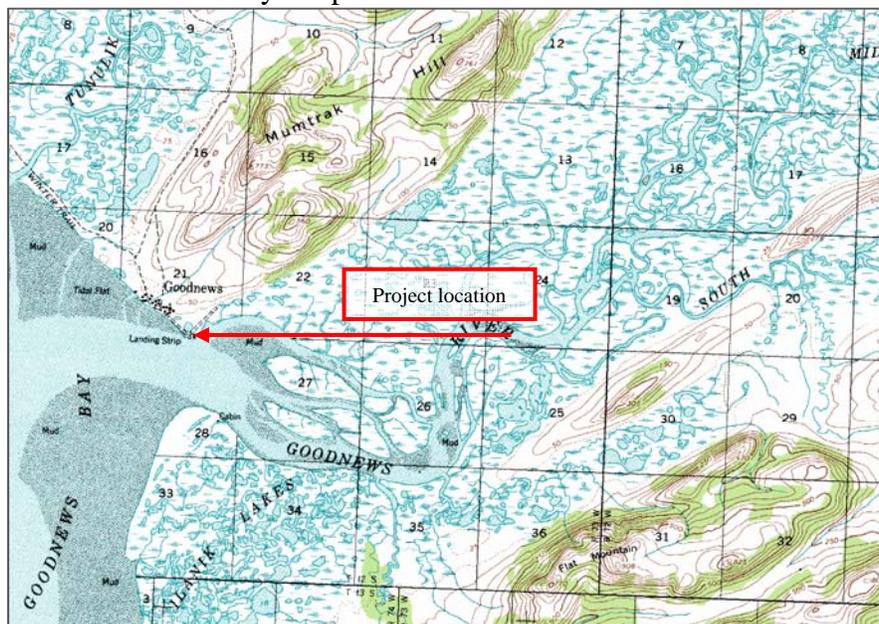


Figure 1. Proposed project location, Goodnews Bay (Section 21, T12S, R73W, USGS Quad Goodnews Bay A-7)

Project Description

Two mooring points will be placed along the northwest shore of Goodnews Bay and west of the mouth of the Goodnews River. The moorings are 12-inch-diameter steel piles driven to a depth of approximately 30 feet. The area of potential effect and Wilson's archaeological survey area are illustrated in figure 2.



Figure 2. Goodnews Bay. Approximate archaeological survey (blue) and area of potential effect (yellow dots).

Known Cultural Resources in Area of Potential Effect

One site (GDN-00016; Mumtrak, Mumtrahamute, or Mamteraq) has been reported along the northwest bank of the Goodnews River and is east of the proposed project. This site was examined by Holmes in 1997 and was reported to consist primarily of scattered precontact and historic period artifacts, although he stated it lacked integrity as an archaeological site (AHRS accessed Sept 2011).

2011 Survey Methods and Results

The ground surface, river bank, and erosional surfaces were inspected for exposed cultural material and surface features. Wilson (2011:2) discussed possible concerns about effects of the proposed project on the cultural resources with Carl Evon, Land Planner with the ANCSA village corporation Kuitsarak, Incorporated. Mr. Evon stated that provided the moorings were placed west of the point, there would be no impact to GDN-00016. Wilson noted that the "Old Village Site" (GDN-00016) was east of the point, appeared to be covered with several meters of imported gravel, and the area was being used to store shipping containers. He observed no artifacts or cultural features there. The proposed mooring site was along the former east-west runway and composed of several meters of well-compacted fill (figure 3). No cultural material or features were noted in the area of potential effect.



Figure 3. Goodnews Bay, area of potential effect, looking east.

Upper and Lower Kalskag

On July 27 and 28, 2011, Corps archaeologist Kelly Eldridge examined the area of potential effect at Lower Kalskag (figure 4; Section 2, T16N, R62W, USGS Quad Russian Mission C-4) and Upper Kalskag (figure 4; Section 27, T17N, R61W, USGS Quad Russian Mission C-4). The results of her survey is summarized below. A detailed report is enclosed (Enclosure A).

