



CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORTING

(ONE TRIBE'S PERSPECTIVE)

“Some days, doing ‘*the best we can*’ may still fall short of what we would like to be able to do, but life isn't perfect on any front-and doing what we can with what we have is the most we should expect of ourselves or anyone else.”

— Mister Rogers

“You can do better.”

— *Mister Bailey*



IT'S A PROCESS!!! (ALL OF IT)

RFPs

Bids

Contracts

Permits

Records

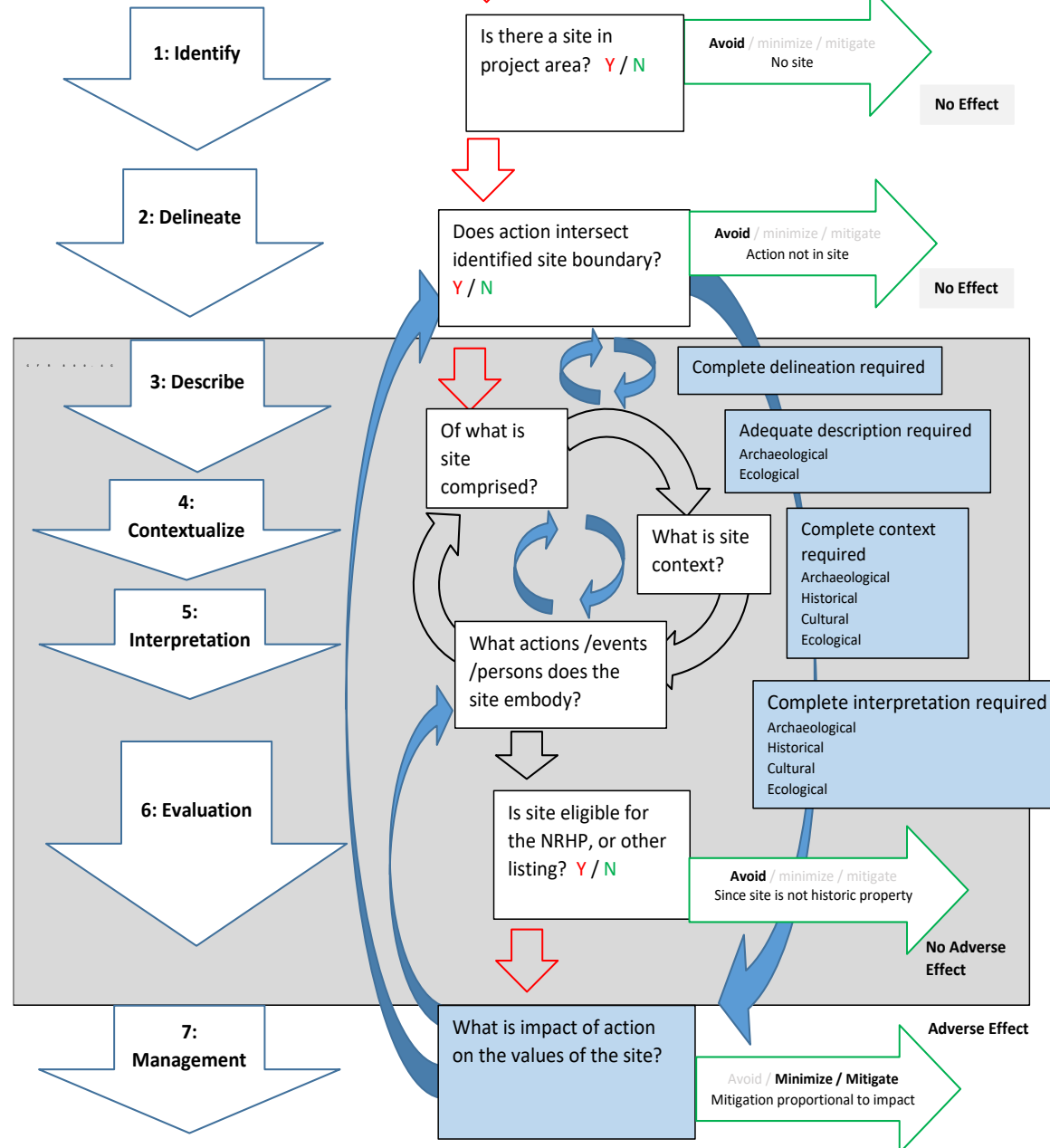
Collections

Reports



Process flow

Field
work

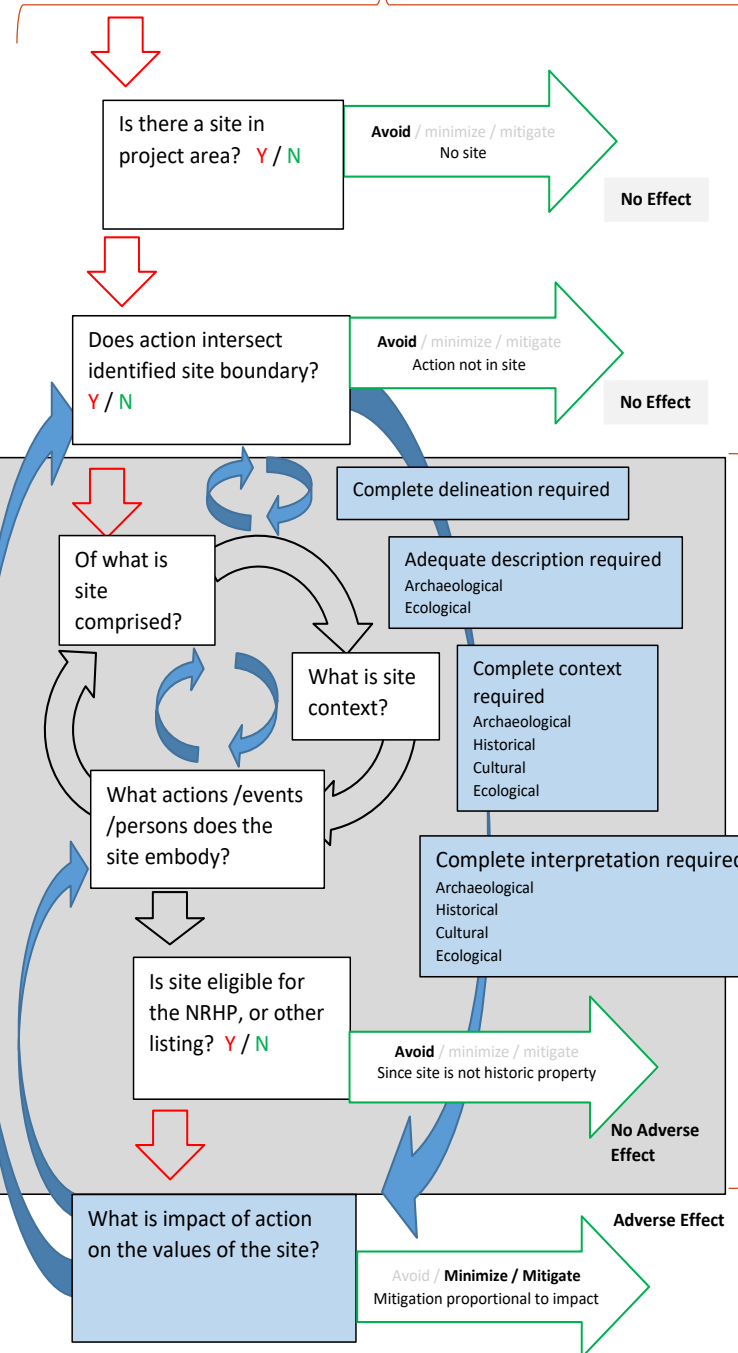
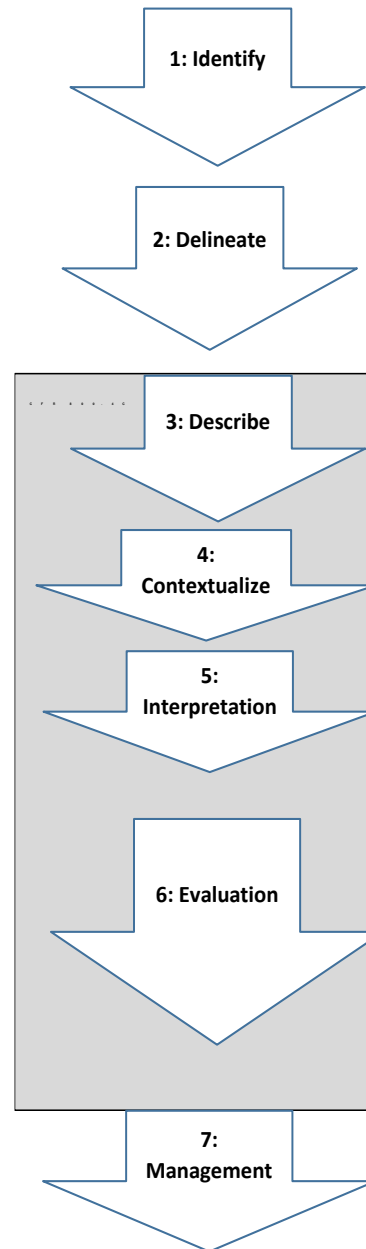


