

CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT COVER SHEET

DAHP Project Number: 2024-12-08909 (Please contact the lead agency for the project number. If associated to SEPA, please contact SEPA@dahp.wa.gov to obtain the project number before creating a new project.)

Author: Susan C. Larsen

Title of Report: REVISED ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND INADVERTENT DISCOVERY PLAN FOR THE CASE INLET BULKHEAD REMOVAL AND ESTUARY RESTORATION AT 4620 EAST STATE ROUTE 302, MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Date of Report: May 14, 2025

County(ies): Mason Section: 28 Township: 22 North Range: 1 West E/W

Quad: Vaughn, WA Acres: ~1.59

PDF of Report uploaded to WISAARD report module (REQUIRED) Yes

Historic Property Inventory Forms to be Approved Online? Yes No

Archaeological Site(s)/Isolate(s) found or amended? Yes No

TCP(s) found? Yes No

Replace a draft? Yes No

Satisfy a DAHP Archaeological Excavation Permit requirement? Yes # No

Were Human Remains Found? Yes DAHP Case # No

DAHP Archaeological Site #:
45MS2

- Submission of PDFs into WISAARD's report module is required.
- Please be sure that any PDF submitted to WISAARD has its cover sheet, figures, graphics, appendices, attachments, correspondence, etc., compiled into a single PDF file.
- Please check that the PDF displays correctly when opened.

**REVISED ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
INADVERTENT DISCOVERY PLAN FOR THE CASE INLET
BULKHEAD REMOVAL AND ESTUARY RESTORATION AT
4620 EAST STATE ROUTE 302, MASON COUNTY,
WASHINGTON**



Submitted to:

Mason Conservation District
450 West Business Park Road
Shelton, Washington 98584

May 14, 2025

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DAHP Project No. 2024-12-08909
Lead Agency: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (NWS-2024-962)

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1.0 Introduction

On October 15, Legacy Anthropology, LLC, was contacted by Dakota Oliver of the Mason Conservation District for an archaeological survey of the Case Inlet: Bulkhead Removal and Estuary Restoration, Fister Property at 4620 East State Route 302, in unincorporated Mason County, Washington. This project will require a Nationwide Permit from the Army Corps of Engineers and must comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Additionally, this project has funding from the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program administered by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (PRISM Project # 22-1144). Prior to fieldwork a thorough review of the environmental, historic, and archaeological setting of the project was conducted. The archaeological survey was carried out on November 11, 2024, by Susan C. Larsen, MA, Secretary of the Interior Qualified Professional Archaeologist, and Nicholas E. Gouette, BA, Field Director, of Legacy Anthropology. The pedestrian survey was carried out in a five-meter interval in an east-to-west orientation across the entire APE, where accessible. A total of 17 shovel tests were placed within areas of planned ground-disturbing work. Three of the shovel tests were positive for disturbed shell midden from 45MS2. All cultural resources were reburied on-site.

County	Mason County			
Property Owner	Fister Living Trust; Duane John and Lynn Ann Fister, Trustees			
Address	4610 E State Route 302 Belfair, WA 98528	4620 E State Route 302 Belfair, WA 98528	No address	No address
Parcel No.	122285001005	122285001006	122282180295	122282180297
UTM	Zone 10, 514000.70 m E, 5246472.39 m N			
Lat/Long	47° 22' 17.63" N, 122° 48' 52.39" W			
Township and Range	T 22 N, R 01 W, S 28			
USGS Quadrangle	2023 Vaughn, WA 7.5'			
Acreage	~1.59			

1.1 Area of Potential Effects

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) consists of four parcels located at 4610 and 4620 East State Route 302 (Parcel Numbers 122282180295, 122282180297, 122285001005, and 122285001006), in unincorporated Mason County within Section 28 of Township 22 North and Range 1 West (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The APE is located along the shoreline of the North Bay portion of the Case Inlet on the western Key Peninsula. The APE is bound to the east by East State Route 302, to the north and south by residential parcels, and to the west by North Bay.

