

# Northwest Archaeological Associates, Inc.

Cultural Resources Management Services  
5418 20th Avenue NW, Suite 200, Seattle, WA 98107

March 30, 2010

Mark Mazzola  
Seattle Department of Transportation  
PO Box 34996  
Seattle, WA 98124-4996

RE: Chief Sealth Trail Extension Project

Dear Mr. Mazzola:

Northwest Archaeological Associates, Inc. conducted a cultural resources assessment of the Chief Sealth Trail Extension Project. Thirteen shovel probes were excavated within the project corridor. No significant cultural material was encountered in probes or on the ground surface. No known historic properties are within the project area, and no additional work is recommended. This report describes the methods and results of the survey and serves as an addendum to earlier assessments of the trail (Courtois et al. 1999; Juell 2004).

## **Project Background**

The existing 3.6-mile long Chief Sealth Trail extends southeast within the Seattle City Light electrical transmission corridor from Beacon Avenue South to 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue South and South Gazelle Street (Figure 1). Pursuant to the State Environmental Policy Act, a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was completed as part of the Sound Transit Link Light Rail project in 1999 and included a cultural resources assessment of the portion of the trail between South Thistle Street and South Henderson Street (Courtois et al. 1999). Northwest Archaeological Associates, Inc. (NWAA) completed an assessment for the remainder of the trail in 2004 and submitted an addendum to the FEIS (Juell 2004). Neither survey recorded significant cultural resources.

In January 2010, on behalf of the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), Parametrix contacted NWAA to conduct a cultural resources assessment for an extension of the trail between Beacon Avenue South and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South in Township 24 North, Range 4 East, Section 17, 21, 22 (Figure 2). The trail extension is about 0.9 mile long, and will be within the 200-foot-wide Seattle City Light transmission corridor. The trail extension will match the existing trail with a 10-foot-wide asphalt paved surface and 2-foot-wide gravel shoulders on each side. Ground disturbance is anticipated where the grade will be flattened and in proposed bioswales.

The trail extension is funded entirely by the SDOT and is subject to the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), which requires the project proponent to identify any places or objects listed on, or eligible for national, state, or local preservation registers in the vicinity of the project, describe evidence for sites of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance in the vicinity of the project, and describe proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to those sites.

*Tel: (206) 781-1909  
Fax: (206) 781-0154  
Email: [aeasley@northwestarch.com](mailto:aeasley@northwestarch.com)*

## **Archival Research and Expectations**

The FEIS for the Sound Transit Link Light Rail project includes overviews of the cultural and environmental setting of the project vicinity (Courtois et al. 1999). A records search was conducted at the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation for any cultural resource assessments that have been conducted since the 2004 addendum was completed. Only two have been completed within ½ mile of the project. Tobin (2004) wrote a historic context for Beacon Hill, but did not record any historic resources. Cole (2005) recorded two historic trash dumps (45KI529 and 45KI530) during monitoring for utility relocation for the Spokane Street Viaduct project. The sites are over ½ mile northwest of the project area on the valley floor. Neither site was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Examination of the background information compiled for the assessments of the southern part of the Chief Sealth Trail indicates that this area has a moderate probability for buried pre-contact or historic cultural material. The area was likely used for resource-procurement by pre-contact people, and stone tools relating to hunting or processing may be present within the project area. Historic archaeological remains may also be present in the project area. American settlers began moving to the Beacon Hill area near the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Tobin 2004). The transmission lines were constructed in the 1930s and would have required the demolition of houses that may have been present within the power line corridor. These expectations are moderated by the disturbance that took place during construction and subsequent maintenance of the transmission lines.

## **Methods**

The objective of this investigation was to identify historic properties present in the project area, and, if present, evaluate the significance of each through eligibility for national, state, and local registers and assess potential adverse effects from the project to those judged significant. The evaluation would also consider historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance. Fieldwork was conducted on February 15, 2010 by NWAA archaeologists Yonara Carrilho, Chad Hansen, and Chris Yamamoto using maps provided by SDOT. A pedestrian survey of the entire project area was conducted using one meandering transect along the length of the transmission line corridor. Survey also included the selective placement of shovel probes in areas with a slope less than 10 degrees to examine subsurface deposits. Shovel probes measured 30 centimeters (12 inches) in diameter and were excavated until Pleistocene age glacial sediments were reached. Once the excavated spoils were examined for cultural material, the probes were backfilled.

