

Program promotes good stewardship for cultural resources

In 1986, the Hanford Site lagged behind other federal facilities in complying with cultural resource legislation. There was no cultural resource professional on staff, no management plan in place, and most projects proceeded without review of impacts to cultural resources.

Fifteen years ago, the Department of Energy's Richland Operations Office asked the then Pacific Northwest Laboratory (now the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory) to assist DOE-RL in coming into compliance with cultural resource laws and regulations. PNNL established and staffed the Hanford Cultural Resources Laboratory, prepared a management plan and started developing procedures to meet compliance requirements.

Today, the Hanford Cultural and Historical Resources Program is a well-respected program, directed by DOE-RL and administered by the Hanford Cultural Resources Laboratory and the Environmental Restoration Contractor Cultural Resources group, which joined the program in 1994.

The DOE-RL Hanford Cultural and Historical Resources Program is guided by three major principles:

- Establish and maintain DOE-RL as a good steward for cultural resources important to the nation, the region, tribes and descendants of pre-Hanford residents
- Develop compliance agreements and procedures that facilitate, not hinder, cleanup
- Promote education by involving tribes and interested parties in the program, by sharing information with the public and by employing interns.

By adhering to these principles, the program can count these activities described below among its most significant accomplishments.

- **Identifying, evaluating and documenting the Manhattan Project/Cold War Complex** —Through an innovative 1995 programmatic agreement, staff members accelerated the identification of significant buildings at Hanford and developed a reasonable approach to documenting the site's history so that reactors and other buildings could be cleaned up and removed without delay from historic preservation requirements. This approach saved \$28 million.
- **Identifying and evaluating the Native American and early farming landscapes** — Through research and interviews with tribal elders and descendants of Hanford and White Bluffs communities, the program has gained a good understanding of the nature and importance of cultural resources related to the pre-history and early history of the Hanford Site. Such an understanding is critical to protecting places that are important to tribes and our community.

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Archaeology month activities continue

- **Through Oct. 31**, "Historical Archaeology of White Bluffs and Hanford Farming Communities," exhibit on display at the East Benton County Historical Society.
- **Oct. 8**, 7 p.m. presentation, "Recent archaeological excavations on the Hanford Site" by Tom Marceau of Bechtel Hanford, at the Richland Library.
- **Oct. 15**, 7 p.m., presentation, "Preserving the History of the Priest Rapids Valley Farming Landscape" by Darby Stapp, Dave Harvey and Ellen Prendergast of the Hanford Cultural Resources Laboratory, at the East Benton County Historical Society.
- **Oct. 16**, 7 p.m., presentation "Lewis and Clark and the Palus Indians," by Roderick Sprague of the University of Idaho, at the Richland Library.
- **Oct. 25-26**, Archaeological Resources Protection Act Training for Law Enforcement Officers and Cultural Resource Professionals at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center. Contact Julie Longenecker at 946-1859 for more information.

To find out more about Archaeology Month activities statewide, visit <http://www.oed.wa.gov/info/lgd/oahp/>.

Program promotes good stewardship for cultural resources, cont.

- **Working with tribes and stakeholders** — Hanford implemented an innovative approach to working with tribes and interested parties, such as the B Reactor Museum Association and the descendants of White Bluffs and Hanford, which directly involves the parties in decisions concerning the protection of important resources. What was innovative at Hanford in the mid-1990s became required by new national legislation in the late 1990s.

- **Saving archaeological collections** — Various collections from important sites had been excavated from Hanford during the 1960s and 1970s. The Hanford Cultural Resources Laboratory tracked down these collections, inventoried them and packaged them for long-term storage. In total, Hanford's collection includes nearly 50,000 artifacts from 90 sites. As appropriate, tribes, archaeologists and educators can use these artifacts for research and interpretive purposes.

- **Returning Native American human remains** —

Within the many collections recovered from Hanford were the remains of at least five Native Americans. The program worked through the complicated procedures established by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 and the complexities of working with five tribes to repatriate all human remains to local tribes.

- **Reviewing DOE projects without slowing progress** — More than 2,000 cultural resource reviews have been conducted on DOE-RL projects since 1987. The developed review process has protected resources, satisfied local tribes and regulatory officials, and had minimal impact on Hanford operations and cleanup.

- **Identifying resources** — More than 130 square miles (about 22 percent) of Hanford have been surveyed for archaeological sites, and even more for traditional places important to Native Americans. More than 1,300 sites have been documented. The information is housed in site files and a Geographical Information System at the Hanford Cultural Resources Laboratory, which enables DOE-RL to manage the resources effectively.

- **Educating the public** — Cultural resource staff members routinely provide lectures to schools and community groups and publish articles to inform the public about the importance of Hanford's cultural resources. The Hanford Cultural Resources Laboratory has hired more than 25 young and emerging professionals for short-term appointments, many of whom are currently working for Indian tribes and state and federal agencies throughout the Pacific Northwest. Through its involvement at the HAMMER training facility, staff members are developing new approaches to protecting resources by training law enforcement officers about cultural resource laws and by refining non-invasive survey techniques such as ground-penetrating radar.



This pre-historic hunting blind was discovered during a recent cultural resource survey conducted by the Hanford Cultural Resources Laboratory.

Much work remains to both clean up and preserve this historic site. Because the staff members of the DOE-RL Hanford Cultural and Historical Resources Program have many years of experience with Hanford's resources and have forged relationships with tribal and stakeholder counterparts, the program will continue to keep Hanford in compliance with the spirit and letter of the cultural resource laws. ♦