

## **Project Summary**

### **Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title:** Last Canyon Cave Research in Montana

**Discipline:** Cultural  
**Type of Project:** Research  
**Funding Agency:** Bureau of Land Management  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Wyoming  
**Effective Dates:** 7/1/2012 to 8/1/2017  
**Funding Amount:** \$25,000

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

BLM Contact:

Investigator: Marcel Kornfeld, Department of Anthropology, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY, (307) 766-3548, anpro1@uwyo.edu

**Project Abstract:** The University of Wyoming was awarded an assistance agreement in 2007 to undertake data recovery on a severely vandalized cave (Last Canyon Cave) located in the foothills of the Pryor Mountains. Significant and unanticipated discoveries were made in Last Canyon Cave (a hearth dating to 10,800 year before present, Pleistocene faunal remains, a pithouse structure, etc.). The BLM installed wildlife friendly gate over the entrance of the cave to prevent any further vandalism and to protect the remaining cultural deposits.

This project will expand on the ongoing research occurring at Last Canyon Cave and it will compare and contrast structures with caves and shelters for the purpose of putting the Last Canyon Cave pithouse and the Last Canyon Cave Overhang shelter within a wall of broader context of shelter structures in the Prior Mountains as well as the Bighorn Basin.

The objective of this project is to complete the work at Last Canyon Cave and document (and date) the human habitation/use other rockshelter/cave sites in the Pryor Mountains.

**Outcomes:** 8/1/2017

**Keywords:** University of Wyoming, Bureau of Land Management, Montana, Pryor Mountains, Last Canyon Cave, cultural resources, human habitation.