Recording



Process flow

Field work



Recording

Reporting



CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORTING



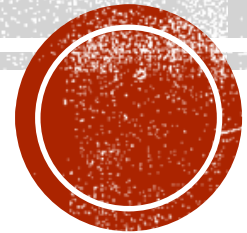
Get your reader to the right place
Why was the work done?

Narrative Script Formula

People

Place

Practice





TELEPHONE GAME: THE TROUBLE WITH BOILERPLATES

A necessary evil?

Boilerplates have some downsides:

- Bad information gets repeated.
- New information not included.
- Small changes in wording can lead to repeated errors.



TRIBES ARE NOT ONLY OF THE PAST

- Words matter – Ethnographies and Ethno-Historic Sections
 - Why do these sections have an inverse ratio to Time?
 - Stewardship, use, and management of thousands of years = **2-3 paragraphs**
 - 5 years of Euro-American settlement = **5-10 pages**
 - Pre-Historic / Historic or Pre-Contact / Contact eras (what are you meaning?)



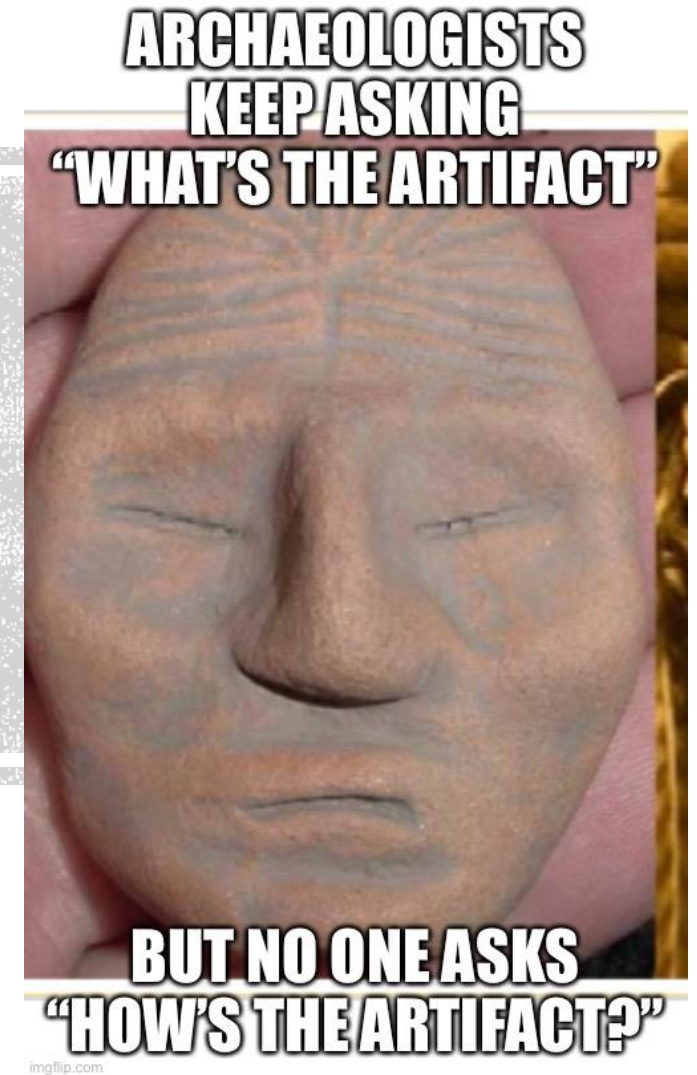
WHAT DID YOU FIND?