1.2 Project Description

The Case Inlet: Bulkhead Removal and Estuary Restoration Fister Property Project (Project) consists of efforts to restore a historic pocket estuary, to realign 60 feet of the unnamed tributary to Case Inlet. The proposed project may include the removal of 127 feet of rock bulkhead, and the regrading of the berm, creation of a beach nourishment area through grading and application of 120 cubic yards of material and native plants, grading of a pocket estuary in its historic location, realignment of the tributary, and the removal of two existing corrugated metal pipe culverts. The ground-disturbing work will be focused along the shoreline within the two parcels that are waterward of the mean high-water line, and within the western portion of the two parcels that are beachward of the mean high-water line.

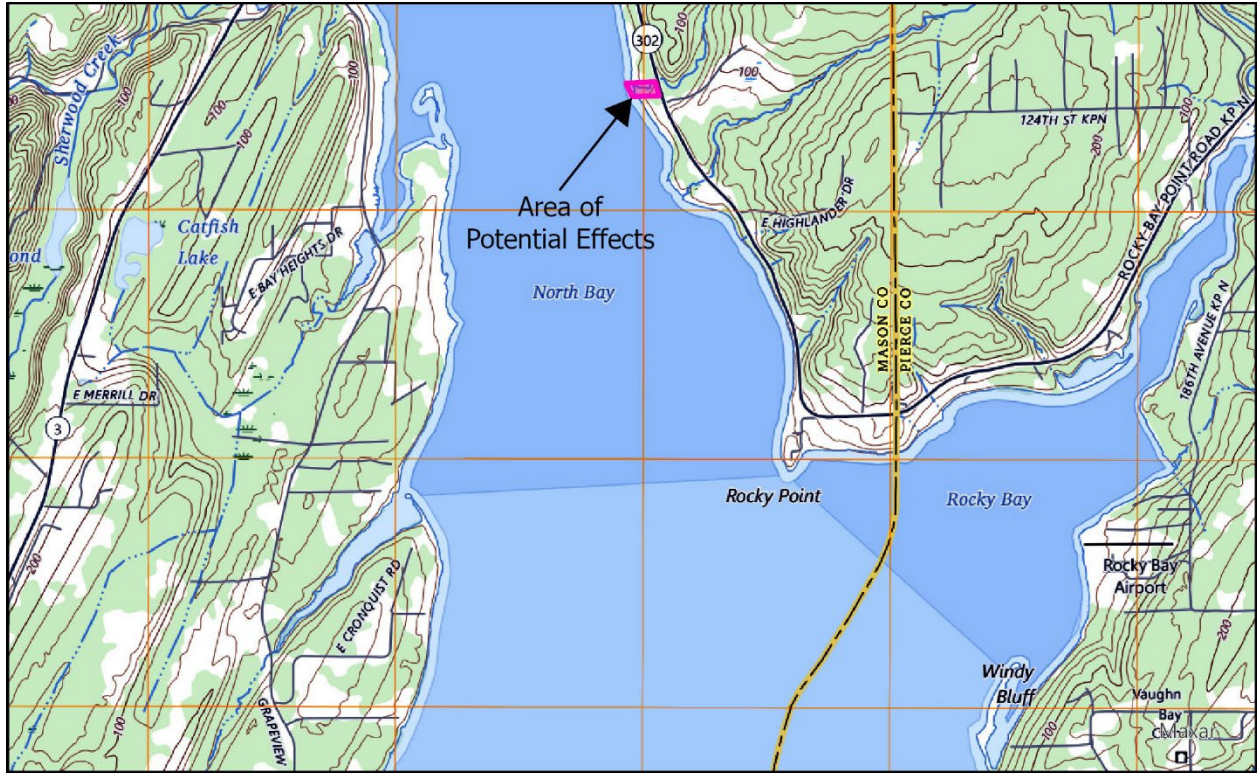


Figure 1. The Area of Potential Effects in pink on a section of the 2023 Vaughn 7.5-minute quadrangle map (USGS 2023).

