

# HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES PLANNING CONTEXT

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## Key Findings / Takeaways

- Natural and human made disasters pose risks to culturally and historically significant resources, including: Buildings, structures, and historic districts; artifacts and collections; cultural events and activities; and access to sacred places and environmental assets (such as indigenous first foods). These resources have also been determined to be critical factors in community recovery. They provide an anchor to community identity and shared experience needed for resilience. Source: <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/OH/Pages/DisasterPrep.aspx>
- Currently, there is one historical society in the Canyon area known as the North Santiam Historical Society. There is also a local landmarks commission in Mill City that oversees historic preservation activities within the City of Mill City. Information on historic resources in the North Santiam Canyon comes from the files of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Source: North Santiam Canyon Economic Opportunity Study, 2014.
- The Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center had historic resources and cabins that were destroyed in the Santiam fires. Updated information is provided on the Opal Creek website: <https://www.opalcreek.org/emergency-event/fire-in-opal-creek-wilderness-august-17th/>.
- Cultural resources are known to occur in the forest, mostly from the early logging and homesteading that took place in the Santiam Canyon. SHPO classifies historic properties as: Eligible Contributing (EC), Eligible Significant (ES), National Register - Individually listed (NRI), Undetermined (UN), and Demolished (XD). It appears that all historic structures in Breitenbush (and vicinity) were impacted, including Hawk Mountain Cabin (c. 1936, ES) and Olallie Meadow Cabin (c. 1910, EC). It also appears that all historic structures/infrastructure in Detroit were impacted by the fires, but the degree of impact is to be determined. As of July 20, 2021, the Oregon Parks and Recreation, Heritage Commission, had not received any updates on the status of losses in historic and cultural resources. In Detroit, these historic structures include:
  - Detroit Dam – 1952, EC
  - Gold Butte Lookout – 1934, ES
  - Marion Creek Bridge – c. 1934, ES
  - North Santiam River Bridge – c. 1938, ES
  - Pamela Creek Bridge – c. 1934, ES
  - Partial Viaduct #7964 – c. 1947, ES

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- Information on the Native American tribes in the North Santiam Upper Watershed is noted under Pre-disaster resources (below). While outdated, the report provides context for planning work and highlights the importance of consulting with Native American Tribes in the use, recovery and management of forest land. Note: Whenever work in the region is undertaken with the use of federal funds, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs must be consulted.
- Following the 2020 fires, the state established a task force to address impacted natural and cultural resources. The Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force (NCRRTF) is designed to provide coordination and implementation for the state's recovery response to catastrophic wildfires in September 2020. The scope is to provide guidance to state departments in aiding local and tribal partners in preserving, protecting, conserving, rehabilitating, and restoring natural and cultural resources. The statewide heritage recovery efforts are coordinated with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office and partners from the local, state, federal, and tribal levels. This subgroup is supporting heritage sites and the organizations that support them, including museums, historical societies, historic cemeteries, historic downtowns, and archaeology sites. Resources: **Oregon Wildfire Response & Recovery, Natural and Cultural Resources** - <https://wildfire.oregon.gov/Pages/natural-resources.aspx>, **Oregon Heritage, State Historic Preservation Office, Disaster Preparedness, Recovery & Resilience** - <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/OH/Pages/DisasterPrep.aspx>.

## Existing Plans, Policies, Projects, or Funding

### *Pre-Disaster*

- **Upper North Santiam Watershed Analysis, Willamette National Forest, Detroit Ranger District**, August 1995 (updated in 2007)  
[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3801574.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3801574.pdf)

The Upper North Santiam watershed has been the setting for human activities for thousands of years. The material remnants of use left behind are primarily in the form of lithic scatter sites, rock cairns, stone quarries, peeled cedar trees (for basket making, clothes), trails, land claims, homesteads, early Forest Service administrative and communications networks, guard stations, fire lookouts, railroad grades, early logging, and wagon roads. Areas within this watershed may have been used traditionally by Native American tribes for religious and/or cultural purposes. Heritage resource sites are an important source of information for past use in the area, and for current Native American uses.

The site distribution patterns within the watershed suggest the prehistoric and protohistoric people were traveling along the North Santiam River corridor, Minto Pass Trail (east/west passage), Pamela Trail (east/west

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passage), and triangulation Peak trail for hunting, gathering of resources, and trade. The Warm Springs people used these trails to get to Willamette Falls, a traditional fishing area. Additional information regarding use of the general area can be inferred from the oral history of the Warm Springs confederation as told by the elder women. They relate stories of their grandparents utilizing and maintaining the huckleberry grounds found within the area. They also spoke of their grandparents passing through the general area from the Cabot Creek drainage on the east side of the Cascades mountain range on route to the North Santiam River along what is now known as Minto Pass trail. This route was originally used by the Cayuse and Molalla Indians as an east/west passage.

Many heritage resources sites have been impacted by human and natural processes. Very few adversely affected heritage resource sites have been mitigated to determine their eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places. There is a need to identify these areas that were used historically by Native American tribes and that still are an intricate part of their cultural and/or religious practices. This is to assure that forest management strategies are consistent with these uses.

