



TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Section 4(f) and Section 6(f)

TO: Kelly Summers, P.E., Project Manager – Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF)

FROM: Kristen Hansen, Environmental Lead, DOWL

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PROJECT: Parks Highway Alt. Corridor Planning PEL Study
Project Numbers: Federal-0A41039/004210000 State-CFHwy00421/0A41039

Introduction

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a summary of known Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) resources that occur within the Parks Highway Alternative Corridor Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) study area. Section 4(f) resources are protected under the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Act of 1966 and Section 6(f) resources are protected under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act.

The study area boundaries or “Probable Limits of the Alternatives” (PLA), where the proposed alternative highway corridors will be located, is shown in Figure 1. The PLA is broadly bordered by the Parks Highway to the north (+500-1000 feet), Hyer Road interchange to the east, West Hawk Lane to the west, and Palmer Slough to the south, and includes 43,827 acres.

Section 4(f) resources include publicly owned parks, recreation areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites considered to have national, state, or local significance. A historic site is considered significant, for Section 4(f) purposes, if it is on or determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The DOT Act provides that federally funded transportation projects may use land from a Section 4(f) resource, only if there is no feasible and prudent alternative to using that land and the program or project includes all possible planning to minimize harm resulting from the use. It is worth noting that unlike the other Section 4(f) property categories—parks, recreation areas, and refuges—historic sites do not require public ownership in order to qualify for protection under Section 4(f).

Section 6(f) resources include outdoor recreation areas and facilities funded by the LWCF Act. Lands funded by the LWCF Act are subject to Section 6(f) regulations, which prohibit any park or recreation area funded through the LWCF Act from conversion to other uses, including transportation use, unless replaced with an equivalent outdoor recreation area.

This memorandum also identifies the owner of each Section 4(f) and 6(f) property and describes the use or function that makes the existing property a Section 4(f) or 6(f) resource. The information in this technical memo will be used to support the alternatives screening process, to avoid or minimize impacts to Section 4(f) and 6(f) resources during the development of preliminary alternatives corridors.

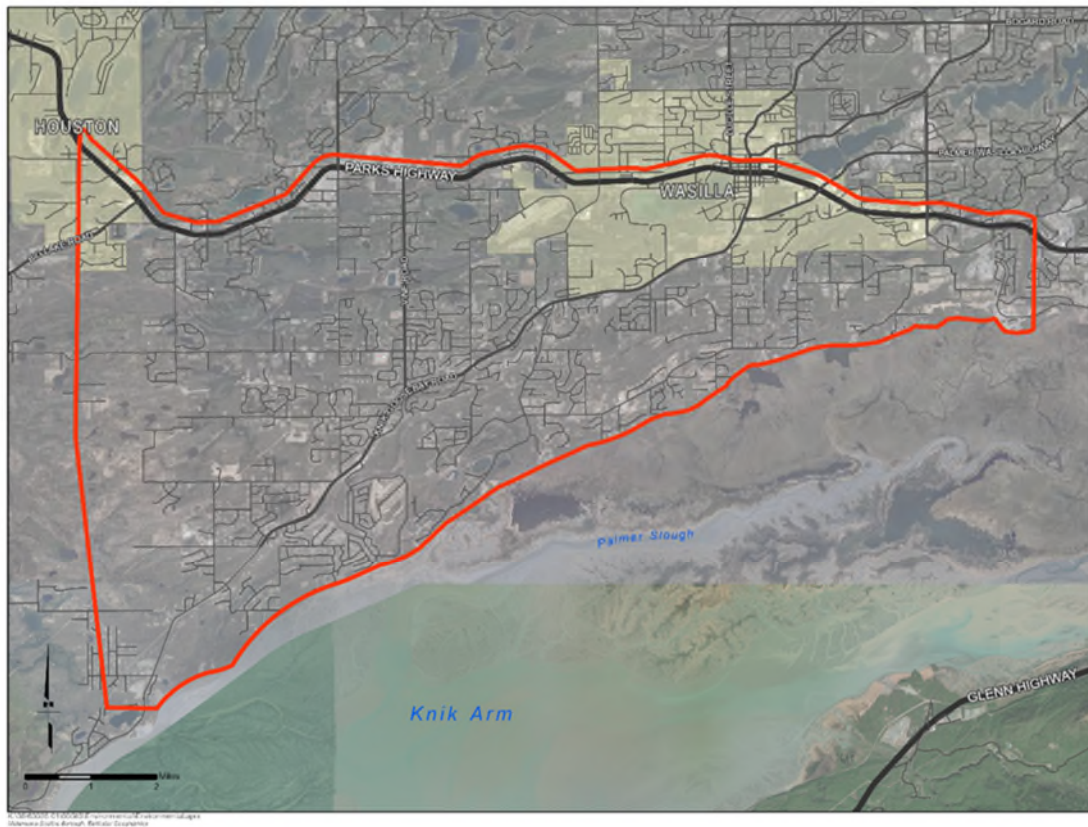


Figure 1: Probable Limits of Alternatives

Data Summary

The Alaska DOT&PF Environmental Procedures Manual was followed for definitions and regulations related to Section 6(f) and Section 4(f) resources. The resource data assembled in this memorandum is from multiple databases, based on the use of the property, as discussed below.