Digital photographs were taken of the project area from various directions during the field assessment. A photo log was completed detailing the subject matter of each photograph. A Trimble Geoexplorer GPS unit was used to record the UTM coordinates for each shovel probe. Shovel probe results were recorded on standard forms, and daily work records were completed describing the environmental setting, field conditions, procedures, and contacts.

## **Results**

The project area occupies the edge of a glacial terrace that generally slopes down toward the northwest (Figure 3). The majority of the corridor is covered with mown grass, making surface visibility poor. Several streets, alleys, and driveways cross the corridor, and a buried petroleum

pipeline parallels the south side of the corridor from 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue South to Beacon Avenue South and the north side of the corridor between 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Two community p-patch gardens are within the project area: at the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and South Snoqualmie and just northwest of Columbia Drive South (Figure 4). A Seattle City Light building is near the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and Augusta Place South.

Thirteen shovel probes were placed in areas with a slope less than 10 degrees that appeared to have relatively intact sediments (Figure 5). Sediments in the probes were generally similar and reflect natural Holocene soil development within late Pleistocene glacial till (Table 1). Shovel probes 1-4, 6, 9-10 were capped with a dark brown sandy silt A-horizon over a reddish or greyish brown B-horizon. Pleistocene age glacial till was beneath the B-horizon at an average depth of 59 centimeters (23 inches) (Figure 6). Signs of modern disturbance were present in many of the probes. In probe 11, a narrow A-horizon directly overlaid the Pleistocene glacial till, indicating that native soils have been removed, and new soils have recently begun to develop. The A- horizon in other areas (probes 7, 8, 12, 13) has been removed, possibly through grading during construction of the transmission line. Shovel probe 4 had a possible burned surface at 46-74 centimeters (18-29 inches), but no associated artifacts. Probe 5 consisted entirely of modern and historic fill consisting of coarse sandy fill with pea gravels and pebbles. At the base of the probe was a flat rusty metal sheet, preventing further excavation.

Modern and historic cultural material was encountered in six probes (1-3, 5, 7, 9). Most of the material was modern garbage found near the surface. Probe 5 had several pieces of historic debris just above the piece of metal found at 55 centimeters (22 inches). The material included concrete, tile, window glass, an amber glass bottle mouth, and metal nails, all from within fill (Figure 7). None of the artifacts are diagnostic.

## Conclusion

Pedestrian survey and excavation of shovel probes did not identify significant cultural material within the project area. Sediments encountered in the probes reflect modern and historic disturbance. No further investigations are recommended at this time. If changes to the project occur that expand or redefine the project area, however, the City must request additional assessment of the project.

It is always possible that undiscovered prehistoric or historic cultural material is present within the project area. In the event that any such resources are encountered during construction, the City should cease construction activities in the vicinity and contact the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) in Olympia, and, if warranted, tribal cultural resources representatives.

Please contact me with any questions or comments,



Amber Earley  
Archaeologist

## References Cited

Cole, Stephen

2005 *Archaeological Monitoring of Construction Excavations in the Spokane Street Viaduct Project, Utilities Relocation Phase (Contract 3)*. Prepared for Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc. Northwest Archaeological Associates, Inc., Seattle, Washington.

Courtois, Shirley L., Katheryn H. Kraft, Catherine Wickwire, James C. Bard, and Robin McClintock

1999 *Final Technical Report Historic and Prehistoric Archaeological Sites, Historic Resources, native American Traditional Cultural Properties, Paleontological Sites, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Central Link Light Rail Project*. Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority, Seattle.

Juell, Kenneth

2004 *Letter RE: Chief Sealth Trail Cultural Resources Assessment, King County*. Northwest Archaeological Associates, Inc. Submitted to the Seattle Department of Transportation.

Tobin, Caroline

2004 *Beacon Hill Historic Context Statement*. City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.

