

Tribal Participation in WSDOT Construction Projects

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How do Tribes work with WSDOT to protect cultural Resources?

Section 106/ GEO 05-05 consultation

Archaeological and Ethnographic Research

Construction Monitoring



Case Study-US395 Chewelah Summaries

This project was funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) of 2009

Short timeline made for challenging environmental compliance

WSDOT worked with Spokane Tribe of Indians to monitor construction instead of survey

This method compressed timelines while protecting cultural resources

Worked well for this limited risk project on tribal land



WSDOT-CCT Services Agreement

WSDOT and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation entered into a cultural resources service agreement in May, 2011

CCT conducts archaeological and ethnographic research to support WSDOT projects



Case Study: US97 Malott Washout

In July 2012, a flash flood damaged a WSDOT Culvert and a Kettle Falls International Railroad trestle.

Colville Tribal archaeologists inspected the work area, and identified a trestle wingwall from the c.1890 Great Northern Railway

Their background research also resulted in the identification of a previously unrecorded traditional site.

S97 Malott Washout



Case Study: I-90 Spokane Viaduct

In October 2010, WSDOT's contractor was repairing concrete pillars under the Spokane Viaduct





Case Study: I-90 Spokane Viaduct

Work was halted when the contractor discovered bones and historic-era artifacts in the fill.

WSDOT Management followed the inadvertent discovery plan and notified the Tribes, the Medical Examiner, the Spokane Police Department, and the WSDOT Cultural Resources Program

WSDOT, Spokane Tribe and Coeur d'Alene Tribe archaeologists investigated the site for further evidence of possible human remains

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Archaeologists recovered numerous artifacts associated with historic-era City of Spokane and I-90 viaduct construction

The State Physical Anthropologist identified the bones as elk ulna fragments. No human remains were identified.

We consider this a successful application of the inadvertent discovery protocol