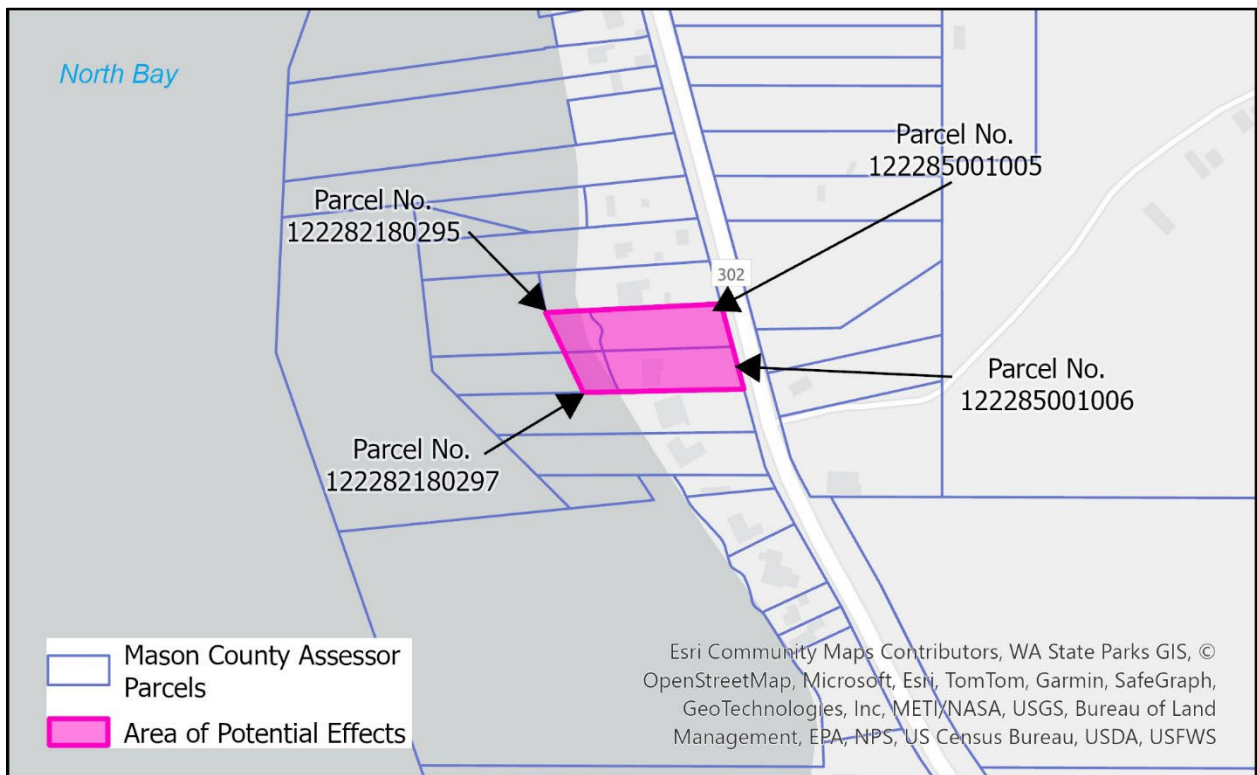


Figure 2. The Area of Potential Effects on a Mason County Assessor Parcel Map.

1.3 Regulatory Background

The lead agency for this project is the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Since the lead agency is federal this project must seek compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Section 106 requires that for any proposed Federal undertaking, including a project, activity, or program funded, permitted, licensed, or approved by a Federal Agency, the effects to any district, site, structure, or object included or eligible for inclusion to the National Register must be taken into account before the approval of Federal expenditure on the undertaking. Federal agencies must also consult with State Historic Preservation Offices and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices on the Section 106 process. An “undertaking” means a project, activity, permit, or program funded in whole or in part under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a Federal Agency and includes those carried out by or on behalf of an agency, those carried out with Federal financial assistance, those requiring a federal permit, license, or approval, and those subjected to State or local regulations administered pursuant to delegation of approved by a Federal Agency.

