

## **Project Summary**

### **Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title:** Geophysical Remote Sensing at Fort Laramie: Phase 2

**Discipline:** Cultural Resources  
**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Wyoming  
**Effective Dates:** 8/1/2009 - 12/30/2012  
**Funding Amount:** \$25,000

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** Fort Laramie was a hub of activity during the 19<sup>th</sup> century as it was first associated with the fur trade, and then with a military presence. The Oregon Trail goes through the National Historic Site and Fort Laramie is the beginning of the Bozeman Trail. Standing historic structures and historic records at Fort Laramie NHS have defined the site's historic resources since the park was established as a national monument in 1938. There is little information about structures with no surface evidence such as travelers on the Oregon and Bozeman Trails, or Native Americans (treaties of 1851 and 1868). The extant standing structures are contributory elements to the National significance of Fort Laramie, but no evaluations have been made for many of the remaining visible foundation, surface features and subsurface features, known to have been present from military and photographic records. Significant known archeological sites and features are rapidly being threatened by inadequate protection from natural erosion and deterioration or from man-caused disturbances. Their immediate detailed documentation is necessary to preserve important information about the park's periods of significance. The NPS must maintain its significant resources in good condition. Without this project, Fort Laramie NHS will not be able to assess and treat deteriorating sites or develop procedures to ensure their long-term preservation.

This work continues the geophysical survey of Fort Laramie (Walker and De Vore 2009) conducted between 2002 and 2005, by extending the gradiometer (magnetometer) survey from the area known as the Quartermaster Dump along the Laramie River to the east. This area includes parts of the Quartermaster Dump area that have not been previously geophysically surveyed and other activity areas of Fort Laramie, such as portions of the Quartermaster's Depot and areas reportedly occupied by Native American and Euroamerican camps during the occupation of Fort Laramie. These areas are critical to understand the entire story of Fort Laramie.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:**

Draft of Final Descriptive Report to be submitted for Review. 31 Dec 2011  
Final Report to be submitted by: 30 June 2012

**Keywords:** archeological survey, remote sensing, Fort Laramie NHS, University of Wyoming