

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Shovel Test Grand Loop Road Corridor Bisecting National Register Eligible Precontact Archeological Site 48YE406
Discipline: Cultural Resources
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Wyoming
Effective Dates: 5/15/2007 - 9/30/2010
Funding Amount: \$60,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Investigator: David Eckles, Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist, University Station, P.O. Box 3431, Laramie, Wyoming 82071 (307) 766-5301, DECKLE@state.wy.us

Project Abstract: The site of this archeological investigation in Yellowstone NP is located approximately one kilometer (6/10th of a mile) northwest of the Norris Campground and extends 600 meters northwest-southeast and is bisected roughly through the center portion of the site by the Norris To Mammoth segment of the Grand Loop Road. Proposed widening and reconstruction of this segment of road will impact the site. The area of potential effect (APE) extends 10 meters (33 feet) from the edge of the existing road disturbance on each side of the roadway. Shovel tests may be conducted outside the APE if there is indication of extensive deposits and the Cooperator and YNP deem it valuable in understanding the nature and significance of the site.

The work to be conducted is a series of shovel tests during summer 2007 at 5-meter intervals within the APE for the entire length of the site (approximately 600 meters), except for areas where steep hill slopes or shallow, rocky soil would obviously preclude the presence of intact buried cultural deposits. The 30-40 cm diameter shovel tests should be excavated in 10-15 cm levels to establish the context of any recovered subsurface cultural materials. It is estimated that approximately 240 shovel tests would be excavated, 120 on either side of the road. After the shovel tests have been completed and if time and money allow, 1 m by 1 m test units may be excavated to explore areas yielding high artifact densities, features, and distinctive cultural layers identified by the shovel tests. Artifacts collected in the field should be processed, identified, and analyzed at the OWSA laboratory during the winter of 2007-2008. The preliminary shovel test report should be drafted during the spring of 2008 to provide information with which to plan the 2008 field season work at this site.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: An abstract and/or executive summary of the project results will be submitted electronically by the end of 2008; field notes, photographic negatives, and other documents will be curated at the NPS, Heritage and Research Center, in Yellowstone National Park.

Keywords: Yellowstone National Park, University of Wyoming, highway reconstruction, cultural resources, archeological sites

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Date Annual Report Received:
Date Final Report Received:
Publications, etc. on file: