

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: **Beaucoup Field School in Montana**

Type of Project: Education/Research

Project Discipline: Cultural

Funding Agency: Bureau of Land Management

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana

Effective Dates: June 1, 2010 - August 31, 2012

Funding Amount: \$20,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

Agency Contact: Jody Miller, Archaeologist, BLM Glasgow Field Office, PO Box 871, Glasgow, MT 59230; Phone: 406-228-3756

Investigator: Mike Nealey, Dept. of Sociology & Anthropology, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717; Phone:(406) 994-7195 e-mail: mnealey@montana.edu

Project Abstract: The Beaucoup site is one of 2 sites within the Big Bend of Milk River Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). This site is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion D and the nomination process is currently underway. The Beaucoup site is located on the Milk River in an archaeological rich area. Use of this area on the Milk River by indigenous groups is important as the site is located a few miles upstream from a prominent natural crossing, other National Register eligible sites and petroglyph boulders. The Milk River valley area was most likely used for generations.

Project Objective: To further the scientific study of the Beaucoup site. The site is categorized for Scientific use in the Land Use Plan, with a prescription for excavation and/or scientific study. The scientific study proposed here will increase the data for the National Register Nomination and the general knowledge of indigenous use of the area.

Work cooperatively with a university to systematically conduct an excavation with a field school class at the Beaucoup site. The field school would be planned for the first summer and a geomorphological study of the indigenous use of the Milk River valley would occur the second summer.

Outcomes with completion dates: August 31, 2012

Keywords: Archaeological field school, National Register of Historic Places, Beaucoup site, Big Bend of Milk River Area, northwest Plains Indian bands, Bureau of Land Management, University of Montana