

Partners in Preservation

The Columbia River and its tributaries cut through the landscape of the Pacific Northwest, exposing deep layers of history and heritage. Traces of this history are evident at pre-contact and historic archaeological sites and culturally significant places for Native American tribes and communities throughout the region. Pre-contact sites are those that are generally attributed as Native American and are older than written record. Historic sites are older than 50 years and are Euro-American.

The Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) harvests the power of 31 dams on the Columbia River and its tributaries, offering valuable benefits to the Northwest economy – namely clean, cost-effective and reliable electricity.

The FCRPS Cultural Resource Program manages cultural sites that can be impacted by the operations and maintenance of 14 of the dam and reservoir "projects." Changing water levels in reservoirs can cause erosion or otherwise destroy or expose irreplaceable cultural resources.

The program has been in place since 1997 and is jointly managed and funded through a partnership among the Bonneville Power Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. To ensure compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act – and to ensure historic and cultural sites are managed for the benefit of all – these three federal agencies collaborate with ten Native American tribes, four state historic preservation offices and several other federal land managers in eight separate cooperating groups.

Fiscal Year 2019 accomplishments

The FCRPS Cultural Resource Program and its implementers carry out the important work of identifying cultural sites, evaluating their historical significance, assessing the effects of FCRPS operations and maintenance on these sites, and determining how sites can best be preserved or managed. This fact sheet summarizes the results of program work from Oct. 1, 2018 through Sept. 30, 2019.

Inventory — Archaeologists and people with specialized knowledge about Native American traditional cultural places and practices identify cultural sites by doing research, surveying landscapes and interviewing Native American tribal elders. In FY 2019, the FCRPS Cultural Resources Program accomplished the following inventory work:

- Completed field surveys of 1,806 acres to identify archaeological and historic sites.
- Located 20 new archaeological sites, bringing the total number of recorded sites in the system to 4,610.
- Produced 6 reports and at least 40 individual forms documenting important cultural places known as traditional cultural properties (TCPs) or historic properties of religious and cultural significance to Indian tribes (HPRCSITs).

Evaluation — When sites are located, they are assessed for the information they convey about important historic events and figures, or for specific architectural, engineering or artistic forms they exemplify. If a cultural site conveys this type of information, it may be considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a "historic property."



Hungry Horse Dam, located on the South Fork of the Flathead River in northwestern Montana, was built in 1953 and is operated by the Bureau of Reclamation. The authorized purposes of the Hungry Horse Project are irrigation, flood control, navigation, streamflow regulation, hydroelectric generation, and recreation. Lands surrounding the reservoir are Flathead National Forest lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service. For the native Pend d'Oreille, Kootenai and Salish tribes, the reservoir behind the dam floods the water-path their ancestors took to visit their many relatives to the west. It is the place where tribal families have always camped, gathered foods and medicines, prayed, hunted and fished. And still today, the waters are important in these ways for the tribes.

The agencies completed three National Register eligibility determinations in FY 2019, which resulted in two sites eligible for listing in the National Register. In addition, a majority of TCP or HPRCSIT forms produced provide statements regarding National Register eligibility.

Assessment of effects — Federal agencies must evaluate the effects of their actions (in this case, operation and maintenance of the FCRPS dams and reservoirs) on cultural sites that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The agencies accomplish this through monitoring or visiting sites to document changes in their condition (physical or otherwise). Of the 242 sites monitored, 143 sites had physical changes in FY 2019.

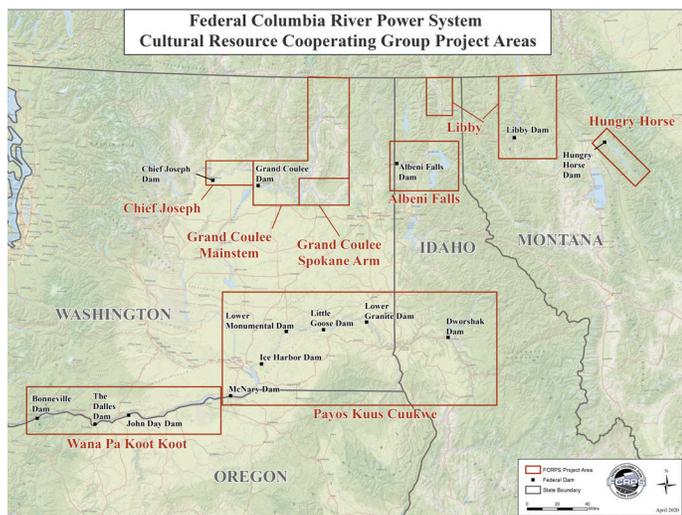
Resolution of adverse effects — Federal agencies must resolve adverse effects on historic properties that result from their actions. Resolving adverse effects can take many forms, including stabilizing or rehabilitating existing sites, protecting culturally-sensitive areas, or creating interpretive signs, curricula, or presentations to educate the public or increase cultural perpetuation. Notable achievements in resolving adverse effects in FY 2019 are as follows:

Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers accomplishments

- Funded the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to give First Foods presentations to archaeology classes at Eastern Washington University and to a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers leadership class.
- Stabilized a pre-contact site along an eroding bank at the John Day Project.



Members of the Payos Kuus Cuukwe Cooperating Group assessing an eroding cut bank during annual monitoring at the McNary Project.



This map shows the 14 hydroelectric dams and Cooperating Groups that make up the Federal Columbia River Power System Cultural Resource Program.

- Awarded a contract to update the Historic Properties Management Plan for The Dalles Project.
- Utilized goats to control encroaching invasive vegetation at a rock image site at The Dalles Project.
- Began planning to return two large boulders with rock images previously removed from The Dalles Project to the *Temani Pesh-wa* trail in Columbia Hills Historical State Park.

Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers accomplishments

- Awarded contracts to three tribal participants for partial mitigation to the Palouse (*Palus*) Canyon TCP, Lower Monumental Project. Contracts involve off-site mitigation in the form of traditional plant surveys within the TCP and archaeological and ethnographic research.
- Developed a Site Monitoring Priority and Frequency Plan for archaeological sites within the District.
- Completed a large-scale stabilization project across a 1,000 meter-long stretch of the McNary Project to protect a site from erosion and recreation.
- Assessed a rock image site for feasibility of graffiti removal and protection at the McNary Project.
- Repaired the shoreline of a popular recreation area subject to erosion, McNary Project.

Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers accomplishments

- Using creative off-site mitigation for a pre-contact archaeological site and TCP, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation completed a Field Guide to Traditional Cultural Plants for tribal use within the Chief Joseph Project area.
- Completed stabilization of a pre-contact site subject to erosion near the Carey Creek confluence with the Pend Oreille River, Albeni Falls Project.
- Continued a three-year study with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes to create a database of historic trail system, integrating geographical mapping information with traditional cultural knowledge, Libby Project.
- Planned a project for the placement of signs to address looting at the historic Jennings townsite, Libby Project.
- Conducted intensive site monitoring to identify possible stabilization and treatment options at five sites, Chief Joseph Project.



Archaeologist collecting GPS data at Hungry Horse Project site during spring condition monitoring, conducted jointly by Flathead National Forest and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes staff.



Spokane Tribe of Indians preservation staff inspects and records a pictograph panel near the Spokane Arm of Lake Roosevelt, Grand Coulee Project.



Members of the Wana Pa Koot Koot Cooperating Group planning the location of a fence to protect sites in the John Day Project.

Bureau of Reclamation accomplishments

- Planned two large-scale site stabilization projects to be constructed over a span of the next six years, Grand Coulee Project.
- Attempted to temporarily treat immediate threats at an eroding cut bank at a site by using bundled straw logs, Grand Coulee Project.
- Awarded a contract to the Spokane Tribe of Indians to complete data recovery (excavation) at a site severely compromised by annual reservoir draw-downs, Grand Coulee Project.
- Placed fencing at five sites to reduce recreational impacts from driving in the reservoir draw-down zone, Grand Coulee Project.
- Funded the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes to research resource-based TCP sites, Hungry Horse Project.

Next steps

Artifacts, significant cultural sites, historic properties and structures are non-renewable limited resources. Once destroyed, they are gone forever. To that end, the important work of the FCRPS Cultural Resource Program will continue preserving the rich history of people and traditional ways of life in the Pacific Northwest.

Cooperating groups, tribal participants, and state and federal agencies will build upon the inventory, evaluation and assessment, and important treatment and mitigation work accomplished in FY 2019 to continue to share management for the common goal of preserving the region's finite cultural resources for generations to come.