

# ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE PRESERVES

*The Center for Environmental Inquiry is committed to protecting cultural resources.*



## Why protect archaeological resources?

- They are non-renewable and irreplaceable.
- They provide valuable information that aids in uncovering the history of human occupation.
- To be respectful of the desires of Native American people and descendants of more recent land stewards.

## What is protected?

- Archaeological and historical resources 50 years or older are protected by California State Law under the Public Resources, Health and Safety, and Penal codes. Violations are misdemeanors.

## Sites and artifacts. What does that mean?

- A site is the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing or ruined.
- Historic period artifacts include metal objects (such as cans and nails), whole or fragmentary glass bottles, and pottery.
- Prehistoric artifacts include chert and obsidian flaked-stone tools (arrow-heads), stone milling equipment (mortars, pestles, handstones), or stone flakes from tool manufacturing.

## What is prohibited?

- Collection or disturbance of archaeological or historical resources without prior authorization.
- Prohibited activities include, but are not limited to, collecting artifacts, digging, camping in non-designated areas, and driving or parking off-road.

## Who must follow the policy?

- Everyone. This includes SSU staff, faculty, students, researchers, contractors, consultants, and visitors to the Preserve.

## What to do if you find an artifact?

- **Leave it where you found it.**
- **Document it so we can find it later.**  
Any details that you can provide would be helpful: photo, description and location (GPS coordinates, proximity to major landforms, watercourses, roads, etc.)
- **Contact Preserve staff.**  
Write us at [ssupreserves@sonoma.edu](mailto:ssupreserves@sonoma.edu) or call (707) 664-3416 and let us know what you found.