

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Implementing
Executive Order 13287 “Preserve America”**

**Section 3: Reporting Progress on the Identification, Protection and Use of
Historic Properties**

For the Period October 2020 – September 2023

September 2023



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

I. Background

Section 3(c) of Executive Order 13287, “Preserve America”, requires the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) to prepare a report to the President every third year on the state of the federal government’s historic properties and their contribution to local economic development using information provided by federal agencies. This report gives agencies an opportunity to showcase their management and use of historic properties and provides a review of the larger national federal historic preservation and stewardship program. The ACHP makes their report available to the public online as well as delivers the report to the President, Congress, other agencies and preservation partners.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is responsible for a nationwide cultural resources program managed by 38 Districts and eight Divisions that spans the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii. USACE has three Centers of Expertise to support internal and external needs: the Mandatory Center of Expertise for the Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections, St. Louis District; the Technical Center of Expertise for the Preservation of Historic Buildings and Structures, Seattle District; and the Tribal Nations Technical Center of Expertise, Albuquerque District. USACE’s Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, Engineering Research and Development Center, Champaign, Illinois, maintains the Cultural Resources Management Team, to provide additional cultural resources and historic property management services to USACE, other Department of Defense organizations and installations, and other federal agencies.

USACE is responsible for the stewardship of over 12 million acres of public lands and waters and over 60,000 recorded cultural resources sites including Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP). Approximately 1,425 of these sites are listed on or have been determined eligible for the listing on the National Register of Historic Places and include over a dozen National Historic Landmarks. Heritage Assets under the jurisdiction of USACE include a wide variety of archaeological and historic sites, shipwrecks, and other resources. USACE is responsible for approximately 51,000 cubic/linear feet of artifact collections and associated records resulting from excavations on USACE lands. As of September 2023, the USACE employed 230 historic preservation specialists throughout its Districts, Divisions, Centers of Expertise, and Research Centers to administer this expansive program.

Cultural resources management at USACE operating projects is guided by Engineering Regulation 1130-2-540, *Environmental Stewardship Operations and Maintenance Policies*, and its companion pamphlet, Engineering Pamphlet 1130-2-540, *Environmental Stewardship and Maintenance Guidance and Procedures*. The regulation and pamphlet establish guidance for the collection, preservation and curation of archaeological and historic materials. USACE regulation requires cultural resources management plans or historic property management plans for resources

found at these projects.

Many of the USACE operating projects maintain visitors centers with interpretive displays on the history of the operating project as well as the project's cultural and natural resources. USACE operating projects and associated recreation areas interpret historic buildings and structures with educational signs to promote historic and cultural heritage. USACE also partners with others to provide resources and volunteers to protect and interpret its sites and utilize its historic properties.

USACE sponsors and participates in activities associated with events focused on cultural resources and historic properties under USACE stewardship (Table 1). In 2021, USACE on-site events totaled 2,847 activities across 60 operating projects in 23 districts representing all eight USACE divisions. USACE participated in 59 off-site events involving 27 operating projects in 14 districts representing six divisions. For 2022, USACE sponsored 1,674 on-site events involving 34 operating projects in 23 districts and eight divisions and participated in 124 off-site events involving 18 operating projects in 12 districts representing six divisions.

Table 1: USACE On-Site and Off-Site Events involving cultural resources and historic properties at USACE operating projects and recreation areas.

Activity*	FY2021	FY2022**
On-Site Contacts	87,899	55,619
On-Site Events	2,847	1,674
Off-Site Contacts	14,402	13,139
Off-Site Events	59	124
Social Media	963	903

*On-Site Events are interpretive efforts (guided tours, living history, public meetings, etc.) taking place on Corps lands related to cultural resources and historic properties under Corps stewardship; Off-Site events include virtual programs, school programs, fairs, etc., related to cultural resources and historic properties under Corps stewardship

**FY2023 data not yet available

This current report emphasizes the Preserve America themes of innovative identification efforts and collaboration with others to identify or use USACE historic properties. This collaboration includes working with Tribes and the utilization of their indigenous knowledge in the continued stewardship of cultural resources on USACE lands. A case study detailing the execution of a new programmatic agreement for the operation and maintenance of the Willamette Valley Projects to provide improved consultation and collaboration at these sites is provided in Appendix A.

