

TRIBAL CULTURAL ITEMS TASK FORCE

MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 20, 2018

Time: 1:30 – 4:30

Location: Capitol Building – 900 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301

Task Force Members Present:

Brenda Meade	Coquille, Co-Chair
Danny Santos	Co-Chair
Jesse Beers	CTCLUSI
Perry Chocktoot	Klamath
Jessie Plueard (phone)	Cow Creek
Diane Teeman (phone)	Burns Paiute
Karen Quigley	Legislative Commission on Indian Services
Dustin Buehler	Governor's Office
Dennis Griffin	State Historic Preservation Office

Additional Attendees:

Chief Don Ivy	Coquille
Jason Younker (phone)	U of O
Briece Edwards	Grand Ronde
Stacy Scott (phone)	CTCLUSI
Shevaun Gutridge	Governor's Office

Handouts: Agenda, EO 17-12, August Meeting Minutes (draft), Definition and Preamble (draft)

Agenda Item #1: **Welcome, Introductions, and Procedural Discussion**

Chair Meade called the meeting to order, and invited Perry Chocktoot to give the invocation. Task Force members and attendees introduced themselves.

Chair Santos moved approval of the minutes from the August Task Force meeting; Briece Edwards seconded the motion. There was no discussion; the minutes were unanimously approved.

Agenda Item #2: Discussion Items

Recap of August meeting with agency directors, and next steps

The Task Force recapped the discussion at its prior meeting with agency directors. Chair Meade recommended that the Task Force let Governor Brown know that the agency directors were well prepared, offered constructive suggestions, and came with good questions regarding the timeline, survey method, etc. Karen Quigley suggested that the Task Force draft a follow-up letter to the agency directors who participated in the August meeting, thanking them for how prepared, open, and collaborative they were. Chair Santos offered to draft such a letter.

Chair Meade noted that the agency directors had asked what they should do with cultural items in their possession, and that we need to be clear that the important thing is *access*—each tribe is a sovereign nation, and once each tribe is notified of and has access to cultural items, it can handle that information and the existence of those items in its own way. Karen Quigley noted that the agency directors had expressed particular interest in online training materials.

Several Task Force members talked about the revelation during the last meeting that the Department of State Lands works with a non-profit contractor to process home belongings of persons who die without a will, and that those belongings currently are disposed of without any acknowledgement of their cultural significance. Jason Younker commented that it does not matter who takes possession of the items in those homes, and it does not matter that DSL's possession is momentary; any cultural items within those homes are protected by law. Chair Santos, Dennis Griffin, and Karen Quigley noted that it would be useful to have a directive for state agencies to require training for contractors who could potentially come across cultural items. Briece Edwards suggested that training for contractors could be one of the Task Force's recommendations.

Draft preamble for cultural items definition

Jason Younker introduced the current draft of the preamble that will accompany the cultural items definition. Jon Erlandson has taken the lead on the draft, incorporating everyone's thoughts.

Several Task Force members had comments on the draft during the meeting. The general feedback was that the draft needs more editing, so that it sounds like it is coming from the tribes, and reads in a tribal voice. Perry Chocktoot suggested removing the words "back more than 15,000 years," in the first sentence of the first paragraph. ("Native Americans trace their ancestry in Oregon back more than 15,000 years, since time immemorial, with the first arrival of humans in the Americas.") He pointed out that the tribes' oral history puts them here at the beginning of time.

Chair Meade suggested that the second sentence of the first paragraph—addressing the start of EuroAmerican exploration and settlement—does not sound like how the tribes talk about that subject. (“EuroAmerican exploration and settlement of the area began just over 200 years ago in AD 1804-05.”) Karen Quigley suggested that EuroAmerican impacts predate Lewis and Clark in 1804-05, and the draft may want to reflect that.

Jesse Beers noted that the reference to “Oregon” in the first sentence may need to be changed so that it instead says “the lands now called Oregon,” which would acknowledge that the tribes have been here since before this place was known as Oregon. Perry Chocktoot added that some tribes go into Nevada and Idaho as well, so it’s not about “Oregon” necessarily.

Jesse Beers also suggested that the first sentence of the second paragraph not refer to Native American presence of the land as an “occupation,” as tribal ceremonies and traditions are symbiotic with the land—the tribes are part of it, and are in it. Lastly, he suggested altering the reference in the last sentence of the second paragraph to “ownership” of cultural items by the State of Oregon, as some or all of the tribes would object to the notion that the state can own items that were originally in the possession of tribal ancestors.