What are the artifacts?

- More than a list

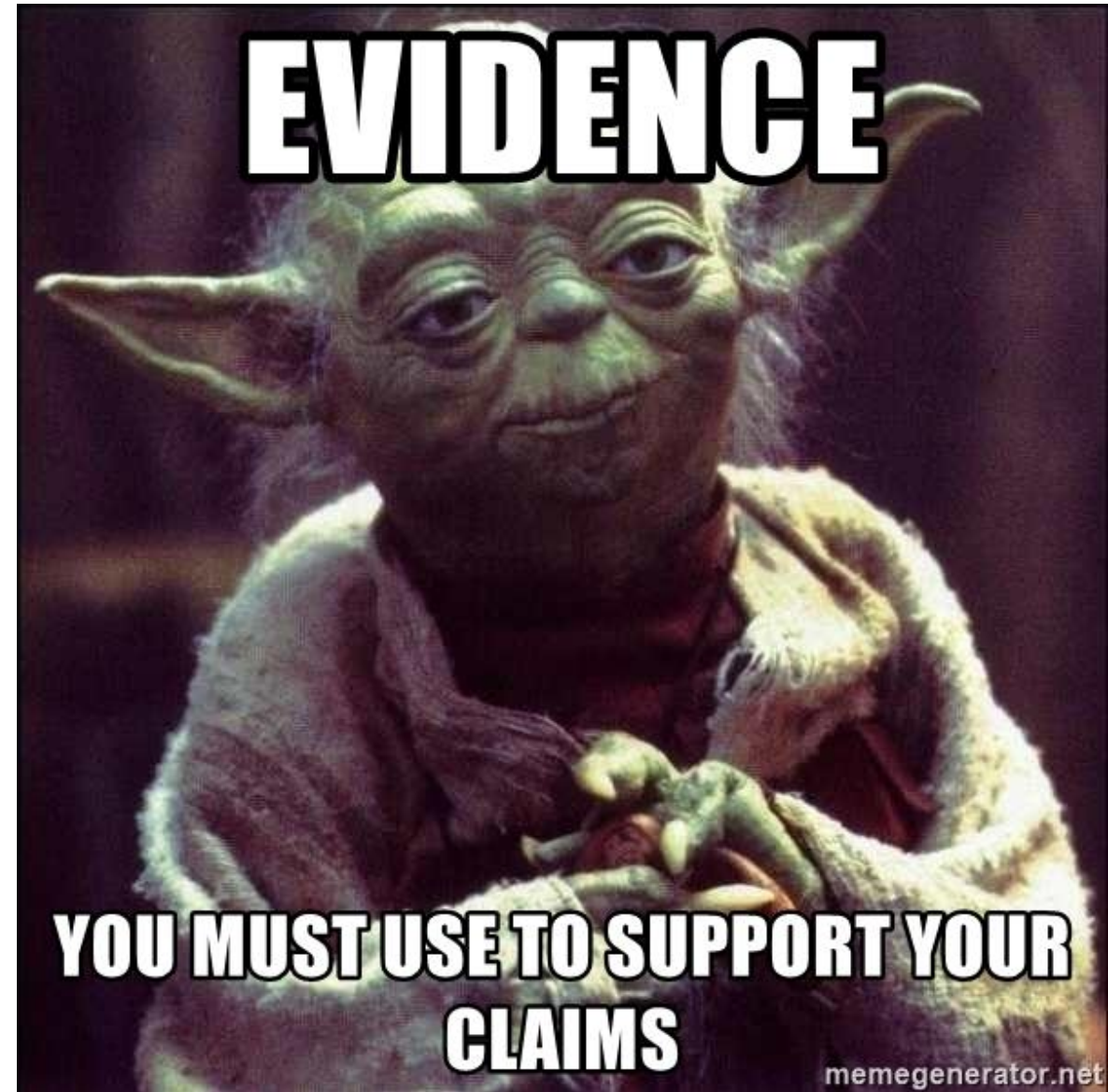
Why are they there?

