Hanford Site
Cultural Resources

Preserving and Protecting Hanford’s Cultural Resources

| An Overview |
Program Overview
U.S. Department of Energy Richland Operations Office Cultural Resources Program

• The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL), under the auspices of the Cultural Resources Program (CRP), is responsible for managing the cultural and historic resources located on the Hanford Site. The desired outcome is to preserve and protect resources in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations.

• DOE-RL is ultimately responsible for meeting this objective. Other participants in this objective include the U.S. DOE Federal Preservation Office, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), Tribal Nations, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other Government agencies, and the public.

• Program responsibilities include Program Policy and Direction, Regulatory Interface, Tribal Interface, and Public Interface.
The Hanford Site has been continuously occupied for the last 11,000 years and provides a unique and important window into the past.

The Hanford site can be broken down into four cultural landscapes:

**Pre-Contact:  11,000 BP-Today**
- Prehistoric Artifacts and Features
- Traditional Cultural Properties

**Historic Pre-Hanford: 1805-1943**
- Early Explorers, Traders, Travelers, and Settlers
- Historic Farmsteads, Ranches, and Homesteads
- Transportation
- Town Sites and Communities
- Irrigation

**Manhattan Project & Cold War Era: 1943-1990**
- Hanford Construction Camp
- Manhattan Project
- Cold War

**Modern Day Hanford: 1990-Present**
For thousands of years, American Indians have used the land both within and around the Hanford Site.

When explorers and settlers began arriving in this area during the early 1800’s, Native American groups were observed inhabiting numerous villages and fishing camps scattered through this segment of the mid-Columbia River Basin.

Many of the Native groups in the area retain traditional, cultural and religious ties to Hanford Site places and resources.
The record of Native American use and history is reflected in the archaeological sites and important cultural places that are located across the Hanford Site.

Archaeological sites from this landscape typically reflect traditional and past life ways.

Typical site types include:
- Campsites
- Hunting blinds
- Artifact scatters (chipped stone tools, shell, faunal bone, fire cracked rock, grinding stones and net weights)
Historic Pre-Hanford Landscape
1805 - 1943

• Non-Native American Presence in the mid-Columbia began during 1805 with the arrival of the Lewis and Clark expedition which ushered in the initial group of explorers, traders, and travelers to the southern Columbia Plateau.
  – Their travels began the exploration and subsequent settlement of the region and ultimately, the Hanford Reach.
  – The explorers sought trade items from the Native Americans and trade routes for goods.

• They were later followed by gold miners and settlers.
  – As increasing numbers of farmers moved into the region, it became apparent that more water, other than the small amounts supplied by rain, was needed to produce higher yields.
  – By the early 1900’s, land speculators began constructing large-scale, privately funded irrigation canals to supply water to thousands of acres in the towns of White Bluffs, Hanford, Fruitvale and Richland.
Historic Pre-Hanford Landscape
1805-1943

The record of early settler use and history is reflected in the archaeological sites, buildings and structures located throughout the Hanford Site.

Typical site types include:
- Historic farmsteads
- Historic homesteads
- Historic town site remnants
- Orchards
- Irrigation components
- Historic debris scatters
• The Manhattan Project and Cold War era landscape is an industrial landscape comprised predominantly of buildings and structures associated with plutonium production, military operations, research and development, waste management, and environmental monitoring activities that took place beginning with the establishment of the Hanford Site (Hanford Engineer Works) from 1943 to the end of the Cold War during 1990.
The record for Manhattan Project and Cold War Era use is reflected in the buildings, industrial complexes and archaeological sites located throughout the Hanford Site.

Site types from this landscape include:

- Manhattan Project Buildings
- Military Installations (ex. Anti-Aircraft Artillery Sites, NIKE Missile Facilities, etc.)
- Hanford Construction Camp
Preserving our Past…

“...archaeological sites are a nonrenewable resource that contribute to our sense of history and place and define our collective shared heritage. The wise stewardship of these sites is our collective responsibility.”

http://www.dahp.wa.gov/programs/archaeology

• All past peoples have left their mark on the landscape. These remnants of past lifeways are the heritage of all people and their protection and consideration is mandated under federal law.

• It is illegal to remove or vandalize archaeological sites, cultural resources and artifacts.
  – Defacement and/or looting are punishable by law and may carry fines and even prison terms

• What can you do to help?
  – Immediately notify authorities if you see any illegal act
  – Respect cultural resources and educate those around you to do the same
  – Do not touch or pick up archaeological or cultural resources, and be sure to report it when others do
Additional Information

- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)
- Yakama Nation
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- Wanapum Heritage Center
- East Benton County Historical Society
- Hanford REACH Interpretive Center (The REACH)
- B-Reactor Museum Association