

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Proenneke, Richard L. Site (XLC-00213)
Name of Property
Lake and Peninsula Borough, Alaska
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 06000241

Date Listed: March 8, 2007

Property Name: Proenneke, Richard L. Site; AHRIS Site No. XLC-00213 (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase)

County: Lake and Peninsula Borough-Census Area

State: Alaska

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 5. Classification-Contributing Resources

Thirteen features described in Section 7 of the 2007 National Register listing are hereby listed as contributing resources.

Section 5. Classification-Contributing Resources

Six features not included in the 2007 National Register listing are hereby added as contributing resources.

Section 5. Classification-Contributing Resources

Contributing feature number 2, the chair, is a replica of the original object and the former site of the chair is the contributing feature (rather than the original chair repositied at the NPS Alaska Region Curatorial Center).

Section 7. Description

Two features—the emergency food storage cache and the urination stump—are outside the 2007 National Register site boundary and are hereby removed from the site description.

Section 10. Geographical Data

The geographic coordinates of the 2007 National Register site datum is hereby revised to provide a more accurate location.

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In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Joan M. Antonson

21 July 2014

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Alaska

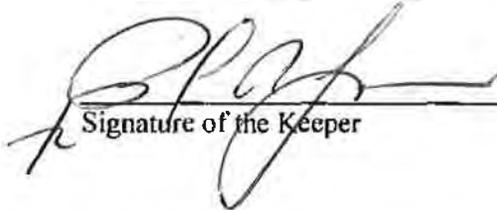
Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

4/15/2016
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

Public - Local

Public - State

Public - Federal

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Category of Property
 (Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Total Number of Resources within the District (Includes previously listed and newly identified resources. Excludes 2 previously identified resources that are hereby removed.):

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u>9</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>9</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>22</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)
RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD

foundation: WOOD: logs

roof: WOOD, EARTH: logs, sod

walls: WOOD: logs

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Richard L. Proenneke Site is located in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, on the southeastern shore of upper Twin Lakes, about 40 miles north of the village of Port Alsworth (Attachment 1). The Richard L. Proenneke Site was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on March 8, 2007. The cabin is the finest example of wood craftsmanship in the Lake Clark area. The cabin is one of three buildings that are considered contributing resources. There are fifteen other features within the current site boundary that are associated with Proenneke during the years he lived at the site, from 1967 to 1979. This nomination identifies six (6) additional features in the area associated with Proenneke that are to be added to the National Register site (Attachment 2). This nomination also describes the boundary increase needed to include the additional features within the National Register site (Attachment 3).

Narrative Description

The area of the site listed in the National Register of Historic places in 2007 contains buildings, sites, and objects Proenneke constructed and used from 1967 to 1979. These features demonstrate Proenneke's superior woodworking skills and are expressions of his popularized wilderness ethic. The cabin, log cache, and woodshed-outhouse are listed as contributing resources. Fifteen (15) additional components at the site were identified as significant to the history and integrity of the site.

This nomination adds constructed and natural features located outside the original boundary of the National Register site. The amended site boundary encompasses components of the site that are important to the daily life of Proenneke. As amended, the Richard L. Proenneke site includes components 14 - 19. These components are five structures, stone levees built by Proenneke, and one natural feature, the northern bank of the Hope Creek outlet.

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The contributing resources are:

Buildings (3): cabin, log cache, woodshed-outhouse

Sites (9): chair site, beach, Hope Creek outlet, cache II, cache III, cache IV, Hope Cabin trail turn-off, Hope Creek bridge trail turn-off, Teetering Rock Trail

Structures (9) cool box, north rock jetty, south rock jetty, Hope Creek Bridge abutments, stone levee 1, stone levee 2, stone levee 3, stone levee 4, stone levee 5

Objects (1): canoe

The Proenneke cabin, cache, and woodshed-outhouse

The cabin measures 10 by 12 feet and is built of peeled, round spruce logs, saddle notched at the corners (listed in the National Register March 8, 2007) (photographs 1 – 7). It has a gable roof made of spruce poles covered by sod and moss. The cabin has three windows. One on the west side, measuring 23 by 14 inches, was a single thin plastic pane that is now glass. The largest window is also on the west side. It is a 26 by 30 inch glass window. The third window is along the east wall, and measures 26 by 15 inches. It was a plastic pane that is now a glass window. The cabin door is a handmade Dutch door with wood hinges and a wood lock. A beach stone fireplace rises from the south wall (photographs 3 and 5).

Eleven feet south of the cabin is a raised log cache (photograph 8). It is 6 by 4 feet and built of peeled spruce logs that are saddle notched. The cache sits on 9-foot poles. Proenneke used the cache to store various dry goods including flour, candy, clothing, and aircraft parts.

Approximately 45 feet east of the cabin is the combined woodshed-outhouse (photographs 9 – 14). It is made of peeled spruce poles, saddle notched at the south end and nailed to corner posts at the north end. The building has a slanting shed roof. The eastern third of the shed contains a 33 inches wide outhouse with a half-moon carved in the door (photograph 11). On the north side of a trail, connecting the cabin to the woodshed-outhouse is a low rotted spruce tree stump with a bare gravel spot at its base where Proenneke would micturate and where he would dump his gray water.

The Proenneke Site cabin, cache, and woodshed-outhouse, were in need of rehabilitation in 1999. The cabin and woodshed-outhouse roofs were leaking. Rehabilitation work started in 2000 and was completed in 2003. The cabin and woodshed-outhouse roofs were removed down to the original rafters that ran from the eave logs to the ridgepole. Proenneke had covered the cabin and woodshed-outhouse with moss that he obtained within 25 yards of his site.

Moss requires a great deal of moisture to sustain itself on a roof, and the relatively dry environment was not conducive to that use. Over thirty years Proenneke added more moss, dirt, and grass seed to his roof resulting in an amalgamated mat of all three components.

The roof rehabilitation included replacing the original tarpaper covering the gee-poles in-kind. The original Visqueen lining atop the tarpaper was replaced with a more durable rubber mat. The original moss, dirt, and sod layer was put down on the rubber mat then topped with a layer of sod

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obtained five miles west of the site near a burned cabin site. The sod replacement resembles the original amalgamated material and is more resilient and self-sustaining than the moss he used in 1968. Sod was chosen rather than moss because it is slightly less of a fire hazard. Over the years Proenneke had roof fires caused by sparks from the stovepipe. He extinguished the fires, but they burned holes in the plastic lining and tarpaper.

Proenneke did not use flashing on the roofs and after thirty years the fascia boards had rotted. After replacing the original fascia boards with nearly identical ones, the decision was made to add narrow strips of sheet copper to help prolong the life of the buildings. The copper sheeting is unobtrusive. Sheet copper caps were put on the ends of each eave log, the purlins, and the ridgepole to shed moisture. Proenneke also used rectangular shaped spruce pole forms to keep the moss, dirt, and sod roofing from sliding off. The original forms were rotten and were replaced by nearly exact replicas, using the original nails to hold the poles together. In 2001 the sod roof on the cache was replaced. The aircraft parts are still in the cache.

