Cultural Resource Management at the Cushman Hydroelectric Project

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Overview of the Cushman Project

- Total Project area is over 7,000 acres
- 44 miles of transmission (Potlatch line)
- Includes lake and marine shorelines, uplands, and various habitat lands
- Cushman #1 Dam, completed in 1925
- Cushman #2 Dam, completed in 1930
What are Cultural Resources?

- Must be at least 50 years old, or older
- Associated /representatives of peoples, cultures, human activity, and/ or past events
- Considered significant if they are eligible for listing in federal, state and/or local heritage registers for their association with an important historic event, person, moment, architectural style, or data potential
Rules And Regulations

Federal
• Antiquities Act - 1906
• Historic Sites Act - 1935
• National Historic Preservation Act - 1966

Washington state
• Archeological Site/Resource Act (RCW 27.53)
• Archaeological and Cultural Resources EO 05-05
• Indian Graves and Records Act (RCW 27.44)

Tacoma Power
• Compliance per Cushman FERC License -- Article 429 requires a Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP).
Washington State RCWs

**RCW 27.53 AND RCW 27.44**

**MISDEMEANOR** to knowingly disturb an archaeological site on public or private land in **Washington State**.

**Class C** felony to disturb an Indian grave or associated artifacts or grave goods.

**Possible penalty of up to 5 years in prison and $10,000.00 fine.**
Cultural Resource and Stakeholders and Consulting Parties
Pre-Contact Archaeological Resources in Western WA.

- Pre-date Euroamerican settlement, circa 1850’s
- Shell middens, stone tool making sites, and fishing and hunting camps.
- 13,800 yr. old Manis Mastodon Site
- Ozette Village Landslide Site -1750
Prehistoric Sites at Cushman

- Shell Middens
- Culturally Modified Trees
- Chipped stone Scatters
- Prehistoric Hunting-Blinds
- Quarry Sites
- Rock Shelters
- Seasonal Camps

Oldest Cushman site dated at 9,000 years old
Historical Resources in Western Washington

Historic Resources dating from the 1850’s through the 1960’s.

Historic period archaeological sites and historic properties
- Various buildings and structures
- Logging features, railroad grades, and bridges
- Cemeteries
- Homesteads
- Abandoned towns
Cushman Historic Resources
How Do We Manage All of These Resources?

- Historic Properties Management Plan
- Monitoring Plan
- Inadvertent Discovery Plan
Predictive Modeling and Research
Why are Cultural Resources Important?

• Regulations and license requirements make stewardship of non-renewables our responsibility.

• “The Greenest Building” is the one that is already built.

• Tangible connection and understanding to our past.

• To many tribal members pre-contact archaeological resources represent connections to their ancestors.
What should you do?

If the site is found within Tacoma Power property, you can call me at (253) 779-7735.

Or the DAHP @ (360) 586-3065.

If you encounter bones that you think might be human contact your local Law Enforcement Agency.

Do NOT post on social media!!!
Skokomish River or Hood Canal of Skokomish Indian Chief’s Daughter- circa 1913

Who took this photo?

Edward Curtis

Famous photographer of the American West.
Where is This?

1924, Spanning the Tacoma Narrows Crossing for transmission and distribution into the City of Tacoma.
Phoenix Logging Trestle, photo taken in 1913. Now inundated by Lake Cushman.
In 1909, Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt visited the “Original Lake Cushman” while setting aside 45,000 acres of land for what would later become Olympic National Park.