May 7, 2024

Judith E. Bittner
Office of History & Archaeology Atwood Building
550 West 7th Avenue Suite 1310
Anchorage, AK 99501

Subject: Section 106 initiating consultation and requesting review of proposed finding of "no adverse effect" with conditions imposed to avoid adverse effects on historic properties for NSF project: LTER: Changing Disturbances, Ecological Legacies, and the Future of the Alaskan Boreal Forest (Principal Investigator (PI) Michelle Mack #2224776)

Dear Ms. Bittner:

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is initiating consultation pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) regarding its 2024-2029 funding of University of Alaska Fairbanks proposed research LTER: Changing Disturbances, Ecological Legacies, and the Future of the Alaskan Boreal Forest. Principal Investigator (PI) Dr. Michelle Mack and Co-PIs Drs. Jeremy Jones, Christa Mulder, Teresa Hollingsworth, and Todd Brinkman propose to conduct research on the boreal forests of interior Alaska through long-term monitoring of changes in ecosystem carbon cycling in response to permafrost thaw and ground subsidence (thermokarst) development. This research will contribute to a body of work monitoring permafrost and associated ecosystem carbon cycling processes. The proposed research includes soil and permafrost thaw depth measurements, soil harvesting, and soil coring at locations that have been disturbed by wildfire within the last three years, an undertaking with the potential to cause effects on historic properties per 36 CFR 800.3 of the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The NSF proposes a finding of "no adverse effect" with conditions imposed to avoid adverse effects on historic properties and requests the SHPO's review, and if appropriate, concurrence with this finding.

**Project Area**

Most project locations are in the vicinity of Fairbanks, Alaska, extending as far north as Beaver, Alaska, as far south as Healy, AK as far west as Manley Hot Springs, Alaska and as far east as Chena Hot Springs. The project area includes 147 discontinuous locations where soil coring and sampling will occur (Attachment 1, Figures 1-10). Depending on various factors, the research team will pick a maximum of 30 sampling locations of the total 147 proposed. A maximum of 90 soil coring locations, 300 soil depth measurements, and ~45 porewater samples will occur within the approximately 0.2 square mile (128 acres) project area.

**Project Description**

The goals for this field effort are to collect soil samples, tree and shrub inventories, plant cover, measure soil organic layer and permafrost thaw depths, and establish permanent transects for future non-destructive resurveys. Project areas have all been previously disturbed by wildfires within three years of sampling. All ground disturbing work will be limited to one year of sampling.

Sampling locations are classified as 1) LTER Wildfire, these coordinates indicate the start of a 30 m transect that will have 3 cores along it; and 2) LTER Wetland, these coordinates are in the middle of the wetland feature. The sampling will begin on the shore of the lake or collapse bog/fen and extend 30 m from the shore or stable ground into the terrestrial environment.

All project areas will be accessed via helicopter by a research team of 3 people, and researchers will walk from the helicopter landing to the GPS locations. At each location, researchers will lay out a 30 m linear transect within the project area. Each of the following will be carried out by a team member:

- Take GPS measurement at 0 m, roll out tape to 30 m along compass bearing, take GPS measurement at 20 m. Return along transect inventorying trees and shrubs along transect in 30 x 2 m belt.
- Starting at the 0 m end of the transect, a team member will measure residual organic soil depth and permafrost thaw depth at 3 m intervals along the transect for a total of 10 residual soil and thaw depth measurements per transect. Residual soil depth measurements consist of slicing a small (5 cm long) slash into the organic soil layer and probing, by hand, for the organic-mineral soil interface, which is determined by texture, and measuring the distance from the surface to the interface. Permafrost thaw depth measurements consist of sliding a long, 2 cm diameter metal probe into the ground until it hits the ice surface, removing the probe, and measuring the distance from the surface of the moss to the surface of the ice.
- At three randomly chosen locations along the transect (i.e., a subset of the soil profiles examined above), researchers will destructively harvest soil using a 6.8 cm diameter and 30 or 50 cm long hand-made “twist core” with serrated blade on the coring end and inserting it with serrated cutting blade into the organic soil layer until it reaches the organic-mineral interface, removing the corer, extruding the organic soil, and then reinserting the corer into the same hole and coring to 10 cm deep in the mineral soil (or to the permafrost surface, if less than 10 cm) as measured by the depth from the organic-mineral interface into the mineral soil. The mineral soil core will be removed and extruded. Both cores will be placed on ice and returned to the laboratory.
- Starting at the 0 m end of transect a team member will estimate plant cover percentage at 3 m intervals.
- Transects will be permanently marked for future non-destructive resurveys. Transect markers will be either wood stakes, benchmarks, or pin flags with anchors.
- At LTER Wetland sites, porewater samples will be collected at three random points along the 30 m transect using a 0.52 cm diameter stainless steel sipper. The sipper will be carefully inserted to two depths (30cm and permafrost interface to a maximum depth of 100 cm) to collect approximately 60 - 100 ml of porewater within the soil matrix. Porewater will be extracted using suction applied via syringe attached to the sipper by polyvinyl tubing.

**Identification of Historic Properties**

Stantec archaeologist Mackenzie Hughes, MS RPA conducted a desktop review of the 147 proposed project areas using the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) database on March 26, 2024 (Attachment 1, Figures 1-10; Table 1). Stantec reviewed AHRS for previously recorded cultural resources within 100 meters of each of the 147 project locations. No cultural resources survey was conducted in support of the proposed project.

Of the 147 discontinuous project areas, six (6) proposed project areas intersect with previously recorded cultural resources. The Dunbar-Brooks Terminal Trail (LIV-00556) intersects with two (2) of the project areas (2023 04 and 2023 14). Site LIV-00556 was recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) with SHPO concurrence in 2016. The Olive to Cleary Creek Ditch (LIV-00515) intersects with one (1) of the project areas (Hess Creek 2) and was determined not eligible for NRHP listing in 2012. The Elliot Highway – Segment B – Bypass Segment B15 (LIV-00768) intersects with three (3) of the project areas (Hess Creek 4, 5, and 6) and was determined not eligible for NRHP listing in 2015.

No previously recorded cultural resources are recorded within the remaining 141 project areas. The nearest previously recorded cultural resource to the 141 project areas is located 170 feet east of project area 2023 12.

**Table 1. Proposed Project Locations and AHRS Search Results**

| Work Type | Location Name | Center Latitude | Center Longitude | Findings | Nearest Resource |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LTER Wetland | 1981 01 | 65.1339 | -149.1309 | Negative | 4.51 miles SE |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 02 | 65.1246 | -149.1218 | Negative | 3.86 miles SE |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 03 | 65.1081 | -149.2235 | Negative | 5.16 miles SE |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 04 | 65.1043 | -149.2320 | Negative | 5.27 miles SE |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 05 | 65.1030 | -149.2158 | Negative | 4.8 miles SE |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 06 | 65.0982 | -149.1935 | Negative | 4.08 miles SE |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 07 | 65.0906 | -149.2042 | Negative | 4.17 miles SE |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 08 | 65.0875 | -149.1886 | Negative | 3.64 miles SE |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 09 | 65.0721 | -149.2298 | Negative | 4.69 miles SE |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 10 | 65.0668 | -149.2112 | Negative | 4.23 miles E |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 11 | 65.0667 | -149.1524 | Negative | 2.5 miles E |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 12 | 65.0650 | -149.1247 | Negative | 1.79 miles E |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 13 | 65.0614 | -149.0664 | Negative | 3906 feet N |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 14 | 65.0524 | -149.2522 | Negative | 5.49 miles NE |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 15 | 65.0549 | -149.2142 | Negative | 4.4 miles NE |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 16 | 65.0473 | -149.2417 | Negative | 5.31 miles NE |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 17 | 65.0419 | -149.2783 | Negative | 6.13 miles NW |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 18 | 65.0394 | -149.2692 | Negative | 6.19 miles NE |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 19 | 65.0348 | -149.2601 | Negative | 6.17 miles NE |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 20 | 65.0302 | -149.2357 | Negative | 5.68 miles NE |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 21 | 65.0330 | -149.2062 | Negative | 4.9 miles NE |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 22 | 65.0402 | -149.1851 | Negative | 4.06 miles NE |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 23 | 65.0268 | -149.1696 | Negative | 4.34 miles NE |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 24 | 65.0277 | -149.1604 | Negative | 4.11 miles NE |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 25 | 65.0399 | -149.1247 | Negative | 2.79 miles NE |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 26 | 65.0442 | -149.1150 | Negative | 2.43 miles NE |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 27 | 65.0230 | -149.1305 | Negative | 3.7 miles NE |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 28 | 65.0248 | -149.1185 | Negative | 3.56 miles NE |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 29 | 65.0231 | -149.0947 | Negative | 3.49 miles N |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 30 | 65.0317 | -149.0814 | Negative | 2.82 miles N |