After Proenneke left, the two plastic windows were frequently broken by bears. After replacing the windows once with plastic, glass windowpanes were installed with steel muntins in the window facing the lake. The muntins are nearly identical to the original window grille Proenneke hand sawed.

Proenneke lived at his site mostly full time for nearly 30 years and that kept mice, porcupines, squirrels, and bears from doing much harm to his cabin, cache, and woodshed. Since, the National Park Service presence at the Proenneke Site is generally June through mid-September and animals have more opportunities to damage the buildings.

In 2003 the cabin sill logs and the cache legs were replaced because they had begun to rot. The replacement logs are nearly identical. They are skirted with copper sheeting. The sheeting was nailed onto the lower part of the log and went down seven inches into the ground to act as a barrier to burrowing mice and squirrels. The original cabin sill logs were set on a thin gravel pad on top of the ground. New sill logs were placed on twelve concrete piers to keep them off the ground. A seven inch strip of copper sheeting was nailed on the side of the sill logs, inside and outside, and then backfilled to within one inch of the top of the copper. The copper sheeting has weathered and its color blends with the color of the sill logs.

Additional site components

There are 13 features at the site, described in the National Register nomination in 2007, that represent important objects and locations in the daily life of Proenneke. Section 5, Classification, is amended to include these previously described components as well as six new components in the list of Contributing Resources. In total, there are three (3) buildings, nine (9) sites, nine (9) structures, and one (1) object (Attachment 3). There are no non-contributing resources within the site boundaries.

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1. The cool box (structure) is 15 feet north of the cabin and consists of a wooden gas box (or Blazo box). These boxes were manufactured to store two 10 x 10 x 12- inch (5-gallon) fuel cans. Proenneke placed the box 2 feet underground and covered it with a layer of moss for storing perishable foodstuffs such as eggs, meat, fish, and vegetables during the warm months of the year (photograph 15).
2. The chair (site) at the high water mark of the beach is 45 feet from the cabin. It sits under two (now dead) spruce trees and accords the sitter a magnificent view of the southwesterly end of upper Twin Lakes and the surrounding mountains. It was a favorite resting place for Proenneke and his guests. The original chair, handcrafted by Proenneke, is repositied at the NPS Alaska Region Curatorial Center in Anchorage (photograph 16). A hand-made replica of the chair is displayed at the original location.
3. The north rock jetty (structure) marks off the cleared beach in front of the cabin (photograph 17). It lies 40 feet west of the cabin and during high water only a small portion of the 6 foot long-3 foot high jetty would protrude from the water. Proenneke would bury a calibrated measuring stick at the jetty and keep track of the fluctuating lake levels.
4. The beach in front of the cabin (site) is crescent shaped. It is 20 feet southwest of the cabin and 150 feet in length (photograph 17). Proenneke removed all the watermelon sized rocks from the beach and made his two jetties so he could have a rock free beach for float planes to park. Proenneke used to rake the beach to keep it neat and clean. He gathered small smooth pebbles from the beach to cover his cabin floor from time to time. He would periodically remove the pebbles from his cabin and wash and sift some on the beach before returning them to his cabin floor. Proenneke put down indoor-outdoor carpet in the cabin in 1979 to help reduce dust and moisture.
5. The 15 foot square stern Grumann canoe (object) that Proenneke used rests 50 feet from the cabin (photographs 17 and 18). It had been brought to Twin Lakes by the Carrithers and was at Spike's cabin in 1965. Dick inherited the canoe and it became his only mechanical alternative means of transportation. He had a small Sears 3.5 horsepower outboard engine that he occasionally used on the canoe. Proenneke stored the canoe on the beach just below the high water mark with the pointer line tied on a willow bush.
6. The south rock jetty (structure) lies about 90 feet south of the cabin (photographs 17 and 19). It was made of watermelon sized rocks like the north jetty. In 1975-1976 Proenneke would heel the floats of his yellow Piper J3-Cub on a wooden ramp on the north side of the jetty to protect it from westerly winds coming up the lake.
7. The cache II (site) trail head begins on the north side of the south jetty, approximately 164 feet following the trail from the cabin, and runs into the woods where a small log, lumber, and float ramp storage zone was established. The various items at the location include 2 leg hold traps hanging in a tree and a bicycle tire rim welded on a thin angle iron frame that

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looks like a spinning wheel but has unknown utility (photograph 20). All the items are either hanging from trees or leaning against spruce trees in a confined space.

8. The cache III (site) lies 135 feet, following the trail from the cabin, southeast of cache II and consists of a 25 foot ladder Proenneke built 36 years ago leaning against a group of large spruce trees, and a large piece of canvas tied into the tree. The utility of the canvas is unknown.
9. The cache IV feature (site) is east and contiguous to the woodshed-outhouse on both sides of the trail to the Teetering Rock. Cache IV is 50 feet from the Proenneke cabin and consists of hand sawn pieces of lumber, various sapling poles, and firewood trees leaning against living spruce trees. It has blocks of firewood that Proenneke sawed at nearby locations and packed to the spot for storage. In addition, cache IV contains a small pile of firewood logs 4 feet long lying across from the woodshed. The cache also contains a 55-gallon barrel used to store grease and fuel for the outboard engine. There is a table made from a slab of spruce tree burl and a wooden vice used to hold a 5-foot long rip saw for sharpening.
10. The Hope Cabin trail turn-off (site) is 164 feet east of the Proenneke cabin and requires a left hand turn to proceed to access the Hope Carrithers cabin about 600 feet to the north. The trail continues on to the Spike Carrithers and the Erhardt "Dick" Weisser cabins where the trail ends, about a thousand feet northeast of the Proenneke cabin.
11. The Hope Creek bridge trail turn-off (site) is 175 feet east from the Proenneke cabin and requires a right hand turn to access the now washed out log footbridge Proenneke built for easy access to the country south of his site. The bridge is about 360 feet from the Hope Creek bridge turnoff.
12. The Hope Creek bridge abutments (structure) is about 400 feet southeast of the Proenneke cabin and consists of a pile of rocks on the north and south banks of the creek. Proenneke placed a few small logs on the abutments spanning the 20 foot wide creek. The bridge washed out about four years ago and has not been rebuilt.
13. The Teetering Rock Trail (site) runs east from the beach in front of the Proenneke cabin about 0.73 of a mile to the rock due east of the cabin. The rock was a favorite vantage point of Proenneke (photograph 21). He liked to take his visitors to the rock and ask if they could gently seesaw it. It is a 400 pound granite glacial erratic boulder sitting on a granite outcrop. One is accorded a beautiful view of the Hope Creek delta, the lake, and surrounding mountains from the site.

The following six (6) features are additions to this nomination. They represent important structures and sites in the daily life of Proenneke that pertain to Hope Creek. Hope Creek is a glacial stream with its outlet in upper Twin Lakes. From Proenneke's cabin, following the shore of upper Twin Lakes, the stream outlet is approximately 225 yards south-southwest of the cabin. From Proenneke's cabin, following the Hope Creek bridge trail, the bridge is approximately 159

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yards south-southeast of the cabin. The log bridge abutments are approximately 146 yards east of the stream outlet. There are no non-contributing resources within the amended site boundaries.