II. Innovative Identification Efforts

A. Historic Human Remains Detection Dogs

The use of human remains detection dogs or historic human remains detection dogs is a relatively new non-invasive method for locating archaeological sites that likely include human remains. Historic human remains detection dogs are specially trained to detect the scent of buried human bones and can detect graves more than 100 years

old to a depth of approximately six feet below the ground surface. Research to consider their effectiveness as a non-invasive method to identify burials is limited. The National Park Service, National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, is undertaking a research project to augment the existing work, which includes a study conducted by USACE Construction Engineering Research Laboratory in 2015. In the past year, Detroit and Seattle Districts conducted surveys, at the request of their consulting Tribes, using historic human remains detection dogs that may provide additional information on the future potential for these types of investigations.

- The Detroit District, at the request of its consulting Tribes, utilized historic human remains dogs to survey an area where an inadvertent discovery of human remains had previously occurred to determine if there were additional remains. The dogs were able to identify adjacent areas that may contain human remains for further testing and survey.
- Mobile District is currently conducting archaeological research at Fort Scott (c.1816), Lake Seminole, Jim Woodruff Lock and Dam, in Decatur County, Georgia. This work is focused on delineating and mapping buried elements of the fort, defining the sites boundaries, and assessing the potential need for measures to protect the site from erosion. Ground penetrating radar was used to map and delineate buried elements of the fort and pinpoint locations for archaeological excavations. Historic human remains detection dogs will be deployed to search for a cemetery containing the remains of military personnel.
- Seattle District contracted the use of historic human remains detection dogs at Lake Rufus Woods/Chief Joseph Dam to identify potential burial sites along the reservoir for future stabilization, protection, or, if necessary, recovery efforts (Figures 1 and 2).

B. Geophysical Survey Techniques and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles/Aircraft Systems

Other non-invasive survey techniques have been used to identify and monitor sites and/or site conditions on USACE managed lands. A few districts have incorporated the use of unmanned aerial vehicles/aircraft systems or drones in those investigations.

- Seattle District partnered with the Kootenai National Forest to contract the use of drones at Lake Koocanusa and Lake Pend Oreille to monitor erosion at remote archaeological sites (Figure 3). Using the information gathered by the drone, the contractor produced an ArcGIS story map illustrating the changes to landforms from 2018 to 2021 in a variety of 2D and 3D formats (<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/d1c2f2a6e4be41ef9385b31dd7ce26c7>).



*Figure 1: Human Remains Detection Dogs and Handlers at work
(Lake Rufus Woods 2023).*



*Figure 2: Human Remains Detection Dogs and Handlers at work
(Lake Rufus Woods 2023).*



Figure 3: Contractor preparing for UAV flight (Lake Koocanusa, 2021).

- As part of the Federal Columbia River Power System Cultural Resources Program, the Portland District accomplished geomorphic mapping and geo-probe sediment coring at seven reservoirs to identify erosional processes affecting known cultural resources as well as Holocene-aged soil contacts where archeological sites are likely to be present. Also, the District completed a remote sensing survey to identify cultural resources and assess effects of dam operations. These investigations included Civil Air Patrol and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (drone) high resolution aerial imagery, ground penetrating radar, and boat-based side scan sonar and sub bottom profiling geophysical surveys.

C. Use of Digital Information to identify, preserve and project historic properties

Most Districts utilize internal GIS databases to manage cultural resources information related to projects. Increased use of digital information to identify, preserve, and protect historic properties has created unique opportunities to add value to existing data, creating additional efficiency in project planning.

