

# San Juan County Inadvertent Discovery Plan

In the event that any ground-disturbing activities or other project activities related to this development or in any future development uncover protected cultural material (e.g., bones, shell, antler, horn or stone tools), the following Actions will be taken:

1. If any employee, contractor, or subcontractor believes that they have uncovered cultural resources or human remains at any point in the project, take the following steps to **Stop-Protect-Notify**. If you suspect that the discovery includes human remains, also follow Action 5.
2. **Stop Work:** All work must stop immediately within 30 feet of the discovery.
3. **Protect the Discovery:** Leave the discovery and the surrounding area untouched and create a clear, identifiable, and wide boundary (30 feet or larger) with temporary fencing, flagging, stakes, or other clear markings. Provide protection and ensure integrity of the discovery until cleared by the Department of Archaeological and Historical Preservation (DAHP) or a licensed, professional archaeologist. Do not permit vehicles, equipment, or unauthorized personnel to traverse the discovery site. Do not allow work to resume within the boundary until the requirements of this IDP are met.
4. **Notify:** When an unanticipated discovery of protected cultural material (see definitions below) occurs, the property owner or contractor will contact:
  - a) The **property owner and project manager;**
  - b) The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) Local Government Archaeologist (**Jessica Stone**, 360-890-2633);
  - c) **Lena Tso**, THPO, Lummi Nation (360-312-2257, 360-961-7752 cell);
  - d) **Jackie Ferry**, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Samish Indian Nation (360-726-3399, 360-770-7784 cell),
  - e) **San Juan County Community Development**, 360-370-7586.
5. If the discovery is **human remains**, the property owner or contractor will stop work in and adjacent to the discovery, completely secure the work area by moving the land-altering equipment to a reasonable distance, and will immediately contact:
  - a) The **property owner and project manager;**
  - b) The **San Juan County Sheriff's Department** (360-378-4151)
  - c) The **San Juan County Coroner** (360-378-4101) to determine if the remains are forensic in nature;
  - d) and **San Juan County Community Development**, 360-370-7586;
  - e) If the remains are not forensic in nature, the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) (**Jessica Stone**, 360-890-2633 and **Guy Tasa**, 360-790-1633) will take the lead on determining the appropriate method of treatment for the remains and will consult with the Affected Tribes;

**Cultural material that may be protected by law could include but not be limited to:**

1. Buried layers of black soil with layers of shell, charcoal, and fish and mammal bones (Figure 1).
2. Buried cobbles that may indicate a hearth feature;
3. Non-natural sediment or stone deposits that may be related to activity areas of people;
4. Stone, bone, shell, horn, or antler tools that may include projectile points (arrowheads),
5. scrapers, cutting tools, wood working wedges or axes, and grinding stones (Figures 2 and 3);
6. Stone tools or stone flakes (Figures 2 and 3);
7. Perennially damp areas may have preservation conditions that allow for remnants of wood and other plant fibers; in these locations there may be remains including fragments of basketry, weaving, wood tools, or carved pieces; and
8. Human remains.

**Figure 1:** Shell Middens. These middens can extend into the intertidal zone in areas that have undergone sea level rise during the precontact period.



**Figure 2:** Examples of stone and bone tools.



**Figure 3:** Examples of stone flakes.



**Figure 4:** Examples of underwater/intertidal archaeological features including wood or stone fish weirs (left), clam gardens (bottom), or sunken canoes (right) or other watercraft.

