Preserving the Cultural and Historic Resources of Oregon

Cultural sites are not a renewable resource.

Once taken or damaged, they are lost to us forever.

Help us protect our cultural and historic resources.

Leave any artifacts you find in place.

Protecting our shared heritage

Native American people have lived in Oregon for thousands of years. They lived off the land by fishing, hunting and gathering food, fibers, and medicines. They also used the land to worship and bury their dead. Daily tools, sacred objects, places and remains of village and home sites are still here today. Where these are found are considered Native American archaeological or cultural sites.

At the turn of the 19th century, Euro-Americans began settling in Oregon. Like the Native Americans who already called Oregon home, settlers lived off the land, worshiped special places, established homesteads and towns, and buried their dead. These places are considered historic archaeological or cultural sites.

These sites are the legacy of our country and the heritage of all people. Once removed or damaged, they cannot be restored. The relationship or context between artifacts and their surroundings is as important to understanding their use and significance as the artifacts themselves. Respect and honor the artifacts left behind by leaving them undisturbed.

Petroglyph- *Courtesy of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde*

It's a crime

Did you know it's against the law to remove, excavate or vandalize cultural resource sites and artifacts on public or private land (ORS 97.745, 358.920 & 390.235). Some of these acts are felonies and are punishable with fines and/or prison terms.

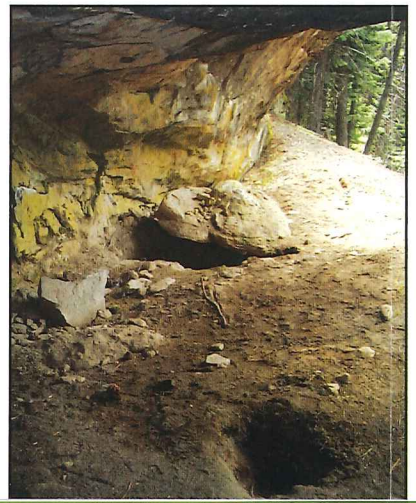
Every day, both intentionally and unintentionally, people destroy and remove our cultural and historic resources. When walking or hiking, people will at times collect Native American artifacts or old bottles not knowing that they are damaging cultural resources. Activities like geocaching (searching for hidden objects), and off-road vehicle use can also damage sites. Pictographs and petroglyphs (rock images) may be damaged simply by taking rubbings or outlining them with chalk or paint. Drawing a picture or taking a photo can allow us to both enjoy and share these resources without damaging them.

Illegal activities

- *Using a tool (even a stick) to remove an artifact from the ground*
- *Digging or probing the ground for the presence of historic or Native American artifacts*
- *Vandalizing homestead sites or other old buildings*
- *Digging for bottles or other historic artifacts*
- *Defacing a pictograph or petroglyph*
- *Disturbing burial sites*
- *Removing any artifacts*

Inadvertent Discovery

It is not uncommon for construction or ground disturbing activities to reveal unidentified artifacts or cultural sites. Inadvertent discoveries can occur anywhere in Oregon.



Looting at Rockshelter- *Courtesy of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation*

Artifacts: In general, if artifacts are encountered during construction:

1. Work must stop at that location and the area must be protected and blocked off. The Oregon SHPO should be contacted for further instructions.
2. Work should not resume until the site has been evaluated.

Bones: Consider that bones may be human – either Native American, early Euro-American, or even from a more recent tragedy or crime. Oregon has an important protocol to follow if you suspect you have found bone material that could be Native American human remains (ORS 97.745 & ORS 97.750). If you are uncertain whether a bone(s) is human, there are professionals who can help you with the identification. The protocol asks that you contact all listed below:

Oregon State Police
1-800-452-7888

State Historic Preservation Office
503-986-0674, *www.oregon.gov/oprd/HCD/SHPO/Pages/index.aspx*

Legislative Commission on Indian Services
503-986-1067, *www.leg.state.or.us/cis/*

Appropriate Indian Tribe(s)
Legislative Commission on Indian Services will provide the appropriate contact numbers.

Property Rights and Responsibilities

Lands remain the property of the landowner even when an archaeological or cultural resource site is discovered on your land.

The landowner controls who can access their land even if an archaeological or cultural resource site exists on their land.

No one can remove an object from a landowner's property without their permission. The exception is Native American human remains, funerary and sacred objects. The Oregon law states that appropriate Indian Tribes need to be consulted with the reinternment of these objects and ancestral human remains, regardless of location to be reinterred.

In most cases, the artifacts found on your land may remain in your possession with the exception of those listed above human remains, funerary and sacred objects that must be returned to Indian Tribes.

Answers to many frequently asked questions regarding property rights and the protection of sites on private land can be found on the SHPO web page: *http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/HCD/ARCH/docs/Archeaology_Bulletin_1_FAQ.pdf*

Contact the Legislative Commission on Indian Services for more information on participating state agencies and the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon.

You are encouraged to protect these resources by means such as relocating your activities to avoid disturbing or destroying archaeological sites when possible.

How can I help?

- *Respect these special resources and teach others to do the same.*
- *Avoid recreational activities near sensitive areas such as homesteads or known cultural sites.*
- *Respect resources, regardless of ownership.*
- *Share this brochure's information with family and friends.*
- *If you observe or suspect illegal acts, do NOT approach the scene. Immediately notify law enforcement.*

Cultural resources belong to everyone.

We all need to help protect these invaluable resources! The Oregon State Police and local law enforcement agencies are serious about enforcing the laws that protect these irreplaceable resources.

If you observe or suspect that someone is engaged in any of the illegal activities listed in this brochure, report it immediately to law enforcement authorities.

Oregon State Police

1-800-452-7888/ Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Sponsors

This brochure was developed by the State-Tribal Government-to-Government Cultural Resources Cluster, composed of State Agency and Tribal representatives, charged with coming together to share information, discuss common issues regarding cultural resources, develop and strengthen partnerships and increase awareness of cultural resource concerns

Historic Pipe Bowl from Fort Lane, Southern Oregon

Participating Agencies

Burns Paiute Tribe
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw
The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Confederated Tribes of The Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
Coquille Indian Tribe
Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians
Department of Energy
Department of Environmental Quality
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Forestry
Department of Geology and Mineral Industries
Department of Justice
Department of Land Conservation and Development
Department of Parks and Recreation
Department of State Lands
Department of State Police
Department of Transportation
Legislative Commission on Indian Services
Klamath Tribes
Oregon Military Department
State Historic Preservation Office

Preserving the Cultural and Historic Resources of Oregon

Cultural sites are not a renewable resource.

Once taken or damaged, they are lost to us forever.

Help us protect our cultural and historic resources.

Leave any artifacts you find in place.