1.4 Tribal Consultation

The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation has determined that the Affected Tribes to be consulted with for this project includes the Suquamish Tribe, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and Squaxin Island Tribe. On November 1, 2024, Legacy Anthropology contacted cultural resources representatives of the Suquamish Tribe, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and Squaxin Island Tribe about the archaeological survey portion of this project. Names of contacts are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Tribal Historic Preservation Office and Cultural Resources Department contacts for project consultation.

Contact	Affected Tribe
Stephanie Trudel, THPO	Suquamish Tribe
Brandon Reynon, Cultural Resources	Puyallup Tribe of Indians
Rhonda Foster, THPO Squaxin Island Tribe, Archaeologist	Squaxin Island Tribe

2.0 Expectations for Cultural Resources

The APE is located within the traditional territory of the seven bands ancestral to the present-day Squaxin Island Tribe (People of the Water). These seven bands include the S'Hotl-Ma-Mish, Squawksin, Sa-Heh-Wa-Mish, T'peeksin, Squi-Aitl, Steh-Chass, and Noo-She-Chatl people (Squaxin Island Tribe 2017). The people of the seven bands had a thorough understanding of the environment and the land and water they thrived on. The people travelled extensively by canoe and used waterways as highways. Travel also include over land through well-established trails through the Cascades to Yakima and Columbia River Basin (Squaxin Island Museum 2024). They ate fish and shellfish and had medicinal gardens that were cultivated for centuries (Squaxin Island Tribe 2017). The ancestral Squaxin Island people could live up to 100 to 130 years, and it was common for elders to see the seventh generation (Squaxin Island Tribe 2017).

The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) considers the Area of Potential Effects (APE) to be at a very high risk for the presence of cultural resources, based on proximity to water resources and presumed desirability for precontact and historic activities. During the archaeological survey conducted on November 11, 2024, precontact shell midden site 45MS2 was identified within the APE. The shell midden was identified along the shoreline, on the landward side of the bulkhead within the southwest part of the parcel at 4620 East SR 302 (Figure 3). Shovel tests were placed radially around shovel tests positive for shell midden to delineate the site.

The shell midden consisted of a dark black stained silty loam, and contained fire-modified rock, charcoal, fragmented native marine shell taxa, and one flake in ST 5. The disturbed shell midden was identified between 0 and 118 cm depth. The shell midden was identified in STs 1, 2 and 5. Radial shovel tests around them were negative. The shell midden profile was disturbed, as the it appeared in clumps mixed with the surrounding soils. It also contained modern refuse like glass, metal, and fragments of *Crassostrea gigas* shells, which are an introduced taxa that were found on the beach within the APE. The shell midden may have originated on-site or may have come from nearby. It may have been disturbed by the bulkhead construction.

The shellfish taxa identified within the shell midden consisted of butter clam (*Saxidomus gigantea*), gaper clam (*Tresus capax*), little neck clam (*Leukoma staminea*), barnacle (*Balanus* sp.), and bent-nosed clam (*Macoma nasuta*). Fire-modified rock was identified in the three positive shovel tests, as well as charcoal. One flaked lithic was identified in ST 5. This flake was made up of a fine-grained igneous or sedimentary rock. There were no flake scars on the dorsal side, which appears to consist of rock cortex. The flake measured 3.8 cm long, 3.6 cm wide, and 1.2 cm thick. The flake was placed in a labelled bag so that it can be easily identified prior to the start of any work. All cultural resources were placed back into the shovel tests.

This monitoring plan does not cover ground-disturbing work within the boundary of 45MS2. In order to disturb the ground within the boundary of an archaeological site a Site Alteration and Excavation Permit from the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

Squaxin Island Museum. 2024. *History*. Electronic document, <https://squaxinlandmuseum.org/culture/history/>, accessed November 1, 2024.

Squaxin Island Tribe. 2017. *Once Upon These Waters: Selections from a People's History of Our Seven Inlets*. Electronic document, <https://squaxinlandmuseum.org/once-upon-these-waters/>, accessed November 1, 2024.