Data Collection Sources

Section 4(f) Historic Resources

Section 4(f) historic resource data is derived from the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) database maintained by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR), Office of History and Archaeology (OHA). The AHRs database was queried on August 30 and October 28, 2021 to identify known and recorded cultural resource locations using the PLA extent (ADNR, OHA 2021). The AHRs is a restricted online database of cultural resources within the State of Alaska. It contains a mapping module that allows authorized users to upload shapefiles in point, line, or polygon geometries and run extract operations to identify previously recorded cultural resource sites within any given area. AHRs data also includes property type and eligibility status for listing in the NRHP. An additional function of

the AHRS allows users to search for past cultural resource reports based on various inputs, including spatial locations (i.e., meridian, township, range, and section data). Data regarding the type of property (e.g., building, district, object, site, structure) and current NRHP eligibility status are contained within the AHRS database and are summarized in Table 1 and Table 2 below.

Public Parks, Trails, Recreation Areas and Wildlife / Waterfowl Refuges

The following data collection sources were used to identify and obtain information on Section 4(f) and 6(f) resources including public parks, trails, recreation areas and wildlife and waterfowl refuges.

1. The LWCF is a federal grant program administered by the National Park Service (NPS) that provides both state grants and federal grants. Federal grants are used for land and water acquisition to achieve recreation management objectives by federal agencies and state grants match 50/50 with local funds for the acquisitions and development of public recreational areas and facilities. State, regional, and local governments are eligible to apply for this grant¹. A “Detailed Listing of Grants Grouped by County” [National Park Service (NPS) 2014], provided by ADNR, was used to identify projects in the PLA, which had received funding awarded to the Matanuska-Susitna Brough through state grants. In addition, the LWCF Coalition maintains a map² of LWCF projects, which was also used to verify Section 6(f) resources.
2. The Matanuska-Susitna Brough parcel viewer³ web application was used to access the following information in the PLA:
 - Public parks, trails, recreation areas and wildlife / waterfowl refuges
 - Land ownership for identified properties
 - 2021 aerial imagery
3. Comprehensive and community plans for various communities (e.g., Matanuska-Susitna Brough, City of Wasilla, Houston, Meadow Lakes) provide information on public parks, trails, recreational areas, transportation, land use, etc. within each jurisdiction. The following documents were reviewed for possible Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) resources in the PLA:
 - Wasilla Comprehensive Plan (2011)
 - Matanuska-Susitna Borough Core Area Comprehensive Plan (2007)
 - City of Wasilla Park and Trails Master Plan (2011)
4. The Parks Highway Alternative Corridor Project Conceptual Planning Report (HDR 2015) provided background information on previous research completed. Report sections pertaining to recreational resources were examined as a baseline analysis of the PLA, as well as a 2009 memorandum summarizing recreational resources found within the project area.

Analysis Methods and Data Limitations

The AHRS database provided information for historic resources in the PLA that are listed or eligible for listing on the NRHP. Due to the varying reliability of data contained within the AHRS, it is highly

¹ <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/stateside.htm>

² <https://lwcf.tplgis.org/mappast/>

³ https://mapping.matsugov.us/Html5Viewer/index.html?viewer=MSB_Parcel_Viewer

likely that additional analysis, field surveys, and property location/condition verification would refine the number and classification of property types within the PLA.

Section 6(f) data was obtained through the NPS list of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) properties, however the list was last updated was in 2014. A recent update was not available through ADNR, which is the agency that maintains this list.

The NPS list identifies each project/grant by a “Grant Element Title”, which was cross referenced with community park plans, and community comprehensive plans to identify LWCF properties within the PLA.

- Only Carter Park was identified within a community park or comprehensive plan.
- Based on the description, Wasilla Townsite Park is assumed to be the Dorothy Page Museum/Historic Townsite.
- Based on the description and parks located on Wasilla Lake, Wasilla Lake Wayside is assumed to be Newcomb Park at Wasilla Lake.
- Based on LWCF Coalition mapping source, Mat-Su Community Park Pavilions is assumed to be outside the PLA.

