

MYAP NEWSLETTER

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

2008 MYAP TEAM SELECTED

Thursday, June 5, 2008—The 2008 Montana-Yellowstone Archeological Project is set to begin later this month, with a full crew of four graduate students and 13 undergraduates. The graduate student teaching assistants are Lester Maas, Michael Livers, David Dick, and Robert Peltier. The field school crew will consist of 13 undergraduate students, including 10 from the University of Montana (UM), two from Montana State (MSU), and one from the University of Tennessee. The ten UM students are: Seth Bates, Nathaniel Scherr, Penny Tollefson, Gerad Smith, Amber French, Raymond Ford, Chris Kirkpatrick, Sherry Nugent, Justin Ferryman, and Jordan McIntyre. The two MSU students are River Lovec and Jacob Adams, while the lone UTennessee representative is Kristen Lewis. This is a four-person increase from 2007 which will facilitate completion of the large 1500-acre project area. Prehistoric and historic archeological sites will be identified in the project area and two or three sites will be selected for in-depth excavation. The historic train depot, Cinnabar, and the Yellowstone Bank Cache prehistoric site may be the focus of more work, while work may also be conducted at an important stone circle site identified last year.

The 2008 MYAP will focus on survey & excavations of sites in the Boundary Lands north of Gardiner, Montana. 2007 Excavation photo by crew member, Travis Wardell



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JUNE 5, 2008

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

Four graduate students are part of the 2008 team

Yellowstone National Park and the Rocky Mountain Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit are providing important funding for 2008.

13 Field School students are participating.

'08 SURVEY AND EXCAVATION SCHEDULE SET

The Montana-Yellowstone Archeological Project—MYAP—begins its second season this month, with graduate students starting June 19 and field school students beginning on June 23. Survey and excavation of the Boundary Lands project area near Gardiner will continue until July 25 for field school students and August 1 for graduate students. If you would like to visit, contact Principal Investigator Doug MacDonald at UM (contact info on page 2).

Shovel Test Pit Excavations at the Six Point Site in 2007.



MONTANA YELLOWSTONE ARCHEOLOGICAL PROJECT

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Bison were occasionally seen on the entrance road near camp



Pronghorn antelope in the Study Area



An elk bugling near camp in 2007



Sandhill cranes were frequently seen and heard near camp in Willow Park

2007 MYAP REPORT COMPLETED

The results of the 2007 field season were summarized in an archeological report submitted to Ann Johnson, the Yellowstone National Park archeologist. The report provides details of the 2007 survey and excavations conducted by the MYAP team. During the 2007 field season, the University of Montana team, under the direction of Assistant Professor Doug MacDonald, conducted a full inventory of prehistoric and historic archeological resources within a 700-acre portion of the boundary lands. The MYAP team identified 14 archeological sites, including eight with historic site components and 11 with prehistoric site components. Five of the sites contained evidence of both historic and prehistoric occupations. Excavations at the Yellowstone Bank Cache Site yielded evidence of five prehistoric burn features, as well as abundant lithic artifacts and faunal remains dating to between 1600-1670 B.P. The MYAP team also excavated a 5-ft.-deep river cobble and mortar foundation to a large building, perhaps the Cinnabar Hotel



Draft Inventory and Evaluation Report

Yellowstone National Park
2007 Boundary Lands Archeological Survey
& National Register Evaluation, Site 24YE355
Cinnabar/Yellowstone Bank Cache Site

2007 Montana-Yellowstone Archeological Project (MYAP)
Yellowstone Study No. YELL-05656
Permit No. YELL-2007-SCI-5656

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Excavations at the Yellowstone Bank Cache Site

'08 MYAP CAMP @ INDIAN CREEK AGAIN

For the second year, the MYAP field camp will be in the Superintendent's section of Indian Creek campground. This is a group camp site approximately a 30 minute drive south of the Boundary Lands project area. Obsidian Creek (below) provides a wonderful swimming hole and feeds into Indian Creek near Sheepeater Cliff. The two creeks are tributaries of the Yellowstone River.

not to attract more! The MYAP camp has two porta-potties, five picnic tables, fresh spring water, and abundant space for tents. The team's food supplies and kitchen will be kept secure in the UM NASA research trailer. A horse shoe area and a very nice fire pit round out what promises to be a very memorable field camp in 2008.

Obsidian Creek flows through Willow Park, a beautiful meadows filled with a variety of Yellowstone's famous wildlife (see left), including an elk herd, migratory birds, and occasional bison. The team also saw one bear near camp last year, so camp is kept spotless so as



Obsidian Creek Flows Near the MYAP Field Camp