

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit
Project Summary

Project Title: NRHP Testing of Archaeological Sites in Support of FHWA Norris to Golden Gate Phase III and Northeast Entrance Corridor Projects

Task Agreement #: P18AC01073

Discipline: Cultural

Type of Project: Technical Assistance

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana

Student Participation: No

Effective Dates: 6/1/2018 – 5/31/2020

Funding Amount: \$103,341

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract:

The project facilitates the Secretary of the Interior's priority of *modernizing our infrastructure* through completion of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility testing at archaeological sites that fall within the projected corridors of the Norris to Golden Gate Phase III and Northeast Entrance Road reconstruction projects. The infrastructure upgrades of the Grand Loop Road between Norris and Golden Gate, and of the Northeast Entrance Road are undertakings as defined by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U. S. C. § 470), and thus the National Park Service must take into account potential effects to historic properties caused by the project and afford interested parties a reasonable opportunity to comment on those effects through consultation. The Norris to Golden Gate Phase III and Northeast Entrance Road highway infrastructure projects have been surveyed for archaeological sites, however the NRHP eligibility status of thirteen sites in the corridor of these projects is as of yet undetermined. Archaeological testing will be completed at these thirteen archaeological sites, eight of which (48YE307, 48YE325, 48YE483/508, 48YE484, 48YE485, 48YE486, 48YE509, and 48YE719) are currently believed to cover 610.75 acres and are located in the Norris to Golden Gate Phase III corridor of the Grand Loop Road, and five of which (48YE96, 48YE168, 48YE414, 48YE1357, and 48YE1359) are currently believed to cover 238.54 acres and are located along the Northeast Entrance Road corridor. The archaeological testing will determine whether the sites are eligible for inclusion on the National Register and allow the National Park Service to knowledgeably consult on the sites with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and interested tribal partners and thus meet its obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Project Objectives – The sites are to be fully delineated, assessed for eligibility for inclusion on the NRHP, artifacts are to be processed and catalogued to 36CFR79 curation standards, and a final report meeting Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office standards is to be produced. These deliverables will be used during consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office in order to meet cultural resource preservation requirements as outlined in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U. S. C. § 470).