Project Description

Two mooring points will be driven at the existing barge landing at Lower Kalskag where the bank of the Kuskokwim River has a gentle slope and is composed primarily of silt and sand. In Upper Kalskag, two mooring points will be placed at the existing barge landing and two at the existing fuel barge landing area.

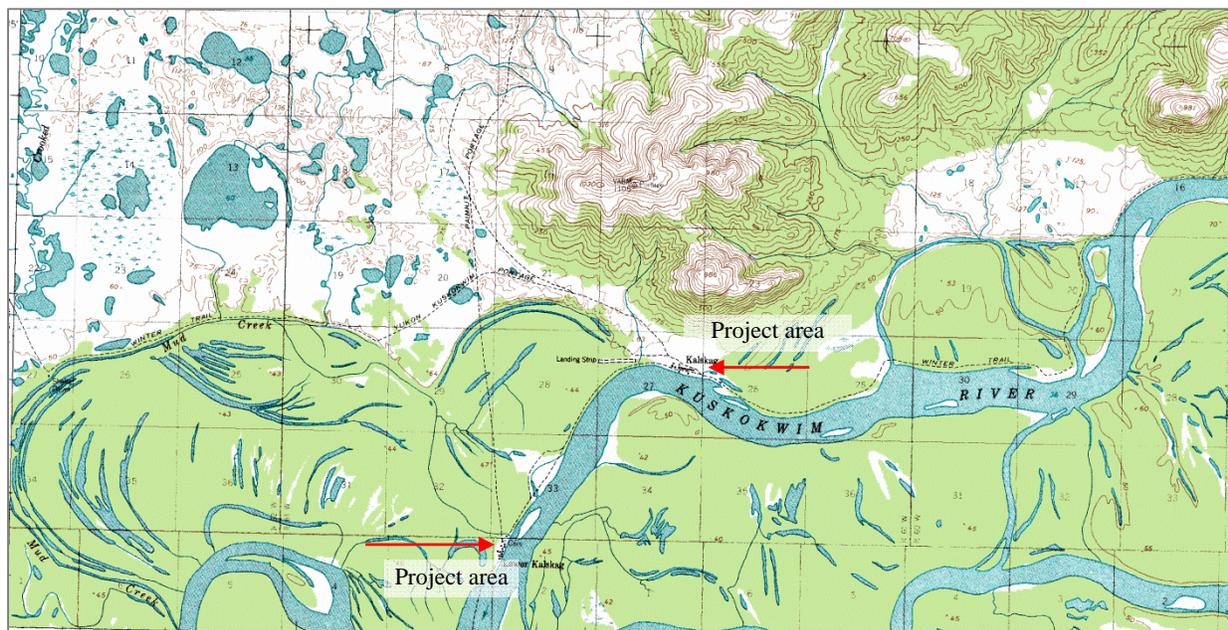


Figure 4. Proposed project area, Upper Kalskag (Section 27, T17N, R61W, USGS Quad Russian Mission C-4) and Lower Kalskag (Section 2, T16N, R62W, USGS Quad Russian Mission C-4).

Known Cultural Resources in Area of Potential Effect

Two cultural properties are known in Lower Kalskag. RUS-00012 (Lower Kalskag) includes an historic period site encompassing most of the community (Oswalt 1980), including St. Seraphim Russian Orthodox Chapel (RUS-00017), which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The area of potential effect in Lower Kalskag is adjacent to the boundaries of RUS-00012 (figure 5).

There is one known archaeological site in Upper Kalskag (RUS-00005; New Kalskag, or Kaltshak). The site encompasses most of the modern town site and is also an historic period site (Oswalt 1980). The boundaries of RUS-00005 are adjacent to the area of potential effect in Upper Kalskag (figures 6 to 8).

2011 Survey Methods and Results

In Lower Kalskag, the ground surface, river bank, and erosional surfaces around the mooring location and fuel header set back areas were examined for exposed cultural material and surface features. Two shovel test pits were placed at the potential mooring points. The first test was negative for cultural material. This test was within view of the cemetery. The second test yielded modern cultural material such as molded plastic and leather fragments, and an unidentified piece of metal. This test was near an occupied circa 1960's house and associated surface litter surrounding it. The boundaries of the cemetery were not identified, although through consultation, the community has directed placement of the moorings to avoid impacts to this resource.