Jason Younker offered to work on the draft, so it can be recirculated in a few weeks. Chair Meade expressed her appreciation to Jason Younker and Jon Erlandson for their work on this, but emphasized that she wants to hear further from the tribes. Karen Quigley echoed the sentiment that it is important that the preamble is written in the tribal voice, meaning wordsmithing may not be enough.

Chief Ivy said that he learned from the Klamath Tribe long ago that you begin explanations with the phrase “since time began”; there is no finite space, and time is a human construct. He also noted that Grand Ronde has done a lot of work in the cultural landscape area, and asked whether it might be possible to elaborate on that work in a way that would enhance the draft preamble. In response, Briece Edwards said that it is important to translate for the audience that this is intended for, so we need to be both true to the tribes and also write the preamble in a way that gets our message across. Getting caught up on the concept of ancestry is very colonial. Instead, it’s about connection to place—tribes trace their connection to this place known today as Oregon, since time immemorial. Briece Edwards offered to work from the current draft and send something out to the Task Force for its review.

Chief Ivy asked Dennis Griffin whether it is true—as asserted by the second sentence of the second paragraph—that to date “no comprehensive inventory of ‘cultural items’ has been compiled.” Dennis Griffin responded by saying that the key word is “comprehensive.” There are inventories at various institutions, but there are many state repositories that do not have inventories of cultural items. So it is fair to say that a comprehensive inventory does not currently exist. Dennis Griffin made the additional

comment that he thinks the footnote to the first sentence of the second paragraph is good, but the placement of that footnote is not ideal. He thinks the text of the footnote needs to be said, but does not fit in the preamble, and wonders whether that footnote might be better in the definition itself.

The Task Force agreed that any additional comments should be submitted to Briece Edwards—by Friday, September 28, if possible—so he can work on revising and circulating an updated draft of the preamble before the Task Force’s October meeting.

Message for LCIS meeting in October

Task Force members had a brief discussion regarding the message that should be conveyed at the upcoming October meeting of the Legislative Commission on Indian Affairs. Chair Meade offered to update LCIS on the Task Force’s work. Dustin Buehler offered to speak to his efforts to update Governor Brown, and to apprise LCIS as to where the Governor is on the Task Force’s efforts.

Draft recommendations for Governor Brown

Dustin Buehler informed Task Force members that Governor Brown is currently planning on attending about 45 minutes of the Task Force’s scheduled November meeting in Salem. (With the caveat that her schedule may change, as that is a busy time of year with preparation of the Governor’s Budget in advance of the legislative session.) The hope is that Governor Brown’s attendance will allow her to receive an oral report of the Task Force’s work and recommendations, in addition to any written report and recommendations that the Task Force has at that point.

Chair Santos expressed his preference that the Task Force prepare written recommendations, in advance of the November meeting. Dustin Buehler offered to prepare a draft report and recommendations, with the goal of circulating the draft to the Task Force before its October meeting. Chair Santos said that the report should be brief, and should explain how we got to this point. Karen Quigley stated that it should outline the Task Force’s priorities, direction, and strategies for moving forward. Chair Santos noted that Executive Order 17-12 directs the Task Force to come up with a process for moving forward, and that the report should outline that process.

Several Task Force members discussed whether the report should include recommended legislation. Karen Quigley suggested that, for now, the existing government-to-government statutes may provide an adequate initial framework for working with state agencies, because that framework already requires agency trainings, annual reporting, etc. But further legislation may be needed in the future—perhaps, among other things, a bill that explicitly adds cultural items to the list of matters mentioned in the existing government-to-government statutes.

Shevaun Gutridge said that if the Task Force would like the Governor to review the report in advance of the Task Force's November meeting, it would be best to submit a final version to her by November 2.

Cultural Items Task Force discussion at Summit

Chair Meade initiated a discussion regarding the role of the Task Force at the annual Summit in late November. Dustin Buehler noted that the Summit will occur on Tuesday, November 27, at Spirit Mountain Casino in Grand Ronde. Karen Quigley noted that the value of discussing the Task Force's work at the Summit is to have tribal leadership and state leadership endorsement of its efforts. Having tribal leadership and the Governor speak to that would be useful.

Chair Santos asked what the format would be at the Summit for these discussions. Karen Quigley said she'd love to hear everyone's thoughts; in her view, it's always useful for everyone to hear the same thing (meaning a group presentation), but that table conversations can be useful too. Perhaps it would be effective to have a table for each tribe, and then agency cultural items liaisons could go around and have initial conversations. Chair Santos said he likes the idea of a presentation to the general body, paired with a deeper dive for those who want to take advantage of the opportunity. Karen Quigley suggested that it might be useful to involve some of the agency directors that appeared at the Task Force's August meeting, so they could help educate others based on their experience.