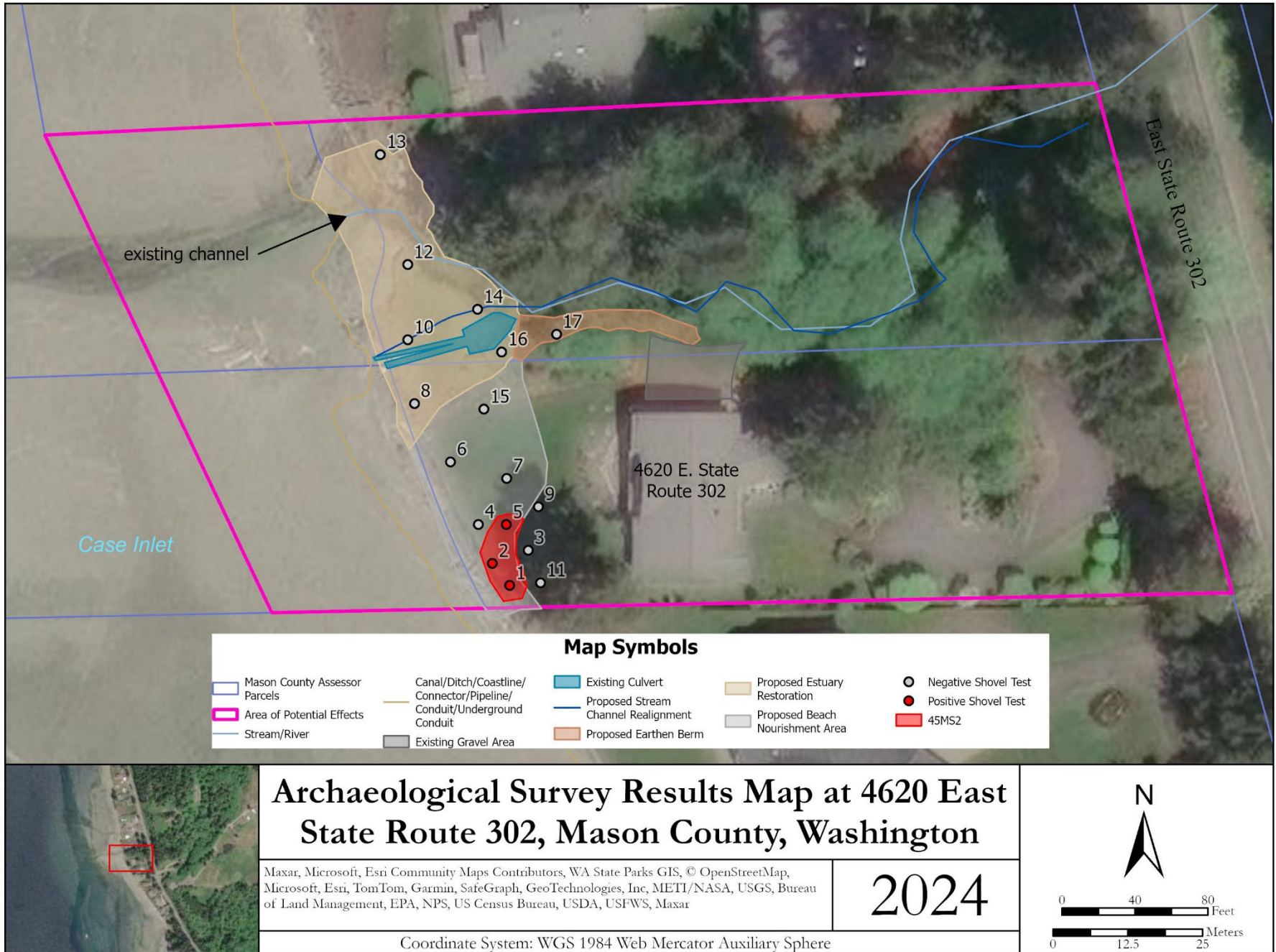


Figure 3. Archaeological survey map, November 11, 2024.

