

Cultural resources, both prehistoric and historic, can be found throughout Washington State in nearly all environments, from along rivers and waterways to mountain slopes and peaks. For thousands of years Native American tribes and bands hunted, gathered, fished and established communities across Washington. There are currently 29 Federally recognized tribal entities in Washington. NRCS is charged with working to establish working protocols with each of those tribes.

The National Programmatic Agreement signed in May of 2002, established criteria for the development of a state level protocol with a State Historic Preservation Office at the Washington State Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation. For NRCS Washington, that agreement was signed in July of 2003. The agreement set forth a process by which NRCS would continue to recognize and evaluate cultural resources relative to implementing conservation practices on private lands in Washington. The agreement also set forth a process to provide training to all NRCS field staff on recognition of cultural resources in their day-to-day working relationship with private landowners.