

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Archeological Inventory and Development of Historic Context for Sites, Views, and Trails along the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone

Discipline: Cultural Resources
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Wyoming
Effective Dates: 8/15/2009 - 5/30/2011
Funding Amount: \$25,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: Prior to restoration work on the canyon viewing overlooks, staircases and paths, each of the sites needs to be formally recorded using the Wyoming Cultural Properties form. Additionally, the historic context for all of the views, trails, stairs, and paths needs to be archivally researched and a historic context developed so the significance of each of the sites can be appropriately assessed. Finally, all of the information needs to be combined into a National Register Historic District Nomination form. This information is needed to assess the integrity of the viewing areas and to seek concurrence of the parks determination of NR eligibility from the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer.

The National Register eligibility of the Artist Point area has previously been assessed but the area should still be included in the National Register Historic District nomination. The other overlooks and connecting pathways and staircases are:

North Rim:

Uncle Tom's (2 overlooks and staircases)

Artist Point

South Rim:

Brink of the Upper Falls

Crystal Falls

Brink of the Lower Falls

Lookout Point

Red Rocks Point

Grandview

Inspiration Point

Paths (roughly 5 miles)

The field documentation of the above listed sites will produce Wyoming Cultural Properties forms for each site. Archival research of the history of the views and pathways around the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River will provide the historic context needed to assess the significance of each individual site and the historic district as a whole. The National Register Historic District nomination will tie all of the information together and provide guidance for future rehabilitation of the area.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: September 15, 2010 one (1) copy of the historic context document, one (1) copy of the draft National Register nomination of the historic views and trails associated with the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River (including the entire historic context or a condensed version of the historic context) and three copies of the Wyoming Cultural Properties form for each of the trails, viewing platforms, paths, and stairways. An electronic version of the National Register nomination and the historic context will be provided.

Keywords: archeological inventory, historic context, overlooks, staircases, paths, Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, Yellowstone National Park, University of Wyoming