DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

CULTURAL RESOURCES FIELD GUIDE:

A visual guide to historic and archeological materials you might find in the field

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Remember, if an inadvertent discovery does occur, you must follow the steps in your inadvertent discovery plan (IDP)

INTRODUCTION

The following information outlines a condensed version of the procedures to follow in the event of discovering historic or archaeological materials, or human remains, in accordance with state and federal laws.

RECOGNIZING CULTURAL RESOURCES

A cultural resource discovery could be prehistoric or historic.

Examples include:

- **An accumulation of shell, burned rocks, or other food related materials.**

- **Bones or small pieces of bone.**

- **An area of charcoal or very dark stained soil with artifacts.**

- **Stone tools or waste flakes (i.e., an arrowhead or stone chips).**

- **Clusters of tin cans or bottles, logging, fishing, agricultural, or other equipment that appears to be older than 50 years.**

- **Buried bricks, railroad tracks, decking, or other manufactured materials.**

When in doubt, assume the material is a cultural resource

ON-SITE RESPONSIBILITIES

When cultural resources are uncovered:

ALL WORK MUST STOP!

STEP 1: *Stop Work*. If any employee, contractor, or subcontractor believes that he or she has uncovered a cultural resource at any point in the project, all work **must stop immediately**. Notify the appropriate parties and immediately **protect and secure the area!**

STEP 2: Notify a qualified Archaeologist, or if there is a monitoring plan in place, **notify the Archaeological Monitor** assigned to the project, who will then follow procedure.

STEP 3: Notify the Project Manager, and the **Ecology Staff Member in charge** of the project, as well as any other applicable contacts!

*If one suspects human remains have been discovered, call both the local police and coroner. They will determine if the remains are human and forensic.

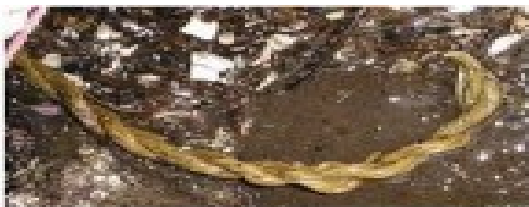**E-CREW**

Ecology Cultural Resources Environmental Workgroup

Implement the IDP protocol if:
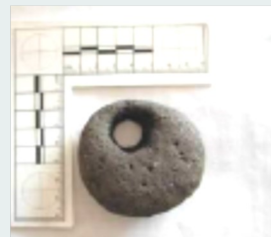
You see bone artifacts

You see shell artifacts

You see worked fiber

Implement the IDP protocol if:

You see chipped stone artifacts

Implement the IDP protocol if:

You see unusual looking dirt, rocks or shells