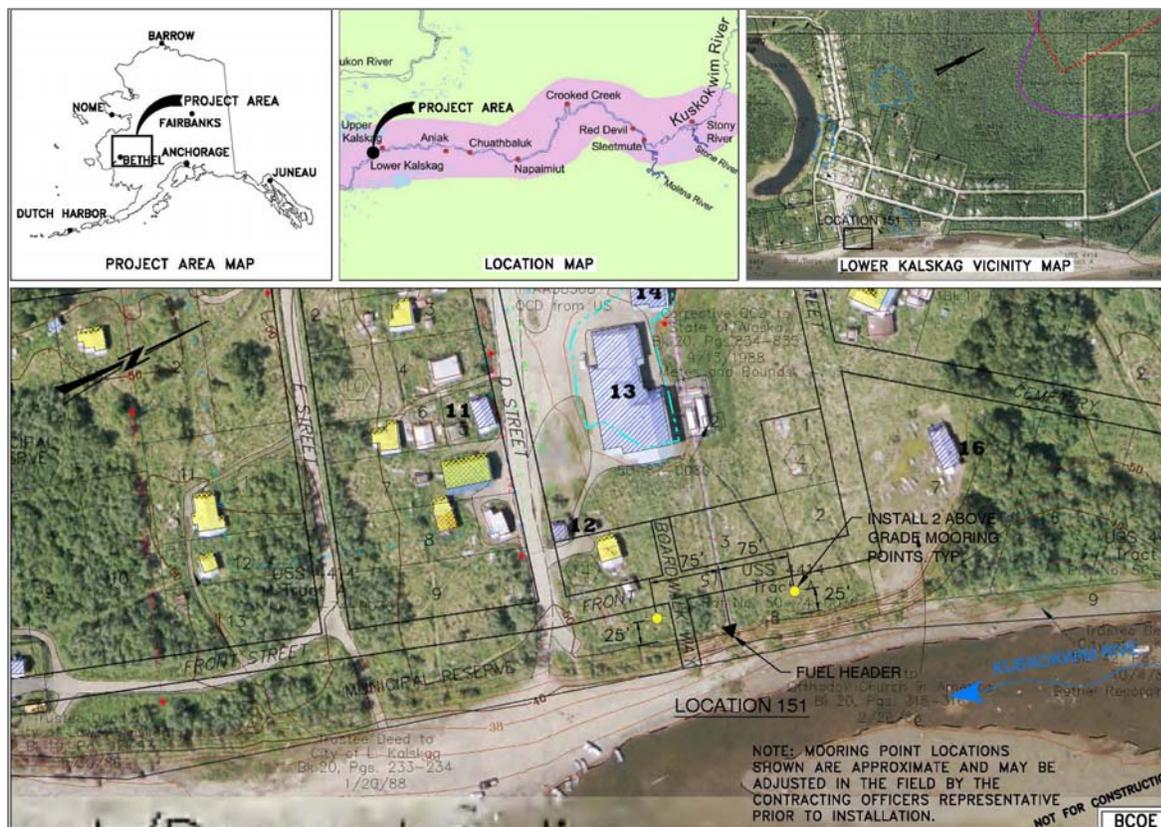


Figure 5. Lower Kalskag area of potential effect (yellow points).

In Upper Kalskag, the ground surface, river bank, and erosional surfaces around the mooring location and loading ramp were examined for exposed cultural material and surface features. Eldridge noted a large gravel pad and ramp maintained by Knik Construction Company was bracketed by 3-meter-high actively eroding banks. Two shovel test pits were placed along the top of the bank southwest of the ramp near one of the potential mooring points. Both tests were negative for cultural material. The top of the bank to the northeast of the ramp was not tested because the area was covered in a thick deposit of gravel and rocky fill. No cultural material was observed on the ground surface or eroding bank. Refer to figures 7 and 8.