3.0 Monitoring Procedures – Steps for When an Archaeological Monitor is Present

The following monitoring procedures will be followed during the archaeological monitoring of the ground-disturbing portions of the Project that require archaeological monitoring. If cultural resources or human remains are identified, the plan outlined below will be followed. The proposed work is planned outside of the site boundary of precontact shell midden 45MS2, at 4620 East State Route 302, Mason County, Washington. **The lead agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has special conditions for the monitoring of this project.** These conditions include:

- The archaeological consultant will email a notification to Consulting Parties, including Tribes, providing adequate notice of construction and inviting Consulting Parties to observe construction
- The archaeological consultant will email weekly status updates to all Consulting Parties for any week an archaeologist is in the field
- If the archaeological consultant identifies cultural resources during the course of construction they will, at a minimum, email Consulting Parties to notify them of the find, will include photos and a description of the resource, and will make recommendations on eligibility and next steps
- The archaeological consultant will email the final PDF of the monitoring report to all Consulting Parties and upload it into WISAARD

3.1 Steps to be Followed During Construction Monitoring

An archaeological monitor, under the supervision of a Secretary of the Interior qualified Professional Archaeologist, will supervise all ground-disturbing activities within the designated monitoring areas. The archaeological monitor will always be present during ground disturbing activities. The monitor will always have a cell phone and digital camera. All work will be documented in a notebook. The monitor will take daily notes describing all ground disturbance conducted, as well as taking photographs and map locations of these activities. A visual examination of all excavated sediments and the sidewalls of excavated areas will be conducted to identify the presence of cultural resources. This may require the monitor to stand near heavy machinery, interact with the equipment operator, and enter the excavated area. The monitor will not enter an excavation that is more than four feet deep, for safety, unless it is legally benched or shored. Spoil piles will also be carefully inspected for artifacts that were potentially missed during the digging activities. Spoils will also be judgmentally screened through ¼ inch mesh standing screens. Notes and photographs will be used to create a final report at the end of the project.

Steps to be taken during monitoring include the following:

- Prior to ground-disturbing work the monitor will take overview photos.
- The monitor will take daily notes describing all ground disturbance conducted, including type of equipment, areas and depths of excavations and profile descriptions for each excavation unit.
- Representative photos will be taken of each excavation including an overview, stratigraphic profile, and detailed photos of any cultural resources identified.
- Each excavation will be mapped by hand on a pre-printed Rite-in-the-Rain map, and by GPS.

- The excavation profiles and spoils piles will be examined for the presence of cultural resources.

The evidence of cultural resources that the monitor will be searching for includes but is not limited to: precontact lithics, human remains, shell midden, faunal remains, bone tools, historic bottles, ceramics, features, and logging or farming equipment.

If protected cultural resources are encountered during ground disturbing construction, the archaeological monitor will request the on-site contractor supervisor to stop ground disturbing work that exposed the resource immediately. The archaeologist will examine the materials for **up to 30 minutes** to determine if they have identified an archaeological site. The archaeologist will document the sediments and surrounding context.

If, during the course of construction, earth movement, clearing, or other site disturbance, human remains or archaeological resources are encountered, the following steps must be taken:

Step 1: Stop Work

- All work within a 50-foot radius shall cease immediately.
- The discovery must remain untouched.

Step 2: Protect the Discovery

- Ground disturbing work within a 50-foot radius of the site will cease operation.
- All equipment must be moved at least 50 feet away to create a clear, wide, and identifiable boundary.
- A temporary barrier of fencing, stakes, flagging tape, or other available materials must be installed around the perimeter of the discovery to protect it.
- No unauthorized vehicles, equipment, or persons will be allowed to enter the discovery area.
- Work will not resume within a 50-foot radius of the discovery site.