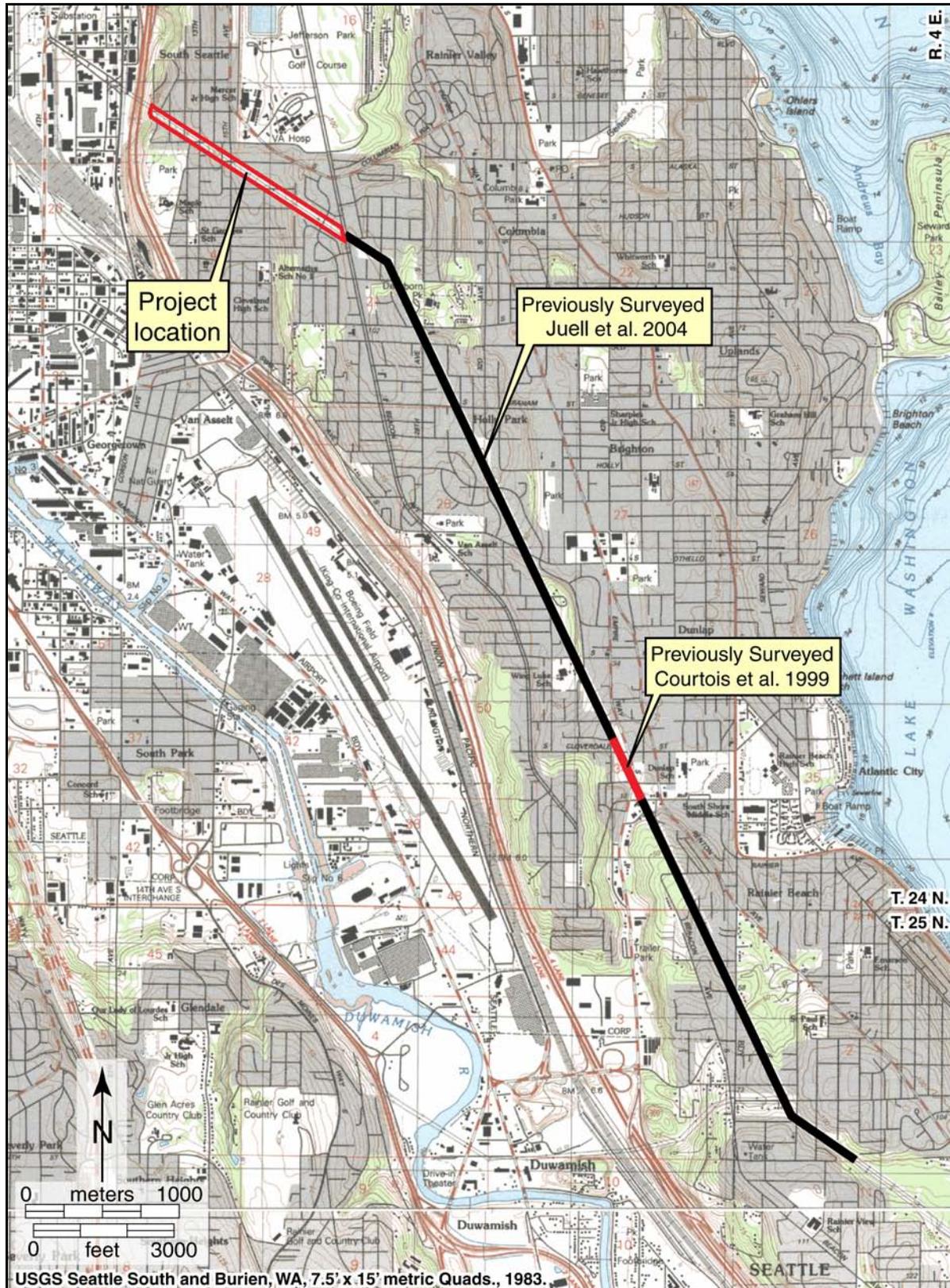


Figure 1. Map showing full extent of trail and areas previously assessed.

