

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Reconnaissance for Ice Patch Archeology

Discipline: Cultural
Type of Project: Research
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Colorado, Boulder
Effective Dates: 7/5/2008 - 12/1/2009
Funding Amount: \$13,800

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Ann Johnson, Archeologist - Yellowstone Center for Resources, Yellowstone NP, Wyoming 82190, (307) 344-2224, Ann_Johnson@nps.gov

Investigator: Craig Lee, Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, University of Colorado, Campus Box 450, Boulder, CO 80309-0450, phone: 303-735-7807, Craig.Lee@colorado.edu

Project Abstract: The Archeology Program of Yellowstone National Park is concerned that in the alpine and sub-alpine areas have been few, if any, inventories of archeological sites that might document human seasonal activities, bighorn sheep hunting, and lithic procurement. The permanent ice in Yellowstone is melting each year and will disappear in the next decade or so. In some areas, including the Beartooths adjacent to the northeastern corner of Yellowstone, stone artifacts and arrow/atlatl shafts have been identified as they melted out of the ice. The ice patches constitute a rare environment that offers unique preservation opportunities. The YELL staff and University cooperators will perform a Section 110 reconnaissance inventory of three ice patch areas: Parker Peak, Quadrant, and Electric Peak. The purpose of this project is to inventory these areas and to make recommendations for future work.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: Due by March 28, 2009:

- Archeological Site forms for all identified sites
- Site condition assessment forms for all sites.
- Archeological Inventory Report for the Electric Peak, Parker Peak, and Quadrant Mountain Ice Patches. 15 bound, one electronic on CD, and 1 pdf version.

Keywords: Yellowstone National Park, University of Colorado at Boulder, ice patch, archeology.