Step 3: Notify: The **Archaeological Monitor** will notify the Mason Conservation District

- Mason Conservation District: Colin Tierney (360-968-9556, ctierney@masoncd.org)

Step 4: Notify: The **Mason Conservation District** contact will notify the USACE

- USACE: Contact Name: Stephanie Neil, Cultural Resources Coordinator (206-743-4850, stephanie.l.neil@usace.army.mil)

Step 5: Notify: The **Archaeological Consultant** will notify Consulting Parties (including Affected Tribes, and DAHP):

- DAHP: Rob Whitlam, State Archaeologist (360-890-2615 or Rob.Whitlam@dahp.wa.gov)
- Squaxin Island Tribe: Rhonda Foster, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (rfoster@squaxin.us)
- Squaxin Island Tribe: Shaun Dinubilo, Cultural Resources Department (sdinubilo@squaxin.us, 360-870-6324)
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians: Brandon Reynon, Cultural Resources (brandon.reynon@puyalluptribe-nsn.gov, 253-573-7986)
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians: Mike Shong (mike.shong@puyalluptribe-nsn.gov, 253-573-7897)

- Suquamish Tribe: Stephanie Trudel, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (strudel@suquamish.nsn.us, 360-394-8533)

Special Procedures for Human Remains

If human skeletal remains are suspected or identified during construction, we will request that the operator stop digging in that area, and the following steps will be taken:

- All construction equipment must be moved at least **100 ft away** to create a clear, wide, and identifiable boundary.
- Ground disturbing work within a 100-foot radius of the site will cease operation.
- The remains will be treated at all times with dignity and respect. **The remains will not be disturbed or photographed, and no information about them will be shared to social media**
- A temporary barrier of fencing, stakes, flagging tape, or other available materials must be installed around the remains to secure the area
- Do not allow vehicles, equipment, or unauthorized persons to enter the discovery area

Additional contacts in the event that human remains are identified:

- DAHP Contacts: Dr. Guy Tasa (360-790-1633) or Dr. Jennifer Spence (360-890-0174)
- Mason County Sheriff (360-427-9670 ext. 313 or 911)
- Mason County Coroner (360-427-9670 ext. 752)

The remains will not be disturbed or photographed, or any information about them shared to social media. The inadvertent discovery of human remains will be managed in compliance with Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and RCWs 68.50.645, 27.44.055, and 68.60.055.

Inadvertent Discovery of Human Skeletal Remains on Non-Federal and Non-Tribal Land in the State of Washington (RCWs 68.50.645, 27.44.055, and 68.60.055)

"If ground disturbing activities encounter human skeletal remains during the course of construction, then all activity will cease that may cause further disturbance to those remains. The area of the find will be secured and protected from further disturbance until the State provides notice to proceed. The finding of human skeletal remains will be reported to the county medical examiner/coroner and local law enforcement in the most expeditious manner possible. The remains will not be touched, moved, or further disturbed. The county medical examiner/coroner will assume jurisdiction over the human skeletal remains and make a determination of whether those remains are forensic or non-forensic. If the county medical examiner/coroner determines the remains are non-forensic, then they will report that finding to the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) who will then take jurisdiction over the remains. The DAHP will notify any appropriate cemeteries and all affected tribes of the find. The State Physical Anthropologist will make a determination of whether the remains are Indian or Non-Indian and report that finding to any appropriate cemeteries and the affected tribes. The DAHP will then handle all consultation with the affected parties as to the future preservation, excavation, and disposition of the remains" (DAHP).

Documentation and Proceeding with Work

In the event of an inadvertent archaeological discovery the Affected Tribes and the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) shall determine whether the discovery site

contains archaeological resources that should be preserved. They will designate the appropriate area within the site as a preservation area. No ground disturbance is permitted within a preservation area.

Archaeological and historic cultural resources are protected by local, state, and federal law. The lead agency is responsible for making sure that the site is properly managed in consultation with DAHP, other involved agencies, the Affected Tribes, and a Professional Archaeologist. The site must be properly documented, including a photographing, mapping, and a detailed description to be recorded in a State of Washington Archaeological Site Inventory Form.

Prior to any ground disturbing work within or immediately surrounding the site, an Archaeological Site Alteration and Excavation Permit must be issued by DAHP. The process for obtaining a permit, in cooperation with a Professional Archaeologist, can take around 60 days. The permit may first include additional testing in and around the site in the form of shovel test pits, screening of sediments, and/or excavation units.