A “windshield survey” of all identified and suspected Section 4(f) and 6(f) properties was conducted on September 22, 2021. Facilities, development, and park uses were documented to determine attributes and features that qualify the park for protection under Section 4(f). During this windshield survey, a sign posted at Carter Park verified LWCF funds were used to develop this park.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough parcel viewer was used to identify facilities within the PLA labeled as “park”. Facilities were eliminated from analysis if the parcel is owned by a private entity (i.e., Alaska Museum of Transportation and Industry, Pioneers of Alaska, Settlers Bay Golf Course).

Mapping Methods and Data Limitations

Aerial imagery of the PLA was downloaded from ESRI: Environmental Sciences Research Institute (ESRI) World Imagery Service Layer⁴. Figure 2 (attached) provides an overview of historic sites and index for Figures 3.1 through 3.6 (attached), which are enlargements to provide a clearer image of site locations. These figures display eligible/listed, not eligible, and not evaluated properties according to their NRHP status. Figure 4 (attached) displays all Section 6(f) and Section 4(f) properties and classifies them into historic sites (listed, eligible for listing and potentially historic but not evaluated), parks, and refuges. Table 3 provides a detailed index to Figure 4.

AHRS listed and eligible properties are mapped based on location data within the AHRS database. No field verification or assessment of locational reliability was performed. AHRS properties are mapped according to their geometry as contained within the database (e.g., points, lines, polygons), and may not be an accurate reflection of the spatial extent of the property (e.g., a large historic site may be represented by a single point). The AHRS properties displayed on Figure 2 and Figures 3.1 through 3.6 are symbolized based on their NRHP eligibility status. As noted above, the AHRS is a restricted database, and AHRS data are confidential and not for public distribution. This database was accessed on October 28, 2021.

⁴ [ESRI World Imagery Wayback: https://livingatlas.arcgis.com/wayback/](https://livingatlas.arcgis.com/wayback/) (imagery dated 2019)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) List used for mapping of Section 6(f) resources was last updated November 12, 2014. The ADNR was contacted for updated information, but as of October 27, 2021, a response has not been received.

Summary of Characteristics

Table 1 summarizes AHRs data for the number of properties and type of property with eligibility status for listing in the NRHP in the PLA. Table 2 provides the AHRs number for properties in the PLA that are listed or eligible for listing on the NRHP, the type of property, the type of land ownership and a brief description of the property.

Table 1: AHRs Property Types and NRHP Eligibility Status

Property Type	National Register Eligibility Status	
	Properties in the PLA - Listed or Determined Eligible	Potentially Historic Properties in the PLA Not Yet Evaluated for Eligibility
Building	7	21
District	1	0
Object	0	2
Site	3	261
Structure	1	8
Totals:	12	292

Table 2: AHRs Properties and NRHP Status⁵

AHRs Number	Property Name	NRHP Listing/Eligibility Status	Property Type	Owner	Description
ANC-00003	Knik Site	Listed	District	Multiple	Townsite, Residence, Commercial, Trade,
ANC-00044	Whitney Section House	Listed	Building	Private	Residence
ANC-00131	Cunningham-Hall PT-6, NC 692W	Listed	Structure	Private	Aviation Museum
ANC-00135	Wasilla Community Hall	Listed	Building	Municipal	Community Hall
ANC-00293	Wasilla Elementary School	Listed	Building	Municipal	School
ANC-00114	Teeland's Store	Listed	Building	Municipal	Commercial
ANC-00088	Wasilla Depot	Listed	Building	No data	Railroad Depot

⁵ All information provided in tables were downloaded from the confidential AHRs database.

AHRS Number	Property Name	NRHP Listing/Eligibility Status	Property Type	Owner	Description
ANC-00764	Blanche and Oscar Tryck House	Listed	Building	Private	Residence
ANC-00035	Cottonwood Creek Village Site	Eligible	Site	Multiple	Townsite, Residence
ANC-00139	Carson Colony Farm	Eligible	Site	Multiple	Agriculture, Residence
ANC-03068	Church Stone Cottage	Eligible	Building	Private	Residence
ANC-03444	Wasilla Theodore Homestead	Eligible	Site	Private	Residence

Table 3 includes a map ID that corresponds to the mapped Section 4(f) and 6(f) resources in the PLA (attached Figure 2), the property name, the property owner, and the function that makes the property a Section 4(f) or 6(f) resource.

