

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

Project Title: CLASS III ARCHEOLOGICAL BLOCK INVENTORY OF PRIMARY & SECONDARY ROADWAYS OLD FAITHFUL DEVELOPED AREA

Project Code: UWY – 67, J1580070233

Type of Project: Research

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Partner University: The University of Wyoming

NPS Agreements Technical Representative:

Elaine Hale, Archeologist

P.O. Box 168

Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190

Phone: 307-344-2156

elaine_hale@nps.gov

Principal Investigators:

David Eckles (Now Retired)

Paul H. Sanders, Chief

Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist

The University of Wyoming

Department 3431, 1000 East University Avenue

Laramie, Wyo. 82071

307-721-0882

psande@state.wy.us

Start Date of Project: May 15, 2007

End Date of Project: September 30, 2010

Funding Amount: \$75,000

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

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, and an electronic copy has been sent to the RM-CESU office (Sanders, July 7, 2009)

The pedestrian archeological survey of an approximately 450-acre area was initiated May 15, 2007 with a projected completion date of before Sept. 2010. The archeological inventory and limited National Register testing was needed prior to road rehabilitation and replacement of the modern Old Faithful interchange on the Grand Loop Road. The inventory identified and documented mainly historic archeological sites within the developed area and the current road corridor. Some shovel tests were conducted and 1 meter test units were excavated at the site of the Old Faithful Soldier Station, impacted by the 1930's construction of the sewage system and settling ponds. Diagnostic artifacts were collected from the surface to be processed at the Office of the Wyoming State Archeologist laboratory prior to being cataloged into the YNP museum collections.

The archeological inventory was funded by the FHWA road rehabilitation program for \$75,000, to the Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist, Paul Sanders, Assistant Director of Archeological Survey, through a Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit agreement. Elaine Skinner Hale, YNP Archeologist, served as the park contact and assisted the field crew with the inventory and excavations. Prior to the archeological field work "A History of the Old Faithful Area" was drafted. This document provided a chronology of development for the area that was compared with the YNP chronology of development prepared by Dr. William Hunt, MWAC. Although Old Faithful is one of the most well known areas in YNP, and has some of the earliest development in the interior of the park, archeological survey of the area was not previously conducted.

The FY 2007 inventory at Old Faithful documented 4 historic dumps, the foundations of several structures including the buildings that comprised the soldier station, a greenhouse, a bathhouse, an automobile camp, bridle paths and trails, and the Wylie tent camp and associated dump. Many other former building sites and tourist features have been removed and the sites covered with subsequent buildings or paved over for parking areas. Approximately 13 previously undocumented historic properties were recorded completing a block survey of approximately half of the Old Faithful developed area.

The work was performed by a four person crew from the Office of the Wyoming State Archeologist office and Elaine Skinner Hale, YNP archeologist. Two students were involved with this fast moving survey and students and volunteers will contribute to the analysis of the artifacts at the OWSA laboratory. YNP staff contributed 80 hours of field work and the OWSA worked 400 hours of field work.

The inventory report with Wyoming cultural site forms for all the newly documented sites will be provided to YNP for draft review in the spring of 2008. The collected artifacts are being identified and cataloged into YNP's museum collection. Initial site condition assessments were completed for each site and baseline ASMIS information was entered into the system for each site. The project was introduced at the Plains Anthropological conference CRM session and the law enforcement rangers at Old Faithful were apprised of the newly recorded sites and will receive an inventory report for their files.

Photos:



View of the front of the first bathhouse



View of the 1934 renovated bath house and pool



View to the north at the site area

View to the east at the military post



Historic view of same area as above showing the military post



View to the northwest at the top of Wylie Hill and Feature 21



View to the northwest at the Wylie Camp on slopes of Wylie Hill in 1915, historic photograph (YELL 50774). Note large dance hall tent on top of hill where Feature 21 lies.