

Cultural Resources Policy

I. INTRODUCTION

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) is responsible for the acquisition, protection, promotion, and interpretation of a unique collection of structures, places, and objects that are tangible links to the state's past. These resources, known collectively as cultural resources, are both distinctive and significant, as they reflect many of the major themes in the state's history and prehistory. Like endangered species in the natural world, once lost, they cannot be regenerated. Their preservation and interpretation provide enrichment for all Washingtonians as well as a valued legacy for future generations.

Many of these cultural resources are important in their national context, as well. People enjoy these resources, but more importantly, they are also of educational, economic, and even spiritual benefit to present and future generations. In a very important way, they help people connect with their past and in so doing help them better understand the present.

The Commission strongly encourages the sensitive use of both cultural and natural resources to attract visitors and, thereby, support local economies, bolster community identity, and conserve those same resources. The Commission's Mission and legislative Declaration of Lands Policy (RCW 79A.05.305(3)) enunciates a vision that will ensure visitors to state parks will see the park system as an opportunity to appreciate Washington's cultural and natural heritage. The Commission has as a goal and core value to be recognized for its leadership in outdoor recreation and in natural and cultural resources stewardship.

The dual nature of cultural resources, an inseparable union of social and physical qualities, leads directly to the three issues central to their management: first, to discover the significance or meaning of each resource, in part, to facilitate decisions regarding their treatment and care; second, to arrest or slow the rate at which their essential qualities are lost; and third, to support the use and enjoyment of cultural resources while minimizing negative impacts on them.

This policy, and the procedures it is intended to foster, will enable the Commission to carry out its continuing stewardship responsibilities for the cultural resources entrusted to its care. This policy applies to all employees and volunteers of WSPRC working in parks containing cultural resources.

Not surprisingly, this policy raises as many questions as it answers. With its emphasis on historic resources, it is worth noting the important policy references to the broader field of cultural resources, including cultural landscapes, archaeological resources, collections, and ethnographic resources. Since the adoption of this policy in 1998, it has been amended to respond to emerging issues related to cultural resource management and protection. Future amendments will be required to address additional topics as necessary.

II. REFERENCES

1. Governor's Executive Order 05-05 on Cultural Resources directs state agencies to consult with interested tribes about Capital development projects and encourages agencies to avoid or minimize their development impacts on cultural resources.
2. RCW 27.34.200 – Archaeology and Historic Preservation-Legislative Declaration "...therefore, it is declared by the legislature to be the public policy and in the public interest of the state to designate, preserve, protect, enhance and perpetuate those structures, sites, districts, buildings, and objects which reflect outstanding elements of the state's historic, archaeological, architectural, or cultural heritage, for the inspiration and enrichment of the citizens of the state."
3. RCW 27.44 – Indian Graves and Records protects Native American graves, historic graves, glyphs (petroglyphs and pictographs) and carins from disturbance. It also prescribes penalties for disturbance and trafficking in artifacts and grave goods.
4. RCW 27.53 – Archaeological Sites and Resources protects archaeological sites from willful disturbance. It also prescribes penalties for disturbance and restoration costs.
5. RCW 43.21C - State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) A state policy that requires state and local agencies to consider the likely environmental consequences of a proposal before approving or denying the action. See also Chapter 197-11 WAC.
6. RCW 79A.05.305(3) Declaration of Policy –Lands for public park purposes – "Protect cultural and historical resources, locations, and artifacts, which may also be used for interpretive purposes."
7. WAC 352-11-665 (1)(b)(iv) - "The Commission shall use all practicable means...to the end that the state and its citizens may preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage;".
8. WAC 352-16-020 –The land classification system used by the Commission as part of the Classification and Management Planning (CAMP) process.
9. Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's Centennial 2013 Plan
10. 16 U.S.C. 431-433 – Antiquities Act (1906), provides information on penalties for the damage and destruction of antiquities.

