

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Along with the Nez Perce: The Summer of 1877 in 2009, Yellowstone National Park

Discipline: Cultural Resources
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Wyoming
Effective Dates: 2/15/2009-9/30/2012
Funding Amount: \$138,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist (OWSA) will conduct an archeological survey of areas on the Nez Perce Trail with the intent of verifying that 1877 activities took place in these areas. The areas include the identification of the Cowan Party campsite on Nez Perce Creek, the search for Nez Perce camps in the vicinity of the Pelican Creek divide and on the main fork of the Lamar River, and follow-up investigations at the Helena Party site. The team will define site limits, draw site planviews and maps, and prepare site forms, for all sites identified, as well as provide condition assessments as required by YNP personnel. Project work will be completed by under the direction of Daniel Eakin (OWSA). The remainder of the field crew will consist of 3 archeologists, including, if possible, one from the Nez Perce tribe. In addition to fieldwork, the cooperater also will undertake historic artifact analysis, lithic analysis, report preparation, and artifact curation. These activities will be conducted at the OWSA in Laramie, Wyoming in Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 and, if necessary due to an extended field season, Spring 2011.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: A full archeological survey report will be provided upon completion of the fieldwork and analysis no later than 2012, but preferably in Spring 2011. This report will consist of complete results of survey and inventory and will include background research, culture history, archeological results, National Register evaluations, archeological recommendations, as well as data tables, maps, and photographs, as necessary. Condition Assessments from the 2009 field season are due no later than September 8, 2009

Keywords: archeological survey, Nez Perce Trail, curation, Yellowstone National Park, University of Wyoming