

**Draft Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forests
Forest Plan Assessment**

13.0 Cultural and Historic Resources and Uses

October 26, 2012

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13. Cultural and Historic Resources and Uses

13.1 EXISTING INFORMATION (36 CFR 219.6(A)(1))

Existing relevant information regarding the management of historic properties of the Plan area can be separated into both prescriptive and guidance-related frameworks. The following elements prescribe historic property management in the Plan area:

- Preserve America Executive Order 1387
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act 1990 (25 USC 3001)
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act 1979 (16 USC 470aa)
- Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act 1974 (16 USC 469)
- Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment Executive Order 11593
- National Environmental Policy Act 1969 (42 USC 4321)
- National Historic Preservation Act 1966 (16 USC 470)
- Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 USC 431)
- North Idaho Programmatic Agreement
- Frank Church Wilderness Programmatic Agreement
- Forest Service Manual
- Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark Preservation Plan
- Elk City Wagon Road Management Plan
- Travel Planning Protocol
- Florence Mining Protocol

The following elements provide guidance concerning historic property management in the plan area:

- Forest Service Handbook
- National Register Bulletin 38
- Sites Identification Strategy for the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests
- Infra database
- GIS data
- National Trust for Historic Preservation Assessment and Needs Analysis
- Northern Region Historic Structure Assessment Plan
- Facility Master Plan
- National Heritage Strategy
- Nez Perce National Forest Heritage Strategy
- National Program Managed to Standard Strategy
- Cultural Resource Overview of the Frank Church–River of No Return Wilderness
- Mining Context for Idaho
- Historical Overview of the Dixie Mining District

- Historical Overview of the Florence Mining District

13.2 INFORMING THE ASSESSMENT

13.2.1 *Current Condition*

The condition of hundreds of historic properties across the Plan area varies by resource class, location, and age. Site monitoring and condition assessments of these properties show a range in condition from “excellent” to “destroyed.” Taken as a whole, historic properties across the Plan area exist in fair condition.

13.2.2 *Trends and Drivers*

The drivers have been identified on the Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forest; Table 1 provides an update on the trends for each of these drivers:

Vandalism/Relic Collecting—The destruction of historic properties and/or the removal of artifacts from their site locations by the public destroys valuable scientific information.

Natural Deterioration/Time—The passage of time degrades the structural integrity of our built-environmental resources (i.e., building and structures), degrades the composition of organic-based archeo-environmental data sets, and alters landforms which possess sensitive archaeological sites.

Fiscal Constraints—Budget limitations constrain the ability to reduce deferred maintenance issues associated with historic property management and/or employ enhancement activities meant to bolster the integrity and understanding of the resource.

Legacy Activity Impacts—Historic management activities adversely affected historic properties prior to the establishment of laws and regulations meant to protect those resources.

Visitor Impacts—Recreation activities occurring at the location of historic properties continue to unintentionally impact sensitive cultural properties.

Wildland Fire Impacts—Wildland fire can destroy built-environmental resources, alter sensitive organic-based archeo-environmental data sets, erode soil that protects archaeological properties, and alter historic landscapes.

Incomplete Understanding of Site Locations—Lack of complete cultural resource inventories across the Plan area leave hundreds of historic properties unknown and thus outside the rubric of affective management. Resources such as traditional cultural properties (TCP) may also remain unknown or unnoticed given their unapparent nature and reluctance of the communities which ascribes value to the properties to advertise their location or otherwise define their existence.

Conflicting Mission Goals—Some federal laws possess regulatory provisions, goals, and objectives which exclude mutual consideration of other resources, such as historic properties and their associated protection. The more progressive National Historic Preservation Act, which allows for other resource values to be considered during federal undertakings, is often trumped in practice and in the courts. Thus the goals and values of other resource programs are inadvertently restricting the Forest’s ability to protect all historic properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Wilderness Act, Endangered Species Act, and Occupational Safety and Health Act are examples of this type of driver.

Table 1. Drivers and their associated trend regarding the condition of historic properties across the Forest Plan area

	Vandalism/Relic Collecting	Natural Deterioration/ Time	Fiscal Constraints	Legacy Impacts	Visitor Impacts	Wildland Fire	Incomplete Site Locations	Conflicting Mission Goals
Trend	Ongoing	Ongoing	Increasing	Stabilized	Ongoing	Variable	Ongoing	Increasing

13.2.3 The Broad Cultural and Historical Context of the Plan Area

Because the “cultural and historic resources and uses” of the plan area were not assessed in this document, no best available science review of that topic was undertaken. Rather, a listing of existing frameworks that assist with decisions involving historic properties was presented. This list involved the simple review of desktop resources traditionally used to manage historic properties in the Plan area.

13.3 INFORMATION NEEDS

- Updating GIS cultural resource survey layers
- Preservation plan for the railroad logging on the Palouse Ranger District
- Preservation plan for the Florence mining district
- Preservation plan for the greater Elk City/Orogrande/Newsome/Dixie mining districts
- Preservation plan for the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness
- Preservation plan for the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness
- Cultural resource survey of the Salmon River Wild and Scenic River corridor
- Cultural resource survey of the Selway River Wild and Scenic River corridor

Literature Cited
(Under Development)