

## **Project Summary**

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

**Project Title: Phase 2: Mission 66 Historic Context for Yellowstone National Park, Canyon Cabins Area and Parkwide Bridges**

**Discipline:** Cultural  
**Type of Project:** Research/Education  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Montana  
**Effective Dates:** May 1, 2009 - September 30, 2011  
**Funding Amount:** \$29,375

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** The "Mission 66" program was initiated by the National Park Service in 1956 and was to be completed by the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the agency in 1966. Currently, the challenge for Yellowstone National Park is to conduct thorough research and draft a historic context for the Mission 66 era structures constructed in Yellowstone National Park. This document should use Ethan Carr's national context study to set the service-wide theme and for comparison with the planning, design, and construction processes taking place in this park during the Mission 66 era. Visitor use structures in YNP have not been identified by the NPS as significant precursors to the Mission 66 program so the period of significance in YNP would begin at 1956 and end at 1972.

The cooperator, with student assistance, shall conduct research sufficient to provide the historic context and documentation of the Canyon Cabin developed area and the bridges constructed during YNP's Mission 66 era, 1956-1972, to include into the overall Mission 66 historic context for YNP. The historic context will be sufficient to provide information with which to evaluate the National Register significance of the Canyon Cabin developed area and the bridges. The additional information will also be used in the development of a National Register Multiple Property Document adding the Canyon Cabin area and the bridges as property types. The cooperator will provide, to the extent possible, both historic photographs and original current photographs or digital files (not embedded in the text) with captions of representative examples of each property/structure types for the Canyon Cabin area and the bridges. YNP photo archives have many photographs from which to choose. Richard Collier, Photographer, with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office also has wide format photographs of YNP Mission 66 era buildings. Three copies of the current photographs will be provided to YNP. This agreement adds the Canyon Cabin developed area and the bridges to the already established scope of work for the historic context and National Register Multiple Property Document for Yellowstone National Park's Mission 66 developments.

As part of the project, the University of Montana and the National Park Service, will jointly develop a class exercise for UMT ANTH 451 (Cultural Resource Management), using the Yellowstone Mission 66 project as an example of cultural resource management on federal lands.

**Outcomes and completion dates: Due September 30, 2011:** 1) Archival research and draft historic context for all Mission 66 structures in the Canyon Cabins area and for all bridges build park-wide during the Mission 66 period. This additional contextual research and development work can be wrapped into the larger Yellowstone National Park-wide Mission 66 context. 2) Wyoming Cultural Property Forms for Canyon Cabins and for Mission 66 bridges. The Canyon Cabins may be batched into one form that describes all of the various cabin styles and the bridges that are similar in materials and construction may also be batched into one form. 3) The bridges and

structures in the Canyon cabins area will be included as property types in the National Register Multiple Property Document.

**Keywords:** Mission 66, history, architecture, Canyon Cabins, bridges, Yellowstone National Park, University of Montana