

Chapter 3 The Built Environment – Effects on People and Community Resources

What is addressed in this chapter?

This chapter describes the community's existing built environment and how the alternatives may impact that built environment. This chapter specifically addresses the following elements:

- Land Use
- Transportation
- Noise
- Public Utilities (water supply, wastewater, stormwater)
- Visual and Aesthetics
- Historic and Cultural Resources
- Public Services (parks and recreation, schools, public safety)
- Fiscal Analysis

Historic and Cultural Resources

1 What historic and cultural resources are in the study area?

A cultural resources assessment of areas in and around The Villages revealed one prehistoric archaeological site that is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The assessment did not identify any historic buildings and structures, nor any traditional cultural properties of importance to the Muckleshoot, Duwamish, or Snoqualmie Indian Tribes. As the archaeological site is outside the boundaries of The Villages study area, it has been determined that there are no significant historic and cultural resources in the study area.

2 What policies and regulations govern historic or cultural resources?

Projects that affect historic or cultural resources need to be in compliance with Washington State and King County laws, regulations, and programs. Historic and cultural preservation must be discussed in the Draft and Final EIS, as required by SEPA. The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) also ensures the protection of Indian graves and regulates archaeological sites and resources. This law prohibits disturbance of an archaeological site without a permit from the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). The agency administers the Washington Historic Register (WHR) that identifies and documents significant historic and prehistoric resources throughout Washington.

The City of Black Diamond has entered into an interlocal agreement with King County under which the County Landmarks and Heritage Commission acts as the municipal landmarks commission for the City, designating landmarks. King County's regulations provide for landmark designation and design review of properties within Black Diamond that are 40 years or older and meet the County's criteria for listing.

The criteria for listing properties in the NRHP require that a historic property be at least 50 years old; possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association; and meet at least one of several criteria. The criteria for listing properties in the WHR require that a building, site, structure, or object must be at least 50 years old or have documented exceptional significance; possess a high to medium level of integrity; and should have documented historical significance at the local, state, or federal level.

3 How will the alternatives affect historic or cultural resources?

Though no historic or cultural resources have been identified in the study area, steps should be taken to ensure that development under any of the alternatives does not negatively impact resources that may exist. This includes placing additional shovel probes on lands near Rock Creek (Parcel E), because archaeological sites are more likely to be found in lands adjacent to streams and other water bodies and the number of shovel probes conducted in the area is limited. Archaeological monitoring during construction excavation around the Black Diamond Lake wetland area in the BDA parcel and northwest corner of Parcel F is also recommended, as the occurrence of lithic scatter and prehistoric isolate around the wetland feature indicates its potential occurrence for archaeological sites.

Impacts to archaeological findings

The potential importance of the archaeological site lies in the artifact and feature information that occurs just below the ground surface. Excavation that disturbs on-site soils could destroy or damage information important to local history.