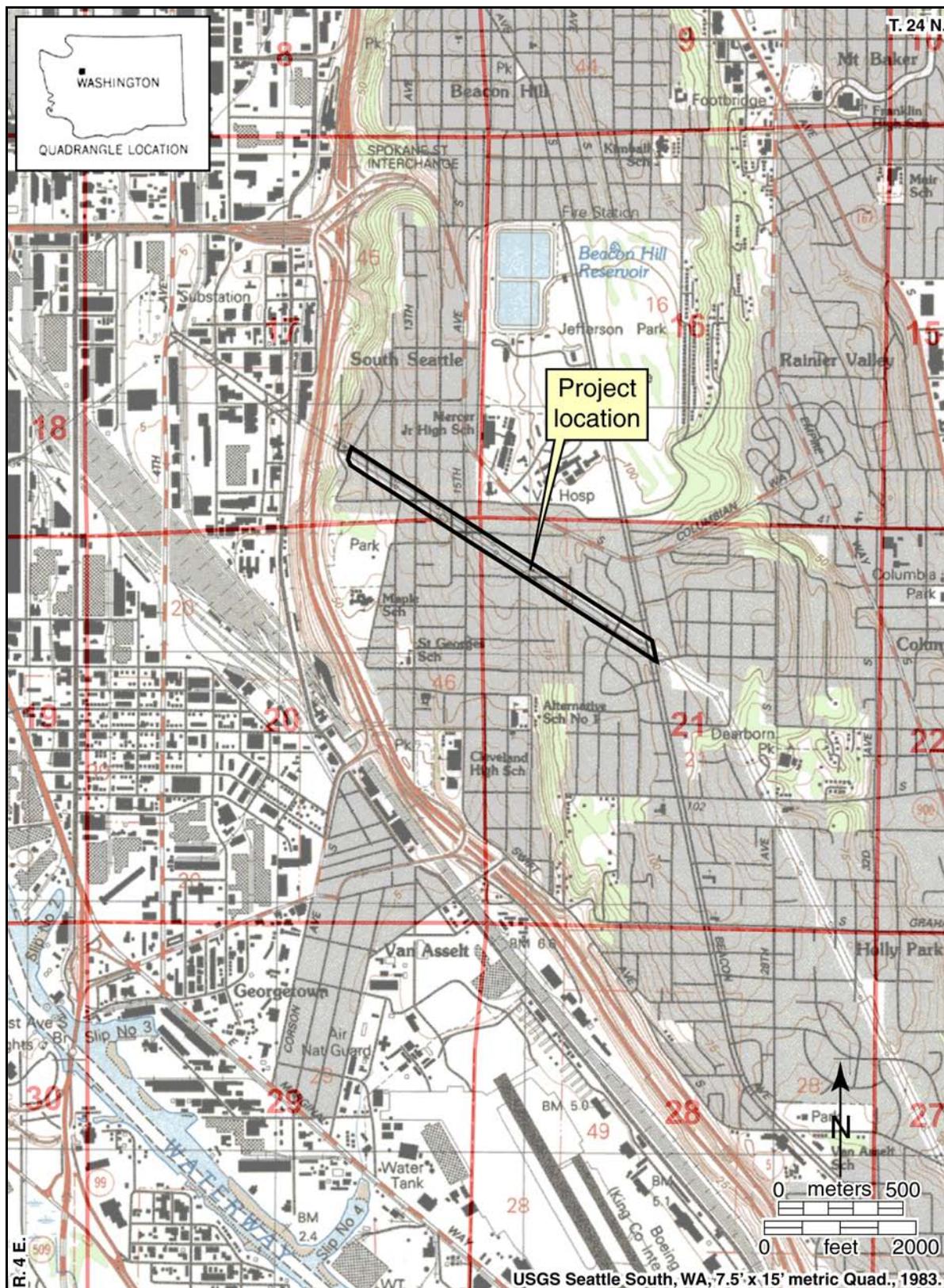


Figure 2. Project location.



Figure 3. Overview of project area, view to the northwest.