11. 16 U.S.C. 469 – Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act (1974) [PUBLIC LAW 86-523], provides for the preservation of historical and archaeological data, including objects and specimens.
12. 16 U.S.C. 470 - National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 [PUBLIC LAW 102-575], as amended and the implementing regulations found at 36 CFR 800. Establishes federal government’s policy to provide leadership in the preservation of historic properties and to administer federally owned or controlled historic properties in the spirit of stewardship.
13. 36 CFR Part 61, Appendix A: Professional Qualification Standards - define minimum education and experience required to perform identification, evaluation, registration, and treatment activities related to cultural resource management in the fields of history, archaeology, architectural history, architecture, and historic architecture.
14. 36 CFR Part 68 - The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties
15. 36 CFR Part 79 – Secretary of the Interior’s Curation of Federally Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections standards for curation. Defines collections and sets forth the requirements for processing, maintaining, and the curation of archaeological collections. However, NAGPRA (see #16 below) cultural items and human remains shall be managed in accordance with NAGPRA and 46 CFR Part 10.
16. 43 CFR Part 7 – Archaeological Resources Protection Act (1979) [PUBLIC LAW 96-95] provides for the protection of archaeological resources and sites that are on public lands and Native American lands and fosters increased cooperation and exchange of information.
17. 43 CFR Part 10 – Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (1990) [PUBLIC LAW 101-601] as amended. NAGPRA provides guidelines on the ownership or control of Native American cultural items and human remains that are excavated or discovered on federal or tribal lands, or lands owned by entities receiving federal monies after 16 November 1990. This regulation sets forth the requirements and procedures to carry out the provisions of NAGPRA.
18. 1998 Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Tourism between the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development and several state agencies.
19. Millennium Agreement and 2010 Agency Centennial Accord Plan - Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission

III. DEFINITIONS

1. **Adaptive Use** – use of a structure or landscape other than its historic use, normally entailing some modification of the structure or landscape.
2. **Accession** –A formal process of obtaining legal ownership and recording object(s) from a single source at one time as part of a permanent collection.
3. **Archaeological Resource** – any material remains or physical evidence of past human life or activities that are of scientific interest, including the record of the effects of human activities on the environment.
4. **Building** – an enclosed structure with walls and a roof, consciously created to serve some residential, industrial, commercial, agricultural, or other human use.
5. **Biotic** – living organisms that make up an ecosystem. In the context of cultural resource management, this term serves to identify those plants and animals that may be an important contributing component of an archaeological site. For example, an anthropomorphic prairie of camas plants may be incorporated into the boundaries of a recorded archaeological site.
6. **CAMP Project** – a combined planning effort that brings together management planning and land classification.
 - a. Park management plan – regularly updated document adopted by the Director and used by park managers and other staff to set forth specific management approaches to key park issues.
 - b. Land classification system – a system of management zoning for park lands and waters under WAC 352-16-020 that sets forth, in a general fashion, the basic philosophy, physical features, location, activities, and developments in a park. The delineation of these zones is based on an evaluation of the nature of the park’s natural and cultural resources; all past, existing, and anticipated uses; and park management objectives.
7. **Character Defining Feature** – the visual aspects and physical features that comprise the appearance of a historic property. These include, but are not limited to, the overall shape, form, and massing of a resource, its materials, craftsmanship, decorative details, interior spaces, spatial arrangement, finishes, and the surrounding site and environment.
8. **Collections** – the collected objects cared for by an agency, institution, or organization.
9. **Collections Catalog** – the permanent record for each object in a collection that contains the information required of the organized system.
10. **Cultural Landscape** – a geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and any wildlife or domestic uses made thereof, associated with an

historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural, spiritual or aesthetic values. The four general types of cultural landscapes are:

- a. Ethnographic – areas containing a variety of natural and cultural resources that associated people define as heritage resources; (see also Traditional Cultural Properties)
- b. Historic designed – a landscape significant as a design or work of art. Such a landscape was consciously designed and laid out according to a recognized style or tradition;
- c. Historic vernacular – a landscape whose use, construction, or physical layout reflects endemic traditions, customs, belief, or values. The physical, biological, and cultural features of the landscape reflect the customs and everyday lives of people; and
- d. Historic site – See III. 20.

11. **Cultural resource** – an aspect of a cultural system that is valued by or significantly representative of a culture or that contains significant information about a culture. A cultural resource may be tangible or intangible. Biotic cultural resources include both plant and animal communities. Other examples of cultural resources include districts, sites, structures, buildings, folk tales, rituals and objects.

12. **Cultural resources management** – the range of administrative activities aimed at identifying, protecting, understanding, preserving and providing for the enjoyment and appreciation of cultural resources.