- Baltimore District is completing a project to digitize all of their cultural resources reports. The District also uses digital GIS databases for Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia planning for proposed undertakings and for land management decision making. Geospatial information is also received from non-federal sponsors or local sources when formulating Civil Works projects. Additionally, the District works with interagency partners to assist them with identifying historic properties on their lands (for example Military Installations, Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Land Management, US Department of Agriculture, and Bureau of Engraving and Printing).
- The Philadelphia District has a digitized cultural resources report database with all USACE projects up to 2010 and will be adding reports dated 2011-2023 when possible. The District utilizes digital GIS databases managed by the Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Offices for both recorded cultural resources as well as archaeological sensitivity within each project's area of potential effect. The District uses this data to assist with making decisions on the avoidance and minimization of adverse effects to historic properties.
- Similarly, the Mobile District cultural resources management team is in the process of digitizing old reports and documents and organizing digital reports, GIS shapefiles, and other forms of site information into a searchable data base. Mobile District relies on digital web-based information sources such as digital libraries and state site files to conduct background research, develop cultural contexts, and determine National Register of Historic Places eligibility for potential historic properties. Mobile District archaeologists also conduct Phase I cultural resources surveys and Phase II resources assessment projects and employ sub-meter GPS technology to collect accurate locational data for historic period and pre-Contact era resources. These data are analyzed with ArcGIS/ArcPro to prepare cultural resources management documents for Section 106 consultations on determinations of effect, resource avoidance, and mitigation.
- Rock Island District archeology staff have implemented a geographically based digital filing convention that allows for more expedient identification of past planning projects and compliance reviews for District historic properties. The District is working to identify and integrate this data and explore ways to link

digitized or digital data sources within a single searchable geospatial database, as recommended previously by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Preserve America 2007 and 2018) and the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (2019).

- The Albuquerque District manages its own internal GIS databases as well as using the New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System (NMCRI), the State of Colorado's COMPASS database, the State of Texas's ATLAS database; and Arizona's AZSITE database. The District has a data sharing agreement with New Mexico that includes the delivery of customized data requests and database materials annually from NMCRI. Geospatial information is primarily used for the management of cultural resources on District fee-owned land as well as in planning studies. The District also uses this data for higher-level analytical purposes, such as the potential for adverse effects to sites through lake level fluctuations or drawdowns.
- Portland District uses GIS to track the location of historic properties. Older survey reports and site records have been scanned and digitized for better access. The District cross references information on file with the State Historic Preservation Office and its internal database. The District works with the State Historic Preservation Officers to improve the accuracy and consistency of the data that both agencies manage.
- Portland District has also been digitizing a collection of approximately 50,000 construction-era photographs of the Willamette Valley Project dams, dating from the 1930s through the 1970s. A team has been organizing the imagery to include meta data crucial to assign provenience to the photographs, thereby making them a functional research tool. The team has worked with the Portland District library to upload the photographs to the Corps Digital Library, making them available to the public as well as Corps staff.

III. Use of USACE-managed Historic Property

A. Collaboration with Other Federal Agencies

- The New York District frequently works with interagency partners including military installations for the identification and management of historic properties on installation lands. Recently the New York District supported the U.S. Military Army Garrison, West Point, in their partnership with the Stockbridge Munsee Community, by the award of a contract and management of a study on the Revolutionary War Stockbridge Company of Militia, led by Munsee Sachem Daniel Nimham, and their involvement in the Battle of Kingsbridge, at which the militia company was defeated by the British on August 31, 1778.
- The Baltimore District owns and operates the Washington Aqueduct that provides fresh drinking water to Washington, D.C. It is a National Historic Landmark and has additional later features that are eligible for the National

Register Historic Preservation. The District continues to use historic features that date to the Aqueduct's construction in the mid-19th century. Successfully using historic dated components to operate a modern utility presents unique challenges. The District works closely with the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office, Maryland State Historic Preservation Office, Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, National Park Service, Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Capital Planning Commission to avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential adverse effects as the District balances its stewardship of the Landmark with its mission to maintain climate resilient service to the Washington, D.C. area.

