

Project Completion Report

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU)

Project Title: Examination and Analysis of Key White Bird Battlefield Sites

Project Code : UID-26

Type of Project (Research, Technical Assistance or Research): Research

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Partner University: University of Idaho

NPS Agreements Technical Representative: Jason Lyon, Nez Perce National Historical Park, P.O. Box 1000, 39063 U.S. Highway 95, Lapwai, Idaho, 83540; (208) 843-7017; jason_lyon@nps.gov

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And

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Start Date of Project: September 1, 2009

End Date of Project: August 31, 2010

Funding Amount: \$8,284

Project Summary:

The focus of this project was to identify and examine several potential locations for key battle related events that occurred on the White Bird site during the 1877 encounter. These included potential identification of the Theller Ravine, analysis of the defensive breastworks discovered in 1987, and further refinement of the military positions on the battlefield. Fieldwork was conducted over the course of the late summer and fall of 2009. Numerous areas were examined across the site with mixed results. The exact location of the Theller Ravine is still a mystery as all potential locations examined failed to reveal any archeological evidence indicative of the location of the Theller event. However, several new defensive positions and potential gravesites were discovered over the course of the study that will contribute greatly to the understanding, interpretation, and management of the battlefield by the NPS.

The final report was completed in the form of a thesis by the project's primary Researcher, Renea Martinson. Renea's thesis from the University of Idaho is titled: *Archaeological Investigations of the White Bird Canyon, Idaho Sites* and a copy is available at the Nez Perce National Historical Park Research Center and Library.

Number of students participating in this project: undergraduates, graduate students, degrees conferred.

The primary Researcher on this project was Renea Martinson. Renea completed this project as part of her Masters of Arts degree in Anthropology from the University of Idaho. Also involved in the fieldwork portion of this project were eight other graduate and undergraduate students from the University of Idaho, Department of Anthropology.