14. The Hope Creek outlet (site) was a favorite fishing location for Proenneke and visitors (photograph 22). He installed a fish trap, in the form of a trotline, near the creek's outlet. Proenneke also enjoyed watching wildlife—especially bears—utilize the creek outlet. In his journals, Proenneke refers to the creek and its outlet as a route of travel eastward towards Cowgill Benches, a source for fish, a place to land floatplanes, and he often enjoyed the sounds of the creek from his cabin.
15. Stone levee 1 (structure) is a dam Proenneke constructed, along with three to four other stone levees (site components 16 – 19,) at Hope Creek in June, 1971. Stone levee 1 is around 2 yards in length and varies from approximately 2 feet to 1 yard in width (photograph 23). At the time of construction, winter snow was melting rapidly and there was a particularly powerful rainstorm. These events contributed to a heightened water level and strong current in Hope Creek. On June 25, 1971, out of worry for the stability of his log bridge, Proenneke enforced the bridge abutments by piling rocks, “a foot or more higher” at both ends (Branson 2010:382). On the 28th of June, 1971, Hope Creek was cutting new channels near its outlet and tree branches traveling on its current continued to threaten the bridge. Proenneke countered by erecting the dam of rocks to “stop that over flow” (Branson 2010:382). By piling “big rocks first and then many loads of smaller rock” (ibid.) Proenneke managed to reduce some of the overflow. Between the 28th and 30th of June, 1971, Proenneke continued to build and reinforce a series of stone levees.
16. Stone levee 2 (structure) was constructed immediately after stone levee 1 and is upstream of the bridge. It is over 4 yards in length and 2 feet to 1 yard in width (photograph 24). Stone levee 2 was constructed with boulders along the bank of the stream to “crowd the fast water towards the old channel” (ibid.).
17. Stone levee 3 (structure) was installed 80 yards upstream from the bridge. It is approximately 17 yards long and with a width of around 2 feet (photograph 25).
18. Stone levee 4 (structure) was built also upstream from the log bridge. Stone levees 3 and 4 may have originally been a single structure. It follows the old stream bank and is angled south and east “out into the fast water” (ibid.). It is 25 yards in length and 2 to 3 feet in width (photograph 26). In his journal Proenneke states that he used a shovel to move large submerged boulders and “with a little encouraging the channel got deeper and wider” reducing the water level at the dam (stone levee 1) thereby protecting the log bridge abutments.
19. Stone levee 5 (structure) was built on the south side of the stream across from levee 3, as “one more wing from the other side to pull [the creek] over” (Branson 2010:382). Stone

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levee 5 is approximately 35 yards long and varies from 2 to 4 feet in width (photograph 27).
A 3.5 yard portion of this levee, on its east end, was breached by the creek.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Conservation
Exploration/Settlement

Period of Significance

1967 - 1979

Significant Dates

1967
1979

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Proenneke, Richard Louis "Dick"

Cultural Affiliation

Euroamerican

Architect/Builder

Proenneke, Richard Louis "Dick"

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Summary Paragraph of Significance

The Richard L. Proenneke site is associated with the life of a person significant to the history of environmental conservation, exploration, and settlement in Alaska. This amendment to the original National Register nomination increases the existing area to include features that are associated with experiences Proenneke had at the site that contributed to or were expressions of his wilderness ethic and are examples of structures he installed around his cabin. The period of significance, between 1967 and 1979, begins when Proenneke began construction of the site and ends in the year after he appeared in the film *Alaska, The Closing Frontier*. Although the period of significance is less than 50 years old, the site has achieved significance from the national exposure of Proenneke's conservation ethic and his skills as an outdoorsman and woodworker through books and films.

Proenneke and his construction of the cabin at the site is chronicled in the book *One Man's Wilderness* edited by Sam Keith (1973), a book that Roderick Nash, author of *Wilderness and the American Mind*, says details the "quintessential Alaskan dream" of building a log cabin and

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living in the wilderness. The book has sold more than 100,000 copies. Proenneke filmed and photographed his work, and kept a journal while building his small log cabin, using only hand tools. When *One Man's Wilderness* came out, Alaska was in the midst of the "great Alaska lands debate" that pitted conservationists against developers over the disposition of more than 100 million acres of federal public lands. Proenneke's book was an eloquent statement in favor of wilderness conservation and influenced many Alaskans and Americans to support that cause. In 1978 the Public Broadcasting Service produced a NOVA program *Alaska, The Closing Frontier*, presenting the pros and cons of conserving 100 million acres of Alaska with the testimony of Alaskans from all walks of life: Native Alaskans, politicians, miners, oil company representatives, Sierra Club members, big game hunting guides, and Proenneke. Proenneke received more air time than anyone else in the program. His role in the television production along with his book put Twin Lakes in people's minds and on the map, and helped make the case to National Park Service planners and the public about the worthiness of the area as a national park. In sum, Proenneke had a profound role in the state and national lands debate and helped passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980, when more than 100 million acres of Alaska wild lands were conserved as parks, wildlife refuges, and wild and scenic rivers, including his beloved Twin Lake country.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Period of Significance

Proenneke lived at the site, much of the time alone, for thirty years. The period of significance starts in 1967 when Proenneke cut the logs for his cabin at the site, and ends in 1979 shortly after the first publication of his journals *One Man's Wilderness* (1973) and the broadcast of the documentary film *Alaska, The Closing Frontier* (1978). However, Proenneke did continue to live year-round at his cabin until 1998. Proenneke is a legend through books and video productions based on his life, journals, and films. The video production, *Alone in The Wilderness* (2004), repeatedly has been shown on ninety percent of the 350 public broadcasting stations in the U.S. His cabin, although less than fifty years old, is nearly unique in the Lake Clark region and is a testament of the qualities of a highly skilled log craftsman: construction with peeled logs, closely fit corner notches, wooden door hinges, and a wooden door lock, and stone fireplace.

History of Settlement

Richard Proenneke was born in Primrose, Iowa, on May 4, 1916. After spending most of his life there, he and a friend traveled across the country by motorcycle. After returning from their trip, Proenneke decided to go west and join a friend from Primrose working on a ranch. He was trucking cattle in Oregon when Pearl Harbor was bombed. Proenneke joined the Navy. Working as a carpenter's mate in the Pacific campaign, he developed rheumatic fever and was hospitalized for six months. At the end of the war, he returned to Oregon, where he took courses in heavy equipment maintenance and repair. Later he moved to Kodiak where he worked as a diesel

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mechanic and heavy equipment operator. He retired in 1967 and moved to Twin Lakes, a remote spot on the western edge of the Alaska Range 35 miles north of Port Alsworth on Lake Clark and about 125 miles southwest of Anchorage.

For the past 1,000 to 1,200 years the Lake Clark – Twin Lakes region had been home to the Dena'ina Athabascan people, and it was not until the early twentieth century that Euroamericans settled at Tanalian Point (now called Port Alsworth). Les Wernberg, a Euroamerican trapper, built what is the first documented cabin near Twin Lakes. Proenneke, who lived at Twin Lakes for thirty years, probably has spent more time there than anyone else ever.

