

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Phase 1 Archeological Data Recovery of Site 48YE357, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

Discipline: Cultural Resources
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Wyoming
Effective Dates: 5/15/2008-5/15/2013
Funding Amount: \$101,982

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Elaine Skinner Hale, Archeologist - YNP/FHWA Road Team, Yellowstone Center for Resources, Yellowstone NP, Wyoming 82190; (307) 344-2156; Elaine_Hale@nps.gov

Investigator: David Eckles, Director of Archeological Survey, Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist, Dept. 3431, 1000 E. University Ave., Laramie, Wyoming 82071 (307) 721-0882, deckle@state.wy.us

Researcher: Paul H. Sanders, Assistant Director of Archeological Survey, Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist, Dept. 3431, 1000 E. University Ave., Laramie, Wyoming 82071 (307) 721-0882, psande@missc.state.wy.us

Project Abstract: This archeology survey area in Yellowstone NP is located approximately 6/10th of a mile north of Obsidian Cliff on the Mammoth to Norris segment of the Grand Loop Road in the northwestern portion of YNP, Wyoming. The southern portion of the site along the road corridor is bisected by the Grand Loop Road from a point just south of Apollinaris Spring past Lillypad Pond ending just north of Crystal Spring. The portion of the site bisected by the current road alignment is the only area of potential effect (APE) within this large site. Proposed widening and reconstruction of this segment of road will impact any cultural resources onsite. The portion of the site bisected by the road is the only area where archeological work will be conducted. Phase 1 of the data recovery consists of initial test excavations within the APE initially consisting of a series of shovel tests placed at 5 meter intervals for the entire length of the portion of the site bisected by the road alignment (approximately 900 meters), to be carried out in summer/fall 2008. The 40 cm diameter shovel tests would be excavated in 10-15 cm levels to establish the context of any recovered subsurface cultural materials. It is estimated that approximately 360 shovel tests would be initially excavated within the APE. After the shovel tests are completed and time and money allow, there will be excavation of additional 10-40 1-meter by 1-meter test units to explore shovel tests yielding high artifact densities, uncovered features, and distinctive cultural layers. The results of the phase 1 excavations will be used to make recommendations concerning the amount and extent of phase 2 data recovery excavations

Outcomes with Completion Dates: Preliminary Report on Shovel Test Results and Recommendations and Locations for Additional Excavations due in draft form by spring 2009 to inform the summer 2009 field season.

Keywords: archeological survey, shovel tests, road construction, Yellowstone National Park, University of Wyoming