

Vital Signs Indicators Project: Cultural Resources Subgroup Meeting Notes

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Gorge Commission office, White Salmon, WA

Attendees:

Greg Griffith, Washington Dept. of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Marge Dryden, USFS - Scenic Area

Jeremy Fivecrows, Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission

Sally Donovan, Donovan & Associates

Jeannette Burkhardt, Yakama Fisheries Project

North Cheatham, Community Advisory Team

Sally Duncan, OSU Institute of Natural Resources

Jeff Tryens, Gorge Commission consultant

Brian Litt, Gorge Commission

Angie Kenney, Gorge Commission

Jennifer Kaden, Gorge Commission

After introductions, Greg Griffith recapped the last subgroup meeting (held January 8). Jennifer Kaden gave an overview of next steps and meeting dates in the overall Indicators Project: a joint TAT/CAT meeting on 1/28 for the CAT to provide input on the work of the sub-groups thus far; an Assessment Committee meeting on the 5th or 6th of February to potential review/approve objectives and review draft indicators; and a joint TAT/CAT meeting February 25th.

Definitions: The group went over the draft definitions written by Jennifer Kaden based on the discussion at the January 8th meeting. Discussion included whether to include natural resources and wildlife – which are included in the Umatilla Tribe's definition of cultural resource – in the definition of cultural resource. It was suggested that those elements would be captured in the Indicators Project by the indicators measuring the health of natural resources and that it would make sense for the two sub-group chairs to discuss any overlap or gaps. In the discussion about "significant" the group decided that a reference to the State of Washington historic register could be removed because eligibility would be captured by the eligibility for the National Register. The group also decided to expand the definition to add a reference to criteria for significance that may be used by local governments.

Changes were made to the definitions of cultural resources, significant, historic resource, and rehabilitation as follows (underline = added language; ~~strikeout~~ = deleted language):

- **Cultural resources:** Evidence of human occupation or activity that is important in the history, architecture, archaeology or culture of a community or region. Cultural resources include, but are not limited to, archeological resources, historic resources (~~buildings and structures~~), and traditional cultural properties.
- **Significant:** a) included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places; or b) determined to be culturally significant by a state, local or Indian tribal government, based on criteria developed by that government and filed with the Gorge Commission (~~included in or eligible for inclusion in the Washington Register of Historic Places~~)
- **Historic resource:** Standing or above-ground buildings, structures, objects, sites or districts that are at least 50 years old.
- **Rehabilitation:** the act or process of making possible a compatible use for cultural resources (~~property~~) through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

There also was discussion about whether to change "traditional cultural *properties*" to "traditional cultural *resources*." The group determined that "traditional cultural properties" is a nationally-used term derived from the Secretary of Interior's standards and to change it would be confusing. It was also determined that the qualifier "significant" for traditional cultural properties refers to whether a TCP is eligible for the National Register as opposed to whether it is "important" to a community.

Indicators: There was a long discussion about outreach efforts and whether measuring the number of outreach efforts (such as trainings, volunteer projects, community meetings, etc.) measured the condition of cultural resources or whether it was more of an agency performance measure and should be included in a subsequent phase of the Indicators Project. The group agreed outreach efforts are an important aspect of enhancement and decided to keep a reference to outreach efforts in the draft for now so that it doesn't get lost. The group also decided to include language about measuring the level of awareness and appreciation of cultural resources – by both the public and stakeholders – as a measure of enhancement. Specific examples of enhancement also were identified: listing an archeological site on the National Register, identifying and listing an archeological district, restoring native plants such as camas to an area (ex. of a TCP enhancement), cleaning rock art, improved display of rock art (Horsethief Lake State Park), remediation actions, new interpretive opportunities. To measure these, the group added an indicator for each objective about measuring the number of resources enhanced each year. A working definition of enhancement wasn't reached – the group will need to work on this by the next meeting.

The draft indicators were modified to read as follows:

Objective 4.1: Protect and enhance significant archeological resources.

- 4.1.a) Percent of monitored archeological sites that are undisturbed each year.
- 4.1.b) Percent of monitored archeological sites damaged where mitigation or enforcement occurs each year.
- 4.1.c) Number of archeological resources enhanced.
- 4.1.d) Level of awareness and appreciation of archeological resources by the public and stakeholders – either survey or number of outreach efforts related to significant archeological resources each year.

Objective 4.2: Protect and enhance significant historic resources.

- 4.2.a) Percent of monitored historic resources that are not adversely impacted each year.
- 4.2.b) Percent of historic resources damaged where mitigation or enforcement occurs each year.
- 4.2.c) Number of historic resources rehabilitated each year.
- 4.2.d) Level of awareness and appreciation of historic resources by the public and stakeholders. – either survey or number of outreach efforts related to significant historic resources each year.

Objective 4.3: Protect and enhance significant traditional cultural properties.

- 4.3.a) Percent of monitored traditional cultural properties that are undisturbed each year.
- 4.3.b) Percent of monitored traditional cultural properties damaged where mitigation or enforcement occurs each year.
- 4.3.c) Number of traditional cultural properties enhanced per year.
- 4.4.d) Level of awareness and appreciation of traditional cultural properties by the public and stakeholders – either survey or number of outreach efforts related to significant traditional cultural properties each year.

Jennifer said she would write up the draft indicators so far and post them on the WIKI. The latest version of objectives, indicators, and definitions will be sent to the project advisors tomorrow (1/23). The project advisors may make some minor edits and then send the work, along with the work of the other subgroups, to the Technical Advisory Team and Community Advisory Team on January 24 for their meetings on January 28.

Next Meeting: The next cultural resources subgroup meeting was scheduled for **1:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 12** at the Gorge Commission office. (Please note different meeting time!)

- notes prepared by Jennifer Kaden