Before construction can continue within or immediately surrounding the site a plan must be agreed upon by DAHP, the Affected Tribes, and the involved agencies, and DAHP has issued a notice to proceed. This plan must be implemented for any and all inadvertent cultural resources discoveries over the duration of the project.

4.0 Inadvertent Discovery Plan – For Work Not Requiring an Archaeological Monitor

If, during the course of construction, earth movement, clearing, or other site disturbance, human remains or archaeological resources are encountered, the following steps must be taken:

Step 1: Stop Work

- All work within a 50-foot radius shall cease immediately.
- The discovery must remain untouched.

Step 2: Protect the Discovery

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- All equipment must be moved at least 50 feet away to create a clear, wide, and identifiable boundary.
- A temporary barrier of fencing, stakes, flagging tape, or other available materials must be installed around the perimeter of the discovery to protect it.
- No unauthorized vehicles, equipment, or persons will be allowed to enter the discovery area.
- Work will not resume within a 50-foot radius of the discovery site.

Step 3: Notify: The **Project Lead** will notify the Mason Conservation District

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- USACE: Stephanie Neil, Cultural Resources Coordinator (206-743-4850, stephanie.l.neil@usace.army.mil)
- Legacy Anthropology: Susan Larsen (360-927-8996)

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In the event of an inadvertent archaeological discovery the Affected Tribes and the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) shall determine whether the discovery site contains archaeological resources that should be preserved. They will designate the appropriate area within the site as a preservation area. No ground disturbance is permitted within a preservation area.

Archaeological and historic cultural resources are protected by local, state, and federal law. The lead agency is responsible for making sure that the site is properly managed in consultation with DAHP, other involved agencies, the Affected Tribes, and a Professional Archaeologist. The site must be properly documented, including a photographing, mapping, and a detailed description to be recorded in a State of Washington Archaeological Site Inventory Form.

Prior to any ground disturbing work within or immediately surrounding the site, an Archaeological Site Alteration and Excavation Permit must be issued by DAHP. The process for obtaining a permit, in cooperation with a Professional Archaeologist, can take around 60 days. The permit may first include additional testing in and around the site in the form of shovel test pits, screening of sediments, and/or excavation units.

Before construction can continue within or immediately surrounding the site a plan must be agreed upon by DAHP, the Affected Tribes, and the involved agencies, and DAHP has issued a notice to proceed. This plan must be implemented for any and all inadvertent cultural resources discoveries over the duration of the project.

The Inadvertent Discovery Protocol must be implemented in the event that precontact or historic cultural resources are identified. These can include:

- Flaked stone artifacts (e.g., flakes, projectile points, uni- or bifacially flaked cobbles)
- Groundstone artifacts (e.g., net wights, mauls, adze blades)
- Bone or shell artifacts (e.g., awls, bone or antler wedges, dentalium beads)
- Culturally modified trees (e.g., trees with bark stripped)
- Carved or woven wooden artifacts (e.g., basketry, rope, carved wood)
- An accumulation of shell, charcoal, burnt rocks, stained soil (e.g., intact or disturbed shell midden)
- Clusters of whole or cracked rocks, with or without charcoal, which appear out of place (e.g., hearth or cooking feature)
- Historic artifacts older than 50 years (e.g., agriculture or logging equipment, bottles and jars, ceramics, cans, or other domestic items)
- Evidence of human remains (e.g., cairns, headstones, bones)

See below for photographic examples of archaeological and cultural resources.

4.1 Appendix 1: Examples of Cultural Resources

Precontact Flaked Stone or Lithic Artifacts:



Ground Stone or Lithic Artifacts:



Bone Artifacts:



Shell Midden:



Culturally Modified Trees:



Not a CMT,
but similar in
shape to a
Precontact or
Historic
marker tree



Historic
springboard-
notched
stump

Historic Objects:



Historic Agriculture, Logging, Mining:



Historic
agricultural
dike



Historic
springboard-
notched
stump

Evidence of Human Burials:

- **Cemeteries or headstones**
- **Cairns (piles of rocks)**
- **Shell midden**

