



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
Office of History & Archaeology

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September 3, 2021

File No.: 3130-4R Yak Timber / 2021-01009

Donald Bremner
President, Yak Timber
PO Box 236
Yakutat, AK 99689
bremnerdon482@gmail.com

Subject: Timber Harvest near Humpy Creek

Dear Mr. Bremner:

The Alaska Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) provide programs to encourage the preservation and protection of the archaeological, historic, and architectural resources of Alaska. As such we often work with numerous entities – federal, state, non-profit, and for-profit project proponents – to find ways to balance the needs of communities with heritage resources.

Our office received notice of logging operations by Yak Timber, a logging subsidiary of Yak-Tat Kwaan, Inc., in the vicinity of Humpy Creek. This notice includes concerns from numerous individuals about the potential for the logging operation to harm historic, archaeological, and culturally important sites in the vicinity of Humpy Creek. It is our understanding that there is limited State of Alaska and federal agency involvement in the project and that compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and the Alaska Historic Preservation Act either has been completed or is not required. However, we offer the following comments for your consideration in our advisory role as a steward for the preservation of heritage resources throughout Alaska.

It is our understanding that lands near Humpy Creek contain resources of historic and traditional importance to the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe. Please note that there are known documented and undocumented irreplaceable heritage resources in and near the project area that could be adversely affected by logging, associated activities, and indirect effects such as erosion and mass wasting. Available information indicates that past logging activities in the area were successfully implemented with preservation consideration for these resources. Our office strongly recommends that Yak Timber apply similar measures to ensure continued stewardship of cultural heritage resources during these and future commercial endeavors.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact Judy Bittner at 269-8715 or judy.bittner@alaska.gov if you have any questions or if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judith E. Bittner".

Judith E. Bittner
Chief, Office of History and Archaeology
State Historic Preservation Officer