Gale "Spike" Carrithers, a retired Naval officer, and his wife Hope from Kodiak filed applications with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for two five acre lots on February 9, 1960. The Carrithers built a cabin there between 1961 and 1962 and later a second cabin. They invited their Kodiak friend, Proenneke, to visit them in 1962. Another friend from Kodiak, Erhardt "Dick" Weisser, applied for a small tract lease in the area in December 1960. Weisser built a small log cabin on his site in 1967. Herbert Wright of Seattle, a friend of the Carrithers and Proenneke, filed for a small tract lease at Twin Lakes on the same day the Carrithers filed. Wright became ill with cancer. Before he died in 1967, he urged Proenneke to file for a lease and build a cabin on his site, something Proenneke decided to do.

Soon after Proenneke's introduction to Twin Lakes, Spike Carrithers had a stroke. Thereafter Hope wanted Proenneke to come to Twin Lakes with them in case Spike had another stroke while at the remote lake. Between 1963 and 1967 Spike Carrithers' health further deteriorated and he could no longer safely visit Twin Lakes. In the late 1960s or early 1970s the Carrithers sold their cabins to Bob Acheson of Kodiak, although they did not have valid titles to the lots where the cabins stood.

In the summer and fall of 1967, Proenneke stayed at Spike's Cabin by himself and started looking for a site to build a cabin. Proenneke had seen many log cabins in Alaska and had helped Babe Alsworth build a log chicken coop with a shed-style sod roof at Port Alsworth. He wanted to see how good a cabin he could build by himself using simple hand tools. Proenneke inquired with the Bureau of Land Management in March 1967 and learned that the land around upper Twin Lakes was still open to entry. In July 1967 he cut and peeled fifty trees stacking the logs near his future cabin site where Wright had urged Proenneke to build. In October 1967, Proenneke learned the land was not open for entry. Nevertheless, in May 1968 Proenneke began to build his cabin at the chosen site. He intended to document it by word, still camera, and 8mm movie camera equipped with a remote control self-timer. Initially, he did not intend to live in the cabin permanently. In 1990, Proenneke told National Park Service historian Ted Karamanski,

It was just to be a cabin. I had seen and examined lots of cabins on my own...and just do it all...no chain saw, just an axe and bow saw, chisels...I cut these logs for the cabin in July...They should be cut after freeze up...and you don't get so much weather checking and splitting...I dragged them in...in late August, September

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and stacked them here on the site where the cabin is and then I went out [to Iowa] for the winter and that's when I received the bad news at Anchorage that it was closed to home sites. Then I was gonna drop it completely, then decided to put it together for pictures and make a movie of it, which I did, and it was pretty popular...a lot of people seen it and liked it and finally it kind of went with the book *One Man's Wilderness*, Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, 1973...And so that's how I got started on this ... living here...people wondered how come they quit it if it was so good. At that time I talked it up, it was pretty nice, so I pretty near had to live up to my bragging...so it got kind of catching and finally it got to be that this seemed like...the place to be.

While there are a few cabins in the area predating Proenneke's, they served as summer and fall retreats, hunting base camps, or trapping cabins. Proenneke's was the first cabin to serve as a year round residence. Following the completion of the cabin in September 1968, Proenneke remained at Twin Lakes through the winter. Each fall the next few years he went to visit his parents in Iowa, but returned to Twin Lakes with the thawing of the upper lake.

The first documented Bureau of Land Management inspection of the Proenneke cabin was in 1984. The inspector recognized the craftsmanship of the cabin and the good faith Proenneke had made inquiring about the land being open for entry. By this time the land was part of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. Proenneke's closest friends in the area were Babe and Mary Alsworth of Port Alsworth. Since Proenneke was concerned about the legality of his ownership of the land where his cabin stood, Mary Alsworth had filed a 15 acre Native allotment application on the site in November 1972. She claimed her initial entry on the land was July 1967 to pick berries, fish, hunt, and cut wood, and the land was not occupied or improved by any other person prior to her entry. Mrs. Alsworth thought she could claim the land as her Native allotment which would allow Proenneke to legally reside at his cabin without fear of the government prohibiting him from doing so. In March 1975 the BLM rejected Mrs. Alsworth's claim noting she failed to show that she had lived on the land for five years and that she had not demonstrated she had used the land to the exclusion of all others. Subsequently, however, the regulations were more broadly defined and Mrs. Alsworth's allotment claim was reinstated in September 1981. In March 1985, the NPS challenged the BLM approval of Mrs. Alsworth's claim, alleging that Proenneke had entered the land before Mrs. Alsworth had asserted entry. Proenneke told an NPS investigator in February 1985 that he had built the cabin for himself and not for Mrs. Alsworth. He said that his first winter there was 1968 and that Mrs. Alsworth had only made one or two short visits there and never spent a night at Twin Lakes. Proenneke never sought Mrs. Alsworth's help in securing the land, although he later learned she had filed the claim so he could live there. Proenneke posted the four corners of the property and brushed out the survey lines. The case finally was resolved in August 1988 when Interior Department Administrative Law Judge Harvey Sweitzer ruled the land was not open to entry under the Alaska Native Allotment Act at the time Mrs. Alsworth asserted her entry.

Proenneke, Richard L. Site
Name of Property

In 1987 Proenneke applied to the National Park Service for a special use permit to continue to reside in his cabin. He was granted a five-year special use permit in April 1989 for cabin use and occupancy. Even before the permit was issued Proenneke was a volunteer-in-the-park and had been assisting park managers on various projects including search and recoveries, wildlife surveys, weather reports, park visitor services, and ranger activities. From their first meeting with Proenneke in 1979 NPS managers never considered dispossessing him from his site. Park managers realized Proenneke was an asset to the park and his rather unique lifestyle had great appeal to park visitors and those who read his book.

Site Construction

This amendment to the National Register nomination acknowledges Proenneke's creativity, resourcefulness, and skill with structural design and construction. Proenneke intentionally sought to build a cabin and outbuildings that were unique to the area, aesthetically pleasing, and were functional and efficient for year-round living. He also shared his construction techniques through film and journals.

In some ways the cabin Proenneke built was in keeping with other log cabins in the area, but it departed from the traditional in five major ways. First he peeled the cabin logs and seasoned them one year before construction (photographs 1 – 7). Most log cabins in the area were built with unpeeled green spruce logs in a hurried fashion.

Second, since Proenneke used his cabin year-round, he built outbuildings that often were absent from other cabins in the area, most of which were used seasonally for trapping. Proenneke made his Twin Lakes existence "smoother" rather than "rougher," to follow camp craft guru "Nessmuk's" phrase, by having a combination outhouse and woodshed near his cabin (photographs 9 – 14). Most area cabins had outhouses but few had a separate woodshed; instead keeping firewood in a windbreak or under an overhanging roof usually at the front of the cabin. Like many regional rural dwellers, Proenneke built a raised log cache near his cabin to store extra clothing, food, and various other dried goods such as camera gear and aircraft manuals.