In the vicinity of the fuel header (figure 6), there was a gravel pad on the bank overlooking the ramp. Eldridge attempted to place two shovel tests near the proposed mooring points southwest and northeast of the fuel header, but the gravel overburden and dense deadfall of trees inhibited her. She recommends that a monitor should be present if the brush and deadfall are cleared for construction access. No cultural material was noted eroding from the bank for 100 meters northeast of the fuel header.

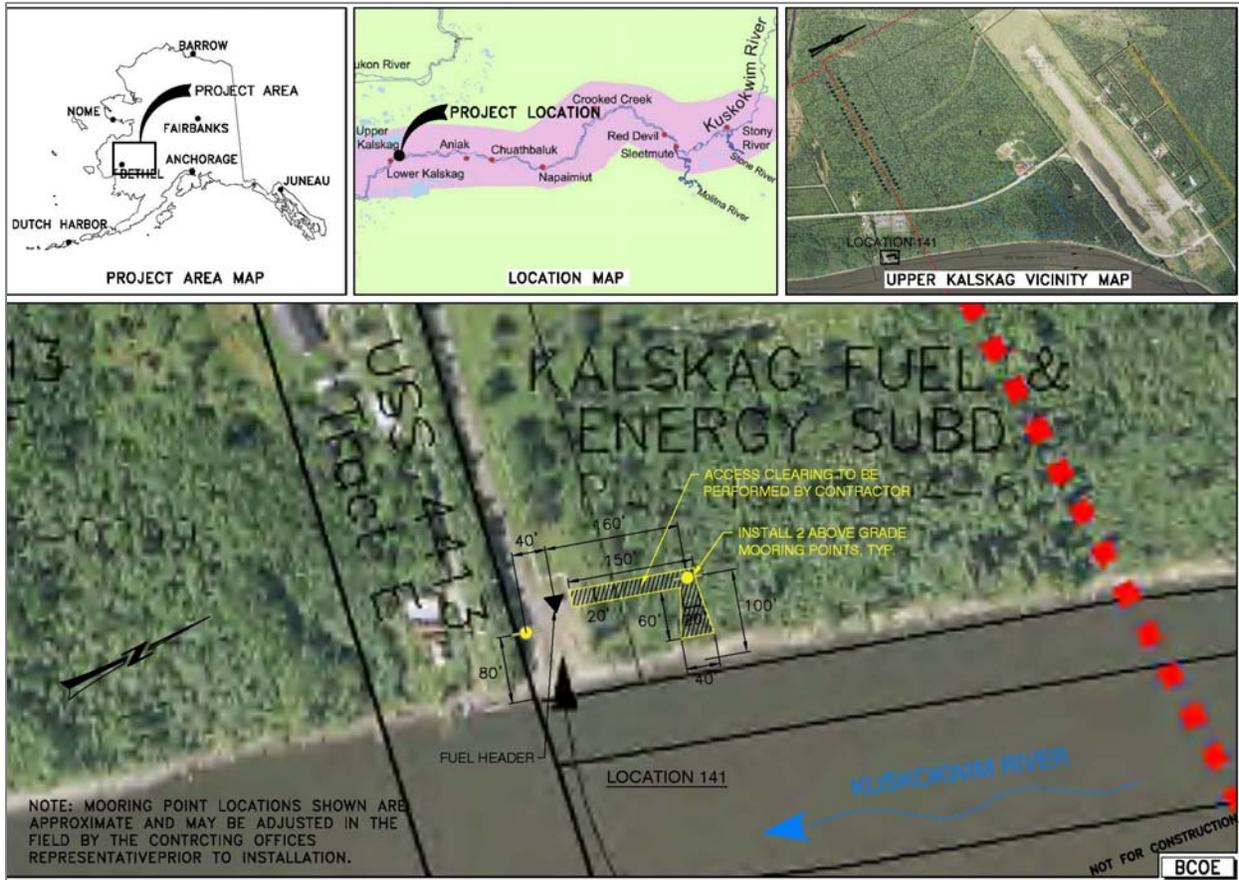


Figure 6. Upper Kalskag area of potential effect (yellow points).

