



Guidance on Built Environment Desktop Review (BEDR)

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

This guidance is provided for grantees whose Grant Award included a condition requiring the completion of a Built Environment Desktop Review (BEDR) to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as well as the [2025 Programmatic Agreement](#) between the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

To assess the overall sensitivity of the project area and determine whether the project may be excluded from further review, OWEB requires that the grantee complete a BEDR using a qualified architectural historian. The Oregon Department of Transportation maintains a [contractor directory](#) for those interested in hiring an architectural historian.

The purpose of this task is for the contractor to conduct archival and background research to develop a historic context statement for any building or structure identified in the [Area of Potential Effect](#) (APE) and evaluate these resources for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Literature Review

The contractor shall conduct record searches and literature reviews for the APE provided by the applicant in the grant application. At a minimum, the consultant shall examine the following databases and documents:

- Reports, current bibliographies, and site/survey records maintained by the Oregon SHPO in the Oregon Archaeological Records Remote Access (OARRA) archaeological database
- Historic Sites Database (HSD) maintained by the Oregon SHPO
- Studies maintained by Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (including those not inventoried in the OARRA or the HSD)
- Historic Maps (General Land Office maps; Historic Topographic maps; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps)
- Tax Records
- Title Search
- Other record archives (e.g., historical societies, tribal archives, public and university libraries) and documents as appropriate.

A historic context statement shall be developed for any building or structure, and any building or structure shall be evaluated against the context statement for eligibility to the NRHP. Input from any consulting parties shall be considered in the evaluation. The context statement and the results of the BEDR will be documented in a memo and emailed to Cultural.Resources@oweb.oregon.gov for review with the email subject BEDR: then the Application Number and Application Name. OWEB may request additional information if there are questions during the review of the report.