| Work Type | Location Name | Center Latitude | Center Longitude | Findings | Nearest Resource |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LTER Wetland | 1981 31 | 65.0232 | -149.0548 | Negative | 3.3 miles N |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 32 | 65.0506 | -149.0816 | Negative | 1.52 miles N |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 33 | 65.0487 | -149.0169 | Negative | 1.55 miles N |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 34 | 65.0349 | -148.9896 | Negative | 2.64 miles NW |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 35 | 65.0396 | -148.9757 | Negative | 2.47 miles NW |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 36 | 65.0440 | -148.9640 | Negative | 2.4 miles NW |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 37 | 65.0538 | -148.9540 | Negative | 2.11 miles NW |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 38 | 65.0625 | -148.9318 | Negative | 2.05 miles NW |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 39 | 65.0695 | -148.9172 | Negative | 2.23 miles W |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 40 | 65.0755 | -148.9037 | Negative | 2.51 miles W |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 41 | 65.0755 | -148.8564 | Negative | 3.16 miles E |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 42 | 65.0635 | -148.9056 | Negative | 2.71 miles NW |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 43 | 65.0528 | -148.9285 | Negative | 2.62 miles NW |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 44 | 65.0574 | -148.8810 | Negative | 4.22 miles E |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 45 | 65.0442 | -148.9175 | Negative | 3.33 miles NW |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 46 | 65.0438 | -148.8949 | Negative | 3.91 miles NW |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 47 | 65.0217 | -148.9257 | Negative | 4.26 miles NW |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 48 | 65.0248 | -148.8931 | Negative | 5.28 miles E |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 49 | 65.0233 | -148.8698 | Negative | 4.62 miles E |
| LTER Wetland | 1981 50 | 65.0312 | -148.8062 | Negative | 2.68 miles E |
| LTER Wetland | 2023 01 | 65.0218 | -148.7779 | Negative | 2.05 miles E |
| LTER Wetland | 2023 02 | 65.0287 | -148.7550 | Negative | 1.32 miles E |
| LTER Wetland | 2023 03 | 65.0298 | -148.7319 | Negative | 3325 feet E |
| LTER Wetland | 2023 04 | 65.0381 | -148.7062 | **Positive** | Intersects with LIV-00556 |
| LTER Wetland | 2023 05 | 65.0209 | -148.7638 | Negative | 1.6 miles E |
| LTER Wetland | 2023 06 | 65.0226 | -148.7552 | Negative | 1.45 miles E |
| LTER Wetland | 2023 07 | 65.0177 | -148.7606 | Negative | 1.59 miles E |
| LTER Wetland | 2023 08 | 65.0106 | -148.7456 | Negative | 1.23 miles E |
| LTER Wetland | 2023 09 | 65.0113 | -148.7351 | Negative | 4910 feet E |
| LTER Wetland | 2023 10 | 65.0187 | -148.7219 | Negative | 2886 miles E |
| LTER Wetland | 2023 11 | 65.0233 | -148.6951 | Negative | 700 feet W |
| LTER Wetland | 2023 12 | 64.9969 | -148.6972 | Negative | 170 feet E |
| LTER Wetland | 2023 13 | 64.9920 | -148.6919 | **Positive** | Intersects with LIV-00556 |
| LTER Wetland | 2023 14 | 64.9888 | -148.6915 | Negative | 630 feet NE |
| LTER Wetland | 2023 15 | 64.9919 | -148.6763 | Negative | 940 feet SW |
| LTER Wetland | 2023 16 | 65.0630 | -148.6843 | Negative | 1.16 miles W |
| LTER Wetland | 2023 17 | 65.0623 | -148.6673 | Negative | 1.62 miles W |
| LTER Wetland | 2023 18 | 65.0559 | -148.6621 | Negative | 1.5 miles W |
| LTER Wetland | 2023 19 | 65.0962 | -148.6322 | Negative | 3.26 miles W |
| LTER Wetland | 2023 20 | 65.0893 | -148.5610 | Negative | 5.28 miles W |
| LTER Wetland | 2023 21 | 65.0846 | -148.5388 | Negative | 5.89 miles W |
| LTER Wetland | 2023 22 | 65.1154 | -148.5953 | Negative | 4.33 miles W |
| LTER Wetland | 2023 23 | 65.1175 | -148.5740 | Negative | 4.89 miles W |
| LTER Wildfire | Clear Creek 1 | 64.0373 | -150.1282 | Negative | 9.56 miles S |
| LTER Wildfire | Clear Creek 2 | 64.0353 | -150.1282 | Negative | 9.48 miles S |