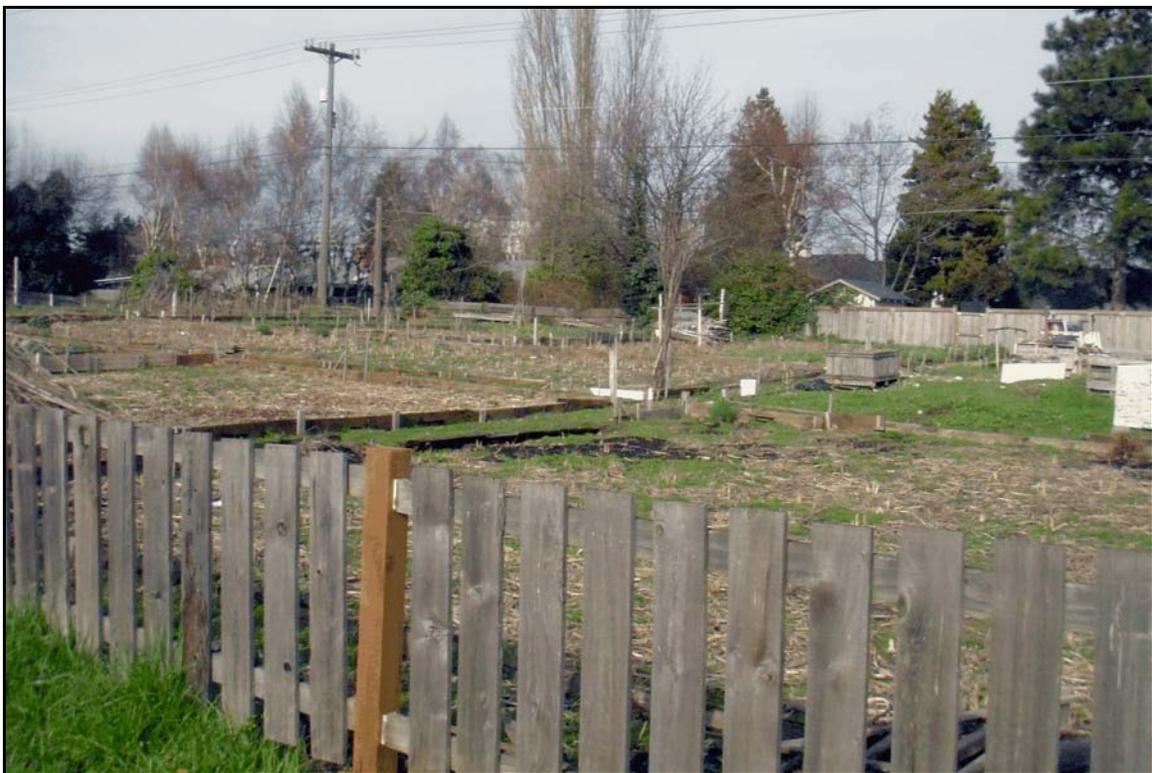


Figure 4. P-patch garden in project area, view to the north.



Figure 5. Air photo showing project area and shovel probes.



Figure 6. Shovel probe 10, showing typical sediments.



Figure 7. Artifacts recovered from Shovel Probe 5.

Table 1. Shovel Probe Summary (UTM Zone 10N, NAD83).

