

CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY COVER SHEET

Author: Sarah McDaniel, URS Corporation

Title: Cultural Resources Survey of the City of Castle Rock's Proposed Cowlitz River Boat Launch, Cowlitz County, Washington

Date: July 2007

County (ies): Cowlitz Section: 10 Township: 9N Range: 2 W E/W
Quad: Castle Rock Acres: 4

Does this replace a draft? Yes X No

Sites Found? Yes X No

TCP(s) found? Yes X No

OAHP Archaeological Site #:

REPORT CHECK LIST

Report should contain the following items:

- Clear objectives and methods
- A summary of the results of the survey
- A report of where the survey records and data are stored
- A research design that:
 - Details survey objectives
 - Details specific methods
 - Details expected results
 - Details area surveyed including map(s) and legal locational information
 - Details how results will be feedback in the planning process



July 30, 2007

TO: Mr. David Vorse
Director of Public Works
City of Castle Rock
P.O. Box 370
Castle Rock, Washington 98611

FR: Sarah McDaniel, MA, RPA

RE: **Cultural Resources Survey of the City of Castle Rock's Proposed Cowlitz River Boat Launch,
Cowlitz County, Washington**

The City of Castle Rock (the "City") is proposing to construct and operate the Cowlitz River Boat Launch, which would be located along the Cowlitz River in Castle Rock, Cowlitz County, Washington. The project requires receipt of a Section 404 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) due to proposed in-water work that would occur within jurisdictional waters. Because a federally-issued permit is required for this proposed undertaking, in accordance with requirements provided in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), URS Corporation (URS) is assisting the City with a cultural resource assessment designed to identify potentially significant resources within the project's Area of Potential Effect (APE). The following letter report summarizes the results of this investigation and recommends that the proposed project would have no effect on historic properties.

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT

The City of Castle Rock is proposing to build a public boat launch facility on a proposed site located west of the town of Castle Rock in Cowlitz County. The proposed area is located at approximately River Mile 17.4 just north of the Arkansas Valley Road Bridge. The Castle Rock School District currently owns the property, which is located in Township 9 North, Range 2 West, Section 10 (DLC 41), and is found on the USGS 7.5' Castle Rock, Washington, topographic quadrangle (Figure 1).

The APE is estimated to impact a maximum of four acres and is defined by the property boundaries on the south and east sides, the Cowlitz River bordering the east edge of the property including a portion of the Cowlitz River, and an approximated line perpendicular to the south portion of the bend in the river (Figure 2). The proposed project consists of a 53-foot wide two-lane boat ramp for the purpose of launching up to 25 boats per hour. The proposed boat launch project (Figure 2) also includes:

- a 2.5-acre parking lot consisting of 60 boat trailer spaces, 26 auto spaces, 4 disabled parking spaces, and vegetated islands
- a 20-foot wide access road
- a log boom structure to collect floating debris
- picnic areas
- a pathway
- a restroom
- shoreline improvements per jurisdictional guidelines.

URS Corporation
111 SW Columbia, Suite 1500
Portland, OR 97201
Tel: 503-222-7200
Fax: 503-222-4292

