

Private Landowners and the Curation of Artifacts from Excavation Permits

Applicants are encouraged to recommend that private landowners donate artifact collections from the permit to the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History (UOMNCH [otherwise known as OSMA]), or another qualified museum to ensure perpetual access for future research, education, and public interpretation of the collection.

In addition to curation, for the permission form signed by the landowner, please include language that addresses state law ([ORS 97.745](#)) with regards to the exclusion of Native American human remains, funerary objects, or objects of cultural patrimony in the private landowner's retention of artifacts, as well as the requirement to return such objects to the appropriate Tribe. Both SHPO and the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) recommends that applicants incorporate the following language into their permission letters so that private landowners are fully aware of both the artifact categories that are excluded from retention as well as the applicable state laws:

"I understand that if any human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are discovered during excavation that I will report the discovery to the appropriate Native American Tribe, the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS), and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to arrange for their return to the appropriate Tribe as per state laws ([ORS 97.740-.760](#) and [ORS 358.940](#))."

Below is a sample private landowner permission letter for granting permission to excavate (needed for the permit application) that addresses the options for the curation of artifacts discovered as a result of the permit and [ORS 97.745](#). While it is not required to use the sample (an applicant may create their own), a permit application will not be processed if the letter fails to show that the landowner gave permission for the archaeological work, was given a choice to donate the collection to UOMNCH and was made aware of [ORS 97.745](#).

PERMISSION TO CONDUCT ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

I, _____, hereby grant permission for to conduct an archaeological survey and excavation on property owned by me in conjunction with the proposed _____ also has permission to collect artifacts and other cultural materials discovered during the fieldwork for laboratory analysis and curation. I understand that I will not be responsible for any injuries or personal damages that may result from their work.

I agree that all the archaeological samples, specimens, and artifacts collected during this work will be **donated to the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History (UOMNCH)** after the appropriate laboratory analysis has been conducted.

I agree that all the archaeological samples, specimens, and artifacts collected during this work will be ***returned to me, the landowner*** after the appropriate laboratory analysis has been conducted. I understand that I have the option to donate to a museum/institution or tribe.

"I understand that if any human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are discovered during excavation that _____ will report the discovery to the appropriate Native American Tribe, the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS), and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to arrange for their return to the appropriate Tribe as per state laws ([ORS 97.740-.760](#) and [ORS 358.940](#))."

Name:

Date:

Signature