



Guidance on Preliminary Desktop Cultural Resource Assessment (PDCRA)

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

This guidance is provided for grantees whose Grant Award included a condition requiring the completion of a Preliminary Desktop Cultural Resource Assessment (PDCRA) 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 PDCRA using a qualified cultural resource contractor. The Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (Oregon SHPO) provides a helpful [bulletin](#) for individuals and organizations interested in hiring an archaeologist, and the Association of Oregon Archaeologists offers a [contractor directory](#).

Literature Review

The contractor shall conduct record searches and literature reviews for the [Area of Potential Effect](#) provided by the applicant in the above-mentioned grant application, including a one-mile radius. The contractor shall, at a minimum, 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 OARRA or the HSD)
- Historic Maps (General Land Office maps, Historic Topographic maps, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps)
- [General Land Office Patents](#)
- [LiDAR, if available through DOGAMI](#)
- [USGS Historic Aerials](#)
- Geomorphology
- Other record archives (e.g., historical societies, tribal archives, public and university libraries) and documents as appropriate.

The results of the PDCRA will be documented in a report and emailed to Cultural.Resources@oweb.Oregon.gov for review with the email subject PDCRA: then the Application Number and Application Name. OWEB may request additional information if there are questions during the review of the report.