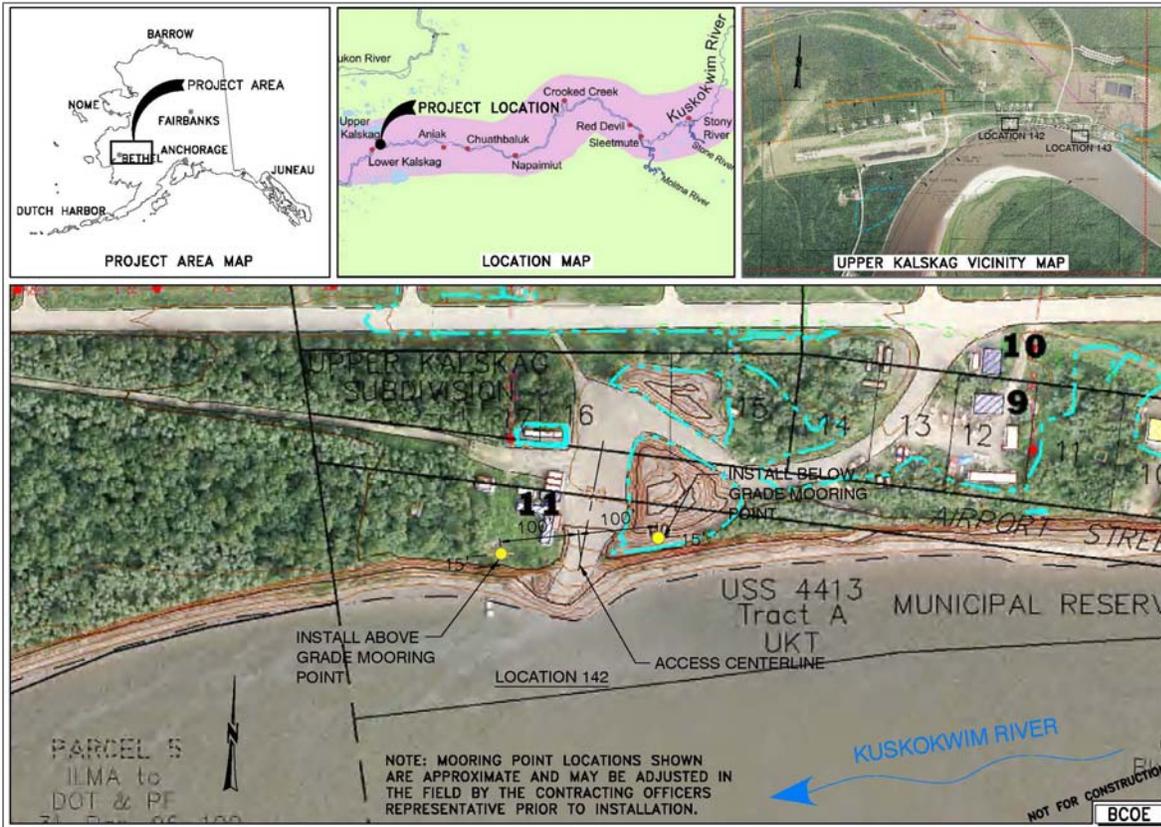


Figure 7. Upper Kalskag area of potential effect (yellow points).



Figure 8. Upper Kalskag area of potential effect (yellow points).

Assessment of Effect

The installation of moorings at Napaskiak is no longer planned as part of this project. As prior consultation with your office determined, a reconnaissance survey was completed in the area of potential effect in Goodnews Bay, Upper Kalskag, and Lower Kalskag. No cultural material eligible for the National Register was encountered. Therefore, the undertakings in Goodnews Bay, Lower Kalskag, and Upper Kalskag will result in **no adverse effect to historic properties**. The installation of moorings at Crooked Creek was temporarily removed from this phase of the project and was recently re-funded. An archaeological survey will be completed in the spring of 2012 and the results will be submitted to your office separately.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact me by phone at (907) 753-2690 or e-mail Michael.9.Salyer@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Salyer
Chief, Environmental Resources Section