Third, the Proenneke cabin had a stone fireplace (photographs 3 and 5). Only one other, the Kasna Creek Cabin on Kontrashibuna Lake, is known to have a masonry stone fireplace.

Fourth, the Proenneke cabin is built with more care and skill than the typical log cabin in wooded locations in the Bristol Bay area. Proenneke's Dutch-door attached by wooden hinges is believed to be unique in the region. The wooden door lock took a very accomplished woodworker to design and build. The hinges and lock are testaments to Proenneke's creative genius with wood. The round corner notches used in the cabin are well above average in skill level. The lateral fits of the wall logs are very precise on the Proenneke cabin, although they required chinking to fill in the spaces between wall logs.

Proenneke, Richard L. Site
Name of Property

Fifth, the Proenneke cabin construction is the most thoroughly documented known in southwest Alaska. Proenneke consciously set out to leave an inclusive record of how a cabin should be built. He documented the cabin by word in his journals, used by his friend and retired teacher, Sam Keith, who compiled what has become an Alaska classic, *One Man's Wilderness*, published in 1973. He also filmed his work.

Conservation Philosophy

Proenneke differed from most others in the area because he was not a trapper or a prospector, and only an infrequent hunter in his early Twin Lakes years. He was a writer, wildlife photographer, naturalist, and ardent hiker and mountain climber. Proenneke shot a Dall's sheep ram in 1968 and a couple of caribou between 1969 and 1975 and thereafter he stopped hunting. The reasons he gave for giving up hunting reflect his growing personal environmental ethic.

I got a big ram the first winter and then another time or two I got a caribou...But it was a lot of meat for one guy...but it was too much, eating one animal for me so I just...(I was) taking pictures too. Why, I preferred the pictures over the dead animals. So I would just take pictures. And I got to feeling that all these wild animals around here was kind of the only neighbors I had...and a lot of them..., moose especially got so gentle. I just preferred to see them (animals) around rather than to—and I kind of feel like if you just study animals, ...just watch them, you learn a lot. And if you shoot one, then you've killed your teacher right there.

As a writer Proenneke was not a wordsmith like Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, or Sigurd Olsen, yet he wrote about nature. He rarely proselytized. Proenneke's field time and patience observing wildlife make him knowledgeable about the behavior of wildlife in the area. He described in great detail his observations of wildlife behavior and the vagaries of the weather. Proenneke put into practice what Thoreau preached.

After Proenneke quit hunting the only animals he killed were an occasional porcupine caught gnawing on his cabin or on his log burl tables outside his front door. He would skin and pot-roast the porcupines in a Dutch oven. He would live trap the red squirrels and relocate them to the north side of upper Twin Lakes. Proenneke called all the squirrels "Freddy" and toward the end of his tenure at Twin Lakes he said as far as he was concerned "Freddy" could have his cabin.

Proenneke's basic wilderness philosophy was that the wildlife and the lands and waters at Twin Lakes should not be impaired in any significant way because of human activities. As the 1970s evolved so too did Proenneke's encyclopedic knowledge of his environment and how fragile it was. He remarked more than once that when he moved to Twin Lakes in 1968 it was difficult to find a full curl Dall's ram but after the creation of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve more and more rams were growing to maturity and full curl status within the sanctuary of the park.

Proenneke, Richard L. Site
Name of Property

During the 1970s many nationally recognized figures in the conservation movement visited the site. Proenneke hosted Mardy Murie, a founder of the Wilderness Society and widow of biologist Olaus Murie, twice in the 1970s. John Kauffmann, former assistant to National Park Service Director George B. Hartzog, Jr., moved to Alaska in the early 1970s and helped plan Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. He worked with Proenneke on a contract with the NPS for Proenneke to take wildlife movies and still photographs at Twin Lakes beginning in 1974. In 1979 Kauffmann authored a chapter on the potential Lake Clark National Park and Preserve for the National Geographic Society's *Exploring America's Backcountry*. Proenneke and his cabin were prominently featured in the book. Proenneke also shared his ideas through correspondence with nature writer Sigurd Olsen, who had visited Lake Clark as part of a National Park Service planning trip in 1963, before Proenneke moved to Twin Lakes. Edgar Wayburn, president of the Sierra Club also visited Proenneke in 1976. During the height of the Alaska lands debate in 1978 the Public Broadcasting Service made a documentary, *Alaska, The Closing Frontier*, as part of its NOVA series featuring interviews with Alaskans. Proenneke was featured in the production.

Publication of *One Man's Wilderness* in 1973 brought Dick Proenneke world renown. He acquired a following of people who considered him an inspiration and a resource for local natural historical knowledge. When the area became a park and preserve, many visitors came to the park because they had read the book and wanted to meet the man who wrote it. The book was in print between 1973 and 1986, and again since 1999. In the early 1990s, it was translated to Japanese and sold 10,000 copies in Japan. More than 100,000 copies of the book have sold. In 1999 the book won the National Outdoor Book Award for biography and memoir. In 2006, the National Park Service published *More Readings from One Man's Wilderness: The Journals of Richard L. Proenneke 1974-1980*, edited by John B. Branson. Proenneke continues to inspire and influence people to be more caring for the environment and the other creatures that share it. In 2004 videographer Bob Swerer of Colorado Springs, Colorado produced his third video about Proenneke. Entitled *Alone In The Wilderness*, it uses Proenneke's 1967-1968 film to present construction of the cabin. The video has been shown nationally on public television.

Proenneke enjoyed his life alone, but he was not a misanthrope. He liked people and had many close friends, he just did not need to live around them. He liked to hike and climb solo so he did not have to be held back by anyone, but frequently had hiking companions. He enjoyed guiding visitors to special places around Twin Lakes, such as Teetering Rock, upper Hope Creek valley, Emerson Creek waterfalls, or the sheep lick on the way to Turquoise Lake.

Proenneke expressed his personal philosophy of wilderness preservation through his writings and films of his thirty years at Twin Lakes. He became a significant voice for conservation of Alaska wild lands. He went to Twin Lakes in 1967 to see what kind of cabin he could build using materials from the area and his own ingenuity. He also wanted to study and learn about the wildlife, the mountains, and waters around his cabin. Proenneke's interests, talents, and circumstances made him influential in shaping and educating the public about the wisdom of conservation of our natural world. Failing health forced Proenneke to leave his cabin in 1998. He died in 2003.

Proenneke, Richard L. Site
Name of Property

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Proenneke, Richard L. Site
Name of Property

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"A Modern Day Thoreau," *Alaska Magazine*, Vol. 69, Number 7 (September 2003):78.

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One Man's Alaska, National Park Foundation, 1977.

The Frozen North, Bob Swerer Productions, 1999.

There's No Place Like Twin Lakes, NPS Lake Clark National Park and Preserve Production, 2005.

