2020-500-29

A preliminary Investigation: Field Planning and Scoping for a Cultural Resources Inventory at the Wallace Ranch Conservation Plat Proposed Development

July 28, 2020

RLR Report: 2020-500-29

By
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Consultation Provided to:
The Wallace Ranch

Location Information: T 19, R 16, S 2, 3, 10,11,12,13, 14 USGS Thorp WA
Zone 10T East: 671168 North: 5221216

Project Scope

A. **Project Description** (*From The Wallace Ranch Proposal*): The Wallace family has owned the ranch for several generations and now plans to develop the property into 58 lot within 6-8 phases. Based on the current tax parcels, they could quickly and easily begin the process of extending infrastructure to selling off the currently segregated lots individually. However, they do not feel that is the best use of the land. Instead they wish to create something unique that maintains rural character through thoughtful residential and natural resource design which would preserve the family's legacy while meeting the expressed objectives of the County and serving the broader public interest. The Wallace family is not seeking to increase the overall number of lots allowed under current zoning, nor create any a development that is out of character with the area or rural zoning. The purpose of a Conservation Plat is to provide rural development at rural densities that protects natural resources

   Rather than selling off the property in individual large tracts that would be entirely privately owned, we plan to create a community that concentrates home sites to avoid any sensitive areas and allows us to dedicate large areas of permanent active and passive open space. Potential uses for some of that open space may include hiking and biking trails, water facilities, farming, community gardens and possibly a community and equestrian center for the residents' general use.

B. **Project Activities:** In July 2020, RLR Cultural Resources LLC undertook a three day preliminary field inspection of a large proposed residential and ecological development in Kittitas County Washington. This project is for scoping purposes, seeking to design a landform and archaeologically cogent study plan to determine presence or absence of cultural resources within a large and variable rural area.

C. **D. Location and size (in acres) of the survey area:** The preliminary scoping inspection encompassed approximately 1100 acres of planned mixed-use development acres of rural Kittitas County.

D. **E. Project proponent, property owner, agency and compliance action:** The project proponent is The Wallace Ranch.

E. **G. Survey personnel**: Josh Allen, Mallory Triplett and RLR staff CR professionals.

F. **H. What circumstances led to this survey:** This project is slated to require a CR investigation when preliminary hearings in Kittitas County allow the project to proceed.

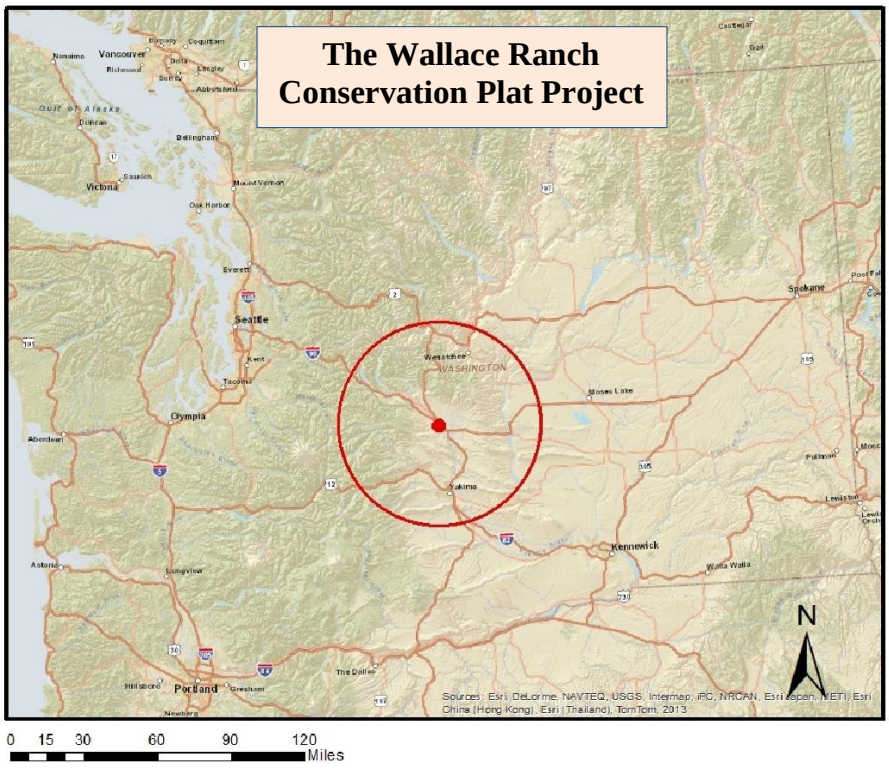

Figure 1: APE from Encompass.