Chair Meade said that it might be a good idea to put tribal leaders at the same table as directors, with cultural resources directors from each tribe. Karen Quigley added that it might also be effective to collect thoughts from the Summit discussion, as a way to kick-start the process in terms of next steps.

Several Task Force members emphasized that the message should be that this benefits the entire state—that these cultural items are part of our shared history.

Training for agency liaisons

Dustin Buehler noted that it would be difficult to pair a day of training for agency cultural items liaisons with the Summit, as Spirit Mountain Casino does not have availability on the day after the Summit, and the day before the Summit is the first weekday after the Thanksgiving weekend.

Karen Quigley said that she thinks we should offer training to cultural items liaisons before the 2019 legislative session starts, and that in future years it might be a good idea to hold a refresher course in future years as part of the Summit. Alternatively, the cultural items liaison training could occur the morning after LCIS's commission meeting day in early 2019 (February or shortly thereafter).

Dustin Buehler said he would circulate Karen Quigley's draft agenda for agency cultural items liaison training before the Task Force's October meeting, so it can be discussed at that time.

Agenda Item #3: Other Issues; Closing Thoughts

Agenda items and follow-up for October meeting

The Task Force's next meeting will be October 16 in Coos Bay. Agenda items will include a discussion of the draft definitional preamble; reviewing and discussing the draft Task Force report and recommendation to the Governor; the curriculum for the agency cultural liaisons training; further discussion of the agenda and timeline for the Task Force portion of the Summit; further discussion on other training methods (videos or otherwise); and a discussion regarding the best way for the Task Force's work to continue, after the expiration of Executive Order 17-12.

Chair Santos moved to adjourn. Briecce Edwards seconded the motion. Upon a unanimous vote, the Task Force adjourned its September meeting.

AGENDA

Meeting – Task Force on Oregon Tribal Cultural Items

Date: September 20, 2018

Time: 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Location: Capitol Building, Room 167G – 900 Court Street – Salem, OR 97301
Call-in number: 888-204-5984
Participant's Access Code: 128266#
Security code: 4579#

1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Welcome, Introductions, and Procedural Discussion

- Approval of Minutes from last meeting
- Other updates / procedural matters for discussion

1:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Discussion Items

- Recap of August meeting with agency directors, and next steps
- Draft preamble for cultural items definition
- Message for LCIS meeting in October
- Draft recommendations for Governor Brown
- Cultural Items Task Force discussion at Summit
- Training for agency liaisons

4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Other Issues; Closing Thoughts

- Agenda items and follow-up for October meeting
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EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 17-12

In 1996, Executive Order 96-30 formally established government-to-government relations between the State of Oregon and the nine federally recognized Indian Tribes that reside within Oregon's borders. For more than twenty years, the State of Oregon has benefitted from the resulting increased communication with Tribal Governments about state and tribal interests.

Oregon's Tribes have an interest in obtaining information relating to cultural items currently held in storage or on display at Oregon state agencies, state universities, colleges, and public schools. Some of these items are associated with Oregon's Tribes, and the Tribes and the State share an interest in determining the provenance, the appropriate custodian, and the appropriate storage or display of such items.

There has never been a survey of how many of these items currently are held in storage by or on display within a State agency or public academic institution, and no complete inventory of such items exists. The State of Oregon and Oregon's Tribes deserve an established process to determine best practices for gathering information about these types of cultural items associated with Oregon Tribes, and for determining the most appropriate "next steps" for establishing workable strategies and plans for discussion regarding these cultural items and/or return of the items to associated Oregon Tribes.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

1. There is established a Task Force on Oregon Tribal Cultural Items ("the Task Force").
2. The Members of the Task Force shall include the following (members identified in paragraphs (e) – (h) shall be invited by the Governor, with the understanding that the relevant bodies may determine whether or not to participate by recommending members for appointment to the Task Force):
 - a. The Governor's Legal Counsel or other designee;
 - b. Any additional member of the Governor's staff as directed by the Governor;



