

3.12 CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

This section identifies and describes known cultural resources within the UGA, evaluates potential impacts for Alternative 5 compared to Alternatives 2, 3, and 4, and identifies mitigation measures to limit those impacts. Potential impacts from the No Action Alternative are described in Section 3.13 of the Draft EIS. Information in this section is summarized from *A Land Use History of the Proposed MountainStar Resort: The Results of a Cultural Resource Survey along the Lower Cle Elum River* (Churchill and Griffin 1998). Properties surveyed in the report include the land within the Cle Elum UGA.

3.12.1 Affected Environment

Existing prehistoric, historic, and cultural resources within the Cle Elum UGA are described in Section 3.13, Cultural Resources, of the Draft EIS.

A total of six known prehistoric resources are located within the UGA and consist of four sites and two isolated finds. The Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) has not determined the significance of these resources, which are located within areas proposed as undeveloped open space in the western portion of the UGA and designated as Reserve under Alternative 5. However, they are all potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D on the basis of the site's ability to yield potential information about settlement and subsistence patterns that are significant to the understanding of regional prehistory (Churchill and Griffin 1999).

Seventeen historic resources are situated within the Cle Elum UGA, 14 of which are designated as refuse scatters associated with property boundaries, roadsides, and waterlines and dating from the mid-nineteenth to twentieth centuries. Potential subsurface components at these sites may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion D.

The three historic resources that are not refuse scatters include the Cle Elum Chlorination Building, sections of the old Cle Elum waterline, and an isolated find. The Cle Elum Chlorination Building dates from 1906-1930 and is located in an area designated for residential development. Sections of the old Cle Elum waterline are historic-period waterlines that run along the western boundary of the Cle Elum UGA in Bullfrog Flats, pass underneath I-90, and re-emerge in the project area along its southern border. An additional unnamed waterline segment appears in the northeast portion of the Cle Elum UGA near Bullfrog Road and the transmission line corridor (Churchill and Griffin 1999). The isolated find consists of a single, complete aqua glass mason jar, which may be as old as 1858. The property owner curated the isolate, and no additional historic materials were associated with it (Churchill and Griffin 1999).

The possibility exists that an extant segment of the Yakama Trail is located within an area designated as undeveloped open space and, therefore, the area could have significance as a Traditional Cultural Property.

3.12.2 Impacts

Direct Construction

Potential construction-related impacts on historic and cultural resources under Alternative 5 would be lower than under Alternatives 2, 3, and 4. The majority of development is proposed in the northern two-thirds of the property, out of the geomorphic floodplain, and the area in the southern one-third of the property designated Reserve. As described above, the majority of prehistoric and historic sites/isolated finds are located in the undeveloped open space and Reserve area. Construction impacts would depend on the specific location of ground-disturbing activities with respect to the locations of known, and potentially undiscovered, prehistoric and historic cultural resources within the Cle Elum UGA. Impacts could include disturbance from excavation, increased pedestrian and vehicular traffic, compaction of sediments associated with project staging areas, erosion, illegal collecting, and spiritual diminution of possible Traditional Cultural Properties. Construction impacts on the Cle Elum Chlorination Building, which is located in an area of residential development, could include destruction of the structure and/or an alteration to the property's setting.

Direct Operation

The extent of the developed area and intensity of land uses proposed under Alternative 5 would result in a lower potential for operational impacts than under Alternatives 2, 3, and 4. However, similar to the other development alternatives, ongoing property maintenance, landscaping, road improvements, recreational activities, potential illegal collecting, and vehicular and pedestrian traffic could result in damage to existing cultural resources or the unearthing of additional unknown resources.

Indirect

Indirect impacts under Alternative 5 would be similar to those identified under Alternatives 2, 3, and 4. Population increases induced by development under Alternative 5 would lead to increased construction in the region, which would increase the possibility of impacts on cultural resources outside the Cle Elum UGA. Impacts would include deterioration of resources from erosion, loss of landscape integrity, trampling, and illegal collecting.

Cumulative

Cumulative impacts under Alternative 5 would be similar to Alternatives 2, 3, and 4. Development within the MPR and the Cle Elum UGA in conjunction with other planned regional growth would contribute to the cultural resource impacts of past land use activities, ongoing natural resource management, and future development in the surrounding area.

3.12.3 Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures identified in Section 3.13.4 of the Draft EIS include subsurface assessments of the prehistoric and historic resources prior to land-disturbing activities, and significance

evaluation and determination of eligibility for listing in the NRHP by OAHP. If properties are determined to be significant, measures would be developed to protect them from ground-disturbing activities, such as the creation of buffer zones. If this is not feasible, professional archaeologists should recover data of the materials at these sites after consultation with OAHP and the Yakama Nation. An architectural description of the Cle Elum Chlorination Building should be provided to OAHP for evaluation and determination of the property's eligibility for listing in the NRHP.

Mitigation for potential impacts on historic and cultural resources outlined in the City of Cle Elum's draft Conditions of Approval includes:

- No measures that encourage access or discovery of significant cultural resource sites within the Cle Elum River undeveloped open space area will be permitted.
- Consistent with city code requirements, the City will give the Yakama Nation notice and opportunity to comment on all proposed preliminary plats, binding site plans, or building and grading permits on all lands within the cultural resource areas identified in *A Land Use History of the Proposed MountainStar Resort: The Results of a Cultural Resource Survey along the Lower Cle Elum River* (Churchill and Griffin 1998).
- Compliance with all applicable requirements of RCW 27.44, Indian Graves and Records, and RCW 27.53, Archaeological Sites and Resources, will be required.
- Contractors will be trained in the appropriate techniques for recognizing artifacts during construction activities and in the proper notification steps.

3.12.4 Significant Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

With the implementation of identified mitigation measures, no significant unavoidable adverse impacts on cultural and historic resources are anticipated.