Identifying and Protecting Cultural Resources

Cancels: PR 14-004-030, IDENTIFYING HISTORIC SITES (July 1992).

Date: April, 2007

Application: All forested state trust lands

DISCUSSION

The Policy for Sustainable Forests mandates identification and protection of significant cultural resources. Department policy is to:

- Identify historic and archaeological sites and protect those that are significant, consistent with state and federal law
- Proactively collaborate with Tribes and interested stakeholders to address culturally significant areas
- Consider transferring historic, archaeological, and cultural sites out of trust status when consistent with best interest of the trusts and adequate compensation is secured

"Cultural resources" is therefore divided into traditional places, historic sites, and archaeological resources.

Traditional places are landscapes, sites, places, legendary areas, and objects identified by affected tribes in Washington State as being important for the maintenance and perpetuation of their traditional values and practices.

Historic sites are locations, generally 50 years old or older, where native or non-native events and activities have taken place since the arrival of Euro-Americans. Historic sites often have written records that document the events and activities that occurred at a particular location.

Archaeological resources are the material remains of cultures in context or in place, including artifacts and features left on the landscape. Artifacts are the physical tools and implements of a culture (i.e., manufactured, human-altered items). Features are physical alterations in the natural environment. An archaeological site is a geographic location in which archaeological resources are present. These sites may reflect spatial and/or temporal land use.

The department intends to give special consideration to historical and cultural concerns of the Tribes. The department recognizes that Native Americans have a special interest in forested state trust lands. Where possible, DNR intends to work with the tribes to protect their heritage.

The department intends to pursue a long-range cultural resources strategy, consistent with budget and fiscal responsibilities. Cultural resources will be identified and protected as appropriate.

Action

1. **Identification**

Training

Selected field personnel will receive training to identify, recognize, and report cultural resources. Training will be consistent with applicable laws, regulations/rules, policies, and other imperatives as determined by the Land management Division manage and will be updated as laws, regulations/rules, policies, and other imperatives change.

Pre-Field Research for Ground Disturbance Activities

Pre-field research by selected field personnel will include but not be limited to:

1. Checking the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) database or TRAX for *Known State Recorded* sites.
2. Contacting, as appropriate, tribal Cultural Resource personnel to identify any *Known Tribally Recorded* sites.
3. Checking the Cultural Resource layer in the State Uplands Viewing Tool and the Government Land Office Maps for *Known Not Recorded* sites
4. For *Unknown Unrecorded* sites, checking USGS or DNR hydrological and topographical layers for high probability areas such as flat areas near permanent water, ridges, saddles, springs, and artificial landscape alterations (buildings, cemeteries, fields, roads, etc.)
5. Checking the State Uplands Viewing Tool or other readily available sources for predictive models for the project area.

2. **Field Evaluation and Protection**

If Cultural Resources are indicated above, the District Cultural Resource Technician or the State Lands Archaeologist will investigate the area. Survey methodology and reporting should meet standards established by DAHP.

These personnel will design evaluation methodology and protection measures that should meet professional standards established by DAHP. Field staff will conduct forest management and related activities in accordance with these protection measures.

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