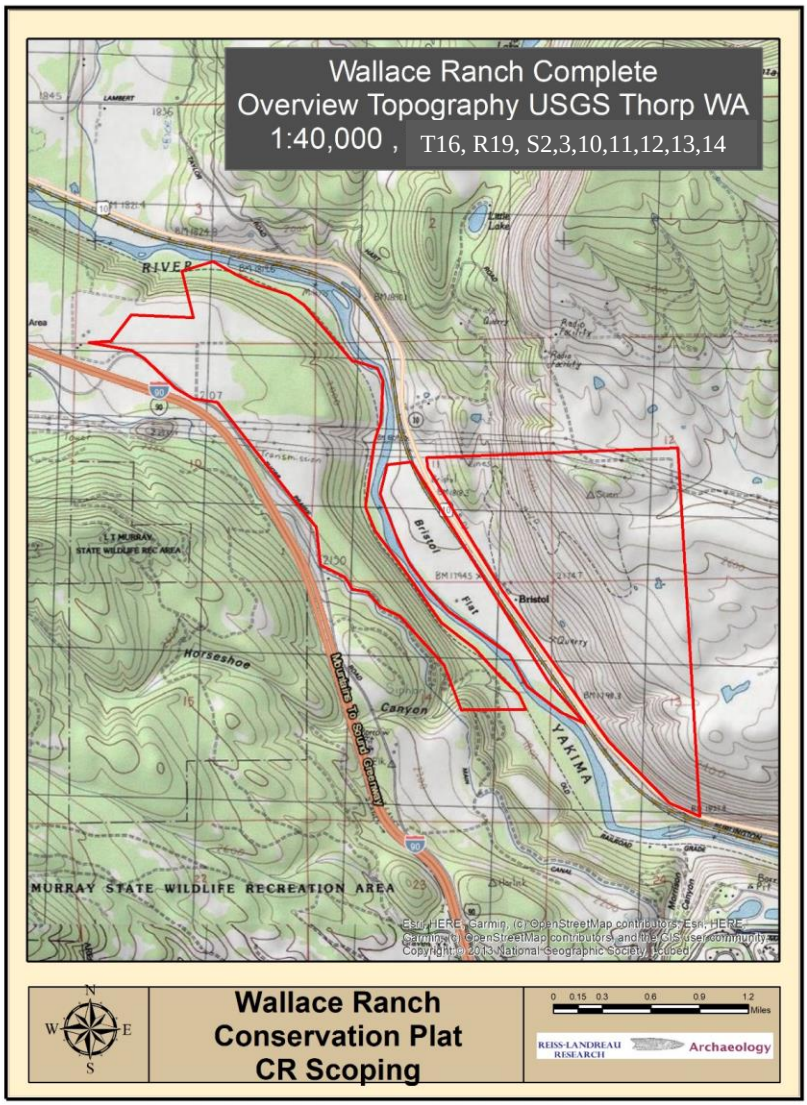

Figure 2: APE showing topography.

