

## **Project Summary**

### **Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title:** Paleo-Indian land use in Glacier National Park

**Discipline:** Cultural  
**Type of Project:** Technical assistance  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Montana  
**Effective Dates:** September 1, 2008 - September 1, 2009  
**Funding Amount:** \$8,500

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** Previous archeological research has identified the late Paleo-Indian 'Alberta point' as representative of the Plano culture of the Cody complex. This 'point' was first discovered and named at the Fletcher site in the Alberta province of Canada. The cultural area has been defined as restricted to the Great Northern Plains of North America, and specifically bounded to the north by the Saskatchewan river in Alberta; to the East in east central Saskatchewan; and as far south as Yuma county, Colorado. To the west the culture area was bounded by the Continental Divide. A GLAC backcountry ranger discovered an Isolated Obsidian Alberta point on the west slope of Mt. Custer along a scree slope, on the west side of the 'divide' in 1986. Source analysis of the obsidian was undertaken in 1992 and resulted in its association with the Bear Gulch obsidian source in north eastern Idaho. This projectile point could be considered the most significant of the prehistoric artifacts located within GNP.

A graduate student at the University of Montana will review the park's archeological collection and other pertinent information. He will re-visit the site where the artifact was collected and make inferences as to its depositional location, and assess whether there may be other associated resources in the area. With the assistance of the NPS key official he will consult with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Historic Preservation Department and the Blackfeet Tribal Historic Preservation Officer regarding ethnographically-based knowledge, including travel corridors, trade networks, land use, seasonality, and oral tradition. He will research other "Alberta" sites to gain a broader understanding of previous research, comparative points, function and use, travel corridors, source materials and transport, and climatic geologic view. In addition to a final report, he will complete the Intermountain Region Archeological Site Status Evaluation form in the field for the site.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:**

**By September 1, 2009:** Annotated bibliography of previous research relevant to project, Annotated bibliography of sites and collections relevant to project, Amended site form and Intermountain Region Archeological Site Status Evaluation form, Draft report, Final report (15 copies and one electronic Microsoft Word File will be submitted), Field records, Presentation of findings at a regional archeological conference or in a professional journal.

**Keywords:** Glacier National Park, archeology, paleoIndians, obsidian points, University of Montana