13. **Cultural Resources Management Plan** – that portion of a specific park's management plan that addresses the management of cultural resources located within a state park. At a minimum, the plan describes the park's cultural resources, evaluates and draws conclusions about their significance, outlines the park's goals and objectives in managing these resources, describes and evaluates current resources management activities, and prescribes an action program for meeting the most urgent needs.

14. **Deaccession** – the formal removal of an accessioned object(s) from the permanent record.

15. **Data Recovery** – the process of salvaging data from damaged, failed, or inaccessible historic properties and collections-based objects through photographic documentation and the recording of physical characteristics and historical significance.

16. **Disposition** – transferring or disposing of a deaccessioned object(s) from the permanent record.

17. **Documentation of Collections** – act of cataloging a collection or group of collections. Includes documenting accessions and deaccessions, assigning

identification numbers, recording the condition of each object, inventory reporting, and processing and tracking loans.

18. **Heritage areas** – In the Commission’s Classification and Management Planning (CAMP) land classification system under WAC 352-16-020, areas designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of outstanding, unique or unusual archaeological, historical, scientific, and/or cultural features and traditional cultural properties that are of statewide or national significance.
19. **Historic district** – a geographically defined area possessing a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of buildings, sites, landscapes, structures, or objects, united by past events or aesthetically by plan or physical developments. It may also be composed of individual elements separated geographically but linked by association or history. Use of the term is generally related to nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.
20. **Historic Property** – An umbrella term for all entries in the National Register of Historic Places. According to the National Register of Historic Places categories, this can include a district, site, structure, building, object or landscape significant in American history, architecture, engineering, archaeology, or culture.

Historic properties in state parks can be divided into three classes based on their use.

a. Interpretive use

Examples might include an historic house, a gun emplacement, or a lighthouse. These facilities are the basis of the state’s heritage tourism industry, and their importance will only increase over time. Use of some of these properties may be intense but is generally intermittent and short-term. However, this is in no way a reflection of their historical significance.

Maintenance of these facilities stresses the retention of original design and fabric.

b. Current use

Examples include a lighthouse keeper’s house that is either lived in by a park employee or rented for revenue generation. Like those maintained purely for historic preservation purposes, maintenance of these facilities will stress retention of original design and fabric to the maximum extent.

c. Adaptive use

Examples include a CCC garage that is used for maintenance shop purposes and a kitchen that is used for administrative offices. The exterior of these buildings will be maintained essentially as they were during their historic period. Alterations that in themselves have become part of the historic fabric will be retained. All interior modifications will consider the retention of historic materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.

21. **Historic site** – the location of a significant event, prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or structure or landscape whether extant or vanished, where the location itself possesses historical, cultural, or archaeological value apart from the value of any existing structure or landscape. A type of cultural landscape.
22. **Integrity** – the authenticity of a property’s historic identity, as evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during its historic period; the extent to which a property retains its historic appearance.
23. **Interpretive Center** – a designated site or structure administered by State Parks specifically to interpret a significant element of Washington’s heritage to the public. The significance of historic properties, events and/or natural features, extant or vanished, within the general proximity of an Interpretive Center transcends local interest and is of statewide or national significance.
24. **Inventory** – a listing of objects in a collection as represented by the permanent record.
25. **National Register of Historic Places** – the comprehensive list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of national, regional, state, and local significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture kept by the National Park Service under authority of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.
26. **Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (1990) (43 CFR Part 10)** – an act signed into public law by the president of the United States in 1990. This law “pertains to the identification and appropriate disposition of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony that are in Federal possession, or in the possession or control of any institution or State or local government receiving Federal funds, or excavated intentionally or inadvertently on Federal or tribal lands.”
27. **Object** – a material thing possessing functional, aesthetic, cultural, symbolic, and/or scientific value, usually movable by nature or design. Objects include prehistoric and historic objects, artifacts, works of art, archival material, and natural history specimens that are part of a museum-type collection. Structural components may be designated objects when removed from their associated structures. (Large or immovable properties, such as monumental statuary, trains, nautical vessels, cairns, and rock paintings, are defined as structures or features of sites).
28. **Preservation** (pertaining to Collections) – maintain the original integrity of an object by arresting or retarding deterioration.
29. **Preservation-Conservation** – planning and actions allowing for the sustainable use and management of a collection while preserving it for the future.

