Overview: Office of History and Archeology

House Resources Committee



Presented by:

Judy Bittner, State Historic Preservation Officer and Chief of OHA Sarah Meitl, Review and Compliance Coordinator April 26, 2023









FY2023 Management Plan Budget					
PCN's	UGF	DGF	Fed	Other	Total
18	479.7	16.1	1,165.5	1,022.0	2,683.3

Critical Function:

This section contains the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) which is the gateway for every

federal dollar spent in Alaska via the Section 106 review process.

- Essential role in responsible development
 - Move projects past environmental review
- Procedural laws no requirement to preserve
 - No projects are stopped because of Section 106
- Operating at ~50% of 2011 staffing level
 - PCN losses and vacancies

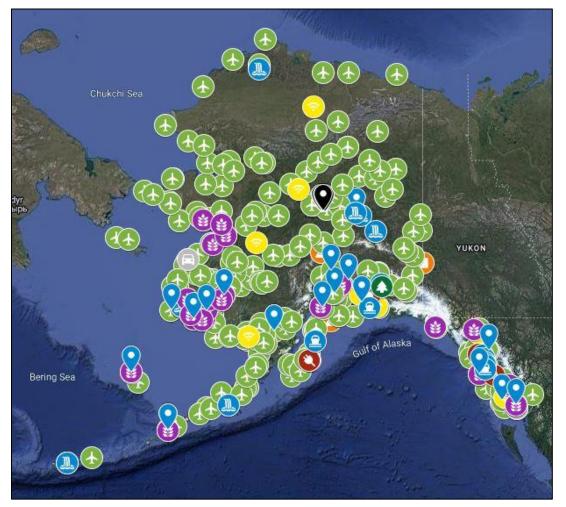






Project Review Statutes

- Alaska Historic Preservation Act
 - State land, funding, or permit
- National Historic Preservation Act
 - Federal land, funding, permit, or authorization

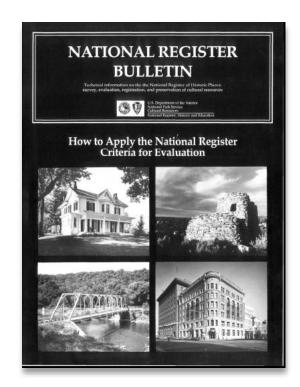


Map of upcoming projects from infrastructure funds



Standards and Methods

- Combination of state, federal, and peer-review
- State Authorities
- Federal Authorities





Project Steps for Cultural Review

- 1. Define project
- 2. Establish identification effort
- 3. Reporting
- 4. Review by OHA/SHPO
 - 30-day review period



5. If necessary, resolve adverse effects



Project Review Efficiencies

- Programmatic Agreements
- Internal Processing
- Guidance

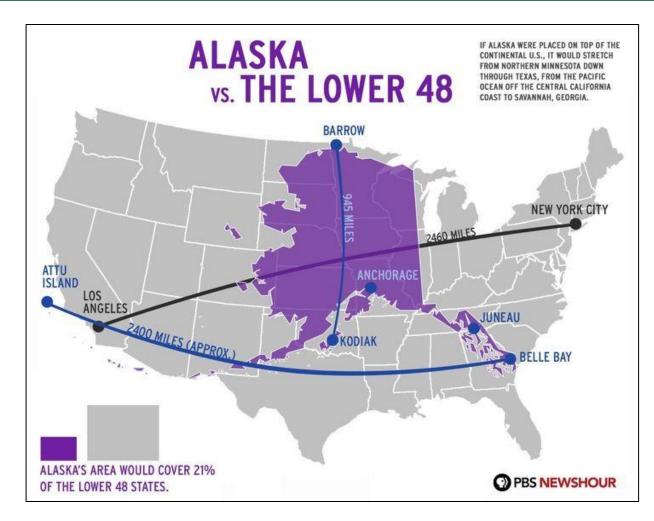




Review and Compliance

Calendar Year 2022 Stats

- ~10,000 projects completed review
- Federal liaison on state team
 - ~50 active federal agencies
- Compliance partner with the state
 - ~30 active state agencies





Project Errors that Affect Project Delivery

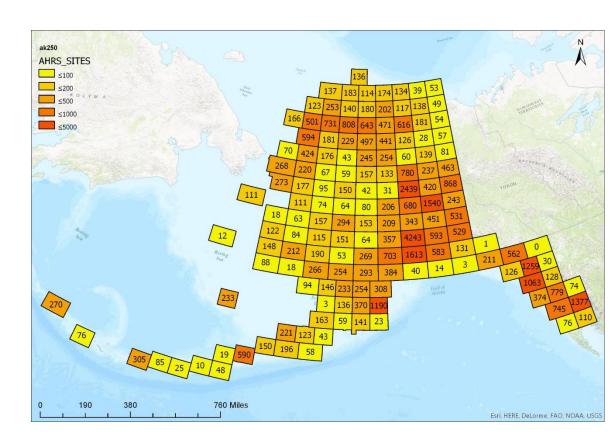
- SHPO left to the 11th hour in project planning and construction is imminent
- Shortchange field effort for cost savings
 - Penny Wise and Pound Foolish
- Insufficient time
- Inadequate Government to Government Consultation





Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS)

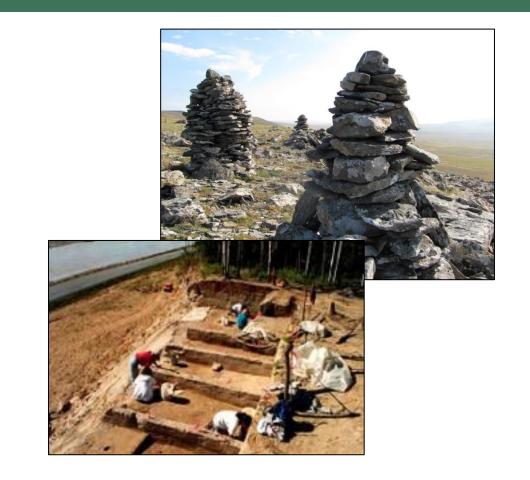
- Alaska's <u>only statewide</u> database of reported cultural resource locations
- Essential for project planning





2022 SCRIPsState Cultural Resource Investigation Permits

- 79 permits issued
- More than **double** the number issued in 2019
- Less than 25% of reports are in for 2022's field season



Questions?



Thank you!



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