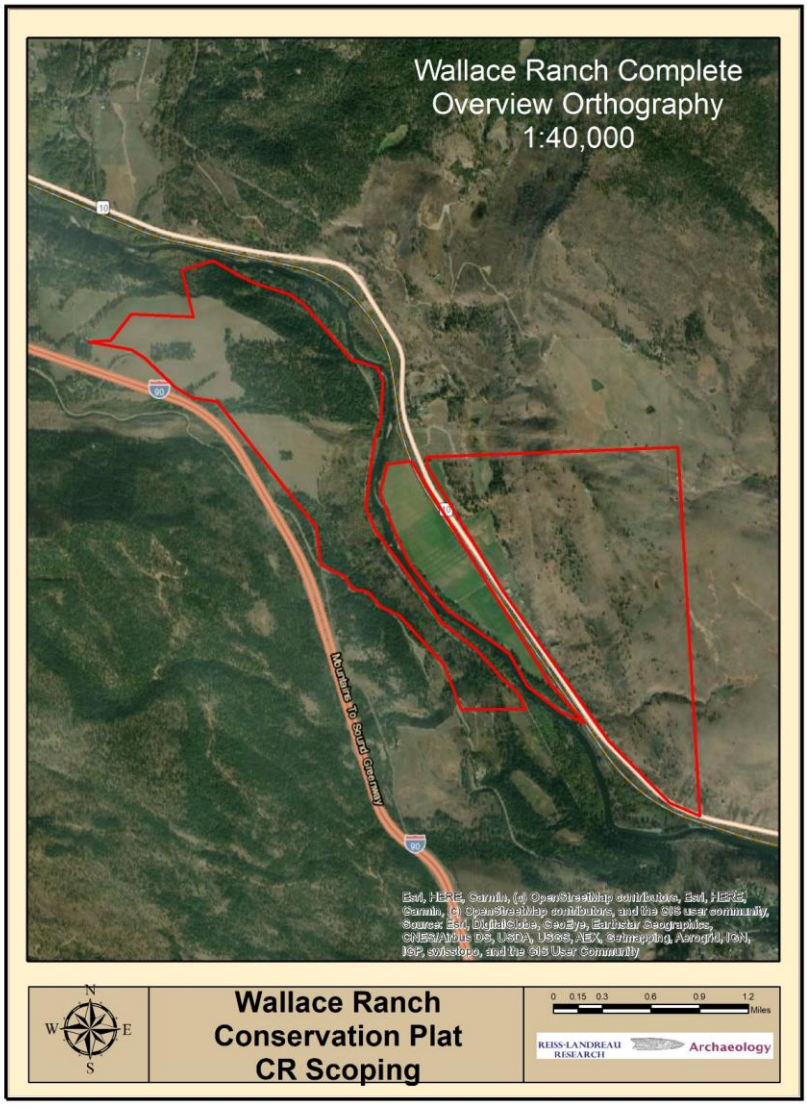

Figure 3: Project Orthography

Environmental Setting

This project straddles the western Columbia Plateau and the extreme eastern part of Northern Cascades Physiographic region (Lasmanis 1991), which is characterized by recent (Pleiocene) uplift, and massive cascades volcanoes.

> *"A major northwest-southeast structural break separates the Washington Cascades into northern and southern portions. In a general way, the structure follows the trace of Interstate 90 between Seattle and Ellensburg. The North Cascades consist of jagged mountains with numerous glaciers and are composed predominantly of Mesozoic crystalline and metamorphic rocks."* Lasmanis, 1991

Nearby Taneum Creek is found along the extreme eastern edge of the North Cascades Physiographic Province (Lasmanis 1991). The region has been modified through tectonic uplift, and also through geologically recent (Miocene) basalt flows and volcanism. Given this geologic variety, it is an area known for a rich diversity of minerals.

Region-wide interactions with glaciers during the last four glaciations within the current ice age have also modified the landscape. The last glaciation at retreat left several natural deeply scored catchments, of which the Yakima River just three miles northeast of the project area, is one.

The local landforms are comprised in large part of Teanaway Formation deposits. These are basaltic in character. The rock typically occurs in brown, rusty, and reddish tones. Evidence strongly suggests that during the Eocene, between 49 and 37 million years ago, dikes associated with volcanoes conveyed lava to the surface in an area stretching roughly from Kachess Lake past Table Mountain to the Wenatchee vicinity. (Mabry 2000).

This volcanic activity intruded upon an older geologic landscape of terranes. A terrane can be conceptualized as a large block or "island" of rock. These moved eastward with the Pacific Plate. Once the Pacific Plate encountered the North American plate, beginning roughly 100 million years ago, these blocks of rock were literally smashed against and in some cases pulled under rock formations of the North American plate. During this process, they were added or accreted to those formations. Tremendous pressure accompanied the collision. Strike-slip faults and thrust faults resulted. Geologic maps of the project areas show various terranes and associated faults (Mabry 2000; Lasmanis 1991).

Faulting occasionally caused portions of the land to drop down or pull apart, forming basins. Sediments deposited in such depressions led to the creation of geologic formations. The Roslyn Formation, at 43 million years old, located near Cle Elum Lake, was one of these. It has been estimated at 9,000 feet thick in places. Rock types are primarily sandstone, siltstone, claystone, and shales. Veins of coal developed in the

humid, subtropical environment that existed here (Mabry 2000). Seven miles North of Taneum Creek, in the Swauk Creek drainage, quite a variety of ores and minerals were found and mined from the mid 19th century.

Vegetation:

The Area includes a fairly typical east slope, mid elevation Northern Cascades ponderosa pine/ shrub steppe transitional plant community surrounding the riparian gallery. The deciduous plant community is comprised of vine maple, cottonwood and various grasses.

Cultural Setting

Prehistory Overview

Archaeological investigation of the Columbia Plateau now spans one hundred years. Early efforts concentrated on main-stem riverine settings, more often than not along the Columbia and Snake rivers, as a result of large-scale reclamation projects. The American Museum of Natural History sponsored perhaps the earliest formal inquiry into central Washington archaeology when Harlan Smith (1910) documented and excavated locations in the upper Yakima River Basin, from the Naches River to Lake Cle Elum. Smith recorded a variety of cultural resources, including private artifact collections, pictographs, petroglyphs, a toolstone quarry, house pit depressions, and human internments.