City of Castle Rock
Cowlitz River
Boat Launch
Vicinity Map

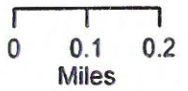
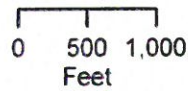
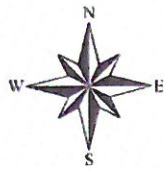
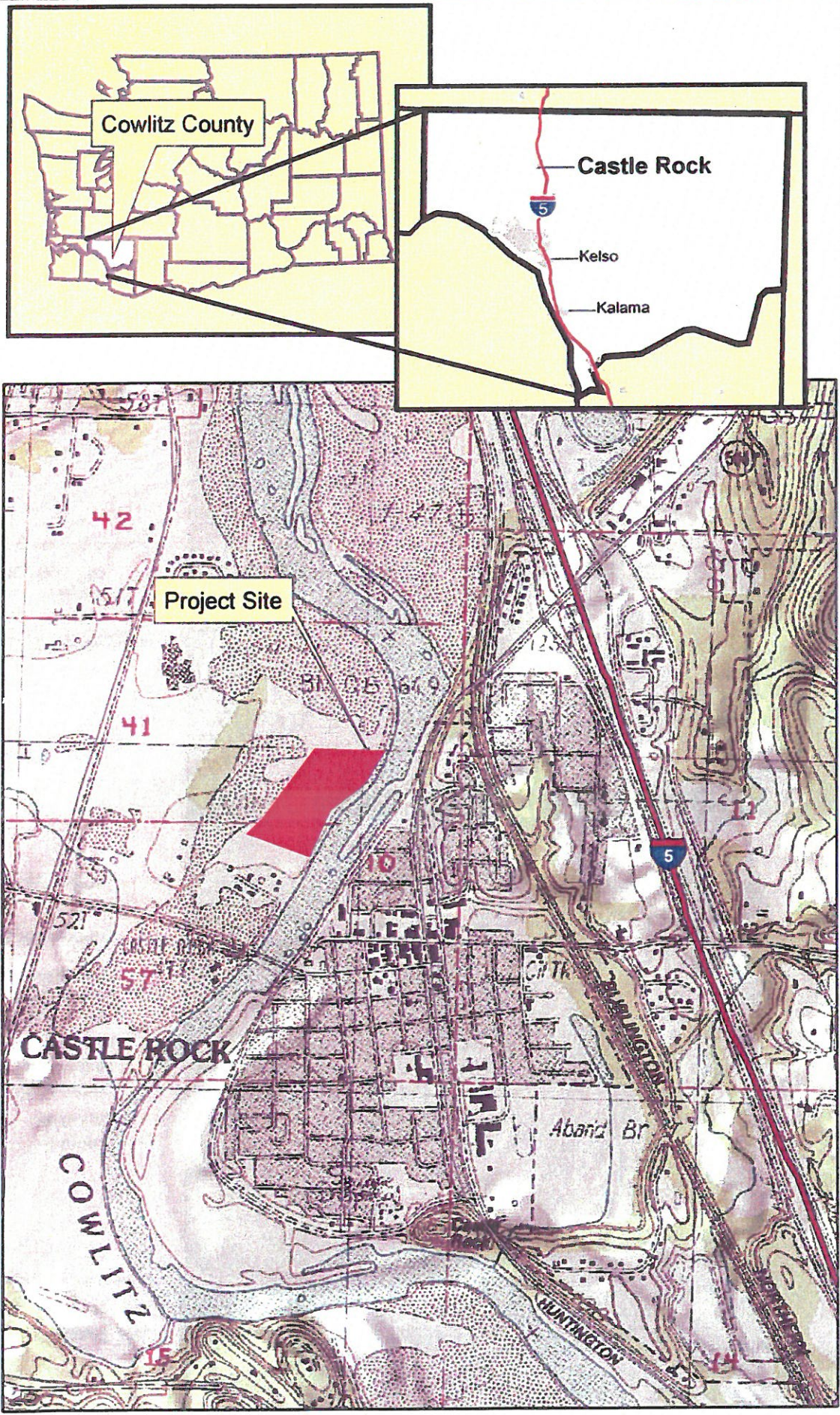


Figure 1
URS

The proposed Castle Rock boat launch site currently includes a vacant lot and a portion of the Cowlitz River and its shoreline. A single-lane gravel road crosses the site, and a combination asphalt and gravel bike path crosses the site along its east edge. The landform in and around the study area includes the sandy, cobbly shoreline of the Cowlitz River, a steep embankment at the edge of the river, and an adjacent river terrace. After the eruption of Mt. Saint Helens in 1980, the Army Corp of Engineers deposited dredge spoils approximately 50 to 80 feet to the west of the shoreline to cover the terrace landform. The dredged materials were deposited between River Miles 17.3 and 17.9 and are at least 12 feet deep in the area between Castle Rock High School and the Cowlitz River (see Attachment).

The study area is vegetated with grasses and weedy forbs except for a narrow (20 to 40 horizontal feet width) riparian area at the top-of-bank of the river. The site ranges in elevation from approximately 25 feet above sea level at the river bottom within the project study area, to 55 feet at the top-of-bank, to 65 feet above sea level on the terrace.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Plant communities on the site include the forest/scrub-shrub riparian fringe of the river and the grass/forb community on the dredge spoils. The riparian area is dominated by black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*), red alder (*Alnus rubra*), Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), velvetgrass (*Holcus lanatus*), Colonial bentgrass (*Agrostis capillaris*), reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*), and moth mullein (*Verbascum blattaria*).

The grass/forb community in the large flat terrace west of the riparian area is dominated by black cottonwood seedlings (*Populus trichocarpa*), scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), velvetgrass (*Holcus lanatus*), Colonial bentgrass (*Agrostis capillaris*), and tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*). Subdominants include numerous grasses and weedy species such as wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), spotted cat's ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), pigweed, (*Amaranthus* sp.), and tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*).

The soils in the study area include the Carrolls loamy sand and the Panamaker gravelly sand (NRCS 2001). Both types consist of volcanic dredge materials over mudflows. In a typical profile for the Carrolls loamy sand, the surface layer is dark-gray loamy sand to a depth of seven inches. Between 7 and 10 inches below ground surface (bgs) is a layer of gray very-fine sandy loam. The subsoil is dark grayish-brown loamy sand to 60 inches bgs. The Panamaker gravelly sand is comprised of very deep, excessively- drained, sandy dredge materials derived from volcanic mudflows. This soil is found on terraces. In a typical profile of the Panamaker gravelly sand, the surface layer is dark gray, gravelly sand to a depth of three inches. The subsoil is dark gray sand to 60 inches bgs. The depth to water table is below five feet.

