Archaeology terminology for fire practitioners

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Cultural Resources deal with Human History

Cultural Resources is an overarching term for all types of resources attributed to Humans. It is not a legal term and it is not even defined by merriam-webster or dictionary.com.

It’s a catch all term.

Forest Service also has used Heritage Resources as a catch all term
1. the scientific study of historic or prehistoric peoples and their cultures by analysis of their artifacts, inscriptions, monuments, and other such remains, especially those that have been excavated.

2. Rare. ancient history; the study of antiquity.
Archaeology is not:

Indiana Jones: Raiders of the Lost Ark.
Paramount Pictures, 1981

It’s also not:

Tomb Raider Anniversary
Eidos Interactive 2007
Archaeology is not: DEFINITELY

Jurassic Park, Universal Pictures, 1993.
So what IS “Archaeology”?

The

RECONSTRUCTION

of

PAST HUMAN BEHAVIOR

from

MATERIAL REMAINS

and their

CONTEXT.
**prehistoric**  adjective

preh-i-str-i-ık | ˈprē-(h)i-ˈstôr-ık, ˈprē-h(i)-ˈstôr-ık|

variants: or less commonly **prehistorical** ˈprē-(h)i-ˈstôr-i-kəl, ˈprē-h(i)-ˈstôr-i-kəl

**Definition of prehistoric**

1. : of, relating to, or existing in times antedating written history

2. : of or relating to a language in a period of its development from which contemporary records of its sounds and forms have not been preserved

3. : regarded as being outdated or outmoded

**// prehistoric** attitudes

1. human **history** in the period before recorded events, known mainly through archaeological discoveries, study, research, etc.; **history** of prehistoric humans.

2. a **history** of the events or incidents leading to a crisis, situation, or the like.
historical adjective

Definition of historical

1  a  : of, relating to, or having the character of history
   // historical data
   b  : based on history
   // historical novels
   c  : used in the past and reproduced in historical presentations

2  : famous in history : HISTORIC sense a

3  a  : SECONDARY sense 1c
   b  : DIACHRONIC
   // historical grammar

ADJECTIVE

of or concerning history; concerning past events.
"the historical background to such studies"
synonyms: actual · existent · nonfictional · nonfictitious · factual · historical · material · physical · tangible · concrete · palpable · corporeal · substantial · imaginary · veridical

• belonging to the past, not the present.
   "famous historical figures"
synonyms: past · bygone · ancient · old · former · prior · from the past · of yore

• (especially of a novel or movie) set in the past.

• (of the study of a subject) based on an analysis of its development over a period.
   "for the Darwinians, biogeography became a historical science"
Archaeology

**Material Remains** –

**Site**: a place that has physical evidence of patterned group behavior; purposeful behavior rather than accidental. (i.e. Rock shelter, lithic scatter, building, etc.)

**Artifact**: any material object made, modified or used by humans. (i.e. Projectile point, glass bottle, etc.)

**Feature**: non-portable artifact and distinctive aspect of a site that is human made (i.e. Rock art, bedrock mortar, fence line)

**Specimen**: non-artifactual, material object that provides evidence relevant to past human behavior (i.e. Preserved plant material, unmodified animal bone, charcoal, etc.).
Material Remains

Site: a place that has physical evidence of patterned group behavior; purposeful behavior rather than accidental. (i.e. Rock shelter, lithic scatter, building, etc.)

Artifact: any material object made, modified or used by humans. (i.e. Projectile point, glass bottle, nails, etc.)

Feature: non portable artifact or distinctive aspect of a site that is human made and not the result of natural phenomena (i.e. Rock art, bedrock mortar, fence line, etc.)

Specimen: non-artifactual, material object that provides evidence relevant to past human behavior (i.e. Preserved plant material, unmodified animal bone, charcoal, etc.).
**Context**

**Context** – spatial arrangement either *horizontally* or *vertically*, of artifacts, features and specimens.

**Horizontal context** – arrangements of objects on one surface or plane. (i.e. Projectile point was 4m East of the BRM and 6m due North of the large Madrone)

**Vertical context** – superimposed surfaces or layers buried one over another. (i.e. Shell bead found within a 10cm lens of red abalone shell buried under 20cm of sterile dirt under a 3cm lens of muscle shell containing fishhooks. The bead was deposited before the fishhooks.)

**NOTE:** Context is extremely important because most past human behavior is reflected not by these material objects by themselves, but by how they are situated in relation to each other.
(1)(1) Historic property means any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization and that meet the National Register criteria.
A district is a geographically definable area, urban or rural, possessing a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united by past events or aesthetically by plan or physical development. A district may also comprise individual elements separated geographically but linked by association or history.
A site is the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined, or vanished, where the location itself maintains historical or archeological value regardless of the value of any existing structure.
BUILDING

A building is a structure created to shelter any form of human activity, such as a house, barn, church, hotel, or similar structure. Building may refer to a historically related complex such as a courthouse and jail or a house and barn.
A structure is a work made up of interdependent and interrelated parts in a definite pattern of organization. Constructed by man, it is often an engineering project large in scale.
OBJECTS

An object is a material thing of functional, aesthetic, cultural, historical or scientific value that may be, by nature or design, movable yet related to a specific setting or environment.
OTHER
Non-National Register
Cultural Resources
Cultural Landscapes

Intertwined patterns of natural and cultural phenomena created by humans… prehistoric and historic
TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY

SACRED SITES

Mt. Shasta Traditional Cultural Property
Shasta-Trinity NF

Photo by Ken DeCamp
Tangible and intangible manifestations of an extant cultural system...vegetation, spiritual/ceremonial sites, languages...generally associated with Native Americans/Hawaiians/Alaskans...often poorly understood
(p) National Historic Landmark means a historic property that the Secretary of the Interior has designated a National Historic Landmark.

(q) National Register means the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior.

(r) National Register criteria means the criteria established by the Secretary of the Interior for use in evaluating the eligibility of properties for the National Register (36 CFR part 60).