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- c. A representative of the State Historic Preservation Office, appointed by the Governor upon recommendation of the Director of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department;
 - d. A State Agency Director, appointed by the Governor;
 - e. A representative of the Legislative Commission on Indian Services;
 - f. A representative from each of the nine federally recognized Oregon Tribes;
 - g. One or more representatives of one or more public universities or colleges, appointed by the Governor;
 - h. One or more representatives of primary or secondary Oregon public schools, appointed by the Governor.
 - i. Other Members as invited by the Governor.
3. The Governor's Legal Counsel shall be responsible for convening the Task Force.
 4. The Task Force's purpose is to provide advice to the Governor.
 5. The Task Force shall meet to consider a process for a soliciting information from state public institutions and agencies about items they may have in storage or on display associated with Oregon Tribes.
 6. The Task Force shall submit a report to the Governor summarizing its findings and recommending:
 - a. A process to survey public institutions and agencies regarding these cultural items; and
 - b. A timeline for completion of the survey and proposals for "next steps."



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7. The report to the Governor shall be submitted no more than one year after the first convening of the Task Force.

Done at Lincoln City, Oregon, this 2nd day of November, 2017.

Handwritten signature of Kate Brown in cursive script.

Kate Brown
GOVERNOR



ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Dennis Richardson in cursive script.

Dennis Richardson
SECRETARY OF STATE

TRIBAL CULTURAL ITEMS TASK FORCE

MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 23, 2018

Time: 1:30 – 4:30

Location: Chinook Winds Golf Resort
3245 NE 50th
Lincoln City, OR 97367

Task Force Members Present:

Brenda Meade	Coquille, Co-Chair
Danny Santos	Co-Chair
Jesse Beers	CTCLUSI
Robert Kentta	Siletz
Brigette McConville	Warm Springs
Jessie Plueard (phone)	Cow Creek
Diane Teeman	Burns Paiute
Karen Quigley	Legislative Commission on Indian Services
Dustin Buehler	Governor's Office
Chris Allori	Oregon State Police
Patrick Flanagan	Oregon Department of Justice

Additional Attendees:

Chief Don Ivy	Coquille
Teara Farrow Ferman (phone)	CTUIR
Jason Younker	U of O
Briece Edwards	Grand Ronde
Dawn Marie Alapisco (phone)	OSU
Kippy Robbins	Coquille
Stacy Scott	CTCLUSI
Sean McConville	Warm Springs
Danny Pettit	ODFW
Travis Hampton	OSP
Dave Anderson	OSP
Vicki Walker	State Lands
Curt Melcher	ODFW
Matt Garrett	ODOT

Keith Baldwin	Forestry
Peter Daugherty	State Forester
Carolyn Holthoff	ODOT
Dawn Marie Alapisco (phone)	OSU

Documents: Agenda, July Meeting Minutes (draft), EO 17-12, List of Agency Liaisons, Cultural items definition and draft preamble

Agenda Item #1: Welcome, Introductions, and Procedural Discussion

Chair Meade called the meeting to order, and invited Robert Kentta to give the invocation. Task Force members and attendees introduced themselves. Chair Meade then briefly summarized the history and purpose of the Task Force for the new faces in the room.

Chair Santos moved approval of the minutes from the July Task Force meeting; Robert Kentta seconded the motion. During discussion, Chair Santos suggested adding a sentence to the July minutes that clarifies that the Task Force members did not have a copy of the draft definitional preamble in front of them, during that part of the discussion. Subject to that amendment, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Co-chairs Meade and Santos emphasized that this meeting is important because it serves as an opportunity for the Task Force to discuss ideas and exchange information with the directors of several state agencies. Karen Quigley emphasized that feedback from state agency directors at this point is important because it will help the Task Force refine a workable approach for an initial “look around” for tribal cultural items by state agencies. Brigette McConnville stated that although previous efforts have at times been tribal-focused, areas of agreement and consensus among the tribes will help move these efforts forward.

Robert Kentta noted that the Task Force’s work is a continuation of years of NAGPRA processes, debates and reactions regarding ancestral remains, and additional federal and state efforts. He pointed out that his focus as a Task Force member has been in large part on records in state archives, and emphasized that the Task Force is trying to enable access of those records.

Several Task Force members also explained that what tribes consider to be “cultural items” may differ from how state agencies would understand that phrase. Diane Teeman gave the example of a feather collected by a federal agency; the agency did not know that it was of tribal funerary

significance. Karen Quigley emphasized that this is a learning experience for the state, and that bringing in the tribal perspective is essential.

Agenda Item #2: Discussion with State Agencies

The co-chairs then opened a discussion with the state agency directors and staff present. Chair Meade stated that one of the Task Force's most difficult tasks to date has been to come up with a workable definition of "cultural items"—a definition that conveys the tribes' perspective, while providing guidance to state agencies.