- The Wilmington District manages the Buffalo Springs Historical Archaeological District located at John H. Kerr Reservoir near Clarksville, Virginia. The site includes the remains of a 19th century resort and includes historic structures, interpretive panels, and a self-guided tour for visitors to the reservoir. Occoneechee State Park, a part of John H. Kerr Lake, is leased to the state of Virginia and managed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and a non-profit group, Friends of Occoneechee State Park. The park has an extensive exhibit entitled "The Occaneechi Story" about the Tribe for which the park was named and includes a historical marker, a visitor center display, and a replica dwelling. The park also interprets the 19th century plantation site located within the leased area.
- The Wilmington District, through its leases with the State of North Carolina and management by the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation, has enabled the use and interpretation of a several historic properties. The James Mangum House, at Falls Lake near Creedmoor, is used as a park ranger residence. The John A. Mason House at B. Everett Jordan Lake, near Chapel Hill, is leased as a residence that is periodically opened to the public. Rockcliff Farm at Falls Lake, near Wake Forest, is open to guided tours. The site was home to B.W. Wells, an ecologist and conservationist of the southeast coastal plain of North Carolina, moved to the area in 1954 because of its geology and floral. While there he cataloged the plant life, championing the area for protection as a wild place. The B.W. Wells Association assists the District with the interpretation and tours of the 80-acre farm (<http://www.bwwells.org/>).
- The Nashville District has been seeking opportunities for use of two historic Resource Manager Residence houses. The Center Hill Dam Commander's residence dates to the construction of the dam (1943- 1951). It was used to house the District Commander during the construction of the dam, and later, Resource Managers. The Dale Hollow Resource Manager's Residence dates to 1962, post-dates dam construction (1943-1947). However, it remains a contributing element to an overall historic district. Both had been used as temporary quarters for USACE employees from the 1980's through 2019. The Government Accountability Office determined that the use for temporary quarters was not in the government interest causing the need to identify new uses. After several years of searching the Center Hill Lake is currently being

considered for lease by a state agency. A formal agreement is forthcoming. The Dale Hollow Residence office will be converted to offices and conference room. The major obstacle is the rural nature of the locations and lack of need for buildings.

- The Pittsburgh District has entered into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management regarding the use of the District's Crooked Creek Lake dam tender dwelling #2 as a Bureau field office. This dam tender dwelling is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Under this agreement, the Bureau will rehabilitate the building using the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties Guidelines.
- The Rock Island District Office, also known as the Clock Tower (Storehouse A), is included on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing resource of the Rock Island Arsenal (Ref # 69000057) and has served as the district headquarters office space since the 1930s (Figure 4). Originally constructed in the 1860s as a storehouse for the Arsenal during the Civil War, the building was rehabilitated as administrative, laboratory, and storage space by the Works Progress Administration to provide a location from which USACE civilian staff could oversee the construction of Lock and Dam No.15 on the Mississippi River. Consisting of four main floors, a six-story tower, and a basement, the Arsenal is built of limestone block quarried from nearby sources in LeClaire, Iowa.

The Clock Tower building was constructed on the site of what was Fort Armstrong (1816-1855), of which archaeological remains have potentially been identified. Additional survey to evaluate these remains is planned to occur in 2024. The fort was garrisoned by United States troops until May 4, 1836, and served as headquarters for the Sauk and Fox Indian Agent from 1836 to 1838 and a military depot from 1840 to 1845. It was also the location of the signing of the Black Hawk Purchase in 1832, and prior to acquisition by the federal government in 1809 Rock Island, was used as the summer camp site for Sauk Native Americans.