Cc:

Honorable Daniel Shouten, Mayor, City of Goodnews Bay
George Brights, Sr., President, Native Village of Goodnews Bay
Honorable Nick Alexie, Mayor, City of Lower Kalskag
Phyllis Evan, President, Village of Lower Kalskag
Honorable William Alexie, Mayor, City of Upper Kalskag
Julia Dorris, President, Village of Kalskag

References cited:

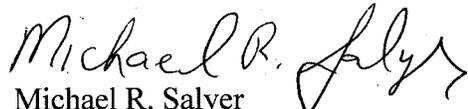
- AHRS (2011). Alaska Heritage Resources Survey database. Office of History and Archaeology, Department of Natural Resources, Anchorage.
- Eldridge, Kelly (2011a). *Trip Report: Denali Commission Mooring Points Project, Phase 3: Upper Kalskag Archaeological Survey, July 27, 2011*. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson.
- Eldridge, Kelly (2011b). *Trip Report: Denali Commission Mooring Points Project, Phase 3: Lower Kalskag Archaeological Survey, July 28, 2011*. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson.
- Oswalt, Wendell H. (1980). *Historic Settlements along the Kuskokwim River*. Alaska Division of State Libraries and Museums, Department of Education, Juneau.
- Wilson, Aaron K. (2011). *Field Notes, Goodnews Bay*. On file with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson.

Assessment of Effect

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- AHRS (2011). Alaska Heritage Resources Survey database. Office of History and Archaeology, Department of Natural Resources, Anchorage.
- Eldridge, Kelly (2011a). *Trip Report: Denali Commission Mooring Points Project, Phase 3: Upper Kalskag Archaeological Survey, July 27, 2011*. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson.
- Eldridge, Kelly (2011b). *Trip Report: Denali Commission Mooring Points Project, Phase 3: Lower Kalskag Archaeological Survey, July 28, 2011*. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson.
- Oswalt, Wendell H. (1980). *Historic Settlements along the Kuskokwim River*. Alaska Division of State Libraries and Museums, Department of Education, Juneau.
- Wilson, Aaron K. (2011). *Field Notes, Goodnews Bay*. On file with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson.

CONCUR
D. Walters
M. Petersen

TYPED: Grover/4 January 2012/x5537

FILE: O:_Projects by Location\Denali Commission\AKV289 (325271) Mooring Points Planning and Design\07 Phase III Kuskokwim River Delta\SHPO_report_den comm. Ph3_dec2011.docx

Honorable Daniel Shouten
City of Goodnews Bay
P.O. Box 139
Goodnews Bay, AK 99589

George Brights, Sr., President
Native Village of Goodnews Bay
P.O. Box 03
Goodnews Bay, AK 99589

Nick Alexie, Mayor
City of Lower Kalskag
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Phyllis Evan, President
Village of Lower Kalskag
P.O. Box 27
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Honorable William Alexie
City of Upper Kalskag
P.O. Box 80
Upper Kalskag, AK 99607

Julia Dorris, President
Village of Kalskag
P.O. Box 50
Upper Kalskag, AK 99607

Office of History and Archaeology: Cultural Resources Report Coversheet
(Must Accompany All Compliance Reports Submitted to OHA/SHPO)



Office of History and Archaeology
 Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation
 Alaska Department of Natural Resources
 550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1310
 Anchorage, AK 99501-3565
 Phone: (907) 269-8721 Fax (907) 269-8908
<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/oha/index.htm>

Was this survey/investigation (Check one): Negative Positive

Negative = no cultural resource sites are reported or updated. Positive = cultural resource sites are reported or updated.

Note: Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) numbers are **required** for reported cultural resource sites, including buildings. AHRS numbers can be obtained by contacting Joan Dale at 907-269-8718).

