

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Research with Tribes on Wickiups

Discipline: Cultural

Type of Project: Research

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana

Effective Dates: 7/7/2008-9/30/2010

Funding Amount: \$50,943, (FY08: \$20,994; FY09: \$29,949)

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Researcher: Katie White, University of Montana, Department of Anthropology.

Project Abstract: The overall objective of this project is to produce a report that includes information gleaned from the first phase of research (already completed) as well as from work with tribes required in this phase. The report will identify likely tribal affiliations (currently unknown) of wickiups (conical timber structures), their significance to tribal peoples, their actual and potential locations within Bridger-Teton National Forest (BRTE), Shoshone National Forest (SHOS), Grand Teton National Park (GRTE), and Yellowstone National Park (YELL), and management recommendations based on input from the tribes. Wickiups in BRTE, SHOS, GRTE, and YELL are recognized as rare and ephemeral cultural resources that date from the protohistoric or very early historic period. Though several hundred were documented in early historical accounts, particularly for YELL, only a few are known to remain. Up until the first study phase, no formal survey and documentation of wickiups had taken place in BRTE, SHOS, GRTE, and YELL. Of the 29 wickiup sites recorded to date in the study area, many of these structures are in fragile condition and deteriorating. Also, tribes have not been thoroughly spoken with about these resources. Before the wickiup study began, at least five tribes (Blackfoot Tribe, Crow Tribe, Eastern Shoshone Tribe, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes) formally acknowledged the significance of these structures and had knowledge to convey about them

Outcomes with Completion Dates: **The UM researcher will provide a final report of research by September 30, 2010.** The researcher will provide to the USFS and NPS tapes of the interviews conducted. If video recording of interviews is permitted, the USFS and NPS also will receive copies of those videos.

Keywords: Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, USDA-Forest Service, Shoshone NF, Bridger-Teton NF, University of Montana, Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, wickiups, tribal research, ethnography