Proenneke, Richard L. Site
Name of Property

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): XLC-00213

Proenneke, Richard L. Site
Name of Property

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Borough, Alaska
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property (2007 National Register Nomination) less than one acre (original district)

UTM References (2007 National Register Nomination)

1. Zone: 05 Easting: 461550 Northing: 6723550

Acreege of Property 7.2 acres (boundary increase)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (Amended Site Datum)

Latitude: 60.64499 N Longitude: -153.82070 E
Datum: NAD 1983 Alaska Albers

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum: NAD 1983 Alaska Albers

Proenneke Cabin (Site Datum):

A. Latitude: 60.645238	Longitude: -153.821396
B. Latitude: 60.644889	Longitude: -153.799553
C. Latitude: 60.644638	Longitude: -153.817929
D. Latitude: 60.644181	Longitude: -153.817861
E. Latitude: 60.643952	Longitude: -153.819711
F. Latitude: 60.644057	Longitude: -153.820049
G. Latitude: 60.643360	Longitude: -153.821832
H. Latitude: 60.643791	Longitude: -153.822152
I. Latitude: 60.644233	Longitude: -153.822241

Proenneke, Richard L. Site
Name of Property

Verbal Boundary Description

The northern boundary of the site, along with the boundaries around Teetering Rock trail and Teetering Rock remain unchanged from the boundary of the 2007 National Register Nomination. The boundary increase is bounded by the shore of upper Twin Lakes in the west, Hope Creek in the south, and the eastern end of stone levee 5 in the east (Attachment).

The amended site boundary begins at a point (Coordinate A) on the beach northwest of Proenneke's cabin where the chair was located (feature 2) and where there is a short trail that leads from the beach to the cabin. The boundary proceeds east for 1,421 yards (0.8 miles) following the Teetering Rock trail (and the 2007 National Register nomination boundary) to Teetering Rock (Coordinate B). The boundary forms a circle around Teetering Rock with a diameter of 13 yards. The boundary returns west along the Teetering Rock trail for 1,210 yards (0.7 miles) to the Hope Creek Bridge trail turnoff (Coordinate C). From Coordinate C, the boundary proceeds 56 yards south to the eastern end of Stone levee 5 (Coordinate D). The boundary then proceeds 114 yards west to the Hope Creek Bridge abutment on the south side of the stream (Coordinate E). From Coordinate E, the boundary follows a 24 yard segment of the 2007 National Register boundary northwest to the north side of Hope Creek (Coordinate F). From Coordinate F, the boundary follows the north bank of Hope Creek for 144 yards to the Hope Creek outlet (Coordinate G). From Coordinate G the boundary proceeds 56 yards north-northwest along the beach to Coordinate H. From Coordinate H the boundary follows the contour of the beach 54 yards northward to Coordinate I. From Coordinate I, the boundary continues along the beach and returns to the path of the 2007 National Register nomination to encompass both rock jetty features, for 142 yards, and ends at Coordinate A.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the proposed nomination as amended includes the original acreage listed in the National Register of Historic Places as the Richard L. Proenneke site in 2007, and adds areas to the south and east of the current boundary to include historic components not included in the original listing.

The boundary includes the Proenneke cabin, cache, woodshed-outhouse, the beach in front of the cabin, the canoe, the two rock jetties, the trailheads that emanate from the cabin, the various other small features on the site including the chair on the beach, three smaller caches, the bridge abutments and five stone levees, the Hope Creek outlet, and the trail to Teetering Rock. The boundary for the site was selected because it encompasses all the important historic contributing resources of the site. All together, the contributing resources completely elucidate the immediate physical world of the Proenneke Site.

Proenneke, Richard L. Site
Name of Property

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: John B. Branson, Park Historian
organization: Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
street & number: 1 Park Place
city or town: Port Alsworth state: Alaska zip code: 99653
e-mail John_Branson@nps.gov
telephone: 907-781-2218
date: January 2, 2007

Form Amended By

name/title: Rhea E. Hood, Archaeologist
organization: Alaska Region, National Park Service
street & number: 240 W. 5th Avenue
city or town: Anchorage state: Alaska zip code: 99501
e-mail rhea_hood@nps.gov
telephone: 907-644-3460
date: October 2013

Additional Documentation

- Attachment 1-** Map-63,360 showing the Proenneke, Richard L. Site location
Attachment 2- Map of amended NR area boundary of the Proenneke, Richard L. Site
Attachment 3- Map illustrating the contributing resources of the Proenneke, Richard L. Site

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Lake and Peninsula
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County and State

Proenneke, Richard L. Site
Name of Property

Photo Log

Name of Property: Proenneke, Richard L., Site

City or Vicinity: Southeast end of upper Twin Lakes

County: Lake and Peninsula Borough State: Alaska

Photographer: Jeanne Schaaf

Date Photographed: 8/24/2011

- 1 of 27. Proenneke, Richard L. Cabin, SE view of exterior, showing entryway and handmade furniture.
- 2 of 27. Proenneke, Richard L. Cabin , East view of exterior, showing windows and rock garden.
- 3 of 27. Proenneke, Richard L. Cabin, NW view of exterior, showing stonemason chimney.
- 4 of 27. Proenneke, Richard L. Cabin, West view of exterior, showing handmade ladders, window, and stovepipe.
- 5 of 27. Proenneke, Richard L. Cabin, South view of interior showing stonemason fireplace, handmade furniture and snowshoes.
- 6 of 27. Proenneke, Richard L. Cabin, SE view of interior showing handmade furniture.
- 7 of 27. Proenneke, Richard L. Cabin, NE view of interior showing stove, handmade furniture, and some personal belongings.
- 8 of 27. Elevated Cache, SE view.
- 9 of 27. Woodshed and Outhouse, East view.
- 10 of 27. Woodshed and Outhouse, South view of interior showing wood storage area and ceiling.
- 11 of 27. Woodshed and Outhouse, SE view of interior showing the outhouse entry with moon-shaped cut-out.
- 12 of 27. Woodshed and Outhouse, East view of interior showing the dividing wall between the outhouse and storage area.
- 13 of 27. Woodshed and Outhouse, South view of interior showing the outhouse seat and cover, also stored items including a hand drill.
- 14 of 27. Woodshed and Outhouse, West view.
- 15 of 27. Cool box (component 1, attachment 3), North overview.

Lake and Peninsula
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Proenneke, Richard L. Site
Name of Property

Photographer: Jeanne Schaaf

Date Photographed: 7/23/2009

16 of 27. Chair (component 2, attachment 3), East view. This item is currently in storage at the NPS Alaska Regional Curatorial Center in Anchorage.

Photographer: Jeanne Schaaf

Date Photographed: 8/24/2011

17 of 27. North rock jetty, (component 3, attachment 3), SW view including the Grumann canoe, raked beach front, and south rock jetty in the background.

Photographer: Jeanne Schaaf

Date Photographed: 7/23/2009

18 of 27. Grumann canoe, (component 5, attachment 3), West view of the inside of the canoe and it's the location where it's stored.

Photographer: Jeanne Schaaf

Date Photographed: 8/24/2011

19 of 27. South rock jetty, (component 6, attachment 3), SW view.
20 of 27. Cache II, (component 7, attachment 3), East view

Photographer: Jeanne Schaaf

Date Photographed: 9/2003

21 of 27. Teetering Rock, (component 13, attachment 3), West view showing Teetering Rock in the foreground, Twin Lakes in the background, and NPS historian John Branson in the lower right corner.

