

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Montana-Yellowstone Archeological Project, FHWA (2009): Swan Lake Flats Horse Trailer Parking Area and Access Road Class III Archeological Block Inventory and National Register Testing

Discipline: Cultural
Type of Project: Technical assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana
Effective Dates: September 15, 2008- September 30, 2010
Funding Amount: \$10,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Investigator: Doug MacDonald, Department of Anthropology, University of Montana,
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Project Abstract: The University of Montana field team will conduct archeological survey of the 100 acre area proposed for the construction of a new horse trailer parking area south of the Golden Gate/Rustic Falls area on the west side of the Grand Loop Road. Survey will also be conducted for the access road to the new parking area. The team will define site limits, draw site planviews and maps, and prepare site forms, as well as provide condition assessments as required by YNP personnel. Test excavations will also be conducted at all sites identified to ascertain the presence/absence of subsurface cultural deposits, site stratigraphy and assess the integrity of the site for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. Project work will be completed by the UM field team under the direction of MacDonald and designated graduate student assistants. The remainder of the field crew will consist of 10-15 students enrolled in the University of Montana archeological field school. In addition to fieldwork, the UM field team will perform historic artifact analysis, lithic analysis, report preparation, and artifact curation. These activities will be conducted at the University of Montana, Department of Anthropology in Missoula, Montana in Fall 2009 and Spring 2010.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: A full archeological survey report will be provided upon completion of the fieldwork and analysis in Spring 2010. This report will consist of complete results of survey and inventory and will include background research, culture history, archeological results, archeological recommendations, as well as data tables, maps, and photographs, as necessary by 9/30/2010.

Keywords: archeology, Yellowstone National Park, University of Montana, field school, Grand Loop Road