

Initial Study Report Meeting

Study 13.5 Cultural Resources

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Study 13.5 Objectives

- Consult with the SHPO, BLM, and Alaska Native entities during implementation of the cultural resources survey.
- Inventory cultural resources within the APE.
- Evaluate National Register eligibility of cultural resources within the APE that may be affected by the Project.
- Determine the potential Project-related effects on National Register-eligible historic properties within the APE.
- Develop information needed to prepare a Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) for the Project.

Study 13.5 Components

- **Previous Surveys** (ISR Part A, Section 4.1; pg 4).
- **Locational Model of Survey Strategy** (ISR Part A, Section 4.2; pg 6).
- **Survey Strategy and Phasing of Field Investigations in the Direct APE** (ISR Part A, Section 4.3; pg 6).
- **Survey Strategy and Phasing of Field Investigation in the Indirect APE** (ISR Part A, Section 4.4; pg 8).
- **Mapping-Related Activities** (ISR Part A, Section 4.5; pg 8).
- **Ethnogeography-Related Activities** (ISR Part A, Section 4.6; pg 9).
- **Synthesis and Analysis Activities** (ISR Part A, Section 4.7; pg 10).
- **Unanticipated Discoveries Protocol** (ISR Part A, Section 4.8; pg 10).
- **Archaeological Internship and Additional Workforce** (ISR Part A, Section 4.9; pg 11).

Study 13.5 Variances

- The Study Plan (RSP Section 13.5.4.7) stated that all Traditional Cultural Properties information would be incorporated into a geodatabase. To date, however, there has not been sufficient data to support such a file.
- The Dena'ina ethnogeography component of the Study Plan (FERC February 2013 SPD) was not initiated in 2013.
- The study team received no responses to its recruitment and advertising efforts for the archaeological internship described in the Study Plan (RSP Section 13.5.4.11), so this program was not initiated in 2013.

Study 13.5 Summary of Results in ISR (ISR Study 13.5, Part A – Section 5)

Ethnogeography Study Results

- Interviewed 18 Ahtna elders on contemporary land use.
- Transcribed 25 interview tapes from BIA, BLM and other sources.
- Translated 31 Ahtna language narratives.
- Updated the existing Ahtna place name GIS data-base.

Study 13.5 Summary of Results in ISR (ISR Study 13.5, Part A – Section 5)

Archaeology Study Results

- 167 sites were inventoried, 82 were newly discovered cultural resources.
- Majority of the sites were surface finds in the Denali corridor.
- Location Model identified 262 high-potential test areas in the direct APE, 26 were tested resulting in two newly discovered cultural resources in buried sediments.
- Lab analyses focused on radiocarbon dating, diagnostic artifacts, and X-ray fluorescence.
- Synthesis of ethnogeographic oral histories into GIS model.

Study 13.5 Summary of Results in ISR (ISR Study 13.5, Part A – Section 5)

Facilities Survey

- Conducted a Phase I site identification survey in conjunction with the installation of a seismic station on BLM land (Deadman Mountain).

Study 13.5 Summary of Results since ISR

Ethnogeography Study Results

- Data collection for Ahtna ethnogeography study has been completed.
- A final meeting presenting results in Cantwell was held on June 30, 2014.
- A final report on Ahtna ethnogeographic study is in progress.
- Commenced planning for the Dena'ina ethnogeographic study, which will be initiated in 2015.

Study 13.5 Summary of Results since ISR

Archaeology Study Results

- Inventoried 29 sites; approximately 100% of known sites on CIRWG lands.
- Inventoried 12 sites on BLM lands; 17% of known sites.
- Inventoried 30 sites on State lands; 41% of known sites.
 - The number of newly discovered sites is still pending.
 - The majority of new sites were recorded on the ground surface in the Denali East alternative corridor.
- Completed paleoenvironmental component of study (i.e., lake coring).

AEA Proposed Modifications to Study 13.5 in ISR (ISR Study 13.5, Part C – Section 7.1.2)

- AEA added the Denali East Option road and transmission corridor to the study area (direct APE).
- Possibility that adding the Denali East Option could affect the sequence of Phase I inventory and Phase II NRHP evaluation within some parts of the study area. Work in 2015 could involve field investigations in which some sites are inventoried and evaluated at the same time, rather than seasonal phasing outlined in the Study Plan.

New Modifications to Study 13.5 since ISR

The Chulitna Corridor was dropped from the study area in 2014.

Steps to Complete Study 13.5 (ISR Study 13.5, Part C – Section 7.1)

To complete the study, AEA will implement the methods in the Study Plan, as follows:

- ***Inventory and Evaluation:*** Systematic inventory of archaeological and structural cultural resources within the APE and NRHP evaluation of those that may be affected by the Project.
 - In 2013 and 2014, much of the study area (direct APE and indirect APE) was surveyed and sites inventoried.
 - Subsurface testing and site evaluations will occur in 2015, as appropriate.

Steps to Complete Study 13.5 (ISR Study 13.5, Part C – Section 7.1)

To complete the study, AEA will implement the methods in the Study Plan, as follows:

- ***Ethnogeography:*** Assembly of ethnographic and linguistic information to help inventory and evaluate historic properties—particularly Traditional Cultural Properties—that may be affected by the Project
 - Data collection for Ahtna ethnogeographic study is complete; final report in progress.
 - Planning for Dena'ina ethnographic study is underway and will be initiated in 2015.

Steps to Complete Study 13.5 (ISR Study 13.5, Part C – Section 7.1)

To complete the study, AEA will implement the methods in the Study Plan, as follows:

- ***Paleoenvironmental:*** A lake-coring effort to obtain environmental information for evaluating the prehistoric cultural resources in their temporal and ecological context.
 - Fieldwork for paleoenvironmental component was completed in 2014.
 - Analyses are ongoing.

Licensing Participants' Proposed Modifications to Study 13.5?

- Agencies
- CIRWG members and Ahtna
- Public