

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Inventory North Fork of the Flathead River Homestead Archeological Sites for Interpretation and Management Needs

Discipline: Cultural
Type of Project: Research
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana
Effective Dates: 5/1/2008- 5/1/2009
Funding Amount: \$19,914

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The North Fork of the Flathead River area of Glacier National Park saw the highest concentration of homestead settlement prior to the park's creation in 1910. Thirty-six of the 48 homestead patents issued were in this area. Another nine homestead claims were relinquished prior to patent. A survey of the North Fork homesteads, completed in 1986, resulted in a report documenting the social and economic life of the early settlers, and architectural construction materials and methods. It focused on homesteads with standing buildings, and resulted in seven homesteads being listed in the National Register of Historic Places. (Three of these subsequently burned in a 1988 wildland fire.) Historic archeological remains were not documented during the study.

This project will inventory approximately 40 homestead and related sites. The inventory will provide accurate site descriptions, condition assessments, identify threats and determine possible treatment, and provide National Register of Historic Places evaluations. An inventory report will be completed. Information in the report will be used for interpretive programs and to educate law enforcement ranges to reduce visitor impacts to and prevent looting of sites.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

September 19, 2008 Complete field work and submit Intermountain Region Archeological Site Status evaluation forms.

December 12, 2008 Draft Montana Cultural Resources Information System Forms (CRIS) and draft inventory report.

February 27, 2009 Final Montana Cultural Resources Information System Forms (CRIS), final inventory report, field reports, and cataloged and labeled artifacts.

Keywords: North Fork of the Flathead River, Glacier National Park, archeology, homestead settlements, University of Montana