

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

**Project Title:** Class III Inventory and Site Evaluation of Indian Creek Drainage

**Project Code:** UWY-84, J1580070581

**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 15, 2007

**End Date of Project:** December 31, 2009

**Funding Amount:** \$16,600.00

**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)

The Indian Creek Trail is one of the older trail systems in the park, used prehistorically for thousands of years and maintained for public use as the Indian Creek-Bighorn Pass Trail. The 2008 archeological reconnaissance work was conducted along the trail corridor from the current trail ford, approximately 2.25 miles west of Indian Creek campground, up-valley 3.5 miles to a point between Antler Peak and Dome Mountain; this work covered approximately 554 acres. Eighteen new archeological sites were documented; one previously recorded site and five isolated artifacts were investigated. All of the sites are prehistoric, although two of the sites (48YE1756 and 48YE336) also possess historic artifacts.

Of the eighteen sites documented, Yellowstone National Park has determined twelve sites, 48YE1753, 48YE1757, 48YE1758, 48YE1760, 48YE1761, 48YE1763, 48YE1764, 48YE1765, 48YE1766, 48YE1767, 48YE1768, and 48YE1769 do not possess the qualities necessary to be listed on the National Register and, therefore, are not eligible.

Six new sites and one previously known site were documented during the archeological inventory. Yellowstone National Park has determined that these sites are potentially eligible for National Register listing pending the results of subsurface testing. Until such tests can be performed the following sites remain unevaluated: 48YE336; 48YE1752; 48YE1754; 48YE1755; 48YE1756; 48YE1759; and 48YE1762.