The early period of conservation archaeology coincided with the Culture History period of Americanist archaeology and produced "characterizations of time and space in terms of archaeological content" for the region (Dunnell, 1979). Archaeological periods and phases represent, for the most part, spans of time during which settlement and/or subsistence is assumed to have changed very little (Bicchieri, 1976). Phase ranges are based on a combination of radiocarbon dates and chronologies largely based on projectile point forms.

Cultural history of this region begins with the Paleo-Indian period dating to 11,500 years ago. The Richey-Roberts Clovis Cache is the only known site to contain intact cultural deposits of this age and was found north of the proposed project area near Wenatchee, WA (Mierendorf, 1987). Numerous artifacts attributed to the Clovis period have been found across the landscape but are entirely limited to surface finds (Ames, Dumond, Galm, & Minor, 1998) where chronological placement is limited to artifact typology association. The climate at this period experienced major changes as the cooler Pleistocene environment transitioned into the warmer Holocene environment; this period also represents the last major retreat of the glaciers and a transformation into the landscape that we generally see today (Chatters, 1998).

Using the Cultural Chronology developed by Ames et al. (1998) the next major technological shift seen in the archaeological record dates to 11,000-5,000/4,400 years ago and is characterized by people who utilized a broad-spectrum hunter-gatherer subsistence economy. These people would have moved across the landscape according to seasonal changes in low population densities which were highly adaptable (Ames et al.). No evidence of pit houses or permanent structures has been found from this era. Technologies inferred from artifacts and features indicate that these people were highly mobile and likely had no use for a permanent structure. This period also predates the eruption of Mount Mazama in southern Oregon, a chronological marker used to date archaeological sites based on their position above or below the lens of ash.
After the eruption of Mount Mazama, Ames et al. (1998) identifies the next major technological shift at 5,000/4,400-1,900 years ago. This shift in technology is marked by the decline in frequency of projectile points and an increase in milling stone size and evidence of intensified natural resource exploitation including certain roots and salmon. This period also marks the first appearance of pit houses. The climate during this period was cooler relative to the climate observed during Period 1B. Timberlines descended in elevation and moisture increased (Chatters, 1998).

The next period of technological shift identified by Ames et al. (1998) spans from 1,900 years ago to A.D. 1720 (ca. 300 years ago). At the beginning of this period pit houses became widespread. Evidence of a heavy reliance on fishing, storage and intensive exploitation of camas can be found in the archaeological record from this period. Land use patterns observed by Euro-American explorers during their first arrivals corroborate archaeological findings. The period ends with the arrival of the horse and European explorers (i.e., Contact Period). Within this period the climate continued to cool until around 800 years ago when temperatures begin to warm and glaciers receded as a result (Chatters, 1998). This fluctuation in temperature is reflected in the observable tree lines in the archaeological record. Between A.D. 1400 and 1850 a “Little Ice Age” occurred, and while evident in the higher mountain ranges, this event had little effect on the flora of the Northwest (Chatters, 1998).

Ethnographic Overview

Kittitas Band

Documented archaeological sites within Kittitas Valley include fishing and village sites along the major waterways, stone quarrying sites, temporary camps, and plant processing locations (Bicchieri, 1991; Hodges, Miss, & Shea, 2003; Smith, 1910;). Of interest to any archaeological or prehistoric/pre-contact discussion should be the importance and role of winter villages. Winter villages were integral to the seasonal round. They were generally occupied from mid-November until the beginning of March, depending on the weather. They were positioned within the landscape such that protection was afforded from the environment and severe winter weather. They were also situated with respect to available and stored resources--resources acquired through

the seasonal or yearly round. Archaeologically documented winter villages tend to occur at or below elevations of 2,500 feet in the eastern Cascades.
Populations generally continued to grow into the early nineteenth century. Major settlements were established along the Yakima River. Sahaptin-speaking Kittitas peoples occupied the upper Yakima River, including the area where this project is located. Present-day Kittitas County and the Kittitas Valley are named after them. They interacted with Salish-speaking Snoqualmie and Wenatchi peoples to the west and north, respectively. Also nearby were the Wanapum, located along the Columbia River to the east, and Taitnapam and Klickitat groups to the south.

