

COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE

STATE OF ALASKA,
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

AND

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE,
SITKA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

REGARDING CERTAIN STATE PARKS IN SITKA

To

**RECOGNIZE MUTUAL INTEREST IN MAINTAINING VIABLE ACCESS AND
BENEFICIAL PUBLIC USE OF BARANOF CASTLE HILL STATE HISTORICAL SITE
AND THE OLD SITKA HISTORICAL PARK**

ARTICLE I -- INTRODUCTION AND AUTHORITY

This agreement is made by and between the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, (State Parks) and Sitka National Historical Park (SNHP) under 54 U.S.C. 101703 (Cooperative management agreements), which authorizes National Park Service managers to enter into cooperative management agreements with State agencies to provide for management of State parks where they are located adjacent or nearby, including the exchange of goods and services for those purposes.

ARTICLE II -- BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The State of Alaska (SOA) is facing relatively sudden and extreme fiscal challenges of indeterminate length. Consequently SOA management has determined that it is necessary to put Sitka State Parks into a state of "passive management," unless or until superior options/solutions can be developed /arranged. Included in the SOA's parks intended for passive management are Sitka's Castle Hill and Old Sitka Historic Park. In response to these challenges, local managers of the parks have developed this agreement to assure that the following objectives are met:

1. To ensure continued public enjoyment of Castle Hill SHS, and Old Sitka SHP,
2. To ensure that visitors to Sitka National Historical Park, Castle Hill SHS, and Old Sitka SHP have high-quality visitor experiences through interpretive programs and good site maintenance, and
3. To provide for basic routine maintenance of Castle Hill SHS and Old Sitka SHP, as defined herein, to maintain or improve the current levels of visitor safety at the sites.

ARTICLE III -- RELEVANCY TO SITKA NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK and CHALLENGES

Castle Hill SHS is extremely relevant and very important to Sitka National Historical Park. Castle Hill is a National Historic Landmark and is directly connected to SNHP because of SNHP's mandate to tell the story of Russian America in Alaska. Castle Hill, formally "Baranof Castle Hill State Historic Site," is one of the most historically significant sites in Alaska. Castle Hill is most well-known for being the site of the transfer of Russian interests in Alaska to the United States in 1867, with Sitka being the capital of Russian America.

Old Sitka State Historical Park is extremely relevant and very important to Sitka National Historical Park. One of SNHP's primary purposes per the Parks enabling legislation is to tell the story of the Russian/Tlingit "Battle of 1804." The "Battle of 1804" was in response to the destruction in 1802 of the Russian settlement established at what is now Old Sitka State Historical Park in 1799. The Battles of 1804 and 1802 and their associated nationally significant sites are directly connected and the stories inextricable entwined.

Absent entering into this agreement, the SOA intends to put both Castle Hill State Historic Site (SHS) and Old Sitka State Historical Park (SHP) into passive management; Sitka National Historical Park requires use of these national significant sites for interpretive programs, and walking tours on Russian America. A passive management approach, as proposed by SOA, would mean that no routine maintenance, such as litter removal and grounds maintenance would occur.

ARTICLE IV -- RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

Managers of Sitka National Historical Park agree to:

- Facilitate the maintenance transition described in this agreement by participating in an on the ground walk through of the sites with representatives of SOA.
- Meet no less than monthly with SOA representative to discuss agreement implementation.

And to

Provide basic grounds maintenance for

1) Castle Hill SHS to include;

- Mow grass at top of hill no less than once every two weeks,
- Blow leaves and leaf litter from trail once a week,
- Assess vegetative growth on and over trails weekly and trim as needed,
- Pick up litter along trails and viewing areas once daily,
- Pick up litter blown or thrown on either side of trail once weekly,
- Remove trash from site for final disposal no less than weekly

And,

2) Old Sitka SHP* to include;

- Mow grass no less than once every two weeks,
- Brush vegetation no less than once a month during June-Sept.
- Pick up litter at site no less than once a week
- Remove trash from site for final disposal no less than weekly

Managers of Alaska State Parks agree to:

- Permit access to Castle Hill SHS and Old Sitka SHP for SNHP staff-led public interpretive programs highlighting Sitka's Russian American Heritage.
- Permit reenactments of the 1867 Alaska Transfer ceremony to occur at Castle Hill on October 18th, and to allow---with prior notice and approval---additional living history programs at Castle Hill led by the staff at Sitka National Historical Park.
- Facilitate the maintenance transition described in this agreement by participating in an on the ground walk through of the sites with representatives of Sitka National Historical Park.
- Provide use of existing Alaska State Parks tools and equipment located in Sitka for use on all Park assets.
- Meet no less than monthly (telephonic or in person) with NPS representative to discuss agreement implementation

Areas of responsibility include the entirety of Castle Hill State SHS and the portion of Old Sitka SHP visually represented on the attached map.

ARTICLE V - KEY OFFICIALS

Key officials are essential to ensure maximum coordination and communications between the parties and the work being performed. Key officials for this agreement include:

A. For NPS:

Sitka NHP Superintendent:
Mary Miller, P.E.
Sitka National Historical Park
103 Monastery Street
Sitka, AK 99835
Email: marv_miller@nps.gov

Phone: (907) 747-0111

Agreements Technical Representative:
Brinnen Carter
Chief of Resources
Sitka National Historical Park
103 Monastery Street
Sitka, AK 99835
Email: brinnen_carter@nps.gov
Phone: (907) 747-0140

B. For SOA/DNR:
Ben Ellis, Director
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
550 W 7th Ave., Suite 1380
Anchorage, AK 99501-3561
phone: (907) 269-8700
fax: (907) 269-8907

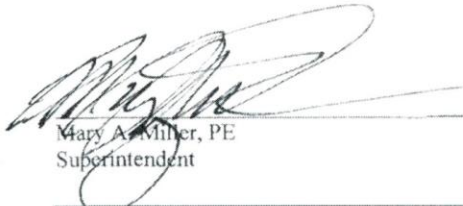
Local Contact:
Michael Eberhardt
Park Superintendent Southeast Area
400 Willoughby Ave. 5th Floor, PUB 111071
Juneau, Alaska 99811
Phone: (907) 465-2481

ARTICLE VI – TERM OF AGREEMENT AND TERMINATION

This agreement shall be in force immediately upon signing of all parties and extend until October 30, 2015. This agreement can be voided by either party by giving 10 day written notice to the other party.



State Park Director


Mary A. Miller, PE
Superintendent

4/29/2015
MAY 130/2015
4/30/2015
Date