All wetland delineations and other wetland and stream-related fieldwork performed by or for WSDOT must comply with federal and state cultural resources laws and regulations, to include Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800) and Governor’s Executive Order 05-05.

Wetland and Stream Assessment Fieldwork and Cultural Resources

Wetland Delineations

Excavating soil pits for wetland delineation is considered to have minimal potential to impact historic or archaeological resources. This activity is exempt from Section 106 and Governor’s Executive Order 05-05 review per stipulations of the Statewide Section 106 Programmatic Agreement (PA) (Appendix B) with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP).

In the unlikely discovery of cultural resources during wetland and stream assessment activities, the attached Unanticipated Discovery Plan (UDP) (page 3) provides instructions for the treatment of cultural materials and appropriate contacts to notify. The UDP also addressed procedures for discovery of human skeletal material (page 4).

Unanticipated discovery of historical, cultural, and archaeological resources is a potential when excavating soil pits necessary for wetland delineations. If potential cultural resources material is discovered during wetland delineation or other wetland or stream-related fieldwork, refer to the UDP.

Project Construction & Wetland Mitigation Site Construction

Wetland areas and wetland mitigation sites affected by project activities, including mitigation site construction, are screened by a Cultural Resources Specialist (CRS) for impacts to historic and archaeological resources. The three-step procedure outlined below shall occur before ground-disturbing investigations or construction occurs on WSDOT projects or construction of wetland mitigation sites.

STEP 1: Check with a CRS to find out if a project area or mitigation site has been surveyed and includes any recorded cultural resource sites. The CRS can access this information online through the DHAP Wissard System (Washington’s digital repository for architectural and archaeological resources and reports) and the WSDOT GIS Environmental Workbench.
STEP 2: Provide the CRS with the following information:

- Project and mitigation site description
- Map showing study area boundaries and parcel number(s) for the areas in question
- Relevant state routes and mile post numbers
- Available plan sheets
- A summary of planned ground disturbance (number and type of pits or probes, excavation, etc).

The CRS will use provided information to assess probability of encountering cultural resources in the project area or mitigation site, and can decide if a cultural resources investigation is necessary prior to or at the time of wetland field work.

STEP 3: If a potential wetland area or mitigation site has a recorded cultural resource site(s), work with the CRS to determine appropriate actions needed to protect the resource(s).

*Cultural Resources Training*

The WSDOT Cultural Resources Program provides annual training and specialized courses tailored to help environmental staff and consultants recognize cultural resources in the field. This does not preclude the need to check for recorded cultural resource sites, but it improves our ability to identify and protect historical, cultural, and archaeological resources.

The WSDOT Cultural Resources page provides contacts and additional information.
Wetland Unanticipated Discovery Plan

Procedures for reporting discovery of cultural resources or human remains during wetland and stream assessment field work are outlined below.

Introduction

The following Unanticipated Discovery Plan (UDP) outlines procedures to follow, in accordance with federal and state laws, if archaeological materials or human remains are discovered during wetland delineation or other wetland or stream-related fieldwork. Construction projects, including construction of mitigation sites follow a separate, project-specific UPD.

Recognizing Cultural Resources

A cultural resource discovery could be prehistoric or historic. Examples are shown at the end of this document (pages 5 - 14) and include:

- An accumulation of shell, burned rocks, or other food related materials, particularly near coastal areas
- Bones or small pieces of bone
- Cluster of bottles, tin cans, ceramics or other domestic debris that may be greater than 50 years of age (not typical highway/shoulder debris)
- Stone tools or waste flakes (e.g. an arrowhead or stone chips)
- Logging or agricultural equipment appearing older than 50 years
- Orchard, fruit trees, or non-native ornamentals out of place on the landscape
- Buried railroad tracks, decking, or other industrial materials

If an old house, building, roadway, or railway is nearby be aware that archaeological material could be present in the area (fruit trees and ornamentals may still be present when a structure is gone). When in doubt, assume the material is a cultural resource.

If human remains are encountered, follow the Special Procedures for the Discovery of Human Skeletal Material (page 4).

On-site Responsibilities

What to do in the event of an unanticipated discovery:

STEP 1: STOP WORK.