A Quonset style motor shop and engineer depot was constructed adjacent to the Clock Tower in 1941 to house the District's growing motor fleet. In 1981 a second story was added along with a brick exterior to allow use of the building as additional office space, after which it became known as the Annex. Continual use of the Clock Tower Building & Annex as the District workforce has continued to expand has resulted in the need for many rehabilitation projects including window replacements, interior remodeling, utility updates, and exterior stonework. The District works diligently to meet the challenge to maintain operations while



Figure 4: Clock Tower Building, Rock Island District (September 2023).

balancing the historic preservation needs for this important multi-component heritage site, significant to the history of Native American tribes, the U.S. Army, and federal civil works.

B. Federally-Recognized Tribes

- The Seattle, Portland and Walla Walla Districts collaborate with tribes by protecting historic properties through the Federal Columbia River Power System Cultural Resources Program. Each dam project within the program (Albeni Falls, Chief Joseph and Libby Dams) maintains a cooperating group consisting of local tribes, USACE, and Bonneville Power Administration staff, the State Historic Preservation Office, and other land managing agencies such as Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. These groups each meet at least quarterly and partner to complete the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 process for undertakings associated with the operations and maintenance of the dams and associated reservoirs. This partnering includes planning and enacting the full suite of Section 106 activities from identification through treatment of adverse effects and development of project specific programmatic agreements and

historic properties management plans. The Seattle District and Bonneville Power Administration serve as the lead federal agencies and fund the activities through Bonneville Power Administration's sale of the power generated at the dams and with Congressional appropriated funding support.

- The Seattle District contracted with tribes to provide ethnographic knowledge and context to support efforts to identify and treat traditional cultural properties at all three Federal Columbia River Power Systems reservoirs. These efforts included ethnographic interviews with elder communities, translation of historic documents from other languages (both indigenous and European), digitization of tribal ethnographic data, and the creation of GIS projects and associated digital story maps.
- The Kalispell Tribe employed Vibracore sampling to identify buried sites in seasonally inundated areas at Lake Pend Oreille (Figures 5 and 6). The project was conducted jointly with the Bonneville Power Authority and Idaho Fish and Game on USACE owned lands.
- Seattle District also partnered with tribes to closely monitor and/or interact with visitors at important cultural sites to deter vandalism and increase the respect given to the resources by the local recreation communities at Lake Pend Oreille.
- The Portland District Wana Pa Koot Koot cooperating group of the Federal Columbia River Power Systems program contracts with tribes to identify historic properties of religious and cultural significance to Indian tribes, including cultural landscapes. Portland District also has an ongoing contract with Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Enforcement (CRITFE) to patrol the three lower Columbia River projects, consisting of 148 miles of river shoreline across two states and ten counties. As part of this contract, the CRITFE Officers provide free Archaeological Resources Protection Act training to local law enforcement, park rangers, and tribal members in the area.



*Figure 5: Vibracore samples from the Pack River Estuary
(Lake Pend Oreille, 2023).*



*Figure 6: Vibracore samples from the Pack River Estuary
(Lake Pend Oreille, 2023).*

- As part of the Wana Pa Koot Koot cooperating group activities, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon completed a Traditional Cultural Landscape study in the Willamette Valley that is being used to support National Historic Preservation Act and National Environmental Policy Act work and the update to the operating projects' Historic Preservation Management Plans. The Cowlitz Tribe has completed an ethnographic report related to Mount St. Helens. The Wana Pa Koot Koot program completes multiple contracts with tribes each year to identify and document historic properties of religious and cultural significance to Indian Tribes on the Columbia River.
- The San Francisco District is also developing Memoranda of Understanding with Tribal Nations to ensure there is collaboration on projects and programs that are under the District's jurisdiction to address any Tribal concerns regarding protected historic properties, Tribal resources, Tribal rights, and Indian lands, and to resolve concerns relating to access to protected Tribal resources. One example of this includes a memorandum of understanding between the District and the Yurok Tribe, who is partnering with the District on four ecosystem restoration and infrastructure projects following the removal of four dams on the Klamath River. This partnership will allow for the restoration of over 400 miles of newly opened fish habitat, the restoration of formerly inundated lands, and the elimination of annual toxic algae blooms which occur within the existing reservoirs.
- The San Francisco District is also collaborating with several Bay Area Tribes to update the Lake Sonoma Cultural Resources Management Plan. Tribal collaboration on this study will allow the District USACE to evaluate the significant of over 170 cultural resources and protect historic properties from unintended or accidental destruction. The cultural resources management plan will also help ensure compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations that govern and provide guidance for good stewardship in protecting and managing our nation's cultural heritage.
- Mobile District and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma maintain a Memorandum of Understanding to enable the Tribe to gather cultural keystone plants and materials in the Tennessee-Tombigbee Project area.
- Jacksonville District is working with the Seminole Tribe of Florida on an ethnographic survey, conducted by the Tribe, to identify cultural resources that may assist in the location, protection, and/or preservation of historic properties for projects associated with the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.
- The San Francisco District is incorporating new Indigenous Knowledge