**Tribal Rights** - Rights of Native American Tribes stem from treaties signed by both the Native American tribes and the U. S. Government and thus there has been established a special government to government relationship between the tribes and federal agencies. The treaties established land in four levels of interests by NW Indian tribes:

- Priority 1 – Reservations.
- Priority 2 - Ceded lands with their location and rights specifically identified.
- Priority 3 - Usual and Accustomed lands with location and rights not specifically identified.
- Priority 4 - Other Pacific Northwest lands based on historic use and homes of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS) and based on unique language in their treaty.
- The North Santiam watershed falls within the Priority 3, Usual and Accustomed lands.

**Forest Practices and Tribal Objectives** - CTWS has expressed a significant interest in how the Mt Jefferson Wilderness is managed with special emphasis on ease of access to the northern portion. Wilderness users at times encroach onto the reservation in the area just north of Mt. Jefferson and some of those users leave trash and generally abuse the wilderness.

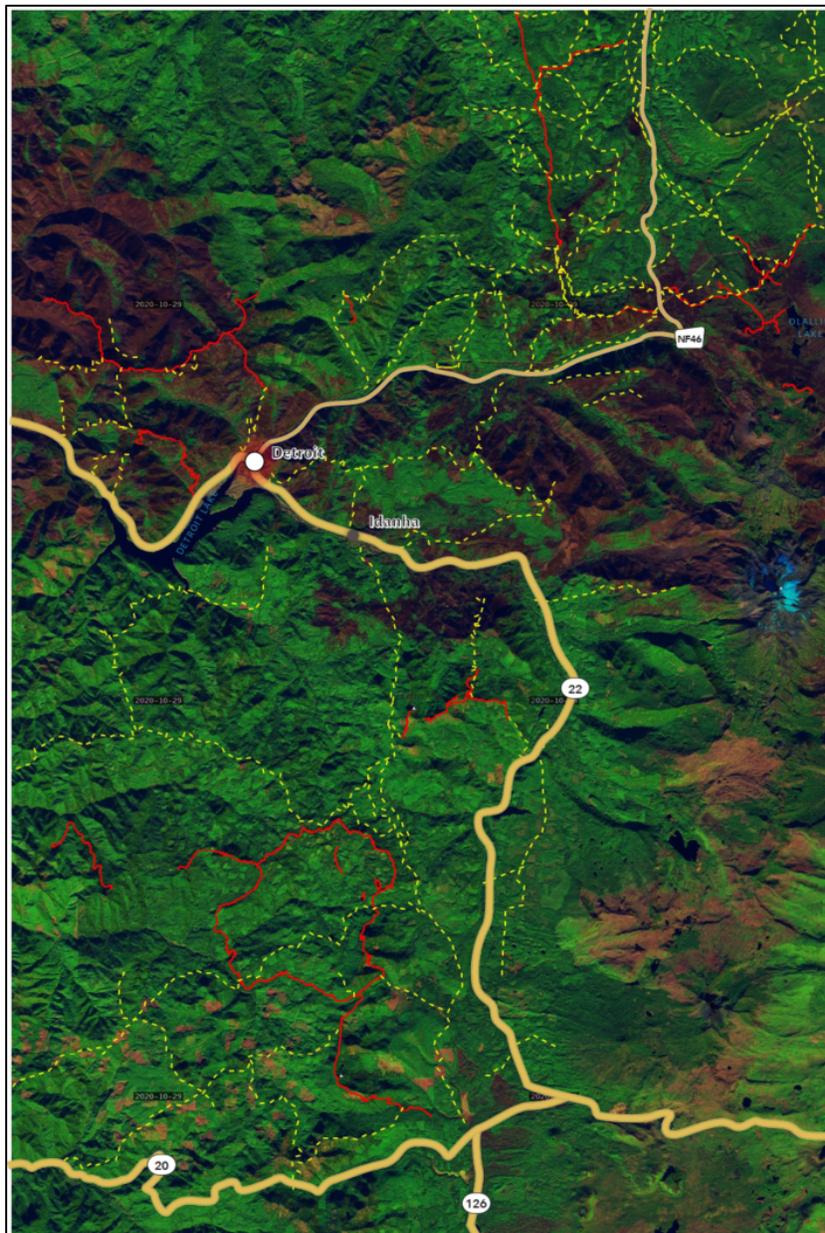
**Sites Significant to Native American Tribes** - Some patterns of past Native American use have been established based on discovery of cultural sites. Primarily, this has been along ridgetops and along streams.

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However, there is continual effort to work with the tribes to further define their treaty interests stemming from past usual and accustomed uses.

**Heritage Resource Sites:** As of the date of this report, a total of 22,220 acres has been field surveyed for the location of heritage resources. Based on the Heritage Resource database, 138 cultural properties (prehistoric/historic sites) have been recorded within the North Santiam watershed. Nearly eighty percent of the recorded sites have been impacted mainly from road construction, timber harvest activities, and recreation development projects. The degree of disturbance ranges from minimal to major alterations to the site's character and context.