Project/Report Information:

- Report Title: Letter Report: Installation of Barge Moorings at Goodnews Bay, Upper Kalskag and Lower Kalskag
- Report Author(s): Margan Grover
- Report Date: January 2012
- Submitting Organization/Agency: US Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District and Denali Commission
- Project Name and Project Number: n/a
- Principal Investigator (PI) name: Margan Grover and Aaron Wilson

Geographic Information (attach an extra sheet or cite report page numbers if necessary)

- USGS Mapsheet (1:63,360 if available) Goodnews Bay see report p.2; Upper and Lower Kalskag see report p.4
- Meridian/Township / Range / Section (MTRS) location: (all affected sections)
 Format example: "F021N018E|13-14" S012S073W28; S016N062W2; S017N 061W27
- Verbal description of survey area _____
 (for example: "123 Acme Street," "confluence of Fish and Moose creeks," "Milepost 9-16 ...")
 1. North bank of Goodnews Bay and northwest of the mouth of Goodnews River
 2. Upper Kalskag
 3. Lower Kalskag

- Does this report contain boundary coordinates for the surveyed area? Yes No Page #(s) _____
- Does this report contain boundary coordinates for reported sites? Yes No Page #(s) _____
- Land owner(s):
 1. Goodnews Bay: Kuitsarak, Inc. and Calista Corporation, as to the subsurface estate
 2. Upper Kalskag: City of Upper Kalskag
 3. Lower Kalskag: City of Upper Kalskag and Fern Parent (as Personal Representative of the Estate of Joseph G. Parent)
- Answer one: Acres Surveyed Approx. 3 Hectares Surveyed _____

Cultural Resources Management (CRM) Information

- List AHRS numbers of new and updated sites – (do not list sites that are merely described in the background section).

- Is the report part of a National Historic Preservation Act - Section 106 consultation? Yes No
- Is the report part of an Alaska Historic Preservation Act compliance consultation? Yes No
- Does the report's data support a submitting agency's determination of eligibility? Yes No
- Does the report's data support a submitting agency's determination of effect? Yes No
- Was this report submitted to fulfill State Field Archaeology Permit requirements?
 Permit No.: _____ Yes No
- Was this project and/or report overseen or authored by someone meeting the minimum _____

qualifications of the Sec. of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines (48 FR 44738-44739)?

Yes No

- Is the Principal Investigator's resume' appended to the report or on file at OHA?

Yes No

Revised 3/29/07

Trip Report

Denali Commission Mooring Points Project, Phase 3: Lower Kalskag Archaeological Survey

July 28, 2011

Participant:

Kelly Eldridge, EN-CW-ER

Summary:

This trip report documents the site visit to Lower Kalskag, Alaska to assess the proximity of any unknown cultural resources to the potential Denali Commission Mooring Point Project areas in Lower Kalskag. No features or eligible artifacts representing cultural resources were identified in the potential mooring point area.

Photos taken during the site visit are located at:

O:_Projects by Location\Denali Commission\AKV289 (325271) Mooring Points Planning and Design\07 Phase III Kuskokwim River Delta\Lower Kalskag (option)\Eldridge photos

Trip Report:

Ms. Eldridge traveled to Lower Kalskag via regularly scheduled air service with Alaska Airlines and Era Alaska. Upon arrival she was met by Mr. Darren Deacon, who supplied transport around Upper and Lower Kalskag.

City Concerns:

None known.

Corps Inspection:

One potential mooring point area was inspected (see figure 1). A pedestrian survey of the area found the Lower Kalskag fuel header set back from the river bank in an area of high grasses, fireweed, raspberry, and wild rhubarb. Two shovel test pits were sunk in at the potential mooring points:

Test Pit 1: N61°30.740'
 W160°21.605'

Test Pit 2: N61°30.713'
 W160°21.622'

Test Pit 1 was excavated to 30 centimeters below surface to a layer of frozen clay. The excavation yielded dark soil interspersed with buried grasses and deadfall. No cultural material was found. Test Pit 1 was located within short visual distance of the old cemetery; the borders of the cemetery were not identified (see figure 2).

