

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Flathead Headwaters Ethnographic Resources Review and Assessment, Phase II

Discipline: Cultural Resources
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Salish Kootenai College
Effective Dates: 5/1/2014 - 9/30/2015
Funding Amount: \$10,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The purpose of the original project was to assist Glacier National Park in defining the Flathead Rivers' ethnographic, or traditional cultural, Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORVs) on a segment-specific basis. The study provided Glacier National Park and the Flathead National Forest with a review of data relevant to the assessment of these cultural values. Results of this study will now be considered by managers as they develop a Joint Comprehensive River Management Plan/EIS for the Headwaters of the Flathead River.

A public version of the "Flathead Headwaters Ethnographic Resources Review and Assessment" would serve to educate area visitors about the long history of association between the tribes of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation (CSKT) at the Flathead Headwaters. It also would be available for CSKT educational purposes.

1. Generate Public Version of Report

Specific changes required to generate a public version of the report, developed in consultation with CSKT Preservation Department staff include:

- a. Removal of all site-specific information (legal location and specific names).
- b. Downplay archeological sections and remove artifact photographs.
- c. Addition of a section on Federal laws protecting cultural resources and including a strong message regarding cultural resource protection

2. Detailed Consultation on Places of Likely Impact along River Corridors

Work with the Culture Committees on the particulars of findings, potential impacts, and place names, organized in a user-friendly, working presentation, using close-up maps to clearly show relationship between potentially threatened places and those places that are important to protect from impacts. Information will be coordinated with locations on the *Float Guide for the Three Forks of the Flathead*. This effort will provide the Culture Committees the specifics to help focus them on particular places so that they can choose what and how much to contribute to the body of information.

3. Map Work

In order to enhance the GIS map of aboriginal trails through the study area as suggested by Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Historic Preservation Department staff, the following modifications will be made to the map:

- a. Review the 64 aboriginal place names and select up to 30 that are most relevant to the study. These decisions will be made in consultation with the Culture Committees.
- b. Key locations in the *Float Guide for the Three Forks of the Flathead* will be added (up to 20 of those locations and important tributaries) to the map to enhance management perspectives.
- c. Add these locations into the database used to produce an earlier version of the map and produce a new map with these additions.

4. Field Checking

Work with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Historic Preservation Department staff and the Culture Committees to provide one or two day-long field trips to locations along the rivers where Tribal members can take young people in order to pass on their cultural stories.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: Final Project Report - March 31, 2015

Keywords: Ethnography, Flathead Headwaters, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Glacier National Park, Salish Kootenai College