

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
Established by the Treaty of June 9, 1855

Post Office Box 151
Toppenish Washington 98948

Lindsey Ozbolt
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N. Ruby St. Suite
Ellensburg, WA 98926

February 5, 2015

Subject: Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Interpretive Center SEPA SD-14-00004 Comments

Dear Ms. Ozbolt,

Thank you for contacting the Yakama Nation Cultural Resource Program (CRP) regarding the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Interpretive Center project. The project is located within the Ceded Lands of the Yakama Nation, the legal rights to which were established by the Treaty of 1855, between the Yakama Nation and the United States Government. The treaty set forth that the Yakama Nation shall retain the rights to resources upon these lands and, therefore, it is with the assistance and backing of the United States Federal Government that Yakama Nation claims authority to protect traditional resources.


The Yakama Nation CRP has reviewed the SEPA document associated with the proposed project. We concur with the SEPA document that a cultural resources survey is conducted. The proposed project lies within a high probability area. We address the following concerns:

- Previously recorded pre-contact archaeological site 45KT204 is within 500 meters or 0.3 mi of the proposed building location.
- As a result of this archaeological survey, the archaeological contractor SWCA identified an archaeological site, KT3740, associated with Native American land use within approximately 100 meters of the proposed building location. Site KT3740 may be the archaeological remains of the ethnographic *Kittitas* village of *a'tca*. Burials have been recorded in this immediate area (Smith, 1910).
- The site report indicates the archaeological boundary of KT3740 was not delineated as part of the archaeological survey. Further, subsurface investigations within the site yielded buried cultural material.

Yakama Nation CRP has not received/reviewed the associated archaeological survey report and would appreciate a copy furnished to our office. We remain concerned that the archaeological boundary has yet to be defined and any ground disturbing activities in this area has the potential to damage an archaeological/ethnographic village site.

Further cultural resources investigations are necessary and monitoring is highly recommended for any work in this area. We appreciate the opportunity to work with Kittitas County in protecting this sensitive resource. Please contact me at 509-865-5121 ext. 4737 or CRP Archaeologists Jessica Lally at ext. 4766 or Corrine Camuso at ext. 4755 or ccamuso@yakama.com to address the above concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Johnson Meninick', written over a horizontal line.

Johnson Meninick, Program Manager
Cultural Resources Program

CC: Gretchen Kaehler, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Archaeologist

Lindsey Ozbolt

From: Corrine Camuso <ccamuso@Yakama.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2015 1:39 PM
To: Lindsey Ozbolt
Cc: Jessica Lally; Johnson Meninick; Gretchen.Kaehler@dahp.wa.gov
Subject: Application SEPA SD-14-0000 Comments
Attachments: SEPA SD-14-00004 Comments YNCRP.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi Lindsey,

Please see the attached comments from the Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program (CRP) regarding the SEPA SD-14-00004 for the proposed Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Interpretive Center. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Corrine

Corrine Camuso
Yakama Nation
Cultural Resources Program Archaeologist
Office 509-865-5121 ext 4776