The project area is subject to occasional flooding by the Cowlitz River to the 55.5-foot elevation. Ordinary high water mark (OHWM) is at the 48.5-foot elevation (Parsons Brinckerhoff 2005). According to the Cowlitz County Soil Survey (NRCS 2001), the water table varies from 0.5 feet bgs near the river to 5 feet bgs on the terrace.

The project is found within the southern extent of the Puget Trough physiological province characterized by the *Tsuga heterophylla* vegetation zone, of importance for timber production (Franklin and Dyrness 1988:70). In southwest Washington, paleoenvironmental data has been obtained from pollen samples taken from Davis Lake near Morton, Washington (Barnosky 1981), Fargher Lake near Merwin Dam (Heusser 1983), and Battle Ground Lake in Clark County (Barnosky 1985). The pollen cores demonstrate shifts in vegetation, and therefore climate; in the last 10,000 years, forest composition has changed at least three times, and the modern forest composition of Western hemlock and Western red cedar appears to have emerged by about 5,000 years ago.

River to the Washougal and Sandy rivers. Following Vancouver's expedition, no direct contact was recorded until the overland Lewis and Clark expedition camped opposite the Kalama River, noting an abandoned village at the mouth of the river (Urrutia 1998:22).

Within five years of the Lewis and Clark expedition, fur-traders began exploring the area. The Hudson's Bay Company established a trading post near the Cowlitz River, the Caweeman Post, and later the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, with a farm in the Cowlitz Valley near Toledo by 1839 (Urrutia 1998:28). Many other traders, missionaries, and explorers traveled through the Cowlitz corridor throughout the early nineteenth century, however, extensive permanent settlement by Euroamericans did not occur until the 1840s as Oregon Trail emigrants began to arrive en masse. Lt. Charles Wilkes passed through the Cowlitz Farm in 1841, impressed by the crops of wheat and by the horsemanship of the Cowlitz (Urrutia 1998:32). Catholic priests including Fathers Blachet and Bolduc settled around Cowlitz Farm in the 1840s (Urrutia 1998:34). By 1847, Scottish emigrant Peter W. Crawford was the first to claim land on the Cowlitz, near Kelso, and soon after began platting towns in this area (Urrutia 1998:39).

The first American settlers were the Jonathan Burbee family, who settled briefly near the mouth of the Kalama in 1847, and then moved up the Cowlitz where they harvested potatoes. The town of Castle Rock was founded by two Huntington brothers, Oregon Trail emigrants, who claimed land and established a post office in Castle Rock by 1854. In 1860, there were 58 people residing in the Castle Rock area (Jackson 1994:12). Early transportation was by water until a group of businessmen funded construction of the Freeport Road around 1853, which connected Monticello (present-day Longview) and the Arkansas (present-day Delameter) Valley (Jackson 1994:51). The Military Road was later established between Olympia and Monticello. The stage operated a station near the mouth of Arkansas Creek at the Jackson Inn until the Northern Pacific Railroad arrived in 1871 (Jackson 1994). The first school was opened in 1876, and the town was chartered in 1890 with a population of 681. The economy of early Castle Rock was based on lumber mills, specifically, the production of shingles (Jackson 1994; Urrutia 1998:51-53).

METHODS

Archival Research

To examine the extent of previous archaeological work in the project region, a record search was conducted at the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Olympia, on July 23, 2007. Data from previous surveys and previously recorded archaeological sites in the vicinity were reviewed. The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and Washington Heritage Register were consulted for a list of eligible or listed properties in the vicinity. Regional ethnographic, historic, and archaeological references were consulted.

The results indicate that few cultural resource surveys and few documented sites are recorded within a several-mile radius of the project area. Previous survey coverage within one mile of the project area has been limited to inventories conducted for dredge material disposal sites located along the Cowlitz River, all of which were found to have been previously used for placement of dredge spoils following the 1980 eruption of Mt. St. Helens (Fagan and Freed 1988); for road improvement projects along SR 411 (Robinson 1984, 1984a); and for a proposed linear fiber optic cable line (Iversen et al. 2000; Murphy et al. 2000). No significant cultural resources were recorded in the project vicinity as a result of these surveys.

