

Cultural Resources

What Are Cultural Resources?

Washington State law¹ defines cultural resources for Forest Practices as “archaeological and historical sites and artifacts and traditional religious, ceremonial, and social uses and activities of affected Indian Tribes.” State and federal laws establish a minimum threshold of 50 years for cultural resources, focusing on the built environment (buildings and infrastructure), places of historical significance (such as where a treaty was signed), archaeological sites (artifacts and features providing evidence of human activity), traditional cultural places (such as a peak named in mythology), and sometimes historical objects, such as a ship. Refer to Appendix K for a description of these site types.

Why Are Cultural Resources Important?

DNR recognizes that cultural resources can be reminders and physical touchstones to our ancient and historical heritage, and that protecting these resources contributes to our understanding of the past and perpetuation of our cultures into the future. For the state trust lands in its care, DNR regularly reviews its activities to comply with applicable state and federal laws and regulations, as well as agency Executive and Commissioner’s Orders and Board of Natural Resources cultural resource policies. Cultural Resources are managed for sustainability—recognizing that most types of cultural resources cannot be renewed or replaced—on the basis of sound science and thorough consultation with affected Tribes and stakeholders. In the context of urbanization, climate change, and other broad social issues, cultural resources represent opportunities for understanding how people have used and managed natural resources in the past, how they

responded to natural disasters and changes, and what strategies can help maintain these resources and traditional cultures into the future.

What Are the Types and Distribution of Cultural Resources in the OESF?

The earliest arrival of humans in North America remains a source of academic debate, although reliable dates from Oregon now place humans in the Northwest as early as 14,000 years ago and there is increasing circumstantial and as yet unverified data that suggest people may have colonized the Americas prior to the end of the last glacial episode (Dillehay 2009). Because of the OESF’s proximity to the Pacific Coast, it is likely that humans at least visited the area soon after initial colonization, especially given the presence of major rivers and a variety of ecological settings available. The initial populations appear to have relied on hunting large fish and wildlife, and during that period the environment would have looked different from its modern appearance. Due to changes in relative sea level, major sites from this era reside offshore, although sites related to hunting and initial processing, temporary camps, stone and other resource extraction, and riverine sites still may exist within the OESF.

There are 161 recorded archaeological sites in the OESF (Table 3-76), the majority of which have been inventoried, but not formally evaluated for significance and eligibility to the National and State Registers of Historic Places (DAHP 2010). Four are listed on the national and state registers, another on the state register only, one has been formally determined eligible, and four have been determined not eligible (meaning that damage to them would not constitute a potential impact). The remaining 151 sites are presumed potentially eligible until they have been evaluated.

¹ Chapter 27.34

In terms of the built environment, four barns within the OESF have been listed on the Washington State Heritage Barn register, seven properties (including the historic landing spot of Manuel Quimper, the Huelsdonk Homestead, several houses and a camping shelter) have been listed on the state register, and 12 sites (light and ranger stations, 6 camping shelters, two schools, and a homestead) have been listed on both state and national registers (Kirk and Daugherty 2007).

What Criteria Does DNR Use to Manage Cultural Resources?

Washington State and federal laws and rules provide the framework for identifying, evaluating, and protecting cultural resources, including penalties for theft, destruction, and

damage of significant sites and artifacts. DNR also has created internal policies, procedures, and guidelines with the aim of making day-to-day operations and larger projects subject to cultural resource review. In the regulatory environment, Forest Practices Rules and other agency guidance are designed to review projects for cultural resources, and include: 1987 Timber, Fish and Wildlife Agreement, and Title 222 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). Updates to DNR’s cultural resources policies are revised as needed.

Table 3-76. Count and Description of Current Archaeological and Historical Sites in the OESF

| Site Type | Count | Description |
|------------------------------|-------|---|
| Historic Transportation | 5 | Bridge, roads, boat landing, trails |
| Historic Logging | 6 | Camp, dump, railroads |
| Historic Habitation | 23 | Homesteads, cabins, houses |
| Historic Burial | 3 | Cemetery, household burial |
| Historic Resource Extraction | 2 | Oil seep, mine |
| Historic Dump | 1 | Indian school dump |
| Historic Military | 4 | Bunkers, lookout, USCG |
| Historic Other | 4 | CCC camp, hotel, telephone tower, water control |
| Historic/Prehistoric mix | 10 | Habitations, midden |
| Prehistoric Midden | 27 | Shell, bone, fire-cracked rock, artifacts |
| Prehistoric Lithics | 22 | Flaked stone, projectile points |
| Prehistoric Fire Features | 9 | Fire-cracked rock, charcoal |
| Prehistoric artifacts | 3 | Ground or flaked stone finished artifacts |
| Prehistoric habitation | 7 | Midden, artifacts, hearths, postholes |
| Prehistoric Rockshelter | 2 | Caves with habitation |
| Villages | 4 | Prehistoric and historic Tribal villages |
| Prehistoric burials | 4 | Human remains |
| Fish trap | 1 | Intertidal stone trap |
| Culturally Modified Trees | 5 | Bark-stripped trees |
| Canoe Trees | 2 | Partially completed canoe hulls |
| Petroglyphs | 8 | Prehistoric and historic rock art |
| Undetermined | 10 | No data available |

What Are the Indicators for Assessing Cultural Resources?

Cultural resources can be measured by the number of sites affected by DNR management activities that are listed on or presumed potentially eligible for the national and state registers.

Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative Impacts to Cultural Resources

Under both management alternatives, there are no probable, significant, adverse, environmental impacts expected to cultural resources because DNR's existing procedure for identifying historic sites contains steps required to minimize impacts to cultural resources before an activity can take place on the ground² (Appendix E). The differences between the alternatives are related to the extent and type of harvest activities, and both alternatives will continue to apply DNR's existing procedure. These differences are most notable for variable density thinnings. Over the 100-year model simulation, 397,794 acres are expected to be thinned under the Landscape Alternative versus 270,130 acres under the No-Action Alternative. Therefore, the risk to cultural resources is higher under the Landscape Alternative because more acres are affected.

DNR's Mitigation Efforts for Cultural Resources

DNR's existing management framework is committed to identification, evaluation, and protection of cultural resources in the OESF and elsewhere, and accomplishes this through review, communication with Tribes, and placing conditions on proposed activities. DNR complies with all applicable laws that provide rules and tactics for dealing with cultural resources.

The OESF Forest Land Plan is a non-project SEPA action. At this level, DNR cannot say with certainty that future site-specific actions will result in significant, adverse, environmental impacts that will not be mitigated. All future site-specific actions resulting from this plan, such as proposed timber sales and road construction, will receive additional environmental review under SEPA.

² Procedure 14-004-150