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## Report From Workshop: Survey Methods - Flexibility And Standardization

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REPORT FROM WORKSHOP:  
SURVEY METHODS - FLEXIBILITY AND STANDARDIZATION

Moderator: William Bayreuther, University of Vermont

Workshop Participants:

William Bayreuther, University of Vermont  
Albert Dekin, SUNY/BINGHAMTON  
Gail Gustafson, Rhode Island Historical Preservation Committee  
Karen Hartgen, Archaeological Consultant  
John Knoerl, Department of Interior, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Alan Leveillee, Warkwick, Rhode Island  
William Wadleigh, University of Connecticut  
Ann Marie Wagner, University of New Hampshire

Long Term Goal

We recommend the study of locational and content characteristics of cultural resources in order to:

1. Facilitate the study of subsistence-settlement systems,
2. Generate environmental predictors of resource location and character, and
3. Support decisions regarding the proper management of the region's resources, including assessments of significance and research potential.

Standard Requirements for Survey Results

Because the analysis and management require comparable information, we recommend that minimal standards be developed and applied regionally

for survey reports (note that these are standards for products and not for personnel or procedures).

These standards should include:

1. Accurate location for each cultural source encountered, using UTM coordinates;
2. Development of comparable and empirically derived resource-type categories as analytic and depictive units, and
3. Resource type size and content characteristics (parameters to include variation in artifact density, distribution, content and clustering.)

#### Research Agenda

We recommend that the following research be conducted and that the results be widely disseminated within the region:

1. An evaluation of site files data, for accuracy and sufficiency for accomplishing our goals, stated above.
2. Empirical data and analyses of the variation in cultural resource-type categories to justify use of those categories (with special emphasis on the study of size and content variation within these categories).
3. Empirical data on the spatial integrity (boundaries and content) of each resource-type category.
4. Empirical data on the size (extent in space) on each resource-type category.

#### Recommended Coordination

We recommend that the SHPO's in the Northeast form a coordinating committee of archaeologists to insure the compatibility of data reportage across state lines, specifically including standard reporting forms for cultural resources surveys. This committee should also evaluate the reliability of survey results. It is further recommended that this coordinating committee be funded with survey and planning moneys available to each SHPO. This recommendation reflects a genuine concern for reliable results through specifying personnel requirements, procedures and product reliability (and inherent accountability of performance.)