Chief Don Ivy noted that a lot of the definition comes down to shared knowledge. One of the challenges that tribes have is sharing information that is not necessarily in written histories (such as tribal oral histories and family histories). Chief Ivy emphasized that the Task Force wants to ensure that tribes have access to items; this is not about possession. Fortunately, the conversation in Oregon has evolved over the years, and there is now a recognition that there is a shared heritage and history worth preserving and protecting, both on the tribal side and the agency side. Although not all of the Task Force's aspirations may immediately come to fruition, the key is the sharing of information, and finding the right way to ask questions, in language that is common to tribes and state agencies. Chair Santos agreed, noting that the Task Force wants to implement a process that does not overburden agencies.

The Task Force then invited agency directors and staff to comment. Oregon Department of Transportation Director Matt Garrett started, noting that his agency has been waiting for the Task Force to come up with a definition of cultural items. ODOT will work through the mechanics of implementation, with the Director's Office leading the effort. Given the agency's highway portfolio, planning function, and library, there is potentially many places to look. Director Garrett noted that, from ODOT's perspective, the process of communicating with tribes about cultural items is a race without a finish line, and that he and Carolyn Holthoff (ODOT's tribal cultural items liaison) will put together a mechanism for reporting back.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Curt Melcher agreed that the definition of cultural items is important to implementation in his agency. For two decades, ODFW has been communicating with tribes regarding cultural items, and has an archeologist on staff (Danny Pettit, who will also serve as the cultural items liaison for the agency). Director

Melcher emphasized that training for staff will be key; for example, until now, the agency did not appreciate that archival documents—in annual reports or otherwise—could potentially be items of cultural significance to the tribes.

Oregon State Police Superintendent Travis Hampton noted that OSP's holdings include human remains that the agency keeps for safe keeping, and that the agency holds those remains in part because it does not know if they have cultural significance. Superintendent Hampton identified three key questions that would be important to his agency: (1) What items are of cultural significance to tribes? (2) How should the agency hold those items (especially human remains, which the agency wants to be careful with and respectful of)? (3) How should the agency communicate with the tribes about these remains and other items?

Department of State Lands Director Vicki Walker noted that her agency did a “look-see” for cultural items, but that OSP's discussion of its evidence locker just now made her realize that DSL's look around was probably under-inclusive. In particular, she pointed out that DSL works with a non-profit contractor to process home belongings of persons who die without a will, and that those belongings currently are disposed of without any acknowledgment of their cultural significance. (DSL processed belongings from 900 such homes last year.) Director Walker said she is eager to work with the tribes on this, but that the agency does not have resources to process these belongings itself.

Jason Younker pointed out that, in his mind, if an agency (DSL or otherwise) takes possession of an item for a short time—even a second—then that item is in the agency's possession. Training is important to help the agency realize what it is in possession of, so it can communicate with tribes about items of cultural significance. He also noted that agencies may not understand just how much material is out there that has cultural meaning to the tribes, and gave an example of the Southwest Oregon research program, in which he, Robert Kentta, and Diane Teeman were told that they likely would not find much, but left with 110,000 pages of documents that had cultural significance for the tribes. Robert Kentta agreed, and noted that not every find of a cultural item will be clear on its face. By way of example, he noted that an Oregon university had previously found a lock of Captain Jack's hair in a ribbon that was clearly labeled; he noted that not all cultural items come with context like that.

State Forester Peter Daugherty stated that the Department of Forestry is excited about the Task Force's work, and noted that his agency has 311

buildings and a fair amount of property around those buildings. Additionally, the agency manages approximately 750,000 acres of state forest. He thinks there probably are items and records in offices that are worth considering, and pointed out that the agency just had someone author a 100-year history of the Department—and that the author of that report might be a useful resource in terms of what materials and places one could look at and in.

Dustin Buehler asked the agency directors what effective training would look like in their agencies (for the tribal cultural items liaisons, or otherwise). State Forester Daugherty responded that he thinks this is an instance in which it is important to “train the trainer”—each agency’s liaison will have to train the field staff. Director Melcher said that ODFW has been doing focused trainings on a variety of topics for several years, through staff in-service days; perhaps the Legislative Commission on Indian Services could offer a training on tribal cultural items. Director Walker noted that the State already has the iLearn platform, which could offer online training. Additionally, Superintendent Hampton noted that OSP has an on-boarding process for new officers and staff; perhaps that process could include training on tribal cultural items. Director Garrett agreed that training is important, and pointed out that many of his field staff will not know key terms (like what “funerary” means).