- Often reports only describe the artifacts. They fail to explain why they are there.
- Do the artifacts speak to resources that are there now or were historically?



ARTIFACTS

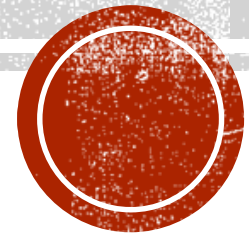
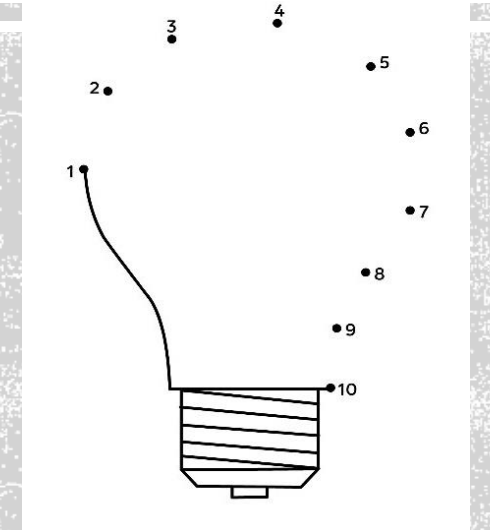
- Artifacts as evidence of action in a place.
- What are the artifacts and why are they there?
 - Too often, artifacts are described but not explained.
 - Do the artifacts speak to resources that existed or may still exist in the landscape?



SITE INTERPRETATION

Not just for tourism!

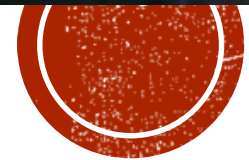
- In addition to describing the other sites in the project vicinity, a discussion must be had that creates a narrative about how the sites may related to each other.
- Why was that site located where it is, and not somewhere else?
- Does this site add anything to the predictive model for future archaeology?



SITE EVALUATION

- Consider defining both Positive and Negative 'space' of a site
 - What, who, where, how, when it 'is' and 'is not'
- Evaluating Sites in view of the larger area:
 - Understanding of the landscape and how the site fits in needs to be
 - Non-contributing to significance statements are problematic.
 - Many things have pieces that seem insignificant, where is the line?
 - Why was that site located where it is, and not somewhere else?
 - Does this site add anything to the predictive model for future archaeology?





WHAT'S THE POINT?

**NO, NOT ANOTHER SLIDE ABOUT THE
DESCRIPTION OF THE ARTIFACTS.**

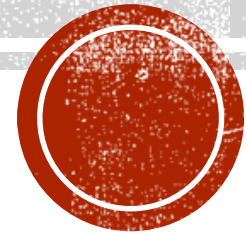
How does the site contribute to our
bank of knowledge?



ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRIBES (AKA TALKING TO THE TRIBE)

Consultation vs. consultation (coordination).

- This is a specific term for government-to-government communications.
- Coordination is often how our office engages.
- Regardless of the verbiage used, Tribal knowledge is essential for successful project outcomes.



WATCH OUTS

- Maps (scales)
- Does the photo link to the text?
- Photos (digital is CHEAP) take a lot and include as appendix
- Location description coordinates, landscape, etc., not “10m in front of bumper of rig.”
- Source material – There is more than *Volume 7 of the Handbook*.
 - Ask Tribes about relevant sources.
 - Relevant articles have been written since 1990
 - Primary source materials (multiplicity of voice to illustrate the past)



PRO TIPS

- Absence of a survey is not an absence of sites.
 - It is an Absence of recorded understanding
- Report Shelf-life
- Tribe as Resource – what does that look like?
- Role of Tribe
- Best practices
- Ask the Tribe