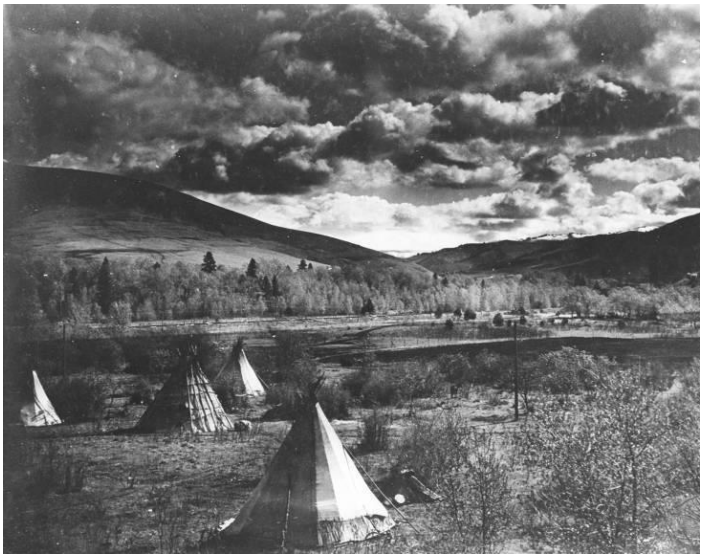

Figure 4: Kittitas Tribe on Taneum Creek near Ellensburg. 1900-1909. (Public Domain, courtesy Ellensburg Public Library)

In the Kittitas Valley there were at least nine communities (Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project 2003: 3.8-3). Kittitas, situated roughly two miles below Ellensburg, was a major summer gathering site for peoples of the area. When trader Alexander Ross entered the valley in 1814, he came upon a huge number of people there. He wrote:
This mammoth camp could not have contained less than 3000 men, exclusive of women and children, and treble that number of horses. It was a grand and imposing sight in the wilderness, covering more than six miles in every direction. Councils, root gathering, hunting, horse-racing, foot-racing, gambling, singing, dancing, drumming, yelling, and a thousand other things which I cannot mention, were going on around us" (qtd. by Becker 2005).

Some permanent communities nearby were also quite large. Klakla, located across from the mouth of Taneum Creek, was estimated by Ray (1936) to house 500 people.

He noted that trails from some of the villages led to Reecer Canyon (Kittitas Valley Wind Power 2003: 3.8-3). In Kittitas County, known winter villages range from the upper Yakima River—near and around glacial lakes Keechelus, Kachess, and Cle Elum--down the middle Yakima River and its tributaries, and throughout the Kittitas Valley along perennial streams (Figure 4). Taneum, Manastash, and in particular Nanum and Wilson Creeks had winter villages associated with them in prehistoric and precontact times. Villages were also situated where different runs of anadromous fish occurred. In the Kittitas Valley this included the Yakima River and its tributaries such as the Manastash, Taneum, Teanaway, and Wilson Creeks (Figure 4). Through informant interviews, Ray (1936) recorded several village sites along the upper Yakima River and its tributaries, including several near the project area. Ray (pg. 144) describes two villages very near each other at the present site of Kittitas, east of the project area.

According to Ray (pg. 144), "*n'tsamtsa'mtcin*" meaning "grasshopper creek" and "*tc'kla`xan*" meaning "standing at the side of your arm" in Salish, respectively, and were well populated in May and June, during root gathering season. According to Wanapum informant, Puck Hyah Toot in 1955, *tc'kla`xan* may also have been called *san san sin* in the Kittitas dialect. The name of the creek by which the race track was located was called *tch lap la*. The village and race track were situated at the foot and on the flat of a butte respectively. These two locations correspond with descriptions of Che-lo-han from Splawn and Ross. Ray (1936) also notes the permanent settlement of "*kla'la*" opposite the Yakima River and Taneum Creek confluence; a village near Indian John Hill on the south bank of the river; and the large village of "*yumi'c*", situated some four miles below the present town of Thorp (Ray, ppg. 119, 143, 144). Ray (1936) describes two more village locations, "*a'tca*" on the left bank of the Yakima River and "*k'ti'tas*" on the right bank of the river.

The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

The Kittitas Valley lies within Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation Ceded Land, a vast region of central Washington occupied historically by the constituent Bands and Tribes whom are now through the Treaty of 1855 recognized as the Yakama Nation (Schuster, 1998). The Kittitas band, although not one of the 14 bands represented in the treaty with the Yakamas of 1855, was considered a Yakama group after the treaty. Like the Yakama tribes and bands to the south, the Kittitas spoke Sahaptin (Splawn 1958). Although distinct, and culturally perhaps closer to nearby interior Salish speaking Central Columbia groups as discussed above, it was subsumed by the nearby Yakama Reservation at treaty time. Kittitas peoples eventually joined the Yakama Nation but lived and hunted and gathered throughout the Kittitas Valley into the 20th century.

The project area is located within the traditional territory of the Kittitas Band, who occupied the upper Yakima River Basin from Selah Creek north to Lake Cle Elum (Ray). Although the Kittitas Band was independent and autonomous, they maintained strong

ties through trade, intermarriage, and the sharing of various resource locations; tribal boundaries were often arbitrary (Ray, 1936).

The Yakama Chief Kamaiakin married Sunk-hay-ee the daughter of the Kittitas Chief Teias in the 1820s, and as such solidified the connection of the Kittitas with the Yakama (Scheurman 2008).