Several agency directors and staff also pointed out that it would be useful to have examples to flesh out the Task Force’s cultural items definition. Chair Meade pointed out that the Task Force has debated whether to include examples; Chair Santos noted that the difficulty with examples is that they could run hundreds of pages long, and that perhaps there is more benefit from trainings that emphasize that whatever examples are provided aren’t all-inclusive.

The discussion then turned to timeline and process. Chair Meade emphasized that she would like to update Governor Brown by November, in advance of the annual summit. State Forester Daugherty suggested some kind of inspection or inventory template, which could help ensure that the tribes receive key information that they need (*i.e.*, where the item was found; who found it, etc.).

Dustin Buehler suggested an e-mail listserv as a mechanism for agency cultural items liaisons to learn and share examples and information with the tribes in real time. The idea would be for liaisons to send an e-mail to the listserv when they have a question about a particular item, and for interested tribes to respond. That way liaisons in other agencies could

learn by example. Robert Kentta agreed with that idea, and noted that it might also be good practice to post those exchanges on a website, so other interested persons could learn from the dialogue.

State Forester Daugherty stated that, from the discussion, it sounds like the right approach is an initial process for building an inventory list, then an ongoing process to ensure that agency cultures include sensitivity to tribal cultural items and ongoing communication with the tribes. Robert Kentta agreed that communication with the tribes will be key, and used the example of Chair Santos reaching out earlier when ODOT found photographs of bridge construction that had tribal cultural significance.

Chair Meade thanked the agency directors and staff for the useful discussion, and encouraged them to review the Task Force's minutes and agendas so they are in the loop.

Agenda Item #3: Other Issues

Chair Meade suggested that, at the Task Force's September meeting, it discuss the definitional preamble, with the goal of adopting language. Additionally, she suggested that the Task Force have further discussion on what it heard from the agency directors at its August meeting, and its message for the LCIS meeting in October. Chair Meade pointed out that she would like to have draft recommendations for Governor Brown, for discussion at the October meeting.

“Cultural Items” Draft Definition
Subcommittee Edits | 20Aug 2018

- Human Remains and Funerary Objects – Any human remains of Native American origin (e.g. skeletal elements, tissue, hair), any object or artifact generally associated with death or a related ritual, whether directly recovered from a human burial, associated with a burial, or an object that by its nature or condition indicates a relationship to Native American burial or funerary practices
- Archaeological - Any material or artifact removed from an archaeological site (scientifically or otherwise [whether or not the site has been officially recorded]), or any collection(s) of artifacts/objects that can be identified as originating from such a site or documented tribal territory resulting from Native American occupation or use.
- Historic - Objects or archival materials (e.g., photographs and written materials [i.e. diaries, journals, maps, field notes, newspapers, etc.]) directly associated with person/places significant to Oregon’s tribes’ historic experience and/or contemporary identity

***Preamble.** Native Americans trace their ancestry in Oregon back more than 15,000 years, since time immemorial, with the first arrival of humans in the Americas. EuroAmerican exploration and settlement of the area began just over 200 years ago in AD 1804-05. For Oregon’s nine federally recognized tribes—sovereign nations located within the state of Oregon—the landscape, cultural, and natural resources are sacred. Cultural and natural resources are those materials, elements, species, processes, places, and understandings that collectively comprise the landscape. These are the materials and resources manipulated and understood through cultural practice that yield tools, homes, and beliefs of the past and present.*

Numerous artifacts and objects of cultural significance created during this deep history of Native American occupation now reside in museums, universities and colleges, archives, and other state agency repositories¹. To date, however, no comprehensive inventory of “cultural items” has been compiled. With Executive Order 17-12, Oregon Governor Kate Brown convened a task force to create a process by which state agencies will be required to provide tribal governments an inventory of Native American cultural items “on display or in storage”— owned by or in possession of — the state of Oregon.

The Governor’s Task Force, was charged with creating a definition of “Native American Cultural Items”. This definition includes “Human Remains and Funerary Objects” which is similar to that utilized by the 1990 federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), which has resulted in the return of thousands of human remains and hundreds of thousands of associated funerary objects since its implementation. The intent of the taskforce is not to replace federal or state laws, but to further insure that all state agencies are in full compliance with those laws.

¹ The tribes do not view “archaeological” objects as merely scientific materials and collections. These items are the tribes’ heritage, belonging to the ancestors that utilized them.