SP NO.	UTM		STRATIGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION (cm below surface)	CULTURAL MATERIAL
	NORTHING	EASTING		
1	5267995	551159	0-23: Brown sandy silt with few poorly sorted, rounded to subrounded gravels. Common fine roots, low to medium compaction. Boundary is gradual and wavy 23-40: Greyish brown silty fine sand with common poorly sorted rounded to subrounded gravels. Very few roots, medium compaction. Boundary is abrupt and wavy 40-83: Light brown silty fine to medium sand with common poorly sorted rounded to subrounded cobbles. Medium compaction.	0-20: brown bottle glass 20-40: brown bottle glass.
2	5267977	551234	0-12: Brown organic silt with many rootlets. Clear boundary. 12-60: brown fine to medium sandy silt mottled with yellowish brown fine to medium sand. Common subrounded to angular pea gravels to small cobbles. Few wood chunks. Common rootlets at upper boundary. Lower boundary is abrupt and smooth. Compact 60-70: Brownish grey gravelly silty medium to coarse sand. Common small to large subrounded to angular pebbles. Wet and very compact. Glacial	10-20: 1 large brick fragment
3	5267946	551284	0-18: Brown wet, organic, coarse sandy silt with common rootlets. Clear smooth boundary. 18-25: mottled gray medium sandy silt with brown medium sand. Common yellowish brown mottling. Abrupt smooth boundary. 25-72: Dark brown gravelly coarse sandy silt. Common subrounded to angular small pebbles to small cobbles. Water table at 35 cmbs. 72+: Yellowish grey silty medium to coarse sand.	15-25: 1 colorless flat glass fragment.
4	5267910	551334	0-10: Greyish brown silty fine sand with few small to large rounded to subrounded gravels. Common fine roots. Low to medium compaction. Boundary is clear and wavy. 10-46: Greyish light brown silty fine to medium sand with common poorly sorted rounded to subrounded gravels and small cobbles. Light charcoal flecking, medium compaction. Boundary is abrupt and wavy. 46-74: Possible burned surface. Reddish brown silty sand with few poorly sorted gravels, many charcoal chunks. Low to medium compaction. 74-81: Light brown silty medium to coarse sand with common gravels and a few small rounded to subrounded cobbles.	None.
5	5267836	551476	0-9: Dark brown coarse sandy organic silt with many rootlets. Smooth boundary. 9-37: Brown gravelly coarse sandy silt. Common subrounded to subangular pea gravels to small cobbles. Common rootlets. Few angular medium pebbles. Gradual wavy boundary. 37-55: Greyish brown gravelly coarse sandy silt. Common subrounded to subangular pea gravels to small cobbles. Common rootlets. At 55 cmbs, a flat rusty metal sheet covers entire probe bottom. Wood debris rests on top of it, with cultural material on top of wood.	0-9: 1 modern plastic ring 30-40: white plastic, 1 clear flat glass fragment 40-55: 3 concrete fragments, 1 white tile fragment, 1 window glass fragment, 1 clear vessel glass fragment, 1 amber glass bottle mouth, 2 non diagnostic metal nails.
6	5267617	551793	0-6: Dark brown sandy silt with few poorly sorted rounded to subrounded gravels. Common fine roots, low to medium compaction. Clear and wavy boundary. 6-47: Reddish brown silty fine to medium sand with poorly sorted rounded to subrounded gravels and few small cobbles. Some cobbles have been machine-broken. Light charcoal flecking, few fine roots, medium compaction. Boundary is clear and wavy. 47-52: Brownish light grey silty fine to medium sand with common poorly sorted rounded to subrounded gravels and few small to medium cobbles. Highly compact.	None
7	5267566	551871	0-43: Dark brown sandy silt with common poorly sorted rounded to subrounded gravels and cobbles. Light charcoal flecking. Common fine roots from 0-5 cmbs, few roots 5-43 cmbs. Medium compaction, highly saturated. Terminated on compact sediment with dense gravels and cobbles.	0-10: modern canvas slipper 20-40: clear flat window glass

Table 1. Shovel Probe Summary (UTM Zone 10N, NAD83).