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

The Kittitas Valley is also considered in the southern portion of the Moses-Columbia area of what is now part of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville reservation. Colville, Chelan, Entiat, Methow, Okanogan, Lake, San Poil, Nespelem, Moses-Columbia, Nez Perce, Palouse, Sinkayuse, and Wenatchee tribes and bands occupied these territories. From the History of the Colvilles from the Tribe's website at www.colvilletribes.com (2019), the following block quote is taken to preserve the meaning and intent of the Colville's perspective:

> *Twenty years after the Colville Indian Reservation was moved to its present location, the north half of the reservation was ceded to the United States by an act of Congress (27 Stat. §62). At that time 660 Colville Indians were allotted 51,653 acres located in the ceded area.*

The Colville retain right to hunting and fishing on open and unclaimed land within the ceded area. They also maintain legally enforcabe right to practice traditional lifeways. The Moses-Columbia area is of strong importance to the Colville Tribal Sovreignty in this area.

Chief Moses and the Moses Columbia Reservation

Sulktalthscosum, also known as Half-Sun, was a powerful leader of the Sinkiuse people in the early 19th Century. He was the son of Slukpostaglanna, or Wolf with Chain of Hearts. Sulktalthscosum is believed to have been born at the time of the eclipse of 1800 (Ruby & Brown, 1965, Pg. 3). He was killed on a buffalo hunt ca. 1850 by Plains Indians (Ruby & Brown, 1992, pg. 205). Sulktalthscosum's eldest son, Quiltenenock (Quiltomee), led the Sinkiuse until he, too, was killed, this time at the hands of white miners below the mouth of the Wenatchee River in 1858. Quiltenenock's brother, Moses—a Christianized given name acquired at the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions at present-day Lapwai, ID—assumed his role as the leader of the Sinkiuse or Kawachen people. Moses was born about 1829 on the Flat near the Wenatchee River and what is now known as Moses Coulee (Ruby & Brown, 1965, Pg. 6) and after his first solid food meal, he received the name Loolowkin (the Head Band). Loolowkin spent some of his early years in the Columbia Plateau and some of it in the Missouri River watershed. He traveled with Theodor Winthrop as a guide to The Dalles.

Loolowkin had come under the tutelage of Chief Owhi, the father of Loolowkin's two wives, after Sulktalthscosum's death. Owhi considered Loolowkin his "son".

the US Army established Fort Colville approximately 15 miles east of the Columbia River. The Hudson's Bay Company fort of the same name became a bastion of protection for the white settlers. Additionally, Indian Affairs Portland, Oregon Superintendent Edward R. Geary recommended to A. B. Greenwood, Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C., that non-treaty Indians of the Columbia be placed on the Yakima or Simcoe Reservation. Indeed, the Okanogans and the Sinkiuse or Columbia Indians had signed no treaty with the US at Walla Walla in 1855. The Columbia Indians showed no signs of being persuaded by gifts or bribes into exchanging or ceding their lands. However, white settlement of the central Columbia by the 20th century eventually pushed tribes onto the reservations. Among the areas lost to Moses and his people was unfettered access to the Kittitas Valley from Table Mountain down. Settlers and settlements began to increase, and with local assistance from the army, were able to push tribal members out.

Historic background

Kittitas Valley

The arrival of Euro-American explorers and traders in the area brought tremendous changes for native peoples. Native communities were decimated by disease. The Yakama, for instance, was reduced from roughly 7,000 to 2,000 people between 1805 and 1853 (Hodges et al., 2003: 16). Missionaries moved into the region in the 1830s and 1840s. Father Charles Pandosy established the Immaculate Conception Mission on Manastash Creek in the Kittitas Valley in 1848. He was only there for a year (Becker 2006). However, his efforts and those of other missionaries in the Pacific Northwest paved the way for settlers. In 1853 the Longmire Party passed through the Kittitas Valley on its way to Naches Pass (Becker 2006). Many other settlers followed. Farmers wanted more irrigated land. Toward that end, they worked with bankers to establish irrigation companies. The town of Ellensburg built the Town Canal in 1885. This canal is located less than a mile north of the project area on its way to the south and east. It can be found again at the intersection of Reecer Creek Road and Bender Road, just east of the project site. The West Kittitas Canal was constructed in 1889. This was followed in 1903-04 by the Cascade Canal (Hodges et al. 2003: 18-19-see below). In 1902 the federal government stepped in as a major irrigation player with the creation of the Bureau of Reclamation. Large-scale irrigation projects were planned and completed over the next few decades. A reservoir was built at Lake Kachess in 1912. Cle Elum Lake was dammed in 1933.

