

# MYAP NEWSLETTER

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

## ARCHAEOLOGY ABOUNDS IN MYAP AREA

Sunday, June 10, 2007—Assistant Professor Doug MacDonald and graduate student intern Lester Maas (right) conducted a preliminary reconnaissance of the MYAP area on Thursday and Friday, June 7-8. As expected, several dense prehistoric obsidian and chert lithic scatters were identified along the banks of the Yellowstone River. In addition, MacDonald and Maas located the probable site of the Cinnabar train station (1883-1903) and other historic trash scatters. These many sites will be further surveyed, mapped, and a select few will be excavated in the upcoming Montana Yellowstone Archeological Project (MYAP) field season, set to begin June 25.



*Graduate Student Intern Lester Maas conducts preliminary reconnaissance of a large prehistoric lithic scatter in the MYAP area.*

Conditions during the recent field visit were cold, with a slushy snow on the pass between Butte and Bozeman on the evening of June 7. Students and staff should bring a few warm clothes with them, including a winter jacket, hat, gloves, and long johns (and a warm sleeping bag). However, weather conditions for the field school will likely be warmer, with average daily July temperatures in the 70s and 80s and lows between 30-50 at night. Camp fires will be nice during the cool summer evenings.

### VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

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### JUNE 11, 2007

#### 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.

## MYAP FIELD CAMP LOOKING GOOD

Located adjacent to Obsidian Creek, the field camp will be based at the Superintendent's camp site. See the pictures on the next page. Four picnic tables, two portable toilets, two fire rings, a horse shoe pit, and several great camp sites are present at camp. Fresh water is available in the

adjacent Indian Creek campground and fresh water will be provided at camp each day. Two camp showers will be available, one with a cool tent enclosure. Modern shower and laundry facilities are available in the nearby research facility. We will have a camp kitchen, a

barbecue grill, and a large camp stove. Breakfast and lunch will mostly be cold foods (with an occasional hot breakfast), while dinners will be the big meal of the day. The 15 campers (12 students and 3 supervisors) will break into 5 teams of 3 to cook and clean for dinner each night.

## MONTANA YELLOWSTONE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

Doug MacDonald  
Department of Anthropology  
The University of Montana  
Missoula, MT 59812

Tel: 406 243 5814  
Mobile: 406-529-8176  
Fax: 406 243 4918

douglas.macdonald@mso.umt.edu



*A large chert biface at a prehistoric lithic scatter in the MYAP area.*



*An early 20th century plate from an historic trash scatter in the MYAP area.*



*Assistant Professor and MYAP Principal Investigator Doug MacDonald in the project area on June 8, 2007*

## PICTURES OF MYAP FIELD CAMP



*Bison and elk near Obsidian Creek and our field camp*



*Parking Area and Bear Boxes at MYAP Field Camp*



*Fire pits and picnic tables at camp*



*Portable toilets and open camp space*

## WILDLIFE ABOUND IN PROJECT AND FIELD CAMP AREA

During the recent field visit, MacDonald and Maas observed pronghorn antelope and jack rabbit in the project area, as well as thousands of blooming prickly pear cactus (below). Near the camp area, a large bison and a bull elk were grazing nearly side by side (see above). A grizzly was apparently spotted nearby as well.



*A prickly pear cactus flower blooming recently in the MYAP area.*

## UPDATED MYAP FIELD CREW

Principal Investigator: Doug MacDonald (UM)

Field Director: Brenda Covington (UM)

Crew Chief (Intern): Lester Maas (UM)

Crew/Field School Students: From UM—Emily Darrell, 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).