30. **Scope of Collections Statement** – approved documents that outline agency criteria for determining whether an object should be accessioned into its collections. This document also allows for an assessment of existing collections for the determination of deaccession and disposition of objects or collections that do not fit agency mission, goals, or objectives.
31. **Secretary of the Interior’s “Curation of Federally Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections”** – Guiding standards and principles provided for all federal agencies, state agencies, and other organizations for the curation of archaeological material. Also referred to as the Federal Curation Standards and 36 CFR Part 79, these standards are used by the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) to permit the curation of newly excavated archaeological material.
32. **Secretary’s Standards and Guidelines** – The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation provide all federal agencies, state historic preservation officers, and other organizations with guiding principles of archaeological and historic preservation activities and methods. They have been prepared pursuant to authority contained in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended and deal with preservation planning; identification, evaluation, and registration of cultural resources; historical, architectural, engineering, and archaeological documentation; and treatment of historic properties. They are not regulatory nor do they, in and of themselves, set or interpret agency policy.
33. **Traditional Cultural Property** – properties affiliated with traditional religious and cultural importance to a distinct cultural group. Includes built or natural locations, areas, or features considered sacred or culturally significant by a group or people.
34. **Structure** – a constructed work, usually immovable by nature or design, consciously created to serve some human activity.
35. **Treatment** – a general description of the type of work to be accomplished on an historic building or structure based on a variety of factors, including its historical significance, physical condition, proposed use and intended interpretation. It is divided into four categories as defined by the Secretary’s Standards:
- a. **Preservation** – maintains the authenticity of a property’s historic identity/appearance and prominent or distinctive characteristics by arresting or retarding deterioration caused by natural forces and normal use through:
 - 1. **Maintenance** – an activity intended to mitigate wear and deterioration by protecting the structure’s condition and historical integrity.

2. Stabilization – one or more activities designed to arrest the physical deterioration of a property while maintaining the existing character until additional work can be undertaken.
 3. Planned Conservation – the planned, temporary abandonment of an historic property in a manner that allows for subsequent treatment at a later period with no significant loss of historic fabric during the interim period. This practice is sometimes referred to as “mothballing” or “banking” and is considered acceptable for properties that warrant another treatment but cannot be accomplished until some future date
- b. Rehabilitation – improves the utility or function of an historic property, through repair or alteration, to make possible a compatible contemporary use while preserving those portions or features that are important in defining its significance. A property may be rehabilitated for contemporary, functional use if it cannot adequately serve an appropriate use in its present condition and rehabilitation will not alter its integrity and character or conflict with park management objectives.
 - c. Restoration – accurately presents the form, features, and character of an historic property as it appeared at a specific period. It may involve the duplication of missing historic features and/or removal of later features, some having cultural value in themselves. A property may be restored to an earlier appearance if restoration is essential to public understanding of the cultural associations of a park and sufficient data exist to permit restoration with minimal conjecture.
 - d. Reconstruction – entails reproducing the form, features, and character of a non-surviving historic property, or any part thereof, as it appeared at a specific time and place. A vanished property may be reconstructed if reconstruction is essential to public understanding of the cultural associations of a park established for that purpose, sufficient data exist to permit reconstruction on the original site with minimal conjecture, and significant resources will be preserved *in situ* or their research values will be realized through data recovery. A vanished structure will not be reconstructed to appear damaged or ruined. Generalized representations of typical structures will not be attempted. Ghosted or three dimensional outlined structures may be utilized in a limited way for interpretive purposes.

IV. General

A. Purpose:

This Cultural Resources Management Policy addresses multiple disciplines, including historic preservation, archaeology, and collections. The following general policy applies across all disciplines, and is intended to guide the general management of these resources. The application of these general policies is based on the resource being managed and the particular circumstances of that resource.