Euro-American settlement in the region began as farmers and ranchers trickled into the upper Yakima Valley after the removal of the local Indian populations to the Yakama

Reservation. This settlement was greatly intensified with the arrival of the railroad in 1895 when small communities would develop around the depots created for the railroad. With the arrival of the railroad and reliable transportation over the Cascade Mountains farmers and ranchers could reliably sell their produce and animals to nearby and faraway markets. Most of those communities survive today and continue ranching and farming in the fertile Yakama valley.

Research Design:

RLR developed a hypothesis for this project, based upon the goal of cultural resources management in a variable rural agricultural and ecological context in areas where there is limited previous contextual work. The immediate goal is to evaluate the potential of this project area for the presence or absence of cultural resources.

Hypothesis: That the cultural survey will provide discovery of aspects of the precontact land use within the framework of the Yakima River and Taneum Creeks. Also, we seek to contextualize the built environment from the agricultural past of the project area. That given that precontact sites are found locally on surrounding landforms, a reasonable expectation is that Native American peoples would have utilized resources in the area, with the modifier that sites are less common on some very steep slopes within the project area.

To evaluate the potential of this project area for traces of the settlement past, RLR prepared a field survey, in conjunction with localized site research. This study can potentially aid in the reconstruction of past landscapes by identifying and recording elements of the archaeological record.

Expected Results:

This project sits within the ancient Yakima River floodplain, and has been subject to glacial outflow and periodic flood events since the beginning of the Holocene. Historic identification of Camas nearby (Thorp) leads to the expectation of Native and traditional harvest of that resource. In addition, the irrigation infrastructure of the project area is known from the 1930's.

Work Plan

The methodology and associated methods described here will be applied to cultural resources surveys for Phase 1 of the proposed Wallace Ranch project.

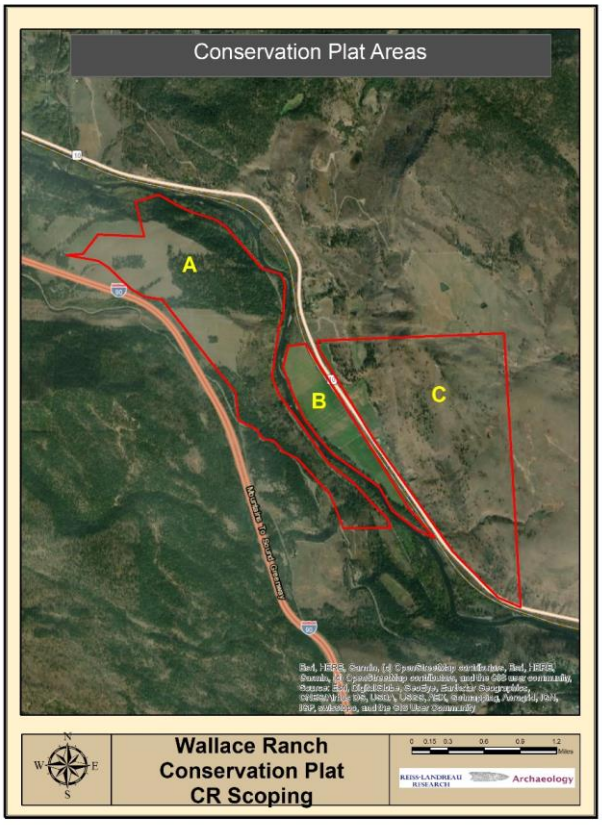

Figure 5: Plat Areas

Archival Research Methods
A detailed record search will be conducted at the Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Resources Database (WISAARD). Online homestead and land patent records, historical county maps that depict ownership, land records will be used to determine historic land use and ownership. Museums, historical societies, special collections, and public libraries will be used to gather historical research on the project area.

Archaeological Field Survey Methods
In general, handheld compasses will be used to maintain transect intervals and direction to assure coverage accuracy. Given the dense ground cover in large portions of the project area STPs will be excavated every 50 meters where proposed ground disturbance will occur in an attempt to detect subsurface material. Where sensitivity for cultural resources increases, such as adjacent to the Yakima River, STPs will be excavated every 30 meters. A total of 600-790 STPs, measuring 35-40 cm in diameter and a maximum of 1 meter deep are proposed (**Figure 7**)