Table 3: Ownership and Function/Use of Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) Resources

Map ID	Property Name	Ownership	Location	Section 4(f) or 6(f)	Use or Function
1	Knik Site	Multiple	MP 13 S KGB Road	Section 4(f)	Historic Site
2	Cottonwood Creek Village Site	Cook Inlet Region, Inc., State of Alaska, Private	W Demaree Circle	Section 4(f)	Historic Site
3	Whitney Section House	Museum AK Trans. & Ind. Inc.	3800 W Museum Drive	Section 4(f)	Historic Site
4	Keystone Loening "Commuter" K-84 Aircraft			Suspected 4(f)	Historic Site (suspected eligible for NRHP) ⁶
5	Cunningham-Hall PT-6, NC 692W			Section 4(f)	Historic Site
6	Wasilla Depot	City of Wasilla	E Depot Road	Section 4(f)	Historic Site
7	Carson Colony Farm	James Hilary Carson	Fairview Loop Road and Old Matanuska Road	Section 4(f)	Historic Site
8	Blanche and Oscar Tryck House	Tryck Joint Revocable Trust	NE Corner of Parks Hwy and N Knik Street	Section 4(f)	Historic Site
9	Church Stone Cottage	Allen & Janice Swartzbacker	Fairview Loop Road and KGB Road	Section 4(f)	Historic Site
10	Wasilla Theodore Homestead	Knik Tribe	KGB Road	Section 4(f)	Historic Site

⁶ Keystone Loening "Commuter" K-84 Aircraft is in a group with other listed/eligible sites and is assigned an AHRS number, It is concluded due to the high possibility it is eligible and in a close grouping.

Map ID	Property Name	Ownership	Location	Section 4(f) or 6(f)	Use or Function
11	Carter Park at Lake Lucille	City of Wasilla	600 S Lake Street	Section 4(f) and 6(f)	Park
12	Iditapark	City of Wasilla	594 W Nelson Avenue	Section 4(f)	Park
13	Newcomb Park (Wasilla Lake at Wayside Park)	City of Wasilla	891 E Parks Highway	Section 4(f) and 6(f)	Park
14	Cottonwood Creek Park	City of Wasilla	2040 E Palmer Wasilla Highway	Section 4(f)	Park
15	Susitna Avenue Boat Launch	City of Wasilla	Lake Lucille (Susitna Avenue)	Section 4(f)	Park
16	Lake Lucille Park and Campground	City of Wasilla	1401 S Endeavor Street	Section 4(f)	Park
17	Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center	City of Wasilla	1011 S. Clapp Street	Section 4(f)	Park
18	Smith Field Ball Park	State of Alaska	2000 S KGB Road	Section 4(f)	Park
19	Palmer Hayflats State Game Refuge	State of Alaska	W Fairview Loop to Scout Ridge Loop	Section 4(f)	Refuge
20	Birch Harbor Estates Unit 1 Park	Matanuska-Susitna Borough	3901 S Goose Bay Drive	Section 4(f)	Park
21	Dorothy Page Museum/Historic Townsite	City of Wasilla	346 N Boundary Street	Section 4(f) and 6(f)	Historic site ⁷
22	Golden Lake Park	Matanuska Susitna Borough	7520 W Golden Drive	Section 4(f)	Park

⁷ Dorothy Page Museum/Historic Townsite: The Historic Townsite is a Section 6(f) property. Local historians efforts to preserve Wasilla's history by preserving several structures (i.e., Teeland's Store, Old Wasilla School House, Capitol Site Cabin) and laid them out on the original 1917 Townsite.

Map ID	Property Name	Ownership	Location	Section 4(f) or 6(f)	Use or Function
23	Nichols Memorial Park	Matanuska Susitna Borough	Near W Lupine Lane and W Wild Iris Avenue	Section 4(f)	Park
24	Nunley Park	City of Wasilla	250 E Swanson Avenue	Section 4(f)	Park
25	Settlers Bay Coastal Park	Matanuska-Susitna Borough	7225 S Settlers Bay Drive	Section 4(f)	Park
26	Tipton Park	Matanuska-Susitna Borough	5967 W Birch Harbor Drive	Section 4(f)	Park
27	Bromley Drive Park	Matanuska-Susitna Borough	W Bromley Drive and S Cardiff Lane	Section 4(f)	Park
28	Wasilla Elementary School (former)	City of Wasilla	390 N Boundary Street	Section 4(f)	Historic Site
29	Teeland's Store	City of Wasilla	405 E Herning Avenue	Section 4(f)	Historic Site
30	Wasilla Community Hall	City of Wasilla	323 N Main Street	Section 4(f)	Historic Site