Test Pit 2 was excavated to 40 centimeters below surface to a layer of frozen clay. The excavation yielded a mixture of cultural materials of primarily modern nature, including bright green molded plastic fragments, a fragment of leather with holes for stitching (see figure 4), and a bent piece of metal (see figure 5). Ms. Eldridge was unable to take photographs of all the cultural material due to the presence of a local dog that kept relocating the material as soon as it was not being held. Test Pit 2 was located close to an occupied house (see figure 3). The house had a large amount of surface litter surrounding it. Elder Krim Evan of Lower Kalskag told Ms. Eldridge that the house had been built in the mid-1960s.

A visual inspection of the bank below the potential mooring points revealed no eligible cultural material. No features or eligible artifacts representing cultural resources were identified at the potential mooring point area.



Figure 1: Area surveyed at Lower Kalskag for the Denali Commission Mooring Points Project.



Figure 2: View of old cemetery from Test Pit 1.



Figure 3: View of house and school from Test Pit 2.



Figure 4: Leather with holes for stitching recovered from Test Pit 2.



Figure 5: Bent piece of metal recovered from Test Pit 2.

Trip Report

Denali Commission Mooring Points Project, Phase 3: Upper Kalskag Archaeological Survey

July 27, 2011

Participant:

Kelly Eldridge, EN-CW-ER

Summary:

This trip report documents the site visit to Upper Kalskag, Alaska to assess the proximity of any unknown cultural resources to the potential Denali Commission Mooring Point Project areas in Upper Kalskag. No features or eligible artifacts representing cultural resources were identified in either of the two potential mooring point areas. It is recommended that if mooring points are installed in the second area (see figure 1), an archaeological monitor be present when thick brush and deadfall are cleared for construction access.

Photos taken during the site visit are located at:

O:_Projects by Location\Denali Commission\AKV289 (325271) Mooring Points Planning and Design\07 Phase III Kuskokwim River Delta\Upper Kalskag\Eldridge photos

Trip Report:

Ms. Eldridge traveled to Upper Kalskag via regularly scheduled air service with Alaska Airlines and Era Alaska. Upon arrival she was met by Mr. Darren Deacon, who supplied transport around Upper and Lower Kalskag.

City Concerns:

None known.

Corps Inspection:

Two potential mooring point areas were inspected (see figure 1). A pedestrian survey of the first area found a large gravel pad and ramp down to the river maintained by Knik Construction Company. Badly eroded, approximately 3-meter-high banks were located on either side of the ramp. Two shovel test pits were sunk in along the top of the bank southwest of the ramp near one the potential mooring points:

Test Pit 1: N61°32.261'
W160°19.483'

Test Pit 2: N61°32.260'
W160°19.476'

Both test pits were excavated to 50 centimeters below surface, and yielded dark, rooty soil with occasional buried deadfall. No cultural material was found. Visual inspection of 50 meters of the eroding bluff to the southwest of the ramp revealed no cultural material (see figure 2). No test pits were sunk along the top of the bank to the northeast of the ramp because the area was deeply covered with gravel and boulders. Visual inspection of 75 meters of the eroding bank to the northeast of the ramp revealed no eligible cultural materials (see figure 3).

A pedestrian survey of the second area found the Upper Kalskag fuel header on a gravel pad located on a high bank. Two shovel test pits were attempted near the potential mooring point southwest of the fuel header, but Ms. Eldridge was not able to dig through the gravel overburden and/or was unable to find an area clear of thick deadfall, the size of which prevented her moving the logs herself. Ms. Eldridge attempted to get to the site of the potential mooring point northeast of the fuel header, but was unable to do so due to heavy brush and deadfall (see figure 4). Due to the location of this potential mooring point, it is recommended that an archaeological monitor be present if and when the brush and deadfall are cleared for construction access. Visual inspection of the beach and eroding bank for 100 meters northeast of the fuel header revealed no cultural material (see figure 5).



Figure 1: Areas surveyed at Upper Kalskag for the Denali Commission Mooring Points Project



Figure 2: View of bank to the southwest of the ramp in Area 1.



Figure 3: View of bank to the northeast of ramp in Area 1.



Figure 4: Thick brush and deadfall northeast of the fuel header in Area 2.



Figure 5: Bank 100 meters northeast and below the fuel header in Area 2.