and Environmental Justice guidance into its section 106 consultations to increase the identification of historic property efforts, allowing for greater environmental and cultural justice outcomes during project planning. Examples include the identification of a tidal marsh as a cultural resource used by a local Tribal community, the Confederated Villages of Lisjan, at Eden Landing in Hayward, California. The District is also incorporating Indigenous Knowledge into our environmental restoration projects, including replanting culturally significant plants. Recently, the Tribal biologist for the Dry Creek Rancheria of Pomo Indians made important recommendations to the District about what plants work best at what locations for the Dry Creek Restoration project.

C. Collaboration with SHPO

The Omaha District has partnered with the South Dakota Historic Preservation Office in a summer day camp for children. The camp is designed to teach participants archeological field techniques and the importance of preserving and protecting cultural resources. The most recent camp was held in June 2023 in Fort Pierre, South Dakota. Similarly, the Kansas City District to partner with the Kansas State Historical Society and the Missouri Archaeological Training Program to provide training to the public while conducting archeological surveys and testing projects at Pomona and Stockton State Parks.

D Collaboration with others

- Sacramento District worked with the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency enable to purchase a Native American mound site as part of the mitigation to resolve adverse effects to historic properties as part of the American River Common Features Project. The property will be maintained and protected in perpetuity by Sacrament Area Flood Control Agency.
- San Francisco District partnered with the Veterans Affairs and Engineering Research and Development Center to assist with preservation efforts at the Mare Island Navy Cemetery, which included geophysical survey to identify the location of unmarked burials that are at risk to active and ongoing erosion.
- New England District working with the Mansfield Historical Society, is developing interpretive panels detailing the history and the significance of the Mansfield Hollow dam and other USACE dams in Connecticut that were built in response to floods that occurred in 1936 and 1938. The interpretive panels are part of a mitigation project for the demolition of the former dam Operators Quarters, a contributing resource of the National Register listed Mansfield Hollow Dam. The Dam is one of several post World War II flood control dams completed in New England and the first in Connecticut. The Quarters were constructed in the early 20th Century on lands acquired for the Dam, which was moved to its current location in 1951. In addition to the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office and the Mansfield Historical Society, the New England District has coordinated and consulted with the general public and the Mansfield Historical District

Commission on alternatives for the Quarters, which included purchase or relocation. Unfortunately, no party came forward to purchase or relocate the structure and the District is proceeding with demolition and removal.

- LRN Mill Springs Mill, Monticello, Kentucky continues to serve as a focal point for heritage tourism. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was recently added as a non-contributing element to the Mill Springs National Historic Battlefield. The Mill is open to the public through a cooperative agreement with the Monticello Women's Club. Educational events throughout the year include corn milling and stone sharpening activities.

III. Opportunities and Challenges

In the past three years, hiring cultural resources staff has been problematic. One District reports that the last eight hires have only remained at the District for approximately 2.25 years and two only stayed for a year. With the increase in infrastructure projects, agencies are trying to increase staffing from a limited pool of applicants. There is competition between federal and state agencies and these agencies and contractors for staff to meet the need and to stay operational. Even when staff was brought into a District office, there have been a number of examples where staff leave almost immediately for other positions. Hiring staff either inexperienced or experienced has become difficult across the nation. Some Districts are addressing the shortage of new hires by sharing workloads and technical support regionally.

