

Cultural Resources

Developed by Washington Department of Natural Resources

What are Cultural Resources?

- historic sites (such as docks or buildings, 50 - 220 years old)
- archaeological sites (deposits of artifacts one or in the soil, 50 – 15,000 years old)
- traditional cultural places (locations with traditional importance related to tribes)
- cultural materials (natural resources traditionally used by tribes)

Who is responsible for Cultural resource review and compliance?

- Project proponents, unless funding agency has agreed to cover it
- Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) maintains the inventory of archaeological and historic sites and consults with state and local agencies whose projects may encounter or affect those sites
- Review, inventory, and mitigation of cultural resources may be contracted to qualified professionals

When should review occur?

- As early in the planning as possible, consultation with DAHP and Tribes should be initiated.
- If archaeological inventory is required, doing so before design and construction can save time and money
- An MOA or binding commitment to mitigation is sought by DAHP prior to construction

What are the ‘off-ramps’ for cultural resource compliance?

- If your project lacks potential to affect historic structures or disturb the ground, DAHP concurrence should be simple.
- If ground disturbance can be conditioned to avoid archaeology, concurrence should be simple.
- If a site is found and recorded, but evaluation and consultation results in a determination that it is not eligible for National register of Historic Places listing, the project can go ahead.
- If a site is found to be eligible for such listing, an MOA with DAHP and interested parties that specifies site protection measures or mitigation for adverse effects will be necessary.

CR Links and Resources

- DAHP lists laws relating to historic preservation review
- <http://www.dahp.wa.gov/pages/EnvironmentalReview/Laws.htm>
- WISAARD is an online GIS providing information about known historic sites
- <http://www.dahp.wa.gov/pages/wisaardIntro.htm>
- DAHP has recently released a statewide archaeological predictive model to data sharing partners, check with your GIS staff

- DAHP staff include specialists in architecture and archaeology, local government projects, Section 106 compliance, and transportation projects. Find the appropriate staff member at <http://www.dahp.wa.gov/pages/AboutUs/Staff.htm>
- USACE Historic Preservation Manager is Lauren McCroskey (lauren.l.mccroskey@usace.army.mil)
- On State-Owned Aquatic Lands, talk to your DNR liaison or to the Aquatics Archaeologist, Maurice Major at maurice.major@dnr.wa.gov