| Work Type | Location Name | Center Latitude | Center Longitude | Findings | Nearest Resource |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LTER Wildfire | Clear Creek 3 | 64.0329 | -150.1282 | Negative | 9.41 miles S |
| LTER Wildfire | Clear Creek 4 | 64.0050 | -150.1183 | Negative | 7.5 miles S |
| LTER Wildfire | Clear Creek 5 | 64.0030 | -150.1183 | Negative | 7.32 miles S |
| LTER Wildfire | Clear Creek 6 | 64.0010 | -150.1183 | Negative | 7.29 miles S |
| LTER Wildfire | Dry Creek 1 | 64.9242 | -150.8944 | Negative | 3.15 miles NE |
| LTER Wildfire | Dry Creek 2 | 64.9242 | -150.8899 | Negative | 3.14 miles NE |
| LTER Wildfire | Dry Creek 3 | 64.9242 | -150.8854 | Negative | 3.13 miles NE |
| LTER Wildfire | Dry Creek 4 | 64.9025 | -150.8423 | Negative | 4.44 miles N |
| LTER Wildfire | Dry Creek 5 | 64.9006 | -150.8423 | Negative | 4.59 miles N |
| LTER Wildfire | Dry Creek 6 | 64.8987 | -150.8423 | Negative | 4.74 miles N |
| LTER Wildfire | Haystack 1 | 65.1769 | -147.6326 | Negative | 3.15 miles E |
| LTER Wildfire | Haystack 2 | 65.1750 | -147.6326 | Negative | 3.21 miles E |
| LTER Wildfire | Haystack 3 | 65.1743 | -147.6335 | Negative | 3.22 miles E |
| LTER Wildfire | Haystack 4 | 65.1765 | -147.6210 | Negative | 2.84 miles E |
| LTER Wildfire | Haystack 5 | 65.1765 | -147.6174 | Negative | 2.73 miles E |
| LTER Wildfire | Haystack 6 | 65.1769 | -147.6165 | Negative | 2.72 miles E |
| LTER Wildfire | Hess Creek 1 | 65.4801 | -148.3624 | Negative | 270 feet W |
| LTER Wildfire | Hess Creek 2 | 65.4781 | -148.3607 | **Positive** | Intersects with LIV-00515 |
| LTER Wildfire | Hess Creek 3 | 65.4815 | -148.3517 | Negative | 208 feet SW |
| LTER Wildfire | Hess Creek 4 | 65.4806 | -148.3537 | **Positive** | Intersects with LIV-00768 |
| LTER Wildfire | Hess Creek 5 | 65.4797 | -148.3537 | **Positive** | Intersects with LIV-00768 |
| LTER Wildfire | Hess Creek 6 | 65.4784 | -148.3503 | **Positive** | Intersects with LIV-00768 |
| LTER Wildfire | Lost Horse 1 | 65.1656 | -147.6722 | Negative | 4.43 miles NE |
| LTER Wildfire | Lost Horse 2 | 65.1637 | -147.6722 | Negative | 4.48 miles NE |
| LTER Wildfire | Lost Horse 3 | 65.1618 | -147.6722 | Negative | 4.52 miles NE |
| LTER Wildfire | Lost Horse 4 | 65.1581 | -147.6740 | Negative | 4.62 miles NE |
| LTER Wildfire | Lost Horse 5 | 65.1562 | -147.6740 | Negative | 4.66 miles NE |
| LTER Wildfire | Lost Horse 6 | 65.1543 | 147.6740 | Negative | 4.7 miles NE |
| LTER Wildfire | McCoy Creek 1 | 64.4967 | -146.4972 | Negative | 4.76 miles NE |
| LTER Wildfire | McCoy Creek 2 | 64.4967 | -146.4927 | Negative | 4.94 miles NE |
| LTER Wildfire | McCoy Creek 3 | 64.4967 | -146.4882 | Negative | 5.04 miles NE |
| LTER Wildfire | McCoy Creek 4 | 64.5067 | -146.4217 | Negative | 7.08 miles NE |
| LTER Wildfire | McCoy Creek 5 | 64.4940 | -146.3462 | Negative | 7.7 miles NW |
| LTER Wildfire | McCoy Creek 6 | 64.4921 | -146.3462 | Negative | 7.52 miles NW |
| LTER Wildfire | McCoy Creek 7 | 64.4901 | -146.3462 | Negative | 7.39 miles NW |
| LTER Wildfire | Munson Creek 1 | 64.9740 | -146.1297 | Negative | 3.06 miles E |
| LTER Wildfire | Munson Creek 2 | 64.9740 | -146.1253 | Negative | 3.22 miles E |
| LTER Wildfire | Munson Creek 3 | 64.9740 | -146.1208 | Negative | 3.35 miles E |
| LTER Wildfire | Munson Creek 4 | 64.9767 | -146.0821 | Negative | 4.41 miles E |
| LTER Wildfire | Munson Creek 5 | 64.9748 | -146.0821 | Negative | 4.44 miles E |
| LTER Wildfire | Munson Creek 6 | 64.9729 | -146.0821 | Negative | 4.46 miles E |
| LTER Wildfire | Nugget Creek 1 | 64.8846 | -146.5511 | Negative | 0.88 miles NE |
| LTER Wildfire | Nugget Creek 2 | 64.8846 | -146.5466 | Negative | 0.81 miles NE |
| LTER Wildfire | Nugget Creek 3 | 64.8846 | -146.5421 | Negative | 0.73 miles NE |
| LTER Wildfire | Nugget Creek 4 | 64.8949 | -146.4478 | Negative | 0.64 miles N |

