

Curation Policy Development

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- *Within existing resources, [WSDOT] shall work with the department of archaeology and historic preservation to develop a statewide policy regarding the curation of artifacts and the use of museums and information centers as potential mitigation under the national environmental policy act. The policy must address the following issues:*
 - *How to minimize the costs associated with information centers and museums*
 - *When to use existing facilities to preserve and display artifacts*
 - *How to minimize the time that stand-alone facilities are needed; and*
 - *How to transfer artifacts and other items to facilities that are not owned or rented by the department*

What Does WSDOT's Curation Policy Address?

- Curation of artifacts encountered and
- Use of museums and information centers as potential mitigation – mitigation is required when historic resources are impacted by projects

What is Curation?

- Curation involves the identification, interpretation, maintenance, and preservation of significant physical heritage assets.
- Purpose of curation is to retain and preserve information (artifacts and associated records) for future researchers.

What Do State and Federal Laws Governing Curation Require?

- Repositories must provide professional, systematic, and accountable curation services on a long-term basis. Specific requirements are contained in state and federal law.

How Did WSDOT Develop its Policy?

WSDOT contracted with a researcher to:

- document federal and state laws,
- identify curation facilities in Washington,
- investigate how other states and federal agencies address the issue, and
- document how WSDOT has provided mitigation for mega-projects

What Does WSDOT's Draft Policy Require?

- The policy specifies that WSDOT will follow state and federal law -- archaeological collections go to an approved facility (there are several in the state, including tribal museums);
- The policy requires WSDOT to consider potential curation needs early in project planning, and to make sure project agreements document how curation will be handled;
- Regarding mitigation, the policy identifies that WSDOT is required to conduct good-faith consultation with tribes and work with Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to define appropriate mitigation for impacts to historic resources on a case-by-case basis.

Questions?

For more information on WSDOT's Draft Curation Policy,
please contact:

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