

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit
Project Summary

Project Title: Inventory Archaeological Resources, Gardiner River Geothermal Area, YELL.

Discipline: Cultural

Type of Project: Technical Assistance and Education

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: Salish Kootenai College

Student Participation: Yes

Effective Dates: July 1, 2020 to May 31, 2025

Funding Amount: \$36,680

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS ATR: Elizabeth A. Horton, Park Archeologist, National Park Service, Yellowstone National Park, PO Box 168
Yellowstone NP, WY 82190, Phone: 307-344-2290, Cell: 406-548-4440, Fax: 406-848-9958, Email:
beth_horton@nps.gov

Investigator: Professor Dean Nicolai, Salish Kootenai College, PO Box 70, Pablo MT 59855-0070, Phone: 406-275-
4821, Fax: 406-275-4801, Email: dean_nicolai@skc.edu

Project Abstract:

Project Goals – This project will inventory, complete site condition assessments, and evaluate archaeological sites for eligibility for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for lands along the east side of the Gardiner River, near hydrothermal areas, within Yellowstone National Park. Archaeological sites are unique in their ability to inform on pre-contact and traditional human use of these hydrothermal areas.

Project Objectives – The objectives of this project are to 1) complete a Section 110 inventory and create baseline documentation, including site condition assessments, for archaeological sites within 1,000 acres, east of the Gardiner River at its junction with the Boiling River area, 2) evaluate cultural resources encountered during inventory for eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), 3) treat impacts found at sites through hands-on actions, such as soil stabilization, etc., and 4) develop recommendations for long-term management strategies for cultural resource protection along trail corridors.