| Work Type | Location Name | Center Latitude | Center Longitude | Findings | Nearest Resource |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LTER Wildfire | Nugget Creek 5 | 64.8949 | -146.4433 | Negative | 0.64 miles N |
| LTER Wildfire | Nugget Creek 6 | 64.8949 | -146.4388 | Negative | 0.64 miles N |
| LTER Wildfire | Rock Creek 1 | 64.0467 | -149.6736 | Negative | 3.27 miles NE |
| LTER Wildfire | Rock Creek 2 | 64.0467 | -149.6691 | Negative | 3.15 miles NE |
| LTER Wildfire | Rock Creek 3 | 64.0467 | -149.6646 | Negative | 3.01 miles NE |
| LTER Wildfire | Rock Creek 4 | 64.0443 | -149.6772 | Negative | 3.44 miles NE |
| LTER Wildfire | Rock Creek 5 | 64.0424 | -149.6772 | Negative | 3.49 miles NE |
| LTER Wildfire | Rock Creek 6 | 64.0404 | -149.6772 | Negative | 3.52 miles SE |
| LTER Wildfire | Shores Landing 1 | 64.4882 | -149.2748 | Negative | 6.37 miles NE |
| LTER Wildfire | Shores Landing 2 | 64.4862 | -149.2748 | Negative | 6.45 miles NE |
| LTER Wildfire | Shores Landing 3 | 64.4843 | -149.2748 | Negative | 6.5 miles NE |
| LTER Wildfire | Shores Landing 4 | 64.4506 | -149.2658 | Negative | 5.69 miles E |
| LTER Wildfire | Shores Landing 5 | 64.4506 | -149.2613 | Negative | 5.54 miles E |
| LTER Wildfire | Shores Landing 6 | 64.4506 | -149.2568 | Negative | 5.41 miles E |
| LTER Wildfire | Shovel Creek 1 | 64.9525 | -148.4194 | Negative | 1.67 miles E |
| LTER Wildfire | Shovel Creek 2 | 64.9561 | -148.3913 | Negative | 0.89 miles E |
| LTER Wildfire | Shovel Creek 3 | 64.9480 | -148.3155 | Negative | 1.09 miles W |
| LTER Wildfire | Shovel Creek 4 | 64.9499 | -148.2947 | Negative | 1.67 miles W |
| LTER Wildfire | Shovel Creek 5 | 64.9541 | -148.2617 | Negative | 1.92 miles E |
| LTER Wildfire | Shovel Creek 6 | 64.9589 | -148.2461 | Negative | 1.45 miles E |
| LTER Wildfire | Shovel Creek 7 | 64.9594 | -148.1655 | Negative | 0.77 miles SW |
| LTER Wildfire | Teklanika 1 | 64.3750 | -149.3340 | Negative | 5.59 miles SE |
| LTER Wildfire | Teklanika 2 | 64.3750 | -149.3295 | Negative | 5.47 miles SE |
| LTER Wildfire | Teklanika 3 | 64.3750 | -149.3251 | Negative | 5.31 miles SE |
| LTER Wildfire | Teklanika 4 | 64.3625 | -149.3242 | Negative | 4.94 miles SE |
| LTER Wildfire | Teklanika 5 | 64.3606 | -149.3242 | Negative | 4.89 miles SE |
| LTER Wildfire | Teklanika 6 | 64.3587 | -149.3242 | Negative | 4.87 miles SE |