SP NO.	UTM		STRATIGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION (cm below surface)	CULTURAL MATERIAL
	NORTHING	EASTING		
8	5267497	551969	0-19: Greyish brown silty fine to medium sand with common small to large rounded to subrounded gravels and a few small cobbles, some are machine broken. Roots common 0-5 cmbs, few 5-19 cmbs. Highly saturated, medium compaction. Boundary is clear and wavy. 19-43: Yellowish light brown silty fine to coarse sand with heavy orange mottling. Many rounded to subrounded gravels and cobbles. Highly compact, and filled with water.	None
9	5267464	552035	0-28: Dark brown silty medium to coarse sand. Few subrounded small to medium pebbles. Common rootlets. Abrupt wavy boundary. 28-71: reddish brown slightly silty medium to coarse sand. Common small to large subrounded pebbles. Common charcoal flecks, few fine roots and rootlets. Loose compaction. Abrupt smooth boundary. 71-78: Yellowish grey silty coarse sand with common subrounded to subangular gravels and small cobbles. High compaction.	20-30: 1 clear glass vessel fragment.
10	5267409	552105	0-18: Dark brown silty fine sand with few small to large rounded to subrounded gravels. Common fine roots. Very light charcoal flecking, low to medium compaction. Boundary is abrupt and wavy. 18-49: Reddish brown silty fine to medium sand with common small to large rounded to subrounded gravels and few small cobbles. Light charcoal flecking. Low to medium compaction. Boundary is clear and wavy. 49-71: Yellowish light brown silty medium to coarse sand with many small to large rounded to subrounded gravels and few small to medium cobbles. Medium to high soil compaction. 71+: Yellowish brown compact gravelly glacial outwash.	None
11	5267346	552181	0-9: Dark brown coarse sandy silt with many fine roots and rootlets. Abrupt smooth boundary. 9-29: Yellowish gray gravelly coarse sand. Many small to medium subrounded to subangular pebbles. Compact.	None
12	5267296	552284	0-62: Dark brown silty fine to medium sand with common small to large rounded to subrounded gravels and few small rounded to subrounded cobbles. Very light charcoal flecking. Common roots 0-10 cmbs, few 10-62 cmbs. Sparse woody debris. Medium compaction, heavily saturated. Buried A-horizon may be present at 60 cmbs, but probe is filled with water and difficult to see. Compact gravelly sediment at base of probe.	None
13	5267256	552336	0-28: Brown coarse sandy silt with common subrounded small to medium pebbles. Many rootlets, and some bioturbation. Abrupt wavy boundary. 28-54: Yellowish gray gravelly silty coarse sand with reddish brown mottles 28-38 cmbs. Common subrounded to subangular small to large pebbles. Water table at 43 cmbs.	None



**ATTACHMENT A: Tribal Correspondence**





# Northwest Archaeological Associates, Inc.

Cultural Resources Management Services  
5418 20th Avenue NW, Suite 200, Seattle, WA 98107

February 11, 2010

Laura Murphy  
Cultural Resources  
Muckleshoot Tribe  
39015 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SE  
Auburn, WA 98092

**RE: Cultural Resources Assessment–Chief Sealth Trail Extension Project**

Dear Ms. Murphy,

Northwest Archaeological Associates, Inc. (NWAA) has been retained by Parametrix and SDOT to conduct a Cultural Resource Assessment for the Chief Sealth Trail Extension project in Seattle, T. 24 N., R. 4 E., Sec. 17, 20, 21, Willamette Meridian (see attached map). The trail will be about 10 feet wide and primarily constructed on fill, following the natural topography of the area.

A check of Washington state site inventory and records at the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) will be conducted. Field work for the project will consist of a pedestrian survey of the entire project area and excavation of shovel probes. Our technical letter report will include the results of the field assessment and recommendations for further investigations, if warranted.

At this time we are interested to know if the Muckleshoot Tribe has any concerns for cultural resources in or near the project area. If so, please contact us at your earliest convenience so these locations can be taken into account during planning. We look forward to hearing from you regarding this project. We respect any concerns the Muckleshoot Tribe may have about sharing sensitive information with us, and we will be happy to work with you regarding these concerns. This letter is a technical inquiry and is not intended to replace government-to-government consultation required by state and federal regulations.

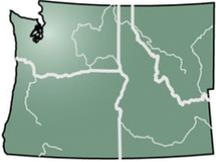
Please feel free to contact me by phone or email if you have questions or comments.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Amber Earley  
Project Archaeologist

*Tel: (206) 781-1909  
Fax: (206) 781-0154  
Email: aearley@northwestarch.com*



# Northwest Archaeological Associates, Inc.

Cultural Resources Management Services  
5418 20th Avenue NW, Suite 200, Seattle, WA 98107

February 11, 2010

Steve Mullen, Director,  
Cultural Resources Program  
Snoqualmie Tribe  
P.O. Box 969  
Snoqualmie, Washington 98065

**RE: Cultural Resources Assessment–Chief Sealth Trail Extension Project**

Dear Mr. Mullen:

Northwest Archaeological Associates, Inc. (NWAA) has been retained by Parametrix and SDOT to conduct a Cultural Resource Assessment for the Chief Sealth Trail Extension project in Seattle, T. 24 N., R. 4 E., Sec. 17, 20, 21, Willamette Meridian (see attached map). The trail will be about 10 feet wide and primarily constructed on fill, following the natural topography of the area.