Photographer: Jeanne Schaaf

Date Photographed: 8/24/2011

Lake and Peninsula
Borough, Alaska
County and State

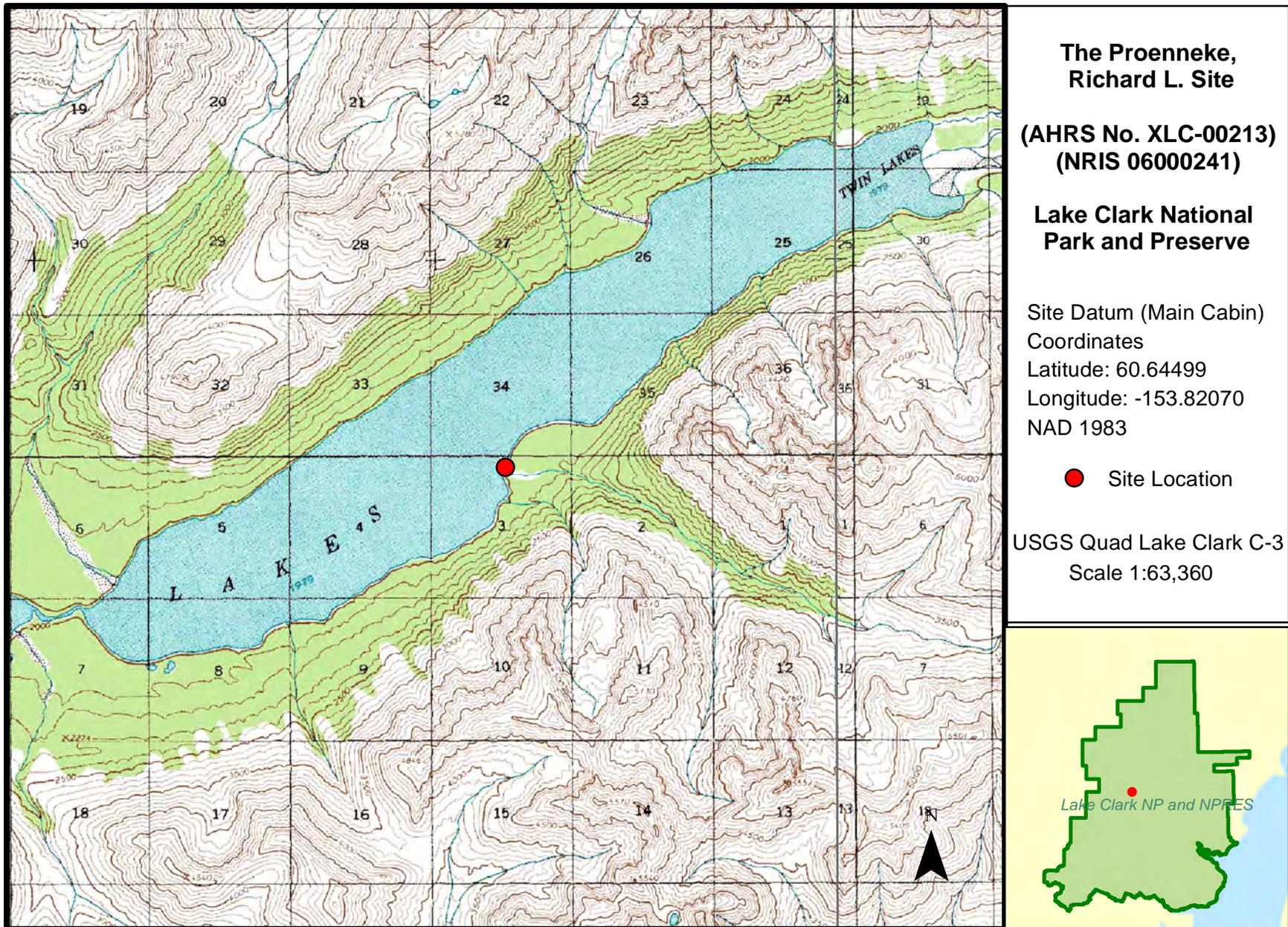
Proenneke, Richard L. Site
Name of Property

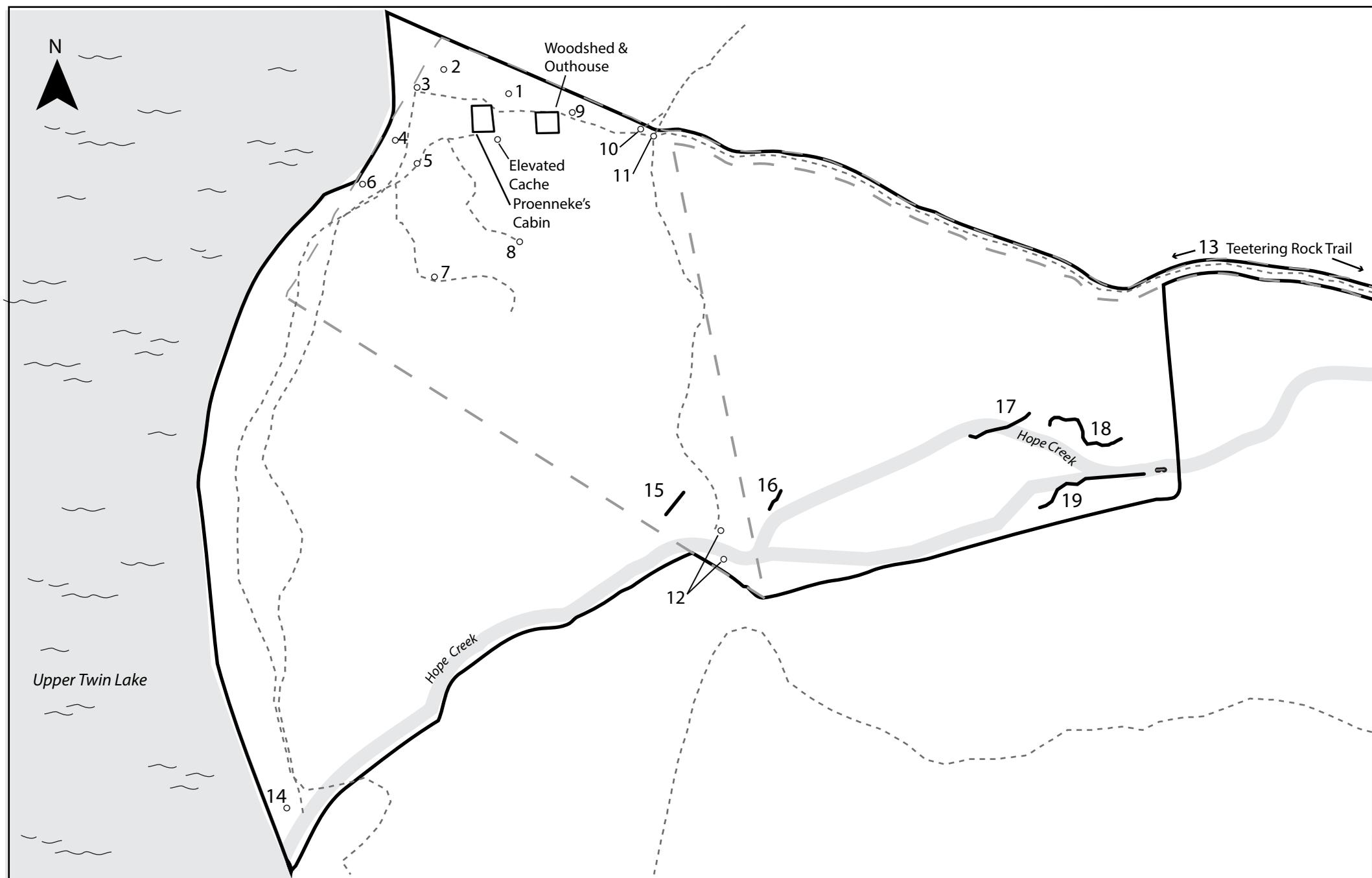
- 22 of 27. Hope Creek outlet, (component 14, attachment 3), South view of the outlet and upper Twin Lakes from the northern bank of Hope Creek.
- 23 of 27. Stone levee 1, (component 15, attachment 3), NE view of levee showing alder over-growth and field surveyor standing at the far end of the levee.
- 24 of 27. Stone levee 2, (component 16, attachment 3), NE view of levee showing field surveyor standing at its far end.
- 25 of 27. Stone levee 3, (component 17, attachment 3), South view of levee showing a perpendicular perspective of the structure and plant over-growth.
- 26 of 27. Stone levee 4, (component 18, attachment 3), West overview of levee showing plant over-growth and leaf litter covering most of the structure.
- 27 of 27. Stone levee 5, (component 19, attachment 3), East view of a portion of the levee showing plant over-growth and a channel of Hope Creek on the right.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Attachment 1. Location of the Proenneke, Richard L. Cabin Site.

