

# John Harris, MA, RPA

Professional Archaeologist



## Professional Summary

John Harris is a seasoned Cultural Resource Specialist with expertise in archaeology, regulatory compliance, and tribal consultation. He has conducted thousands of reviews, led field investigations, and managed complex heritage preservation projects across State, Federal, and Tribal lands. A recognized policy leader, he has authored state-level agreements and served on national committees. He spearheaded expanded consultation outreach and streamlining reporting tools. A dedicated educator, he has co-instructed statewide training, equipping conservationists with critical knowledge. He's protected hundreds of sites, cemeteries, and sacred sites.

## Contact Me



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406-207-3898



Website:  
[www.harrisanthroresearch.com](http://www.harrisanthroresearch.com)

## Key Skills:

### Fieldwork & Beyond

- Recon and Intensive Site Surveys
- Site Testing Evaluation
- Excavation
- Artifact Analysis
- Vegetation Survey

### Research & Writing

- Literature Review
- Ethnography
- Archival Research
- Oral History Interview
- Data Visualization
- Technical Reports
- Regulatory strategy formulation / "policymaking"
- Public Presentation
- Compliance Documentation

### Admin. CRM

- Cultural Resource Law and Policy Advising
- Risk Assessments
- Site Treatment
- Diplomacy



## Work Experience

### Researcher (Archaeologist)

Feb. 21, 2025—Present (with overlap to NRCS position)  
Harris Anthropological Research LLC —Cedar Park, Texas  
Supervisor: self (Managing Member)

- **Cultural Resource Assessments:** Performs background research; compliance research and coordination; and a combined fatal flaw analysis, feasibility study, regulatory risk analysis, constraints mapping, and site selection study for cultural resources.
- **Historical Research and Interpretation:** Conducts archival research, genealogical searches, historic marker research and application work, NRHP evaluation and nomination work, and interpretative presentation materials and exhibit consulting.
- **Archaeological Research and Fieldwork:** Undertakes reconnaissance and intensive archaeological field surveys, eligibility testing, historic property treatment and preservation advisement, and NRHP eligibility evaluation and nomination work, and report writing.
- **Oral History:** Collects auditory and video interview recordings, transcription, background research, curation recommendations, narrative mapping and illustrations, and multi-media presentation.
- **Artifact Analysis:** Offers artifact cleaning and identification, inventory, photo-documentation, in-depth analysis, and report contributions.
- **Legal Research and Consulting:** Provides compliance and administrative expertise, compliance assessments, advisement on legally defensible administrative records, litigation support, and strategic insights in archaeological and cultural property cases.

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## Tech Skills:

### Field Equipment

- Hand-tools
- GPS
- Metal detector
- Avenza, Collector, Survey123

### Remote Comm.

- Google Meet
- Microsoft Outlook
- Microsoft Teams
- Miro
- Slack
- Zoom (Workplace)

### Analysis

- Microsoft Excel
- Power BI
- ArcMap & ArcPro
- Google Earth Pro

### Misc. Tools

- Maze
- Google Forms
- Microsoft Forms
- Qualtrics
- Survey Monkey
- Trello
- Calendly
- Microsoft PowerPoint
- Microsoft Word
- Publisher
- SharePoint

## Archaeologist (Cultural Resource Specialist)

Jan. 19, 2020—Sep. 30, 2025

Natural Resource Conservation Service—Texas, Temple

GS-0193 –11, Step 4, Full-time, 40hr/ wk, Career Permanent Status

Supervisor: Alan Stahnke , State Soil Scientist, (254) 742-9857

\* Awarded four performance spot awards at NRCS.

