

Project Completion Report Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU)

Project Title: NATIONAL REGISTER TESTING OF A PRECONTACT (MCKEAN CULTURE) ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE IN THE AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT OF ROAD IMPROVEMENTS AT VIRGINIA CASCADE DRIVE

Project Code: UWY- 02, J1580040774

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: September 1, 2004

End Date of Project: September 30, 2009

Funding Amount: \$22,000

Number of Students Involved, and Type of Student (Undergraduate, Graduate, Post Doctorate): 2 Undergraduates

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 information contained in the final report is restricted from the general public. Copies of that report are located at the Archeology Laboratory at YNP's Heritage Research Center, at the WYSHPO'S office

This project involved evaluative test excavations to investigate the potential for buried cultural materials at previously recorded site 48YE1312, located along a bend in the Virginia Cascade Drive. The site was recorded in 2002 by the Museum of the Rockies archeological crew who recommended the site as potentially eligible. Concentrations of obsidian flake stone debris and a number of tools were collected, including a Middle Archaic (Hanna) projectile point, a stage II biface fragment, and end scraper and two side scrapers.

The 2005 investigations included surface reconnaissance and recordation of the concentrations of lithic debris and expansion of the site boundaries on the ridge-like landform adjacent to the road. A reddish brown chert Early Archaic projectile point was recovered from the surface. A line of shovel tests were placed at 5-meter intervals east-west across the site area in order to determine the subsurface potential of the site and its extent and overall stratigraphy. Very few cultural materials were recovered from the 39 shovel tests. Four units each contained a single flake, while one unit yielded three flakes. All of these flakes were made from obsidian and all were found from the 0-20 cm below surface level. The results of the shovel test indicate little potential for intact buried cultural deposits. YNP recommended the site not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office concurred (4/17/2006.)