B. Policy

1. The Commission will preserve and foster understanding and appreciation of the cultural resources entrusted to its care through identification, protection, and documentation efforts combined with appropriate programs of training, research, treatment, preservation-conservation, and interpretation. Special emphasis will be placed on preservation skills training for those employees engaged in capital funded treatments and day-to-day operation and maintenance of state-owned or managed historic properties and collections. Park managers and others responsible for resource management in parks will receive stewardship certification training that includes cultural resources.
2. As an integral part of park management plans, the Commission will prepare cultural resources management plans to provide overall direction for the use, protection and treatment of cultural resources within parks. Plans, commensurate with the number and significance of the cultural resources found in the park, are approved by the Director or designee. Pending cultural resources management plan approval, treatment options for all historic properties will generally be limited to preservation alternatives.
3. Before any decisions are made about the final treatment of known cultural resources within a park, the Commission will conduct sufficient research to locate and evaluate them. Cultural resources that may be discovered prior to treatment will be evaluated before final decision making. The nature and extent of treatment of historic properties will be determined by a variety of factors, including the park's management plan; the property's historical significance, physical condition, proposed use, and intended interpretation; and any pertinent laws, rules, regulations and/or codes.
4. All cultural resources that have been assessed and appear to meet the criteria for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, as defined in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, will be nominated either individually or as part of a multiple property submission.
5. At the earliest practicable time, the Commission will inform other governmental agencies, potentially affected tribes, nearby communities, interest groups, the public at large, and entities that are specified by law or regulation of opportunities to become informed about and comment on anticipated Commission actions with respect to cultural resources.

When the requirements or procedures of federal or state law and regulation are not applicable, the Commission will coordinate with interested tribes regarding issues of mutual concern related to the development of cultural resource management plans, the use (including research) and display of collections, and the treatment of cultural resources of interest to Native Americans. Upon request, the Commission will formally consult with interested tribes consistent with the Centennial Accord, the New Millennium Agreement, and agency guidelines regarding these issues.

6. Biennially, as an integral supplement to the capital historic preservation projects list submitted to the Commission for initial approval, staff will submit a program proposal for interpretive media planning, production, and installation directly related to a major theme of that list.
7. The installation of any monument, marker, plaque, or other objects intended to memorialize any group, individual, or concept within a Commission-designated Heritage Area of a state park is prohibited except under the following conditions:
 - a. Dedicatory plaques may be placed on new, minor park improvements such as benches, picnic tables, and other similar facilities that are themselves part of any new development approved by the Commission in heritage area, and
 - b. Memorializations may, at the determination of the Commission, be placed in heritage areas so long as they do not alter in any way the integrity or significance of their surroundings.

The installation of memorializations, dedicatory plaques, or other similar objects directly on buildings, structures, or objects of historical significance is prohibited.

8. Significant, intact cultural landscapes are one of the scarcest cultural resources in the state parks system. Any alteration of a cultural landscape may only be made pursuant to the guidance listed herein.
 - a. The treatment of cultural landscapes will preserve significant physical attributes, both natural and cultural, as well as uses when those uses contribute to historical significance.
 - b. The treatment and management of a cultural landscape will establish acceptable parameters for change within the biotic community, and the biotic resources will be managed within those parameters.
 - c. Contemporary additions to cultural landscapes will not change the character of physical features within the setting of resources that contribute to their cultural or natural significance, nor introduce uses with visual, atmospheric, or audible elements that diminish the integrity of significant cultural or natural features nor the public's appreciation of them.

V. Historic Preservation

A. Purpose

This Policy guides the identification, protection, management, treatment, and use of historic properties owned or operated by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

B. Background

The care of historic properties has been an integral part of the mission of Washington State Parks since the beginning of the agency. In November of 1915, the State Board of Park Commissioners (predecessor to the Commission) accepted two properties as the first lands donated for park purposes: Larrabee State Park and the John R. Jackson House. The Jackson House, according to the minutes of the meeting, was to be used for “historical purposes” and represents the first historic property entrusted to the Agency for care and management.

Since that time, the Commission has acquired or agreed to manage historic properties strictly for their historic value. As an agency with nearly a century of park development and management, WSPRC also participated in the construction of other park facilities that are now considered historically significant, such as the Civilian Conservation Corps development in numerous parks.

The Commission’s collection of historic properties now includes more than 600 identified buildings, structures, districts, sites, and objects which, according to the Commission’s mission statement and common practice, provide a valued legacy for future generations. Multiple historic themes are represented in the Commission’s collection, from coastal defense fortifications to CCC buildings to agricultural properties to transportation related resources. From a statewide perspective, WSPRC manages more historic properties than any other state agency and the Commission’s collection represents a broad spectrum of historical themes important to the history of the State of Washington and the nation.