Appendix A
Preserve America
US Army Corps of Engineers
Case Study
Programmatic Agreement for the Willamette Valley Project
September 2023

In June 2022, the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) executed a Section 106 Programmatic Agreement (PA) for undertakings related to the operations and maintenance of the Willamette Valley Project. The Willamette Valley Project is comprised of 13 multipurpose dams and reservoirs in four counties in western Oregon (Figure 1). The PA standardizes and streamlines the USACE's approach to accounting for potential impacts to historic properties thereby allowing the USACE to focus its staff and resources on complex projects likely to have a greater effect on the area's cultural resources and historic properties. For example, the PA includes a list of low-risk projects that the consulting parties agreed do not warrant additional consultation and have reduced reporting requirements.

"Through this agreement, our actions and decisions will align more deliberately and consistently with the expectations of the nation, tribes, states, and partners," said Erik Petersen, the USACE's Willamette Valley operations project manager. "The result will be better, more efficient protection and stewardship of important cultural and historic values and resources."

The PA was developed over 18 months of robust consultation, including monthly working group meetings and discussions. Instead of providing a draft document for review and comment, consulting parties met each month to review different parts of the document, including real time edits to address concerns and incorporate best practices. USACE, ACHP, Oregon SHPO, Indian Tribes, recreational partners, and other interested parties heard and addressed concerns in real time. The PA defines roles, responsibilities, and communication protocols to ensure the USACE is using its funding and personnel wisely for the preservation and management of cultural resources and historic properties. It also establishes continued engagement with consulting parties and other processes to ensure cultural resources are considered early in project planning.

"It's not every day that local governments, local organizations, state and federal agencies, sovereign tribal governments, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation engage together in the 106 process in the way that the legislation intended," said Oregon Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Chrissy Curran. "It's not lost on me that successful collaboration, negotiation, and meaningful consultation represent something far bigger in our world today than a project agreement" (Figure 2).

Since execution in June 2022, USACE has already seen the benefits of the PA including expedited review and more deliberate response to infrastructure emergencies

while still ensuring that consulting parties are notified, and their comments incorporated into Corps' practices. USACE estimates that approximately 1,000 cultural and historical resources are located within its area of operations in the Willamette Valley. They include archaeological sites, historic buildings, landscapes with cultural or religious significance to Indian tribes, and even the USACE's own Willamette Valley Project infrastructure—the protection of which helps to preserve the region's history and heritage for future generations.

