

MYAP NEWSLETTER

MONTANA YELLOWSTONE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK & THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

MYAP SEASON TO BEGIN JUNE 25, 2007

Friday, May 4, 2007—The Montana-Yellowstone Archaeological Project—MYAP—is set to begin on June 25, 2007, with a crew of 12 under the guidance of Field Director Brenda Covington (University of Montana Graduate Student) and Principal Investigator Doug MacDonald (University of Montana Anthropology Department Assistant Professor). The project will conclude its inaugural season at the end of July.



A Late 19th Century Dairy Site in the MYAP, with Yellowstone's Heritage Research Center in the Background.

In a recent visit to the MYAP area, Elaine Hale of Yellowstone National Park (YNP) gave Covington and MacDonald a tour of the 700-acre Boundary Lands parcel which will be the subject of the inaugural season. During the hour-long tour, the group identified a previously-unrecorded chert and obsidian lithic scatter on the banks of the Yellowstone River, just northwest of Gardiner, Montana. An old dairy and the old Northern Pacific Railroad corridor was also observed in the project area (see photo above), all of which will be recorded during the MYAP project.

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Special points of interest:

MYAP season: June 25-July 27, 2007.

12 students are enrolled in the field school.

Field camp will be at the Superintendent's space at Indian Creek campground.

HRC WILL PROVIDE RESOURCES TO MYAP

YNP's Elaine Hale gave UIM's MacDonald and Covington a tour of the Heritage Research Center (HRC; right) which will provide the MYAP with background research materials and laboratory space for artifact processing and team meetings and lectures. The brand-new HRC is a beautiful

building which can be seen in the background of the photo above. It is just north of the Gardiner High School and houses a wonderful research library, curation facility, archaeological laboratories, and research facilities for numerous park cultural resource personnel and historians.

Yellowstone's HRC Building



MONTANA YELLOWSTONE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

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The MYAP Project Area with beautiful Electric Peak (elevation 10,969 ft. amsl) in the background



Yellowstone's Elaine Hale (right) with UM's Brenda Covington finding lithic artifacts in the MYAP Project area.



A High Potential Terrace in the MYAP Project Area overlooking the Yellowstone River.

MYAP FIELD CAMP AT INDIAN CREEK

The MYAP field camp will be in the Superintendent's section of Indian Creek campground. This is a group camp site approximately a quarter mile south of the main camp area. Indian Creek (photo below) is a beautiful trout stream that feeds into the Yellowstone River past the nearby Sheepsteer Cliff area of the park.

The MYAP camp has two bathrooms, five picnic tables, fresh spring water, and abundant space for tents. Graduate student Lester Maas is providing his camping trailer, complete with kitchen, while the team will also have a NASA research trailer with a nice Honda generator. Camp will also have two camp stoves and a nice covered area for eating dinner. A horse shoe pit and a very nice fire pit and abundant

fire wood round out what promises to be a very memorable field camp. Elaine Hale from Yellowstone has already promised to visit for occasional nights in camp.

Other guests to camp will include many archaeologists and other cultural resource folks passing through the park. All are welcome.



YELLOWSTONE TO PROVIDE GPS TO MYAP

While the MYAP owns two very nice Garmin GPS handheld units (see below), Yellowstone's Geographic Information System's group has agreed to provide several additional GPS units for the MYAP team. In addition, YNP's GIS team has also agreed to provide training for the MYAP crew prior to the beginning of the field season.



MYAP FIELD CREW

Principal Investigator: Doug MacDonald (UM)

Field Director: Brenda Covington (UM)

Crew/Field School Students: From UM— Lester Maas, Wilena Old Person, Meg Tracy, Robert Peltier, Jason Plainfeather, Derek Biggs & Katrina Johnson. Students from other universities: Robert Hairston-Porter and Travis Wardell (College of Charleston, South Carolina); C.J. Truesdale (University of Wyoming); Michael Livers (University of North Dakota); and Leia Hays (Western Carolina University).