If any WSDOT employee, consultant, contractor, or intern believes she or he has encountered a cultural resource during wetland fieldwork, all work adjacent to the discovery must stop. The discovery location should be protected at all times.

STEP 2: NOTIFY THE CULTURAL RESOURCE (CR) PROGRAM.

Contact Scott Williams, Cultural Resource Program Manager or Erin Littauer, Cultural Resources Specialist to notify them of the discovery. The Cultural Resources Program will notify the Tribes, DAHP and federal agencies (if applicable). If human remains are encountered, refer to the Special Procedures for the Discovery of Human Skeletal Material (page 4) and contact the Cultural Resources Program.

Cultural Resource Program Contacts

CR Program Manager: Scott Williams, 360-570-6651 scott.williams@wsdot.wa.gov
CR Specialist: Erin Littauer, 360-570-2448, cell 360-480-4902 erin.littauer@wsdot.wa.gov
Special Procedures for the Discovery of Human Skeletal Material

State law requires that any find of human remains be treated as a potential crime scene and reported to local law enforcement. Any human skeletal remains, regardless of antiquity or ethnic origin, will be treated with dignity and respect at all times.

If you find human remains:

- Cover the remains with a tarp or other materials (not soil or rocks) for temporary protection in place and to shield them from being photographed.
- Notify local law enforcement through their nonemergency number or the Coroner’s Office.
- If the non-emergency number or the Coroner’s number is unknown, call 911 and report finding human remains and request local law enforcement; explain to the dispatcher that it is not an emergency, but that you are reporting human remains. The coroner, with assistance of law enforcement, will determine if the remains are human, whether the discovery site constitutes a crime scene, and will notify DAHP and the State Physical Anthropologist.
- Do not speak with the media.

Wetland field activities may continue at the discovery location only after the process outlined in this plan is followed and WSDOT determines compliance with federal and state laws is complete. Once those steps have been taken, wetland monitoring, delineation, or other wetland-related field activities outside the discovery location may continue while documentation and assessment of the discovery proceed.
I might implement the IDP / UDP if …

I see chipped stone artifacts.

- Glass-like material
- Angular
- "Unusual" material for area
- "Unusual" shape
- Regularity of flaking
- Variability of size
I might implement the IDP / UDP if ...
I see ground or pecked stone artifacts.

- Striations or scratching
- Unusual or unnatural shapes
- Unusual stone
- Etching
- Perforations
- Pecking
- Regularity in modifications
- Variability of size, function, and complexity
I might implement the IDP / UDP if ... I see bone or shell artifacts.

- Often smooth
- Unusual shape
- Carved
- Often pointed if used as a tool
- Often wedge shaped like a “shoe horn”
I might implement the IDP / UDP if ...

I see bone or shell artifacts.

- Often smooth
- Unusual shape
- Perforated
- Variability of size
I might implement the IDP / UDP if ... 
I see fiber or wood artifacts.

- Wet environments needed for preservation
- Variability of size, function, and complexity
- Rare
I might implement the IDP / UDP if ...
I see historic period artifacts.
I might implement the IDP / UDP if ...

I see strange, different or interesting looking dirt, rocks, or shells

- Human activities leave traces in the ground that may or may not have artifacts associated with them
- “Unusual” accumulations of rock (especially fire-cracked rock)
- “Unusual” shaped accumulations of rock (e.g., similar to a fire ring)
- Charcoal or charcoal-stained soils
- Oxidized or burnt-looking soils
- Accumulations of shell
- Accumulations of bone or artifacts
- Look for the “unusual” or out of place (e.g., rock piles or accumulations in areas with few rock)
I might implement the IDP / UDP if ...

I see strange, different or interesting looking dirt, rocks, or shells

- “Unusual” accumulations of rock (especially fire-cracked rock)
- “Unusual” shaped accumulations of rock (e.g., similar to a fire ring)
- Look for the “unusual” or out of place (e.g., rock piles or accumulations in areas with few rock)
I might implement the IDP / UDP if ...
I see strange, different or interesting looking dirt, rocks, or shells

- Often have a layered or “layer cake” appearance
- Often associated with black or blackish soil
- Often have very crush and compacted shell

[Image of a digging site with layers and debris]

Site located within WSDOT ROW near Anacortes Ferry Terminal
I might implement the IDP / UDP if …

I see historic foundations or buried structures.