**Finding of Effects and Conditions to Avoid Adverse Effects**

The ground disturbance associated with this proposal is limited to soil depth measurements and coring at 30 project areas for a total of 300 soil depth measurements, ~45 porewater samples, and 90 soil cores across an area of approximately 0.2 square mile (128 acres). Stantec identified 3 linear cultural resources that intersect with 6 of the 147 project areas, of which one is eligible for NRHP listing (LIV-00556) and two are not eligible for NRHP listing (LIV-00515 and LIV-00768). To mitigate for impacts to previously recorded/known cultural and historic resources, the research team will avoid all project areas with identified eligible resources. In project areas intersecting non-eligible resources (LIV-00515 and LIV-00768) including a ditch and a highway, the research team will avoid any work directly affecting the two distinct features. In the event that the undertaking encounters cultural resources at project areas with no previously identified cultural resources, the research team will be provided the Battelle ARO Inadvertent Discovery of Historical, Archaeological, or Cultural Resources Plan (IDP, Attachment 2). The IDP includes guidance on identifying cultural resources in the field, avoidance measures, and reporting and notification instructions. In the event wildfires take place in new locations and research locations are updated to include project areas within new wildfire footprints, this letter will be amended

to include the results of an AHRS database review of the newly identified project areas. If cultural resources are identified that intersect with the newly identified research locations, the resources will similarly be avoided.

Due to the conditions above imposed to avoid adverse effects to historic properties, the NSF proposes a finding of “no adverse effects” pursuant to 36 CFR §800.5 (b).

