Tacoma Power Cultural Resources News

Planning an activity that disturbs the soil?
Help protect cultural resources by contacting Tacoma Power

Everyone plays a part in protecting our shared heritage along the Skokomish River. If you’re planning an activity on Tacoma Power property that disturbs the soil, Tacoma Power needs to know. In addition to permission from Tacoma Power, your plan may require review so that it doesn’t impact a cultural/archeological site. These evaluations are a necessary part of following federal and state laws that protect cultural resources.

Dylan Henderson, Tacoma Power’s cultural resources coordinator, works with a professional archaeologist to protect cultural resources in the area of Lake Cushman, Lake Kokanee, and Cushman dams and hydroelectric facilities. This effort involves evaluating ground disturbing activities and other actions that may impact cultural sites, whether the activities are undertaken by Tacoma Power staff, Cushman residents or visitors. Mr. Henderson also consults with the Skokomish Indian Tribe to protect cultural resources linked to tribal ancestors and traditional lands.

Tacoma Power is committed to good stewardship in the Skokomish watershed and appreciates your help.

Are you planning any of these activities?
• Digging, excavating, or grading
• Construction or maintenance of a dock, bulkhead or other reservoir structure
• Installing posts or earth anchors
• Dragging heavy logs or equipment
• Planting or pulling vegetation

Ap ply for a permit from Tacoma Power:
• Confirm that your proposed activity is allowed by Tacoma Power and consult the Shoreline Management Plan at www.tacomapower.com/cushmanplan
• Contact Tacoma Power’s Real Property Services at (253) 396-3060 for a permit application and information.

Be a good neighbor by helping preserve cultural resources:
• Obey posted signs and do not enter gated areas. Off-road vehicle travel is not permitted.
• Do not disturb any artifacts, human remains or other cultural items. Immediately report such finds to Tacoma Power’s Lands Officer at (253) 502-8824.

If you have any questions regarding Cultural Resources please contact Dylan Henderson at (253) 779-7735 or dhenderson@cityoftacoma.org

Did You Know?

The Cushman Nos. 1 & 2 project areas are in the process of being combined into one large Historic District and will soon be listed under the National Registry for Historic Places. This combined district will include both dams, powerhouses, transmission lines, and many other buildings and structures which are contributing resources to the district. The Cushman district is significant because of the role it played in the growth of the city of Tacoma and the region in supplying affordable electricity.