A check of Washington state site inventory and records at the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) will be conducted. Field work for the project will consist of a pedestrian survey of the entire project area and excavation of shovel probes. Our technical letter report will include the results of the field assessment and recommendations for further investigations, if warranted.

At this time we are interested to know if the Snoqualmie Tribe has any concerns for cultural resources in or near the project area. If so, please contact us at your earliest convenience so these locations can be taken into account during planning. We look forward to hearing from you regarding this project. We respect any concerns the Snoqualmie Tribe may have about sharing sensitive information with us, and we will be happy to work with you regarding these concerns. This letter is a technical inquiry and is not intended to replace government-to-government consultation required by state and federal regulations.

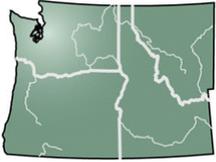
Please feel free to contact me by phone or email if you have questions or comments.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Amber Earley  
Project Archaeologist

*Tel: (206) 781-1909  
Fax: (206) 781-0154  
Email: aearley@northwestarch.com*



# Northwest Archaeological Associates, Inc.

Cultural Resources Management Services  
5418 20th Avenue NW, Suite 200, Seattle, WA 98107

February 11, 2010

Dennis Lewarch  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Suquamish Tribe  
18490 Suquamish Way  
Suquamish, WA 98392

**RE: Cultural Resources Assessment–Chief Sealth Trail Extension Project**

Dear Mr. Lewarch,

Northwest Archaeological Associates, Inc. (NWAA) has been retained by Parametrix and SDOT to conduct a Cultural Resource Assessment for the Chief Sealth Trail Extension project in Seattle, T. 24 N., R. 4 E., Sec. 17, 20, 21, Willamette Meridian (see attached map). The trail will be about 10 feet wide and primarily constructed on fill, following the natural topography of the area.

A check of Washington state site inventory and records at the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) will be conducted. Field work for the project will consist of a pedestrian survey of the entire project area and excavation of shovel probes. Our technical letter report will include the results of the field assessment and recommendations for further investigations, if warranted.

At this time we are interested to know if the Suquamish Tribe has any concerns for cultural resources in or near the project area. If so, please contact us at your earliest convenience so these locations can be taken into account during planning. We look forward to hearing from you regarding this project. We respect any concerns the Suquamish Tribe may have about sharing sensitive information with us, and we will be happy to work with you regarding these concerns. This letter is a technical inquiry and is not intended to replace government-to-government consultation required by state and federal regulations.

Please feel free to contact me by phone or email if you have questions or comments.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Amber Earley  
Project Archaeologist



# Northwest Archaeological Associates, Inc.

Cultural Resources Management Services  
5418 20th Avenue NW, Suite 200, Seattle, WA 98107

February 11, 2010

Hank Gobin, Manager  
Cultural Resources Department  
Tulalip Tribes  
6410 23rd Avenue NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

**RE: Cultural Resources Assessment–Chief Sealth Trail Extension Project**

Dear Mr. Gobin:

Northwest Archaeological Associates, Inc. (NWAA) has been retained by Parametrix and SDOT to conduct a Cultural Resource Assessment for the Chief Sealth Trail Extension project in Seattle, T. 24 N., R. 4 E., Sec. 17, 20, 21, Willamette Meridian (see attached map). The trail will be about 10 feet wide and primarily constructed on fill, following the natural topography of the area.

A check of Washington state site inventory and records at the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) will be conducted. Field work for the project will consist of a pedestrian survey of the entire project area and excavation of shovel probes. Our technical letter report will include the results of the field assessment and recommendations for further investigations, if warranted.

At this time we are interested to know if the Tulalip Tribes have any concerns for cultural resources in or near the project area. If so, please contact us at your earliest convenience so these locations can be taken into account during planning. We look forward to hearing from you regarding this project. We respect any concerns the Tulalip Tribes may have about sharing sensitive information with us, and we will be happy to work with you regarding these concerns. This letter is a technical inquiry and is not intended to replace government-to-government consultation required by state and federal regulations.

Please feel free to contact me by phone or email if you have questions or comments.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Amber Earley  
Project Archaeologist

cc: Richard Young, Cultural Resources

*Tel: (206) 781-1909  
Fax: (206) 781-0154  
Email: aearley@northwestarch.com*