

# NRDAR 101 from a Tribal Perspective Why Partnering with Tribes Early in Case Development is Important

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## Traditional Cultural Properties

"Traditional" in this context refers to those beliefs, customs, and practices of a living community of people that have been passed down through the generations, usually orally or through practice. The traditional cultural significance of a historic property, then, is significance derived from the role the property plays in a community's historically rooted beliefs, customs, and practices. Examples of properties possessing such significance include:

- a location associated with the traditional beliefs of a Native American group about its origins, its cultural history, or the nature of the world; (This could be a place that is sacred simply because it exists not necessarily because people “go” there regularly).
- a location where Native American religious practitioners have historically gone, and are known or thought to go today, to perform ceremonial activities in accordance with traditional cultural rules of practice; and
- a location where a community has traditionally carried out economic, artistic, or other cultural practices important in maintaining its historic identity. (this place would include traditional root gathering sites or hunting sites etc.)

A traditional cultural property, then, can be defined generally as one that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that

(a) are rooted in that community's history, and

(b) are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community.

(c) Various kinds of Traditional cultural properties are often hard to recognize. A traditional ceremonial location may look like merely a mountaintop, a lake, or a stretch of river; field of grass, or piece of forest in the area.

The existence and significance of such locations often can be ascertained only through interviews with knowledgeable users of the area,

or through other forms of ethnographic research

Cultural Landscapes: Large scale properties and often comprised of multiple, linked features from a cohesive landscape.

At the renewable Energy Summit January 2011 it was recognized the importance of identifying and considering historic properties at the landscape level and how important it is to avoid breaking these larger properties into smaller units that are managed separately and out of context.

These issues are complex, and need to be considered early in decision making processes for management and project planning.

When to bring in a tribal partner?

# Army Corps rejects permit for coal terminal at Cherry Point.



“The Corps may not permit a project that abrogates treaty rights,”  
*said Col. John Buck, commander of The Corps’ Seattle District.*

“We are pleased to see that the Corps has honored the treaty and the constitution by providing a decision that recognizes the terminal’s impacts to our fishing rights. This decision is a win for the treaty and protects our sacred site. Our ancient ones at Xwe chieXen, Cherry Point, will rest protected”.  
*Chairman Tim Ballew*