

Project Completion Report

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU)

Project Title: ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA RECOVERY (INITIAL PHASE 1 OF 2) AT 48YE114 FOR MITIGATION OF FHWA PROJECT, YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK (YELL), WYOMING

Project Code: UWY-35, J1580040296

Type of Project: Research

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Partner University: The University of Wyoming

NPS Agreements Technical Representative:

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Start Date of Project: April 3, 2004

End Date of Project: September 30, 2006

Funding Amount: \$99,999.40

Number of Students Involved, and Type of Student (Undergraduate, Graduate, Post Doctorate): 4 Undergraduate, 1 Graduate

Project Summary, including descriptions of project deliverables, any changes made during the life of the project, work accomplished and/or major results. If the information is restricted (e.g. location of endangered species or cultural resources), indicate the title and location of the final report.

The project deliverables were the investigation of the site using geo-prospecting methods, shovel tests, and test excavations to identify the location of concentrations of buried cultural materials. The second phase, UWY-15 continued the excavation and recovery of cultural

materials, completed September 2006), and the third phase, UWY-47, the analysis of the excavated archeological data and synthesis of information into the final report (expected September 2010).

When the final report is issued, the information contained in the final report will be restricted from the general public. Copies of that report will be located at the Archeology Laboratory at YNP's Heritage Research Center, at the WYSHPO'S office, and an electronic copy will be sent to the RM-CESU office.

48YE114 is a relatively small precontact site approximately 4 miles (6.5 km) south of the Obsidian Cliff NHL quarries. The site is in a sheltered area near a fresh water lake (Nymph Lake) in the thermally active Norris Geyser Basin of YNP. Bison, elk, deer, bear, wolves, geese, ducks, and fish are currently plentiful. The site is bisected on the north side by the current alignment of the Grand Loop Road, constructed in 1933. Abundant surface lithic debitage and in-tact and dated buried cultural deposits in a thermal area indicate it contains valuable and significant archeological information.

Extensive geo-physical (magnetic) investigations and shovel tests were conducted at 5-meter intervals across 48YE114 in 2004 identifying areas with buried cultural components. Radiocarbon dates and diagnostic projectile points recovered from the 2004 test units indicated important intact buried cultural components from the Pelican Lake Culture Period (3,000-1,500 years before present) exist at 48YE114. The information from these preliminary tests provided the basis for the locations of the Phase 2, 2005, 1-meter by 1-meter excavation units.