4.1 Small Arms Complex Fire Break Trail

The U.S. Army Garrison, Alaska (USAG-AK) has proposed to cut an approximately 1.75km-long fire break behind the small arms range complex, specifically the Record Fire Range, on Fort Richardson. The purpose of the firebreak is to help control and contain any fires that may start in the vicinity of the small arms complex. The fire break will be approximately 2m in width. The majority of the fire break will be hand cleared because of the steepness of the terrain, though a portion of the project may be hydro-axed.

Figure 98. Project area, small arms complex fire break

Cultural Resources

There are no known cultural resources located in the vicinity of the proposed small arms complex fire break.

Section 106 (NHPA) Inventory

In June 2004 the post archaeologist and a cultural resources staff member, both employed by the Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMML), Colorado State University, conducted a pedestrian reconnaissance of the proposed small arms complex fire break.

Prior to the reconnaissance, the CEMML forestry crew had flagged approximately 1/3 of the fire break route. The flagged route was surveyed to its termination, at which point the crew continued survey activities based on maps of the project area. The total project area for the fire break is approximately 9 acres of which approximately 2/3 was

surveyed, in addition to some areas outside of the project area. The un-surveyed portion of the project area consists of a flatter area along the northern portion of fire break, leading to the Zero Range. This area, along with the southwest end of the fire break, is flatter terrain with extremely dense, low vegetation, and which has been disturbed to varying degrees by previously military activities and has a very low potential for containing cultural resources. There are two "high" points along the proposed fire break. Both of these more prominent areas were pedestrian surveyed and tested. Soils in the project area were very shallow, less than 10cm in most areas, lying atop glacial till. All shovel tests were approximately 40cm x 40cm, and were screened through ¼in. hardware cloth.

Results

Pedestrian survey and subsurface testing of the proposed project area did not identify any cultural resources. Based on the information presented above, USAG-AK has determined that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed project.