

employer in the county. An interpretive museum is now in operation, and other retail and service spin-offs have come on line. In addition, manufacturing jobs related to windsurfing have been created.

The transition from timber to tourism has had a number of effects. Population growth began picking up in 1990, as did labor force growth. Because of fewer job opportunities, almost half of the county labor force commutes to work outside the county. Unemployment rose sharply in 1992 with the mill closure, reaching 18 percent before declining to the current 10–11 percent.

Only a few years ago, one-third of the jobs in the county were in manufacturing; by 1996, the number had fallen below 15 percent. With the advent of the Skamania Lodge, trade and service employment rose from 19 percent to a 36 percent share, while the public sector accounted for 43 percent.

Coming years should bring further expansion of tourist-related business as well as modest growth in population and employment. Commuting to jobs outside the county by a significant share of the labor force should be the norm.

Environmental Impacts

The Proposed Action enhances the natural setting of the area and encourages tourist-related use and development that are consistent with current and anticipated socioeconomic development. This should more than offset any effects of habitat protection and conservation easements on timber-related employment or revenues associated with the No Action alternative.

7.8 Cultural Resources

Affected Environment

Regulatory Overview

Cultural resource management in the Lewis River basin is under the auspices of the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP), the GPNF, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). Indian Tribes that have an interest in the project include the Cowlitz Indian Tribe (CIT) and the Yakama Nation (YN). Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and regulations promulgated by the Federal Power Act (FPA), the Commission is required to inventory archaeological, historical, and traditional cultural resources; evaluate their eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register); determine project impacts on them; and consider measures to avoid or mitigate adverse

effects. This work is conducted in consultation with the cultural resource oversight agencies, responsible federal land management agencies, and Indian tribes.

Cultural Resources in the Merwin Project Area

Two archaeological sites, one historic-period cemetery, and 6 isolated scatters of flaked stone artifacts have been recorded for the Merwin Project area. The National Register eligibility of the two archaeological sites and the cemetery has not been formally considered. The Federal Power Commission granted the license for the Merwin Project in late 1929, and the project began commercial operation on January 1, 1932. The current Merwin license, issued in 1983, does not identify any specific cultural resource enhancement measures. Article 38 of the Merwin license states:

Prior to commencement of any construction or development of any project works or other facilities at the project, the licensee shall consult and cooperate with the State Historic Preservation Officer to determine the need for * * * any archaeological or historic resource surveys and any mitigation measures that may be necessary.

In mid-September 1990, a GPNF archaeologist reported to PacifiCorp the occurrence of unauthorized excavation of archaeological deposits along the exposed shoreline of Lake Merwin. Subsequently, PacifiCorp contracted the Oregon State Museum of Anthropology (OSMA) to survey high probability areas, evaluate the known deposits, and assess the damage to cultural resources at Lake Merwin (O'Neill 1991). A brief reconnaissance was conducted by OSMA staff, resulting in the discovery of 6 isolated scatters of flakes and tools along with excavations in 2 locations. Excavations in one of the sites at Merwin revealed some flaked stone artifacts but not enough to make a detailed analysis. This site was found to have some significance but was not evaluated for National Register eligibility. The location of the historic-period cemetery near Woodland Park was recorded, but according to O'Neill (1991), all of the burials were removed prior to inundation. Protection of the sites through ongoing monitoring was recommended.

Additional surveys in October 1999 examined the Lake Merwin drawdown zone and all developed and dispersed use areas associated with the lake. These investigations revealed the following:

- 15 new prehistoric sites were recorded, all of which were lithic scatters without ground stone.

- 5 historic-period sites were recorded, including a washed-out bridge, a campsite with a cleared tent platform, a dense scatter of historic-period refuse, and an abandoned railroad grade.

- 54 isolates were identified, the majority of which were groupings of flaked cobble tools, occasionally associated with a few flakes or other prehistoric artifacts.

An evaluation of the Merwin powerhouse conducted by Historical Research Associates, Inc (HRA). Based on a survey of the powerhouse and associated facilities and archival research, HRA recommended that the powerhouse be considered eligible for inclusion on the National Register (pers. comm., G. Thompson, HRA, Seattle, WA, May 1, 1999).

Additional archaeological sites may exist in the Merwin Project area, and historical buildings and structures need to be inventoried and evaluated for National Register eligibility.

Cultural Resources in the Yale Project Area

Construction of the Yale Project began soon after the license was issued in April 1951, and the project began operation in 1953. A survey for archaeological resources in the area to be inundated by Yale Lake was conducted in 1952 and 1953 by the University of Washington (Bryan 1953, 1955). This study resulted in the recording and testing of 6 sites. Three other recent cultural resource investigations have been conducted at Yale Lake including: a 1993–94 GPNF-sponsored archaeological survey conducted by Oregon State University at a site along the margin of Yale Lake; PacifiCorp-sponsored archaeological testing in 1995 at a heavily vandalized site on company lands near Yale Dam; and a comprehensive cultural resources inventory and National Register evaluation of historic, prehistoric, and traditional cultural resources conducted in 1996–97 as part of the Yale license application process (PacifiCorp 1999).

The results of this analysis found 8 prehistoric archaeological sites, 5 historic sites, and 9 prehistoric isolated finds. Of these, 5 of the prehistoric sites were determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register (letter from Greg Griffith, OAHP to Russ Howison, PacifiCorp April 3, 1998). The OAHP and affected Indian tribes have expressed ongoing concern over the illegal collecting of artifacts and