Figure 6: View of Bristol Flat area along the Yakima River

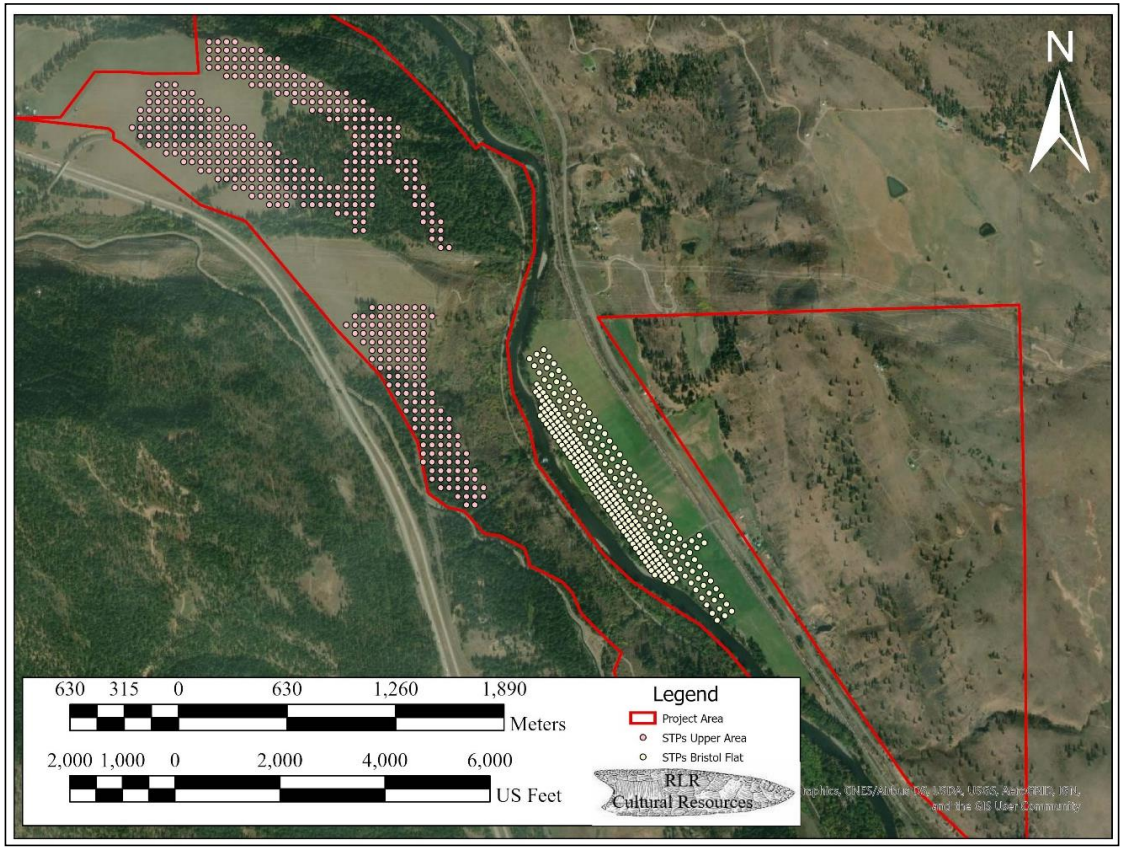

Figure 7. Proposed STP Map based upon the criteria.

Pedestrian Survey Strategy

Given the steep and nature of the project area, three levels of archaeological survey will be used based on modeling of archaeological potential and field conditions encountered.

Intensive Coverage is used in high-priority areas. Examples of sensitive landforms include major ridge lines, mountain peaks, confluences of drainages, mid-slope seeps or springs, and river corridors for pre-contact resources. Transect intervals for complete coverage should be a maximum of 20 meters apart.

Figure 8: Historic Bottle located during scoping investigation.

Cursory Coverage is used in areas where slopes are greater than 30 degrees (70% slope) and archaeological sites are less likely to occur. In Cursory Coverage, surveyors may use animal trails or other routes to meander through and around dense vegetation thickets or fallen logs that cannot be easily crossed. Transects may vary between 25 and 50 meters depending on terrain restrictions.

Not-surveyed areas include slopes of 30 degrees (70% slope) or greater where safe access cannot be found, streams or drainages that have deep cuts or swift current. Although the goal is to inspect as much of the project areas as possible, it is recognized that some areas are unsafe and inaccessible. If archival or pre-field research indicates a potential resource in an area of over 30-degree slope, additional effort will be made to access and examine the location.

No Development Planned are areas that have been included in the ecological plan and are not slated for development. These lands will not be surveyed and will be incorporated into long-term stewardship within the plan.

Figure 9: Quartz biface encountered during scoping.

Conclusion:

RLR has developed a two-pronged approach to discovery within the survey investigation portion of the upcoming project. A combination of reconnaissance survey based upon high probability areas within and around development zones, and interval shovel probes in areas proposed for impact or in high probability areas.

After the conclusion of the fieldwork portion of the project, RLR will produce an inventory survey report to State of Washington EO 05-05 guidelines. Site forms and Historic property inventory forms will be produced, and both eligibility and general recommendations for the project will be produced for The Wallace Ranch. The reporting will meet all State and Federal reporting and investigation guidelines.

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