

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Flathead Wild and Scenic River Outstanding Resource Values Ethnographic Study

Type of Project: Research/Technical Assistance
Discipline: Interdisciplinary
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana, Flathead National Forest
Effective Dates: 5/1/2012 - 12/31/2013
Funding Amount: \$10,500

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Lon Johnson, Glacier National Park, PO Box 128, West Glacier, Montana 59936; Ph. (406) 888-7943, Lon_Johnson@nps.gov

Investigator: Sally Thompson, Ph.D, Department of Anthropology, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812, Ph. 406-531-6469, Sally.Thompson@mso.umt.edu

Project Abstract: The Flathead National Forest and Glacier National Park are in the process of developing a Joint Comprehensive River Management Plan/EIS. To develop defensible river management plans that effectively protect and enhance outstandingly remarkable resource values *where they occur*, information is needed on a segment-by-segment basis. This information will lead to outstandingly remarkable values (ORV) determinations for each resource value on each of the six designated segments (two segments on each of the three rivers). Glacier National Park is assisting in the river planning effort in a number of ways, including beginning consultation with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes to document ethnographic ORVs. Glacier National Park and Flathead Forest Service staff met with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Historic Preservation Department staff on January 29, 2012.

The scope of this project is to assist Glacier National Park in defining the Flathead Rivers' ethnographic ORVs on a segment-specific basis. Determining ORVs is a matter of informed professional judgment. ORVs must be river-related and at least regionally rare, unique or exemplary. The comparative region for ethnography has been initially defined as the Bitterroot, Kootenai and Clark Fork river systems in Western Montana and Northern Idaho. While certain resources may in fact be internationally significant, this is the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Flathead need only be outstanding in comparison with other similar American rivers.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

Draft Report - April 1, 2013; Final Report - June 1, 2013 or eight weeks after receipt of NPS comments, whichever is later

Keywords: Outstanding Resource Values, tribal consultation, Ethnographic Study, North Fork and Middle Fork of the Flathead River System, Joint Comprehensive River Management Plan/EIS, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Glacier National Park, Flathead National Forest, University of Montana