

PREPARED BY: Stutte, Raymond/ USFWS

PROJECT NAME:		Ridgefield NWR - Cathlapotle Plankhouse Site						
LOCATION INFORMATION:				Township	Range	Section	Project Acres	
County	Clark	State	WA	4N	1W	DLC44	Total	1
FWS Unit	Ridgefield NWR						APE	1
USGS Topo	Ridgefield						Surveyed	1
Appendix	B6	Program	Refuges		Field Contact	R. Young		
UNDERTAKING/APE (List of actions comprising the undertaking and description of the geographical area in which activities will occur)								

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposes construction of a full-scale replica Chinookan-style cedar plank house. The site occurs on a northeast facing oak-studded hill that overlooks the Gee Creek floodplain and back swamp of the Lake River. The plankhouse will be approximately 78' long and 37' wide. The total area of potential effect (APE) for the construction of the plankhouse is approximately 1 acre in size, including ground adjacent to the plankhouse that may be disturbed during construction and access routes for machinery. A dozer will grade the site and prepare the foundation. Post holes for the upright posts in the plankhouse will be dug by hand. Maximum depth of disturbance is about four feet.

Undertaking continued next page □

BACKGROUND	(Pertinent environmental, historical, and archaeological information effecting the kinds of cultural resources that may be present, including references to previous surveys and sites in the vicinity and results of record search).	Date of Record Search	6/12/03
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The location for the proposed plankhouse replica is on a Pleistocene-aged remnant terrace at about 31 feet asl. The terrace contains silty soil mixed with reworked Troutdale Formation cobbles and Missoula flood deposits. The Pleistocene age of the terrace was determined by a backhoe trench dug immediately south of the project area (Bourdeau 2002). The backhoe trench indicates that the proposed plankhouse location is above the active floodplain of the Columbia. Holocene flood events did not affect the APE. Holocene sedimentation was not significant in the APE. If cultural materials were deposited on the ground surface in the APE it is unlikely that they would be significantly buried or affected by Holocene landscape processes such as floods. Therefore any cultural resources that may be present should be observable at or close to the surface.

Background continued next page ■

SURVEY INVENTORY				
Survey Methods	Pedestrian survey of the project area by FWS archaeologists and tribal members. Ten (10) shovel test holes were dug by FWS archaeologists within the APE.			
Survey Conditions	Surface survey in spring, shovel test units and field analysis completed June 12 and July 9, 2003.			
Survey Problems	None			
Survey Results	No Historic Properties identified. An isolated find consisting of scattered flakes (n=7), 3 nails, and broken river cobbles was identified and determined not significant or eligible to the National Register of Historic Places.			
Recommendations	It is recommended that the project proceed as planned.			
Avoidance/ Monitoring Measures (if applicable)	FWS archaeologist Raymond and plankhouse project coordinator/Chinook Tribal member Greg Robinson monitored dozer work in October 2003 and observed no artifacts or cultural deposits.			
Comments				
Attachments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APE/ survey map(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Form(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Site location map	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bibliography <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Author / Title Date	Nicole Stutte/ Anan Raymond, USFWS Archaeologists			12/29/03

The proposed plankhouse location is approximately 1 mile from two well known prehistoric archaeological sites (45CL1 and 45CL4). Both of these sites were referenced in the journals of Lewis and Clark (Moulton 1991). Wapato Portage (45CL4) was described in the explorers' journals as a grassy portage between the river and a lake where Chinookan women gathered wapato. Cathlapotle (45CL1) was described as a large village with 14 cedar plankhouses and approximately 900 inhabitants (Moulton 1991). Several archaeological investigations have taken place on and near Cathlapotle and Wapato Portage (Abromowitz 1980; Ames et al. 1999; Hudziak and Smith 1948; Starkey, Ross, and Hibbs 1974; Starkey and Ross 1975., Minor and Toepel 1984, Bourdeau 2003). This work, and the analysis by Leslie O'Rourke in her soon to be completed master's thesis, indicates that most of the prehistoric archaeological sites in the area occur in the flood plain (below about 26 feet asl) with easy access to navigable water. These sites include plankhouse villages, single plankhouse sites, food processing areas (marked by fire-cracked rock concentrations) and lithic scatters (see attached map). The APE occurs above 30 feet asl and is a half mile from the Lake River. It is not suitable place for a significant prehistoric settlement.

Over a century before the FWS ownership this property was infiltrated by white settlers. James Carty arrived in 1839 or 1840 and settled somewhere on Wapato Portage about 1/2 mile west of the plankhouse site. Other settlers followed in 1849 and the 1850s. James Carty filed a Donation Land Claim on the property south of the refuge (DLC 48) in 1851. DLC 44, the plankhouse site, was settled by Charles Reed in 1854. In 1873, James N. Carty acquired the DLC 48 land claim from his uncle James Carty as well as the property where the current undertaking is proposed (DLC 44), in addition to portions of DLC 57 where the Cathlapotle archaeological site is located. We did not find records of Reed's developments on DLC 44. However, two or possibly more structures were built on DLC 44 by the Carty family. Archaeological site 45CL285H, recorded by Larson and Sneed (1979), is thought to be part of the Carty family homestead. The remains of structures associated with site 45CL285H occur approximately 1/4 mile south of the proposed plankhouse area and are marked on the 1888 U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Map (see attached map). We suspect the plankhouse site was disturbed by the early settlers probably for roads, pasture, or orchard. The property on which the plankhouse will be built has been in ownership of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since 1965.

FWS Archaeologists examined the surface of the APE several times in the spring of 2003 in conjunction with other visits to the Plankhouse site and Wapato Portage with the architect, FWS employees, and Chinook Tribal members. No cultural resources were identified on the surface of the APE during those visits. The report authors examined the project area with a series of shovel test units on June 12 and July 9, 2003. A total of ten 30 cm diameter shovel test units were dug to a depth of 60 cm. The shovel test units were situated along the perimeter of the proposed plankhouse footprint (see attached sketch map). The excavated sediment was a silty loam occasionally mixed with cobbles that likely derive from the Troutdale geological formation. It is also possible that some of the cobbles are associated with developments (e.g., roads) by the early settlers.

We recovered a few artifacts from the shovel test pits within the top 15 cm of the surface. All artifacts were found in shovel test units located at the NW corner of the proposed plankhouse. Artifacts identified include 1 obsidian flake, 3 chert flakes, 3 possible basalt flakes, and 3 nail fragments. We also identified several broken river cobbles among the shovel test units. We cannot verify that these are fire altered cobbles; they may have broken by other natural or cultural means. We did not encounter a concentration of broken cobbles, nor did we detect reddening, cracking or charcoal staining of cobbles. Consequently, a cultural origin of the broken cobbles cannot be confidently established. No cultural features or deposits were identified in the profile or backdirt of the shovel test units.

The presence of a few historic and prehistoric artifacts in the APE indicates that people did use the proposed project area in the past. Indeed we know that the area was homesteaded in the 1800s. Prehistorically, the APE may have been visited by small groups based at Cathlapotle or some other riverside settlement to access acorns or hazelnuts in the uplands, or to rest after a wapato harvest in the neighboring wetlands. Such prehistoric activity does not leave a significant or identifiable archaeological deposit. Given the paucity of artifacts, lack of a cultural deposit, and likelihood of historic disturbance, we have concluded that the proposed plankhouse site does not contain a significant archaeological site that is eligible (or potentially eligible) to the National Register of Historic Places. No historic properties occur within the APE of the proposed project, therefore the project will not have an adverse affect on cultural resources.

References

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