

The following contacts are provided to assist with questions regarding the cultural resources inventory and state laws and permitting process.

Cultural Resource Inventory

USDA - Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

NRCS web site:

[www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov)

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State Laws and  
Permitting

WA Department  
of Archaeology  
and Historic  
Preservation

DAHP web site:

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wa.gov

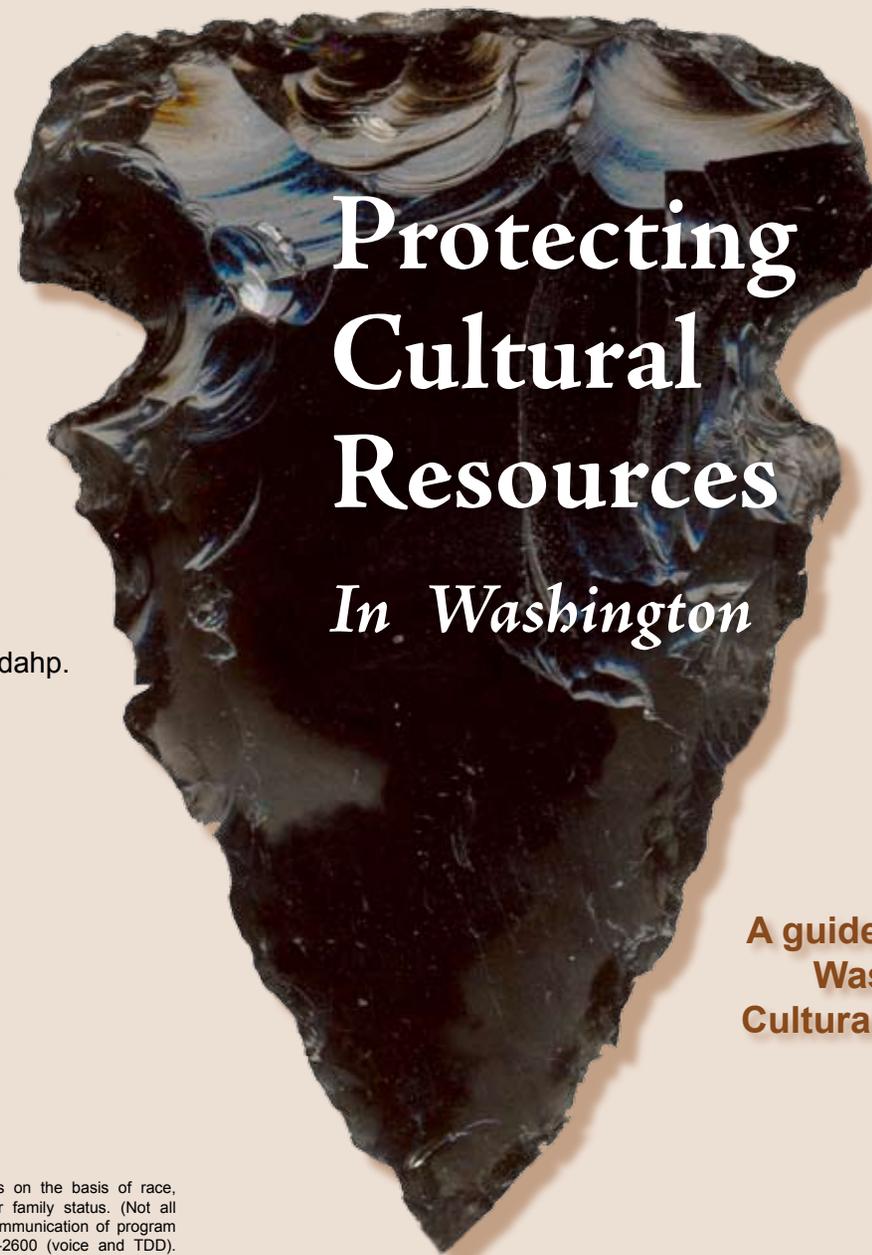
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*Cabin in Pend Oreille County*

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
**Helping people help the land.**

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**A guide to preserving  
Washington's  
Cultural Resources.**



NRCS provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

## Who cares about cultural resources on private lands?

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and most landowners care. Cultural resources are evidence of past human activities and they are unique and non-renewable.

NRCS provides conservation assistance to Washington private landowners and tribes. As part of our responsibilities, we must consider impacts of our conservation assistance on resources that are important to us all.

NRCS is specifically required by the National Historical Preservation Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and various other State and Federal laws to consider what impacts our conservation programs may have on cultural resources. To insure protection, NRCS may require a cultural resource inventory as part of the conservation planning process.



*Glass Artifact*

## What is a cultural resource inventory?

A cultural resource inventory is both a systematic review of records, files, and archived data bases and a survey to determine the past human use of an area. It may be conducted by a qualified cultural resource specialist who meets the professional qualifications required by NRCS.



*Coastal River Fish Trap*

A cultural resources specialist looks for historical and archeological sites, artifacts, and areas that may be traditionally important to various groups of people. Cultural resources may generally be defined as sites or artifacts 50 years old or older. They can be found throughout the landscape. These sites can be considered

to be significant (eligible for the National Register of Historic Places) if they meet certain historical, scientific, or architectural criteria.

## What if cultural resources are found on my land?

In most cases, the NRCS will be able to design conservation practices that will avoid impacts to important cultural resources or propose alternative acceptable practices. The NRCS also consults with the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, cultural resource specialists, or other scientists to best determine how to protect important cultural resource sites.



*Historic Farmstead*

Identified cultural resources remain the property of the landowner who is ultimately the best steward.

Be aware that it is against Washington state law to destroy or collect artifacts from known archeological sites on private lands without first obtaining a permit from the WA Department of Archaeology Historic Preservation. Knowingly disturbing human remains, burials, or graves is a felony.

## Why conduct a cultural resources inventory?

In order to meet our mandated responsibilities, NRCS must consider the effects of its conservation programs on our nation's heritage.

Prior to helping you install conservation practices, we may need to conduct a cultural resources inventory. This inventory will insure that our assistance will not damage important cultural resources you may have on your lands.

Cultural resource inventories are:

- Without cost to the landowner
- Only conducted with land owner permission

NRCS helps private landowners and Tribes steward historic properties for future generations.