As time moves forward, existing properties are evaluated for historic significance. The criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places serve as the basic tool for this evaluation, which provides a general rule that historic properties that have achieved 50 years of age may be considered historically significant. If a property is determined to have historic significance, the Policy states it will be treated according to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

The Commission recognizes the importance of the resources entrusted to its care. The responsible stewardship of these historic properties is an obligation that the Commission has committed to throughout the State Parks system consistent with this Policy and the agency’s mission and core values.

C. Policy

1. The Commission will use the Secretary of the Interior’s “Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties” and the accompanying “Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings” as general guidance for work on any historic properties.
2. Some historic properties are to be maintained entirely in their historic condition for interpretive purposes. Others may be rehabilitated for contemporary use where practicable, including revenue generation, when such use does not adversely affect the property’s exterior or interior character defining features.

3. Achievement of other goals and objectives, such as those determined by a Park Management Plan, for example, may outweigh the value of preserving in place one or more historic buildings or structures in that park. Relocation will be explored as a first option. Alternatively, the loss of these historic resources will be mitigated by documentation, data recovery, salvage or other measures determined to be appropriate. In specific instances the resource may be permitted to deteriorate naturally. Destruction or direct removal may be necessary for public safety, because of interference with other park objectives, or to eliminate an unacceptable intrusion.
4. Moving buildings or structures that are on, or eligible for inclusion on, the National Register of Historic Places may be an acceptable alternative under one or more of the following conditions:
 - a. Buildings or structures threatened by natural or human-caused forces (erosion, earthquake, tides, uncontrollable vandalism, etc.);
 - b. Buildings, structures, or objects whose significance is not dependent on their location;
 - c. Buildings or structures that are not in their original location;
 - d. Relocation is essential to the public's appreciation of the building or structure.

The Commission will seek and consider public input on the moving of historic buildings or structures.

5. As a basic principle, all historic properties that the Commission presents to the public will be either authentic survivals from the past or accurate representations of those that formerly existed there. Reconstructions will be clearly identified as such. See further constraints placed on reconstructions under item III. 35.d.
6. Additions, made consistent with the Secretary's Standards, may be made to historic properties when essential for their continued use. New buildings, structures, landscape features, and utilities will be introduced into Heritage Areas (or potential Heritage Areas) only if existing structures, improvements, and features do not meet essential management needs and construction is designed and sited to preserve the historic integrity and character of the area.
7. The stabilization of buildings and structures severely compromised by natural or human-caused events (earthquakes, vandalism, fire, wind, etc.) will be preceded when feasible by studies to recover any data that would be affected by stabilization work. Other treatments may be appropriate for buildings and structures that possess significant interpretive value. Significant building sites with visible surviving features such as foundations, retaining walls, walkways, or landscape features may be given appropriate preservation treatments if the sites are of sufficient interpretive value.

VI. Archaeology

A. Purpose

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is charged with identifying, protecting and interpreting archaeological resources within its custody. This Policy provides the agency guidance for implementing these charges.

B. Background

Archaeological sites are the physical remains of past human activity. They mark on the landscape *where* past human activity has occurred. Often, these archaeological sites provide remarkable levels of preservation allowing us to reconstruct past human activities. Our parks contain many excellent examples of these well preserved sites and remains. All of them are non-renewable resources. They cannot be replaced if damaged or destroyed. For this reason, their stewardship is an important objective for State Parks.

Over 400 archaeological sites representing more than 10,000 years of human history are presently recorded on lands managed by the Commission. These archaeological resources, including the objects contained therein, provide us with a physical connection to the past. Since multiple cultures trace their ancestry to this past, we all share a common interest in its protection. With proper care and interpretation, these archaeological resources afford the public opportunities to see, experience, and understand Washington's rich heritage. Equally important, these archaeological sites house important information about Washington's *environmental* history. Scientific evidence of past climates and regional environments are preserved within these same archaeological deposits. Preserved bone and plant remains, thousands of years old, provide us with insight about changes in Washington's indigenous flora and fauna.

Commission responsibility to protect archaeological resources began shortly after the inception of the park system itself. On 3 July 1931, State Parks acquired a 10-acre parcel of land at the junction of the Snake and Columbia Rivers. This acquisition was made to protect the landform presumed to contain the remains of a Lewis and Clark's Expedition campsite. Just 10 years later, in 1941, the Washington State Planning Council called upon the legislature to inventory all archaeological objects and historic sites in the state. It also called for the formulation of a program for the care and disposal of sites and objects of historic and scientific interest. Since then, the Commission built a statewide network of 121 parks, most containing significant archaeological or historic remains representing Washington's history and prehistory.