- **Fieldwork, Site Assessments, & Compliance Expertise:** Conducted thousands of background reviews and hundreds of field investigations, ensuring Section 106 compliance & site protection. Managed complex projects across cemeteries, sacred sites, National Historic Trails, Antiquities Landmarks, State & Tribal lands. Authored technical reports, served as principal investigator on a State permit, and led policy development, including state-level agreements & Memorandums of Agreement. Hand-selected by the Agency Federal Preservation Officer for working committees on tribal consultation & data privacy.
- **Regulatory Strategy & Tribal Consultation:** Expanded Tribal consultation outreach, expanding engagement from 3 to 18 Tribes. Conducted 90% of the historic preservation program's consultations, strengthening agency relationships & procedural understanding. Developed logistical tools—project trackers, consultation logs, consultation contact list and logs, and field data forms—to improve efficiency, accuracy, and review speed.
- **Training & Knowledge Transfer:** Co-instructed statewide cultural resource training, creating targeted programs for non-archaeologists in conservation work. Spearheaded state-specific guidance on regulatory requirements & site identification. Enhanced industry-wide knowledge through classroom sessions, field training, and best practices publications

## Archaeology Technician

May 13, 2019—Sep 26, 2019

Colville National Forest, Reg. 6 Republic Dist. —Republic, Washington

GS-0102–05, Full-time, 40hr/ wk, Competitive Temporary Status

Supervisor: Alicia Beat , Forest Archaeologist, (509) 684-7251

- **Fieldwork & Site Surveys:** Conducted archaeological inventories across 2,800+ acres of National Forest, identifying historic and prehistoric cultural remains. Executed site eligibility evaluations, performing shovel test probes, background research, and completing National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination forms and site forms. Supervised a large Section 110 survey, coordinating a large field team of archaeologists and ensuring proper documentation and compliance.
- **Archaeological Documentation & Data Management:** Identified and recorded artifacts and cultural features using state inventory forms, and the USFS Natural Resource Management System for ensuring accurate site documentation. Collected and transferred field and spatial data into GIS databases, producing updated survey project maps for Forest management. Conducted archaeological site monitoring, updating site forms and reflagging boundaries to prevent disturbances from Forest management practices.
- **Outreach:** facilitated consultation efforts and integrating Indigenous perspectives into site interpretation and management. Advised field crew on excavation methods and cultural resource inventory protocols, ensuring consistency in survey techniques. Assisted in restoring a historic homestead's root cellar alongside Passport in Time volunteers, preserving a local heritage site. Participated in a table talk discussion with the public about the Forest's archaeology program activities.

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## Public Engagement

- 1 Book Review for Scholarly Journal
- 5 Courses Taught—5 different types, a total of
- 18 classes delivered
- 13 Invited Guest Lectures
- 5+ Professional Reports
- 4 Professional Conference Presentations, 2 of which resulted in professional society awards

## Organizations

- Society for American Archaeology
- Texas Archeological Society
- Archaeology in Montana

## Volunteer Work

- UX Researcher (Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development)
- Light Pollution Monitor (DarkSky International)
- Water Quality Community Scientist (Texas Stream Team)
- Peer Reviewer for *Human Ecology*
- Montana Archaeological Site Steward

## Visitor Surveyor / Research Assistant

Aug 2018—May 2019

Institute of Tourism and Recreation Research, University of Montana – Missoula, Montana

Part-Time, 15+hr/ wk

Supervisor: Megan Schultz, (406) 243-6454

- **Survey Research & Data Collection** – Trained in ethical research standards for human subjects, ensuring proper data handling, privacy, and consent protocols. Conducted guerilla street interviews and surveys, collecting behavioral and attitudinal data to analyze Montana's tourism trends.
- **Independent Research Execution & Adaptability**- Successfully conducted independent research projects, working without supervision while maintain high accuracy and methodological integrity. Adapted to varied environments and conditions, conducting interviews in rain, snow, and windy conditions, traveling long distances for field research. Approached diverse individuals in tailored ways, building rapport and goodwill to encourage participation in studies.

