

TITLE 2300 - RECREATION MANAGEMENT

CHAPTER 2360 - SPECIAL INTEREST AREAS

2361 - Cultural Resources. In keeping with the number of Federal Laws and Orders governing cultural resources, it is the Forest Service's responsibility to establish and conduct a program designed to locate, inventory, and evaluate all cultural resources.

The following guidelines are adapted for the Chatham Area, Tongass National Forest:

2361.04 - Responsibilities. The Forest Archaeologist will be available to assist the Districts and Monument in identifying undertakings (2361.05 (14) definition of terms) that require cultural resource inventories and in setting priorities for cultural resource fieldwork on projects. The responsibilities for performing project-related and all other cultural resource inventories and evaluation are:

- a. District Rangers and the Monument Manager will notify the Forest Archaeologist through the Recreation, Lands, AND Minerals Staff Officer of all known undertakings prior to the beginning of each fiscal year. One person will be identified to coordinate the cultural resource needs. Any new or unforeseen undertakings will be given a priority in consideration with existing priorities.
- b. The cultural resource program will be centralized in the Supervisor's Office. The Forest Archaeologist will be responsible for conducting and/or supervising the inventory of all cultural resources. If cultural resources are identified by any Forest Service employee, by other Federal or State agencies, or by the general public, the Forest Archaeologist will be notified immediately.

2361.21 - Management. When a field survey reveals or when it is determined that no cultural resources are likely to be located in the area of potential environmental impact, the Forest Archaeologist will complete the appropriate cultural compliance procedures (this includes the archaeological survey report or letter and documentation of National Register Check). A copy of the cultural resource report and the finding of "no effect" determination will be signed and sent to the District for documentation in the EA package.

2361.23

2361.23 - Evaluation. When a field reconnaissance reveals the existence of cultural resources in the area of potential environmental impact or if a finding of a significant cultural resource is anticipated, the Forest Archaeologist will conduct the necessary site examination, evaluate the significance of the cultural resource, and provide the appropriate written documentation (including SHPO consultation as to determination of National Register eligibility and determination of effect) for the project EA or EIS. In addition, the Forest Archaeologist will forward the necessary documentation to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for their review. All correspondence with the SHPO and Advisory Council will be signed by the Forest Supervisor.

If development activities are designed in the vicinity of known cultural resources, the Forest Archaeologist must have the opportunity to review the activities and determine any effects on the cultural resources. This must be completed prior to the beginning of any such activity and prior to the submission of an EA or EIS for District Ranger, Forest Supervisor, or Regional Forester approval and public distribution.

Study plans for an EA and EIS project should include a checkpoint with the Forest Archaeologist during the review of alternatives and preparation of the environmental effects documentation.

2361.28 - Protection. Law enforcement activities involving vandalism or theft of cultural resources will be coordinated between District law enforcement personnel and the Forest Archaeologist.

All project plans and contracts must include provisions for protection and reporting of any cultural resource site during the projects.

2361.61 - Contract Development and Administration. Out-service contracts will be the responsibility of the Recreation, Lands, and Minerals Staff Officer. The Forest Archaeologist will act as the COR on all cultural resource contracts.

Request for permits to conduct cultural resource investigation will be coordinated with and evaluated by the Forest Archaeologist.

When the Forest Archaeologist identifies a significant or potentially significant cultural resource which may require additional field examination (e.g., sub-surface archaeological testing or historic structure evaluation) beyond in-house capabilities, the Forest Archaeologist will notify the District Ranger or Monument Manager and the Recreation, Lands, and Minerals Staff Officer. These three will mutually determine the means of obtaining the necessary service.

2361.70 - Cultural Resource Data System. A centralized "survey and project file" system for cultural resource accomplishment will be maintained in the SO. A cultural resource "Site Catalog System" will be maintained in the SO only.