

# Mason County Inadvertent Discovery Plan

In the event that any ground-disturbing activities or other project activities related to this development or in any future development uncover protected cultural material (e.g., bones, shell, antler, horn or stone tools), the following actions will be taken:

1. When an unanticipated discovery of protected cultural material (see definitions below) occurs, the property owner or contractor will stop work immediately in the vicinity of the discovery. Secondly, completely secure the location by roping off a 30' buffer around the discovery with temporary fencing, colored flagging, stakes or other clear markings and cover the artifacts (as described below) and contact following within 72 hours:

a) The property owner and project manager;

b) The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) (Stephanie Jolivette, 360-586-3088, 360-628-2755 cell);

c) And must consult with appropriate tribal contacts for finds of Native American origin:

a. Rhonda Foster, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), Squaxin Island Tribe (360-432-3850);

b. Kris Miller, THPO, Skokomish Tribe (360-426-4232 ext. 215);

c. Dennis Lewarch, THPO, Suquamish Tribe (360-394-8529);

d. Brandon Reynon, Cultural Resources, Puyallup Tribe (253-573-7986);

e. Dan Penn, Acting THPO, Confederate Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation (360-709-1747).

f. Naomi Bradenfels, Archaeologist/THPO, Quinault Tribe, (360.276.8215 x7309)

2. If the discovery is **human remains**, the property owner or contractor will stop work in and adjacent to the discovery, completely secure the work area by moving the land-altering equipment to a reasonable distance, and will immediately contact:

a) The property owner and project manager;

b) The Mason County Sheriff's Department (360-426-4441);

c) and the Mason County Coroner, Wes Stockwell (360-427-9670 ext. 752) to determine if the remains are forensic in nature;

d) If the remains are not forensic in nature the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) (Guy Tasa 360-586-3534, cell: 360-790-1633); will take the lead on

determining the appropriate method of treatment for the remains and will consult with the affected tribes.

NOTE: If you discover bones but are unsure if they are human, contact Guy Tasa at the DAHP.

**Inadvertent Discovery of Human Skeletal Remains on Non-Federal and Non-Tribal Land in the State of Washington (RCWs 68.50.645, 27.44.055, and 68.60.055)**

*"If ground disturbing activities encounter human skeletal remains during the course of construction, then all activity **will** cease that may cause further disturbance to those remains. The area of the find will be secured and protected from further disturbance until the State provides notice to proceed. The finding of human skeletal remains **will** be reported to the county medical examiner/coroner **and** local law enforcement in the most expeditious manner possible. The remains will not be touched, moved, or further disturbed. The county medical examiner/coroner will assume jurisdiction over the human skeletal remains and make a determination of whether those remains are forensic or non-forensic. If the county medical examiner/coroner determines the remains are non-forensic, then they will report that finding to the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) who will then take jurisdiction over the remains. The DAHP will notify any appropriate cemeteries and all affected tribes of the find. The State Physical Anthropologist will make a determination of whether the remains are Indian or Non-Indian and report that finding to any appropriate cemeteries and the affected tribes. The DAHP will then handle all consultation with the affected parties as to the future preservation, excavation, and disposition of the remains."*

**Cultural material** that may be protected by law could include but not be limited to:

1. Buried layers of black soil with layers of shell, charcoal, and fish and mammal bones (Figure 1).
2. Buried cobbles that may indicate a hearth feature;
3. Non-natural sediment or stone deposits that may be related to activity areas of people;
4. Stone, bone, shell, horn, or antler tools that may include projectile points (arrowheads),
5. scrapers, cutting tools, wood working wedges or axes, and grinding stones (Figures 2 and 3);
6. Stone tools or stone flakes (Figures 2 and 3);
7. Perennially damp areas may have preservation conditions that allow for remnants of wood and other plant fibers; in these locations there may be remains including fragments of basketry, weaving, wood tools, or carved pieces;

8. Concentrations of historical period (> 50 years old) artifacts; and

9. Human remains.

**Additional Information:**

Per RCW: 42.56.300, the location of the discovery shall not be publicly disclosed.

Inadvertent discoveries should be immediacy covered with wood or metal sheets for protection.

*Photo pages to be attached*

Figure 1: Shell Middens. These middens can be often found on the shoreline and can extend into the intertidal zone in areas that have undergone sea level rise during the precontact period.



Figure 2: Examples of stone and bone tools.



Figure 3: Examples of archaeological stone flakes.



Figure 4: Examples of underwater/intertidal archaeological features including wood or stone fish weirs (left), sunken canoes (right) or other watercraft, and basketry can be preserved in submerged areas.



Figure 5. Historical period sites (more than 50 years in age) are also protect by archaeology laws. These can include concentrations of broken ceramics, bottles, bricks, and metal objects.