## Research Assistant (Air Force Specialist)

Aug . 2015—May 2016

Montana Anthropogenic Research Cooperative, Center for Integrated Research on the Environment, University of Montana – Missoula

Part-time, 20hr/ wk

Supervisor: Dr. Kelly Dixon (612) 247-6414

- **Cross-Cultural Communication & Collaboration**—Facilitated cross-cultural problem-solving between Tribal representatives and military personnel, ensuring effective communication and relationship-building. Delivered Tribal consultation & relations training for the Air Force, enhancing institutional understanding of engagement protocols.
- **Qualitative Data Collection** – Conducted field observation studies and interviews, gathering insights on Air Force Tribal consultation capacities, needs, and policy challenges. Analyzed existing consultation frameworks, identifying gaps and recommending improvements based on user experience research.
- **Training & Resource Development**—Developed user-friendly computer-based training tools, including templates, checklists, and interactive resources, integrating Air Force Instructions, policy, and law. Created practical digital tools to streamline Tribal consultation processes, improving efficiency and compliance accuracy.

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## Publications and More

- 2022—Heritage and the Existential Need for History (book review in *Historical Archaeology*)
- Phase I Intensive Archeological Survey for Lessees on Multiple University of Texas Lands Projects 21-0915-105 and 21-1034-443 in Crockett and Terrell Counties, TX, TX Antiquities Code Permit 30426
- 2022—Cultural Resources Inventory Report. USDA-NRCS Texas Section 110 Survey of The Clark Cemetery of Harrison County, TX
- 2021—Cultural Resource Investigations for Proposed Brush Management Grubbing for Project 21-1163-441, Taylor County, TX
- 2020—Cultural Desktop Assessment for a Livestock Pipeline, Pump Station, and Water Facilities in Robertson County, TX
- 2019—Cultural Resource Inventory Report for FY 2019 Section 110, Bisbee Mountain, Colville National Forest, WA
- 2018—The Sylvan Blindspot: The Archaeological Value of Surface Vegetation and a Critique of its Documentation (master's thesis)

## Maintenance Management Production / Scheduling & Documentation (Production Scheduler)

Aug. 2007—May 2012

Active Duty United States Air Force  
2R151,

Nellis AFB, Dover AFB, and veteran of an undisclosed location deployment

- **Database & Records Management**—Managed complex datasets for aircraft maintenance ops, ensuring accuracy—transferrable to artifact cataloging, site documentation, and admin. Record completeness. Audited aircraft historical records, correcting errors in maintenance history to improve operational safety—transferrable to maintaining collections and archaeological databases. Standardized archival procedures to streamline data processing—transferrable to museum collections and archaeological databases.
- **Field Logistics & Operations**—Coordinated scheduling and resource allocation for mission-critical tasks—akin to managing fieldwork and post-field work timelines or project logistics. Presented maintenance effectiveness in high-visibility meetings—similar to consulting and reporting updates to stakeholders. Performed military ceremonies and maintained decorum for high-profile events—relevant to consultative and outreach events. Advised on cultural sensitivity matters, supporting diverse religious needs—demonstrating awareness of indigenous and heritage concerns.



## Education and Certifications

- **Registered Professional Archaeologist, RPA** 18097, 2020
- **MA in Anthropology** / University of Montana 2018  
4.0 GPA, thesis option, Lambda Alpha Honors Society for Anth.
- **BA in Biblical Studies** / Amridge University, AL 2014  
Magna Cum Laude, 3.85 GPA

### Continued Education

- **NRCS Texas PXRf** Workshop Local & In-person 05/01-02/2023
- **Working Eff. with Amer. Ind. Tribes** Webinar AgLearn 04/19-20,26-27/2022
- **GIS Tools for Cultural Resources** Webinar National Preservation Institute 08/19/2021
- **Statewide ArcPro GIS** (10 weeks) 2021
- **ESRI Academy** 08/05/2021
- **Protecting Historic Properties in Disaster Response Advisory Council on Historic Preservation** 06/15/2021
- **NRCS Cultural Resource Field Training** (Mod. 8) AgLearn (in-person) 08/11/2020
- **Section 106 Agreements** seminar Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Zoom) 07/30/2020
- **Section 106 Essentials** course Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Zoom) 07/28-29/2020
- **NRCS State Cultural Resource Training** (Mod. 7) AgLearn (Teams) 07/20-21/2020
- **Tribal Ancestral Lands Consultation** AgLearn 07/07/2020
- **Conflict Management Training** AgLearn 07/07/2020
- **USDA Tribal Consultation, Coord, & Collab.** AgLearn 06/08/2020