CULTURAL RESOURCES

The National Park Service will provide for the identification, preservation, protection, and interpretation of all significant cultural resources through adequate research and programming in accordance with NPS policy and guidelines. No undertakings resulting in the destruction or loss of known cultural resources are proposed in this plan.

The identification and treatment of the park's prehistoric and historic resources is one of the long-range goals of park management. Specific actions for accomplishing this objective are described in the park's "Cultural Resource Management Plan," which is updated yearly, or as necessary, to reflect changing preservation needs and management priorities. The plan is available for review by the public, and any major changes in the direction, philosophy, or goals described by this "General Management Plan" will be subject to public involvement.

The current cultural resource study priorities are to

complete preliminary site studies and architectural evaluations for critical area resources: Teklanika archeological district, the park headquarters area, and other historic structures in the park

monitor the cultural and natural resource concerns for areas of the park and preserve that are open to subsistence uses

There are currently about 100 historic and prehistoric sites recorded in the park. The cultural resource data are incomplete. The National Park Service has sponsored limited site and critical-area resource studies (studies of the Kantishna Hills and Dunkle Mine areas, for example); however, little of the land within the park has been closely examined for prehistoric and historic resources. Some of the land additions made to the park in 1980 have been subject to reconnaissance studies, but the presence and significance of cultural resources in that area are not well established. The historic period is briefly chronicled in a number of publications and topical/anecdotal writings, most of which rely heavily upon the works of former park ranger and superintendent Grant Pearson. Currently the only resource in the park listed on the National Register of Historic Places is the Teklanika archeological district. The park headquarters district and dog kennels have been evaluated by park and regional staffs and will be nominated to the National Register.

In order to more completely document the presence of cultural resources in the park, an inventory will be undertaken by a multidisciplinary team of archeologists, historical architects, and historians. The park will be inventoried in geographic segments over a four-year period to document the presence of cultural resources. The reports resulting from the survey will identify and prioritize sites for which actions are necessary. Sites will be recorded, base maps will be produced, resources will be

professionally evaluated for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places and the park's List of Classified Structures (LCS), and preservation treatment plans will be prepared.

Resources listed on the National Register and the LCS will be provided the protection and interpretation afforded to such listed properties. Potential LCS structures will be further evaluated for adaptive and interpretive uses.

Until such time as native land selections are complete, the National Park Service will protect, preserve, and manage all native historic sites identified under the provisions of section 14(h) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 as properties eligible to the National Register. The National Park Service will encourage the owners of nonfederal historic properties within the park to nominate them to the National Register, and it will provide technical assistance and advice in proper care and treatment of such properties.

A historic resource study will build upon the initial inventory. This study will describe the obvious and more subdued themes of the history of Denali. The initial themes that have been identified are Russian efforts at mapping and exploration of the interior, American exploration and surveying, mountaineering, gold mining, and the building of the Alaska Railroad. The current park administrative history will be expanded to incorporate the story of park developments since 1953.

A preservation maintenance program will be developed to guide the park staff in performing routine maintenance on structures, equipment, and artifacts.

The assembled cultural resource information, including a cultural resource base map, will be used for interpretation of the cultural resources for the public. Interpretation will also make visitors aware of the fragile nature of many of the cultural resources and will alert visitors to the protected status of the resources. Use of information for interpretive purposes will be preceded by consultation with any affected native group.

Development proposals that relate to cultural resources will reflect a sensitivity to the preservation of the cultural scene through compatible and complementary design. All developments with potential for ground disturbance will be preceded by archeological surveys and clearances. Native groups will be consulted in order to avoid impacts upon traditional or sacred sites. Projects will be designed to avoid impacts or to have minimal effects on cultural resources.

ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

Limited archeological surveys have been conducted in scattered locations throughout the park and preserve. The majority of the surveys took place in the early 1960s and were conducted under contracts by the University of Alaska (Traganza 1964; Morgan 1965; West 1965). The

results were meager, and additional archeological work did not resume until the late 1970s, when clearance was needed for the construction of a power line south along the Nenana River valley road to park headquarters. Recent surveys (NPS, Davis 1980) significantly contributed to the knowledge of prehistory and to the identification of archeological sites of the area, but Denali still lacks a systematic parkwide archeological survey and overview. An archeological overview will be developed by first identifying all significant archeological sites and then conducting selective archeological investigations in typical, stable environment areas (such as ridgetops) to develop a comprehensive understanding of the prehistory of Denali.

The protection of archeological sites and districts will include permanently marking sites; monitoring selected sites to determine continuing natural and human impacts; conducting test excavations of selected sites to evaluate them and to plan further preservation actions; gathering data to determine significance for National Register eligibility; and recovering data at sites that could be affected by development, use, or natural destructive forces.

All data recovery, such as controlled surface collection and excavation, will be designed to obtain the most information with the least destruction of archeological resources. When excavation is made necessary by development, it will be programmed in timely advance of construction (not less than one fiscal year).

Surface collection will be undertaken to professionally record and preserve artifacts that are potentially subject to adverse impacts because of vandalism or proposed development actions. This surface collection will be conducted only by professional archeologists meeting professional standards.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES

As a general policy historic structures and sites, such as native villages, historic cabins, or mining complexes, will not be reconstructed. Visitor understanding will be gained through other interpretive techniques.

When preservation or restoration of existing structures is specified, the intent will be to preserve existing original work and to maintain it by compatible repair or replacement of deteriorated fabric. New work on such structures, when required for maintenance purposes, will conform to the building's original character and be undertaken only when it can be satisfactorily documented. When restoration is not possible, the elements being replaced will be duplicated.

Certain structures may not merit preservation because of minimal significance, advanced deterioration, or excessive costs. These structures will be allowed to deteriorate naturally, with their sites eventually reverting to a natural condition. Some removal of hazardous elements may be necessary for safety and to avoid an attractive nuisance,

particularly around abandoned mining sites. Park users will be alerted to the potential hazards associated with these structures, which do have value as "discovery" sites.

Historic archeology for the purpose of uncovering all available details and increasing knowledge of historic structures plays a significant role in the restoration and reconstruction of historic sites. Historic archeological investigations will be as complete as possible, and archeological deposits will be clearly identified. Any actions affecting these deposits will be designed for minimal impact.

CONTEMPORARY NATIVE AMERICAN CONCERNS

The National Park Service will ensure the preservation of resources associated with native peoples whose cultural memory, traditions, and lives are closely associated with the park and its general vicinity.

The ongoing identification of areas of sacred and traditional importance to local native peoples will be continued by professional archeologists and anthropologists. As new information is obtained, it will be added to the confidential inventory of these sites. Measures will be taken to ensure that mutually acceptable methods of protection and preservation are adopted, in conformance with NPS management policies and legislation.

The National Park Service will encourage active participation of local native groups in developing methods of interpreting native American culture.