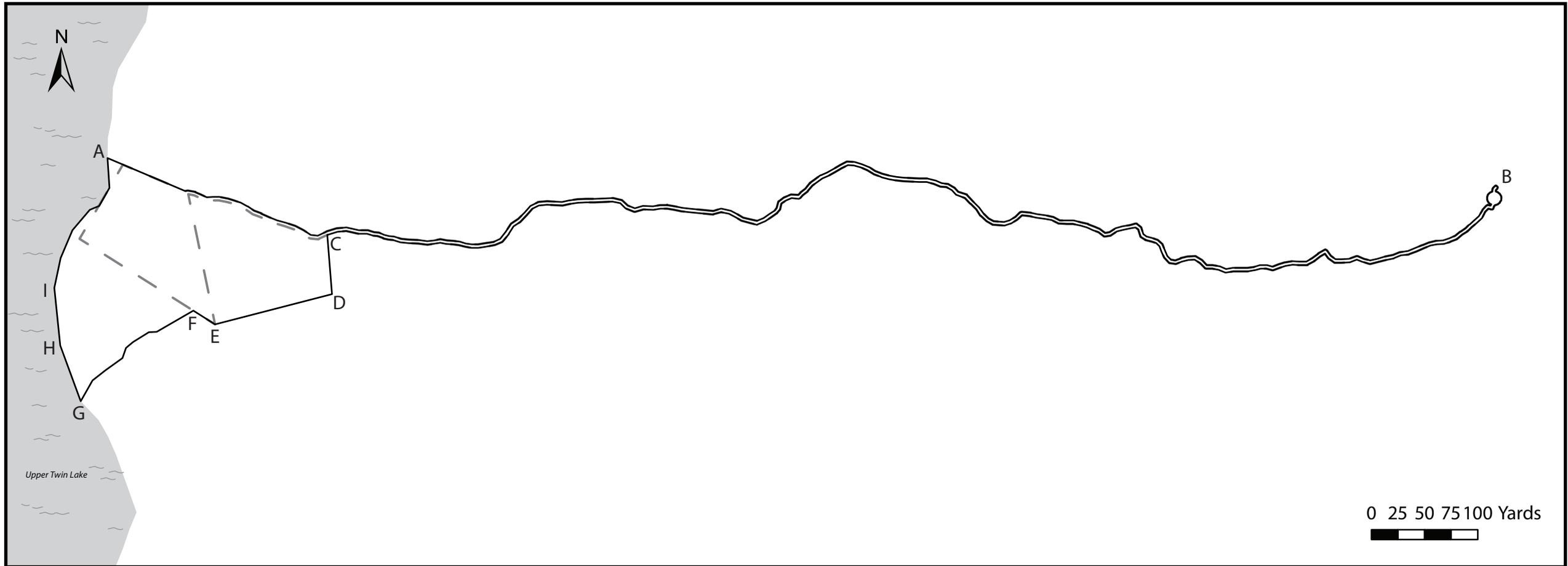




0 10 20 30 40 Yards

- 2007 NR Site Boundary
- Site Boundary Amendment
- Trail

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Cool box | 6 South rock jetty | 11 Hope Creek bridge trail turn off |
| 2 Chair | 7 Cache II | 12 Hope Creek bridge abutments |
| 3 North rock jetty | 8 Cache III | 13 Teetering Rock trail |
| 4 Beach site | 9 Cache IV | 14 Hope Creek outlet |
| 5 Canoe | 10 Hope cabin trail turn off | 15-19 Stone levees |



Boundary Point

Latitude / Longitude (NAD 1983)

A	60.645238 / -153.821396
B	60.644889 / -153.799553
C	60.644638 / -153.817929
D	60.644181 / -153.817861
E	60.643952 / -153.819711
F	60.644057 / -153.820049
G	60.643360 / -153.821832
H	60.643791 / -153.822152
I	60.644233 / -153.822241

-  2007 NR Site Boundary
-  Site Boundary Amendment





0 25 50 75 100 Yards



Boundary Point

Latitude / Longitude (NAD 1983)

A	60.645238 / -153.821396
B	60.644889 / -153.799553
C	60.644638 / -153.817929
D	60.644181 / -153.817861
E	60.643952 / -153.819711
F	60.644057 / -153.820049
G	60.643360 / -153.821832
H	60.643791 / -153.822152
I	60.644233 / -153.822241



2007 NR Site Boundary



Site Boundary Amendment













*Let it snow
Let the wilderness
and its creatures
thrive, suffer
because we cannot*

*The
Twin Lakes
Hilton
CA*



















HILLS BROS
COFFEE
12¢ OFF
12¢

Chevron
Red
80 octane
J-3 cub gas
EVRON
RS

NOINN
20

CAMPLITE
CAMP FUEL
FOR
CAMPSTOVES, LANTERNS
AND
CATALYTIC HEATERS

TEXACO
OUTBOARD
MOTOR OIL

Chevron
gas 80
ASOLINE

SHEAFFER
link
SHEAFFER
link
SHEAFFER
link

