The archaeological resource policies of State Parks are derived from state and federal laws, Governor executive orders, proclamations, and input from the public. Some of the more important directives are included in the "References" (section II.) of this policy.

C. Policy

1. The Commission will use the Secretary of the Interior's "Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Archaeological Properties" as general guidance for the treatment and preservation of archaeological sites.

2. The protection, treatment and management of archaeological sites will include acceptable parameters for change within the indigenous biotic community, and the biotic resources will be managed within those parameters.
3. The Commission will protect all human remains and locations of graves, grave sites, and cemeteries. When, as a result of ground disturbing activities, it is not possible to protect the human remains the preferred treatment will be to relocate to a site adjacent to the original grave/cemetery location.

VII. Collections

A. Purpose

This policy directs the identification, protection, preservation, management, and use of collections of historical and archaeological significance cared for by Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

B. Background

The Commission is responsible for the long-term care of irreplaceable objects that represent tangible links to our past. The management of Commission collections requires thoughtful decision making that ensures the protection and preservation of objects in order to transmit them to future generations, while providing appropriate public access. It is through the research and interpretation of our collected objects that we enable meaningful connections to the human and natural heritage embodied in the state park system.

The Commission has a long history of caring for collections dating back to 1915 when the John R. Jackson House and its contents were donated. Through the years the Commission has continued to acquire collection objects in a variety of ways. Many objects were donated by citizens for use in interpretive displays. As a result, the Commission's initial repositories were located in museums (now referred to as Interpretive Centers) at Sacajawea, Ginkgo Petrified Forest, and Fort Columbia. Beginning in 1950, with the work of Louis Caywood at Spokane House, the Commission began to contract archaeological investigations for the expressed purpose of generating archaeological collections for interpretive and scientific use. This program led to the development of Interpretive Centers at Fort Okanogan and Spokane House. Additionally, the generation of a wide array of collection objects has also occurred through the acquisition of over 125,000 acres of park lands, including, but not limited to, objects from homesteads, ranches, resorts, lighthouses, coast defense sites, and others.

An ongoing source for the generation of collections is the work to maintain and enhance the state park system. The Commission is obligated to care for archaeological and historic objects involved in the ground disturbance necessary to repair and enhance utilities, structures and transportation facilities. The standards for storage and care for many of these objects are stipulated by regulatory entities in the permitting of this work. Furthermore, as the manager of select federal lands and the recipient of federal funding

the Commission is obligated to care and manage collections in accordance with appropriate federal laws and standards, which are set forth in this policy section.

C. Policy

1. The Commission recognizes and is committed to preservation-conservation as the most effective means of promoting long-term preservation and use of objects in its collections.
2. Commission collections are held in trust to benefit the people of Washington state and future generations. Collections will be identified, acquired, documented, preserved, and managed for the purposes of protecting and interpreting Washington state human and natural history.
3. Not all objects are appropriate for research, loan, or public display. The Commission will use appropriate collections as a part of planned exhibits in Interpretive Centers, and other interpretive or educational venues. Collection-based objects presented by the Commission to the public will be either authentic survivals of the past or accurate representations of those that formerly existed. Reconstructions and replicas will be clearly identified as such.
4. The Commission will continue to inventory, report, and consult in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (43 CFR Part 10).
5. The Commission utilizes the standards and guidelines outlined in the Secretary of the Interior's "Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections" (36 CFR Part 79) to ensure appropriate and acceptable storage, documentation, care, and use of its collection holdings. The Commission will maintain best practices that follow these standards and guidelines, including the display and loan of its collections.
6. Not all objects meet the goals and objectives of the Commission. A Scope of Collections Statement will be used as guidance to determine the value of acquisition or disposition of an object or collection. Relocation to a mission-aligned institution or organization will be explored as a first option of disposition. The loss of a collection or object will be mitigated by documentation, data recovery, and salvage as appropriate. In specific instances the resource may be permitted to deteriorate naturally.
7. The Commission will work with other government agencies, interested Native American tribes, institutions and organizations to make appropriate objects or collections available for loan and research thereby improving public access and enhancing interpretive opportunity. Research and study of Commission collections will be made possible through a research approval process.

(CM 11-19-2010)