Archaeological site 45CW10 is located about one mile to the south of the project area along the west bank of the Cowlitz River. This site was recorded in 1951 by the University of Washington, as reported by

On the west side of the Cowlitz River the embankment has not been reinforced, while on the opposite or east side of the river rip rap has been placed. Eroding shoreline along the river was closely examined for the presence of cultural resources. Several exposures, as well as limited amounts of shoreline associated with the receding water line, were examined within an approximate 900-foot long area along the shoreline (Photo 3). No cultural resources were observed.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The presence of dredged fill materials extending to depths of 12 feet across the project site precludes the use of usual methods of surface survey and exploratory subsurface sampling to identify cultural resources. However, the likelihood of encountering a potential significant cultural resource within the project area appears limited based on the following:

- 1) The depth of proposed project impacts would generally not exceed the depth of fill. With the exception of the boat ramp structure, construction of all other facilities associated with the Cowlitz River Boat Launch, including the restroom and parking lot, would occur within fill. The boat ramp would require excavation beyond 12 feet in depth and would include excavation of native soil in a small area measuring approximately 60 by 100 feet.
- 2) The entire project site is subject to modern and historic flood events. Occasional flooding by the Cowlitz River occurs to the 55.5 foot elevation (Parsons Brinckerhoff 2005), that is, to the top of the natural terrace embankment prior to placement of fill across the site. The theme of flooding of the Cowlitz River is outlined in Cowlitz origin stories (e.g., Wilson 1998:18-19), and substantial flood events have occurred in Castle Rock at least three times during the twentieth century (1906 [see Jackson 1994], 1980 [following the Mt. St. Helen's eruption], and during the winter of 1995-1996). Each of these flood events likely resulted in the deposition of overbank sediment within the current project area, possibly several feet in depth. Any potential pre-contact or ethnographic period sites along this section of the shoreline would likely have been impacted or obscured by flood events prior to the deposition of dredge spoils on the site during the 1980s.
- 3) The current survey of the shoreline, which provided some visibility of native soil, did not result in the identification of any cultural resources.

For these reasons, the project is considered to have little potential to affect any possible buried historic properties. Pending agency agreement with this conclusion, no additional work is required. However, in the event of an unanticipated discovery, in compliance with Washington state laws (e.g., RCW 27.44.040, 27.53.060, 27.53.090) and with various federal laws and regulations, all construction shall cease in the vicinity of the find until a qualified archaeologist can assess the discovery and identify an appropriate course of action.



Photo 3. View of the Cowlitz River shoreline, facing south, as seen from the proposed boat launch. The shoreline is characterized by a steep slope in this area.



Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service)

1974 Soil Survey of Cowlitz County, Washington. United States Department of Agriculture.

Parsons Brinckerhoff

2005 Riverine Hydraulic Characteristics, Castle Rock Boat Ramp, Castle Rock, Washington. May 18, 2005.

Pettigrew, Richard

1981 A Prehistoric Culture Sequence in the Portland Basin of the Lower Columbia Valley. University of Oregon Anthropological Papers No. 22.

Robinson, Joan M.

1984 An Archaeological Reconnaissance of SR 411: County Road 10 to Hazel Dell Road, Cowlitz County, Washington (L-6382). January 20, 1984. Letter report on file, Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Olympia.

1984a Archaeological Monitoring of SR 411 Hazel Dell Road to County Road 10, Cowlitz County, Washington (TAD 294). May 7, 1984. Letter report on file, Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Olympia.

Ruby, Robert H. and John A. Brown

1992 *A Guide to the Indian Tribe of the Pacific Northwest*. University of Oklahoma Press: Norman.

Silverstein, Michael

1990 Chinookans of the Lower Columbia. In *Northwest Coast*, edited by W. Suttles, pp. 340-358. Handbook of North American Indians, vol. 7. W.C. Sturtevant, general editor. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Urrutia, Virginia

1998 They Came to Six Rivers: The Story of Cowlitz County. Published by the Cowlitz County Historical Society, Kelso, Washington.

Wilson, Roy I.

1998 *Legends of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe*. Published by the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Longview, Washington.

Attachment:

Letter from the USACE Regarding Placement of Dredge Spoils at the Project Site



Reply to
Attention of:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PORTLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 2946
PORTLAND, OREGON 97208-2946

07 MAR 2007

Engineering and Construction Division

SUBJECT: Right Bank Dredge Spoil Area Adjacent To Cowlitz River, RM 17.3 To 17.9

Mr. David Vorse
Director of Public Works
City of Castle Rock
P.O. Box 370
Castle Rock, Washington 98611

Dear Mr. Vorse:

This correspondence is in response to your question regarding the depth of dredge spoils deposited on the right bank the Cowlitz River from approximately RM 17.3 to RM 17.9 by the Army Corps of Engineers during channel clearing operations following the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens.

I had my staff review the elevation contours for this area both before and after placement of the dredged materials and have determined the fill is at least 12 feet deep in the area between the High School and the Cowlitz River (see enclosure).

If you have any additional questions, please contact Mr. Jerry Christensen of this office at (503) 808-4906.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard B. Jones".
Howard B. Jones, P.E.
Chief, Engineering and Construction Division

Enclosure