



Allyson Brooks Ph.D., Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

September 27, 2018

Ms. Chelsea Benner
Planner
Kittitas County
411 N. Ruby, Ste. 2
Ellensburg, WA. 98926

In future correspondence please refer to:
Project Tracking Code: 2018-09-07563
Property: Kittitas County_ Vantage Bay Subdivision
Re: Archaeology - Survey Requested

Dear Ms. Benner:

Thank you for contacting the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) and providing documentation regarding the above referenced project. As a result of our review, our professional opinion is that the project area has the potential to contain archaeological resources. In addition to being in close proximity to the Columbia River, a background check of our statewide predictive model shows the project area to be in a high probability zone for cultural resources. There are also numerous documented archaeological sites in the vicinity. Further, the scale of the proposed ground disturbing actions would destroy any archaeological resources present. Identification during construction is not a recommended detection method because inadvertent discoveries often result in costly construction delays and damage to the resource. Therefore, we recommend a professional archaeological survey of the project area be conducted prior to ground disturbing activities. We also recommend consultation with the concerned Tribes' cultural committees and staff regarding cultural resource issues.

If any federal funds or permits are associated with this proposal, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800, must be followed. This is a separate process from both the NEPA and SEPA environmental review processes and requires formal government-to-government consultation with the affected Tribes and the SHPO. Also, we appreciate receiving any correspondence or comments from concerned tribes or other parties concerning cultural resource issues that you receive.

These comments are based on the information available at the time of this review and on behalf of the SHPO in conformance with state and federal law. Should additional information become available, our assessment may be revised.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project and we look forward to receiving the survey report. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dennis Wardlaw
Transportation Archaeologist
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