



Oregon

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2006 GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT ANNUAL REPORT



Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

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2. *Key Contact:*

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3. *Major Areas of Work with Oregon Tribes*

OPRD continues to maintain productive relationships and interactions with all of Oregon's federally recognized tribes. Specific highlights from 2006 include the following:

- For the first time, OPRD created and filled an archaeologist position dedicated specifically to assisting State Parks field staff with archaeological issues. A cultural resource specialist from one of the tribes assisted in the interviewing process. This new position provides much needed in-house expertise for conducting surveys and limited testing, and for helping OPRD avoid “mistakes” with cultural resources. The State Parks archaeologist also serves as the primary liaison with the tribes, thereby strengthening the government-to-government relationship.
- Another result of having a dedicated State Park archaeologist is that OPRD is now better able to conduct meaningful consultation with the tribes on park master planning efforts and proposed development activities within park boundaries.
- With the assistance of a graduate student intern, OPRD conducted a systematic investigation into the disposition of all the collections of materials excavated since 1980 under an official archaeological permit. The intent of this project was to encourage the proper processing and handling of collections that had not yet been submitted to an appropriate repository. The project is still ongoing, but to date two collections are known to be abandoned, one is missing, and two are out-of-state. A number of others remain unaccounted for. It has been reassuring to verify that most collections have been handled appropriately, and we have modified our permit process to help prevent future problems in this regard.



- Assistant State Archaeologist Susan White, one of OPRD's archaeologists, stepped forward to chair the Cultural Resource Cluster Group in 2006. She will continue those duties in 2007. This has greatly expanded her interactions with tribal representatives and provided OPRD a chance to assume an even more active role in the government-to-government relationship.
- OPRD archaeologists initiated a park-by-park analysis of known and expected cultural resources in order to better inform park decisions about where new development should or should not be undertaken. This comprehensive effort involved a review of all mapped sites and surveys, a search of reports, site forms and other materials, and the analytical expertise of staff archaeologists to ascertain (from land forms and other topological features) areas of high, medium, and low probability.
- After several years of effort, State Archaeologist Dennis Griffin (OPRD) finally succeeded in pulling together a coalition of organizations and in arranging for funding to conduct a salvage excavation of Sunken Village, a 700 year old site on Sauvie Island. This National Historic Landmark site was to be covered with tons of large boulders in late 2006 in order to stabilize the nearby levee. It is the only known "wet site" in Oregon, where basketry and other items were remarkably intact due to constant wetness and lack of oxygen in the saturated soil. Three tribes—The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Siletz, and Warm Springs—participated in this project.

In 2007, OPRD will continue in to expand its coordination of cultural resource issues with the tribes. It will also increase the number of cultural resource training workshops it conducts by adding a fall session for other (non-OPRD) state agency staff members.