

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit
Project Summary

Project Title: Inventory Archaeological Resources/Evaluate Visitor Impacts, Boiling River Geothermal Area, YELL.

Discipline: Interdisciplinary

Type of Project: Technical Assistance and Education

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana

Student Participation: Yes

Effective Dates: July 1, 2020 to May 31, 2025

Funding Amount: \$121,859

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Investigator: Dr. Douglas MacDonald, Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812, Phone: 406-243-5809, Email: douglas.macdonald@umontana.edu

Project Abstract:

Project Goals – This project will inventory, complete site condition assessments, and evaluate archaeological sites for eligibility for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and develop a Traditional Use Study for lands surrounding the Boiling River area within Yellowstone National Park. Archaeological sites and ethnographic oral histories are unique in their ability to inform on pre-contact and traditional human use of these hydrothermal areas.

Project Objectives – The objectives of this project are to 1) complete a Section 110 inventory and create baseline documentation, including site condition assessments, for archaeological sites within 3,000 acres east of the Gardiner River at its junction with the Boiling River area, including 48YE316 and 48YE717, 2) evaluate cultural resources encountered during inventory for eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), 3) treat impacts found at sites through hands-on actions, such as soil stabilization, etc., 4) develop recommendations for long-term management strategies for cultural resource protection along trail corridors; and 5) develop a Traditional Use Study of the Boiling River Area through completing oral histories for traditional use of the area.