

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

Project Title: NPS Class III Inventory and Site Evaluation of Lake Developed Area

Project Code: UWY-81, J1580070563

Type of Project: Research

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Partner University: University of Wyoming

NPS Agreements Technical Representative:

Ann M. Johnson (Now Retired)

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: \$45,000

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

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)

In support of Yellowstone National Park's comprehensive planning process, a block inventory of 130 acres documenting the historic properties within the Lake developed area was completed and is provided to you for your review and comment. Wyoming Cultural Properties forms are included for the historic and prehistoric sites documented.

Five previously recorded sites occur within the block inventory area. Three of these sites: the Lake Fish Hatchery Historic District (48YE510), the Lake Hotel (48YE676), and the Lake Hotel Historic District (48YE582) have previously been determined eligible or were listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The fourth site, the Lake Boat Dock (48YE247) was previously determined not eligible for listing. The fifth site, the historic dump (48YE1492) was destroyed by development and previously recorded.

Seven previously recorded, but unevaluated sites were revisited. Three of these sites are segments of the previous alignment of the Grand Loop Road (48YE520). Two segments (Segment 1 and Segment 2) were abandoned; they were documented and are considered not eligible for listing because the road surface has been obliterated and subsequently revegetated and converted to tourist foot paths. Segment 3 of the Grand Loop Road extends for 1.4 km along the Yellowstone Lake shoreline and passes in front of the Lake Hotel and the Lake Ranger Station. It is currently used and maintained for vehicular traffic. Segment 3 retains some integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association.

The remaining previously recorded sites include two historic trash dumps, the Elephant Back II dump (48YE38), and the Post Office trash dump (48YE73) which were relocated and tested for subsurface integrity. Both contain intact buried deposits that provide information about the early development of the Lake area and should remain eligible. The sixth site (48YE744) is a historic trash dump with prehistoric flake stone debris. The 2008 investigation of the site found the historic component had little potential for yielding significant information and no evidence of the previously reported prehistoric component remained. The seventh prehistoric site (48YE379) was previously documented as unevaluated; further investigation indicates very few cultural items are present and there is limited potential for buried cultural materials.

Nine new sites were documented. Four of the new sites, 48YE1790, 48YE1791, 48YE1792, and 48YE1793, are all historic trash scatters with features. The first three sites have intact deposits that date from the 1910s through the 1920s; the fourth site has features and trash associated with the Lake Civilian Conservation Corps Camp. All four sites have the potential for contributing significant information about the park's historic development.

Newly documented site 48YE1785 consists of a sparse scatter of prehistoric cultural materials with very limited buried materials. The multi-component site 48YE1786 consists of a scatter of utility-related debris and a minor amount of prehistoric cultural materials. The sparse scatter of prehistoric materials at site 48YE1787 is limited in distinctiveness and demonstrates little potential for contributing additional significant information. The sparse scatter of prehistoric cultural materials and historic trash that comprise site 48YE1788 are common and lack potential to make a significant contribution of information. The surface scatter of historic trash at site 48YE1789 cannot be associated with any specific person or event and all of the artifacts have been described and inventoried.