13 USACE RESERVOIRS OF THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY, OR

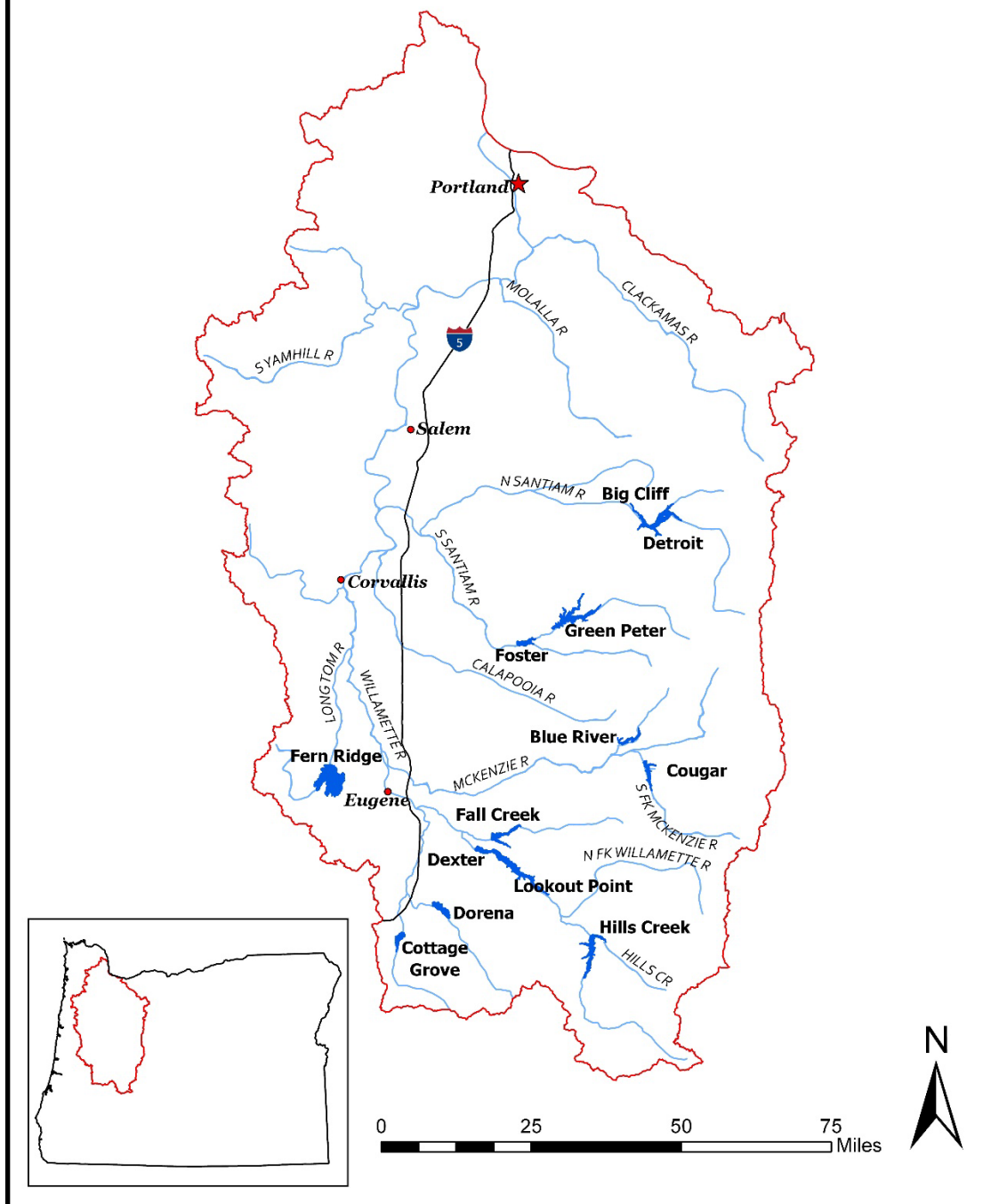


Figure 1: Map of the Willamette Basin showing the locations of the 13 reservoirs (WVP13 Project Map, Portland District, April 2019).



Figure 2: Willamette Valley Project Programmatic Agreement signing ceremony. Back row from left to right Dustin Bengtson (NWP, Willamette Valley Deputy Operations Project Manager), Mike Flowers (NWD, Regional Archeologist), Wendy Jones (NWP Willamette Valley Project, Environmental Stewardship Supervisor), Molly Casperson (NWP Willamette Valley Project Archeologist), Tracy Schwartz (NWP District Historian), Jamie French (Assistant State Archeologist, Oregon SHPO), Jessica Gabriel (Architectural Historian, Oregon SHPO), Chris Page (NWP Environmental Branch Chief), Britt Betenson (BLM, Northwest Oregon District Archeologist). Middle Row from left to right Kelly Wingard (NWP, Project Manager), Tara Gauthier (NWP, Cultural Section Chief). Front row/seated left to right Erik Peterson (NWP, Willamette Valley Operations Project Manager), Christine Curran (Deputy Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer), Col. Michael Helton (NWP District Commander) (Photo was taken by Christopher Gaylord, NWP, Public Affairs Specialist, May 2022).