We look forward to receiving the SHPO response to this request. If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Catherine Morris

**Catherine Morris (she/her)**
Environmental Science Planner
catherine@polarfield.com

Attachments: Attachment 1: Project Location and Vicinity Maps
Attachment 2: Battelle ARO Inadvertent Discovery of Historical, Archaeological, or Cultural Resources Plan

# RE: Findings Letter and Concurrence Request for NSF funded Mack 2224776

Meitl, Sarah J (DNR) <sarah.meitl@alaska.gov>

Mon 6/24/2024 4:23 PM

To:Catherine Morris <catherine@polarfield.com>
Cc:Naomi Whitty <naomi@polarfield.com>;Meitl, Sarah J (DNR) <sarah.meitl@alaska.gov>

3130-1R NSF / 2023-00827

The Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (AK SHPO) received your correspondence (dated May 7, 2024) concerning the subject project on May 13, 2024. Following our review of the documentation provided, we concur with the finding of No Historic Properties Adversely Affected.

This email serves as our office's official correspondence for the purposes of Section 106. Please note that our office may need to re-evaluate our concurrence if changes are made to the project's scope or design, or comments are received from other consulting parties. As stipulated in 36 CFR 800.3, other consulting parties such as the local government and Tribes are required to be notified of the undertaking. Our response does not end the 30-day review period provided to other consulting parties. Should unidentified cultural resources be discovered in the course of the project, work must be interrupted until the resources have been evaluated in terms of the National Register of Historic Places eligibility criteria (36 CFR 60.4), in consultation with our office. Please note that some sites can be deeply buried and that fossils are considered cultural resources subject to the Alaska Historic Preservation Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact me if you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance.

Best,

Sarah

***Sarah Meitl***

Review and Compliance Coordinator

Alaska State Historic Preservation Office

Office of History and Archaeology

907-269-8720

**From:** DNR, Parks OHA Review Compliance (DNR sponsored) <oha.revcomp@alaska.gov>
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2024 2:14 PM
**To:** Catherine Devitt <catherine@polarfield.com>
**Cc:** Meitl, Sarah J (DNR) <sarah.meitl@alaska.gov>; Naomi Whitty <naomi@polarfield.com>
**Subject:** Fw: Findings Letter and Concurrence Request for NSF funded Mack 2224776

Good afternoon,

The Office of History and Archaeology/Alaska State Historic Preservation Office received your documentation, and its review has been logged in with me under 2023-00827. Our office has 30 calendar days after receipt to complete our review and may contact you if we require additional information. Please contact me by email if you have any questions or concerns.

Best,

Sarah

***Sarah Meitl***

Review and Compliance Coordinator

Alaska State Historic Preservation Office

Office of History and Archaeology

907-269-8720

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**From:** Catherine Morris <catherine@polarfield.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2024 10:57 AM
**To:** DNR, Parks OHA Review Compliance (DNR sponsored) <oha.revcomp@alaska.gov>; Meitl, Sarah J (DNR) <sarah.meitl@alaska.gov>
**Cc:** Naomi Whitty <naomi@polarfield.com>
**Subject:** Findings Letter and Concurrence Request for NSF funded Mack 2224776



Hello Sarah,

Attached is the Findings Letter for NSF funded Mack 2224776 *LTER: Changing Disturbances, Ecological Legacies, and the Future of the Alaskan Boreal Forest.* The NSF proposes a finding of "no adverse effects" with conditions imposed to avoid adverse effects on historic properties and requests the SHPO's review, and if appropriate, concurrence with this finding.

We consulted on this same project in 2023 under 3130-1R NSF / 2023-00827 although there was a last minute cancellation of the fieldwork in 2023 and the fieldwork now proposed is in new locations so we decided a new consultation would be appropriate.

Thanks in advance, and we look forward to hearing from you!

Best,

Catherine

**Catherine Morris** (she/her)

Environmental Science Planner

Polar Field Services, Inc.

861 SouthPark Drive, Suite 400

Littleton, CO 80120

c: 937-286-6502

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