

## **Section 3.4**

### **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

The Cultural Resources section is a summary of the *Cultural Resources Report* (September 2022) prepared by the Yakama Nation Cultural Resource Program (CRP). Because of its sensitive nature, this report was submitted directly to Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) and consistent with state law, is not included in this Addendum. No additional investigation or analysis of the overall 47° North site was necessary or conducted.

#### **3.4.1 Affected Environment**

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##### **2020 / 2021 SEIS**

The SEIS described the existing historic and cultural resources on and in the vicinity of the 47° North site at that time (see Draft SEIS Section 3.10 and Final SEIS Section 3-3 for details). The SEIS included a mitigation measure requiring that field investigation of the commercial property should be conducted when it is proposed for development.

Selected information from the Draft SEIS is provided and compared in context below; please consult the SEIS document for more detailed information.

##### **Revised Proposal**

Since the publication of the SEIS, all but one acre of the Bullfrog UGA properties owned by New Suncadia, including the 25-acre commercial development area, has been acquired by Sun Communities and is now included in the Revised Proposal. Cultural resources investigations were conducted on the commercial property for this SEIS Addendum. Following are background on and the results of the investigations.

##### **Prehistoric/Historic Context**

The 47° North site is situated within the traditional territory of the Sahaptin-speaking Kittitas and Yakama people. Other groups, such as the Southern Lushootseed-speaking Snoqualmie bands also may have overlapped with the Kittitas and Yakama. The first non-native settlers arrived in the Kittitas Valley in the 1840s. In an 1855 Treaty, the Yakamas ceded most of their ancestral land, including the future site of City of Cle Elum. Cattle ranching, mining, and logging were pursued in the Cle Elum area in the mid-1800s through the 1900s. More recently, the Cle Elum vicinity has become a recreational destination with the construction of nearby highways (e.g., I-90).

### **Previous Investigations**

Previous, relevant archaeological investigations conducted within one mile of the proposed commercial development area are described below. The investigation conducted in 1998 for the MountainStar Resort (of which the 47° North site, including the commercial property, were originally a part) documented many resources within the larger proposed development, but no resources were identified within the project footprint. Three other surveys were performed within proximity to the commercial property. A timber sale survey conducted in 2005 of a property adjoining the property to the east resulted in the identification of two historic resources including the ranger station residence and an isolated telecommunication insulator. A survey conducted in 2019 to the south for the expansion of the Laurel Hill Cemetery identified an historic boundary marker and a discarded headstone. The most recent survey conducted in 2021 for the 47° North site found no new archeological resources.

### **Previously Recorded Sites**

A review of the DAHP database for the presence of known cultural/archaeological sites was conducted. Within one mile of the commercial property, there are 26 previously recorded resources. All these resources are associated with historic use except for one precontact isolate. Many of these resources have been evaluated as not eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), with seven having been recommended potentially eligible or eligible to the NRHP.

### **Historic Land Features**

Based on a review of historic maps, historic land features which are present within the commercial property area include two historic roads. The roads branch from the east in the location where the town of Cle Elum would later be established. The northern road extends northwest towards Roslyn while the southern road extends southwest towards the Yakima River.

Several mining tunnels bisect the commercial property area. Railroads serving coal fields were also located nearby.

The parcel abutting the commercial property to the south remains owned by the City of Cle Elum and consists of the Laurel Hill Cemetery set aside in 1900.

One historic road is discernable at the southern extent of the commercial property extending from the transmission line, continuing east, and interconnecting with another road leading into the town of Cle Elum.

### **Site Investigation**

A pedestrian survey was conducted in September 2022, using transects at 5-meter intervals covering the entire site. One historic road segment was documented (*HP729063*). The historic road extends approximately 0.6 mile. Approximately 260 feet of this segment lies within the commercial property. While precontact archaeological resources are protected

under State Law RCW 27.53, historic resources may be evaluated under federal criteria for eligibility to the NRHP. The road segment is not associated with a significant event, person, or represent the work of a master. The road segment is unlikely to yield additional information significant to the understanding of history beyond its recordation and is therefore recommended not eligible to the NRHP.

To assess the potential for buried cultural deposits, sub-surface testing was also conducted in September 2022. No buried cultural resources were identified during the testing.

No further work on the historic property is recommended by Yakama Nation CRP.

## **3.4.2 Impacts**

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### **2020 / 2021 SEIS**

Archaeological sites that are located onsite have been determined to be not eligible for listing on the NRHP or Washington Historic Register (WHR); therefore, significant impacts to known cultural resources are not expected. Under SEIS Alternatives 5 and 6, large areas of open space would be preserved, including along the Cle Elum River where most of the previously recorded sites were located; the Cle Elum River open space corridor is protected by a conservation easement. As described in the SEIS, unknown/unidentified cultural resources could potentially be impacted or destroyed by proposed site development under SEIS Alternative 6 and SEIS Alternative 5; this is also true for practically any site and inadvertent discovery protocols are established by State law and proposed mitigation.

### **Revised Proposal**

No archaeological sites or resources were identified on the commercial property. Therefore, significant impacts to known cultural resources are not expected. However, ground disturbing activities, including clearing, grubbing, grading, and construction excavations, would be required for development of the commercial property which could inadvertently unearth unknown cultural or archaeological material. If any ground disturbing activities results in the inadvertent discovery of cultural or archaeological material, work would be stopped in the immediate area and contact would be made with DAHP and Yakama Nation CRP. Work would remain suspended until the find is assessed, and appropriate consultation is conducted.

While no prehistoric Native American archaeological materials were identified in the vicinity of the commercial property, such materials could be discovered during development of the overall 47° North project of which the commercial property is a component. Onsite monitoring (e.g., by Yakima Nation CRP) would take place during all ground disturbing activities with potential to intersect Holocene deposits where archaeological materials could be present, which were observed up to 8.5 feet below ground surface.

### 3.4.3 Mitigation Measures

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No new significant adverse impacts on cultural resources would occur from the Revised Proposal and no additional mitigation measures are required. The mitigation measures identified below include those measures that have been updated for the Revised Proposal from those listed in the Final SEIS and one new voluntary measure. See **Appendix F** for a complete list of the mitigation measures under the Revised Proposal. See the Introduction to **Chapter 3** for a description of the different categories of mitigation (e.g., proposed, required, other possible).

#### **Proposed Mitigation Measures (Included in the Project)**

- ~~When the 25-acre property contemplated for future commercial use is proposed to be developed, a field investigation of the property should be conducted.~~
- The Applicant has voluntarily committed to pursue a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Yakama Nation regarding the protection of Cultural Resources on the 47° North project site. The Cultural Resources analyses in the SEIS and Addendum do not identify any direct impacts to resources located on the project site. In addition, the defined open space corridor adjacent to the Yakima River is subject to a pre-existing formal agreement that protects cultural and environmental resources within the defined open space. Notwithstanding these conclusions, the Applicant understands and appreciates that the Yakama Nation defines “cultural resources” more broadly than archaeological artifacts, and that this broader definition encompasses the larger context of historical activities and environmental conditions, and potential future indirect and cumulative effects on soils, water, fish and wildlife from development. The Applicant, therefore, agrees to pursue an MOU with the Yakama Nation that will address the potential to monitor construction activity proximate to culturally sensitive areas of the site, will consider protocols to ensure ongoing protection of the site’s environmental resources, and any other issues of mutual concern to the parties.

#### **Required Mitigation Measures**

- In the event that ground disturbing or other activities result in the inadvertent discovery of archaeological deposits, work would be halted in the immediate area and contact made with DAHP and Yakama Nation CRP. Work would be halted until such time as further investigation and appropriate consultation is concluded. See *Final SEIS* Appendix B for details on protocols for inadvertent discoveries.