*Resilient Headwaters, Wildfire Intensity + Historic Trail Network, October 2020*



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### ***Post-Disaster***

- **Oregon Heritage, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)**  
(<https://sos.oregon.gov/blue-book/Pages/cultural/history-preservation.aspx>)  
Sara Jalving, Liaison for Historic Resources for SHPO reported that “specifically for the ODOT/FEMA work, the cultural resource monitors under contract have not provided the final report that will let us know which resources listed in the Oregon Historic Sites Database have been demolished by the 2020 wildfires. The report will be available when the hazard tree and debris removal work is complete. With that said, it is unlikely that SHPO and/or ODOT will know which of the structures demolished by fire will be rebuilt or restored post-fire.”
  - SHPO must be consulted when a project utilizing federal funding receives an ‘adverse effect’ under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. As the loss of these structures was an act of god, and not created by a federal action, SHPO will likely not be involved in the decision making around rebuilding or restoring the lost structures, especially those that are privately owned.
  - SHPO has several grant/tax assessment programs that building owners who own historic buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places may try to utilize to rebuild or restore a building damaged by the wildfires. SHPO does not have a specific grant for post-wildfire restoration. Sara Jalving indicated that FEMA, as the federal agency responsible for funding the clean-up effort, may also have additional information for property owners with regards to funding to replace/rebuild/restore structures on their properties. Neither ODOT nor SHPO are involved with this work.
- **Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)**  
(<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/documents/aboutodf/implementation-plan-north-cascade-district.pdf>) - It is the policy of the Oregon Department of Forestry / State Forests Division to preserve and protect archaeological and cultural resources and sites during forest management activities according to state law. In order to protect any potential cultural resources during forest management activities, planned operations areas are screened for the presence of cultural resources. Areas where cultural resources may be present receive further review and avoidance measures where appropriate. Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office or a qualified archaeologist shall occur if any cultural or archaeological resources are inadvertently discovered on State Forest lands during the course of management activities.
- **Archaeologists from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)** have reviewed the burned area for potential impacts to cultural resources. ODOT’s review of historic maps and other information indicates there was human activity near some of their planned operations that could have led to the presence of cultural artifacts today.

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- **ODF North Cascade District Implementation Plan (IP) revisions 2021: Collaboration and Partnerships**  
(<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/documents/aboutodf/implementation-plan-north-cascade-district.pdf>) - A concerted effort between partner agencies, organizations and volunteers will be needed over the next few years with respect to historic and cultural resources, including working with partners on education and interpretive messaging around fires and fire legacies. The Recreation Education and Interpretation (REI) team is building an education and interpretation program framework focused on the role of fire on the landscape and relationships with active forest management. Elements of this program will position the State Forest Division to successfully tell the story of the Labor Day Fires of 2020 well into the future. The REI Program has already begun working with State and Federal partners on topline visitor use messaging across the larger landscape to help manage visitors' expectations and understanding of a very changed forest setting.
- **The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)** commented on the ODF IP, that "interpretive/educational information should include the benefits of fire and fire legacies, describing why these legacies are retained in recreation areas. Educating the public about these legacies also creates an opportunity to educate on public responsibility for water quality (e.g., "Stay on the trail because.... We kept those dead trees by the creek because...")."
- **Oregon Wildfire Response & Recovery** - The Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force (NCRRTF) mission is to integrate state assets and capabilities to help local governments, tribal governments, and impacted communities address long-term environmental and cultural resource recovery needs after large-scale and catastrophic incidents. The objectives are to:
  - Implement measures to protect and stabilize records and culturally significant documents, objects, and structures.
  - Assess impacts to natural and cultural resources and identify needed protections during stabilization through recovery.
  - Complete an assessment of affected natural and cultural resources and develop a timeline for addressing these impacts in a sustainable and resilient manner.
  - Preserve natural and cultural resources as part of an overall community recovery.
- **Statewide Heritage Recovery**  
(<https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/OH/Pages/DisasterPrep.aspx>)  
Heritage recovery efforts are coordinated with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office and partners from the local, state, federal, and tribal levels. This subgroup is supporting heritage sites and the organizations that support them, including museums, historical societies, historic cemeteries, historic downtowns, and archaeology sites.

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## Opportunities for Recovery

- There are opportunities for the North Santiam Historical Society to coordinate with Oregon SHPO and ODF in the recovery efforts with respect to historic and cultural resources.
- ODF's Plans include ongoing public engagement opportunities for communities to partner in the education and interpretive messaging around fires and fire legacies. Providing ODF with community perspectives will strengthen the actions and directions that come out of these planning documents.
- Additionally, opportunities exist to coordinate with SHPO, who is supporting heritage sites and organizations that support them, including historical societies.
- Coordinate with Native American Tribes to understand where there are the sites in the watershed that hold special significance to the tribes, how are they used, and how resources can best be preserved, recovered, and managed in those areas to be consistent with Native American values and objectives.

## Recommendations

- Engage in existing ODF planning efforts to ensure community interests are represented.
- Engage with SHPO in identifying which of the structures were demolished and which will be rebuilt or restored post-fire, and if there is any funding needed and available for restoration efforts.
- Support and partner on opportunities with local and state heritage and cultural organizations to support their funding and community engagement.