University of Colorado – INSTAAR Contribution to Glacier National Park's 2010 Letter Report

Major activities and product dates

1) Meeting with Cultural Resource Management Group, West Glacier, MT, 24 May;
2) Presentation at National CESU Meeting, Washington, DC, 24 June;
3) Identification of potential survey points in Glacier National Park - kmz file sent by email 18 July;
4) Selection of target points for 2010 field season with field schedule - sent by email 1 August (points/schedule later revised with input from partners);
5) Glacier National Park fieldwork and travel, 26 August – 9 September;
6) Submitted an abstract for a paper presentation titled "Alpine Snow and Ice as a Source of Archaeological and Paleoecological Data in the Rocky Mountains" for the organized session "Crown of the West: Mountain Archaeology from the Sierra Nevada to the Rocky Mountains" at the Society for American Archaeology meeting in Sacramento, California (March 2011). Coauthors: Craig Lee (presenter), Robert Kelly, Ira Matt, Rachel Reckin and Marcia Pablo;
7) INSTAAR's contribution to the 2010 Annual Letter Report (sent by email 14 October 2010).

Narrative

Year one resulted in the formation of the GCRMG and the introduction of tribal and park partners to the field of "ice patch archaeology." Forty-six locations with archaeological potential were selected following the protocols laid out in the proposal (see also Lee 2010). Points were assigned a letter grade, A, B, or C, based on *a posteriori* criteria and intuition. The points were largely uninformed with regard to traditional tribal knowledge due to the rapid scheduling required for the 2010 field season. I communicated with Pei Lin Yu regarding what the "metadata" identified in the INSTAAR agreement might entail on 27 May (and at other times), and I am under the impression the kmz file and emails sent regarding the starter points is sufficient; CSKT will construct the project GIS products, which will include details about the locations we visit and the specifics of any high resolution imagery consulted. Of the initial 46 points, a short list of target locations were selected for the 2010 field season, including three points selected in part with information provided by the CSKT and BN. The 2010 field season was a qualified success, with all of the target locations being reached by the team; however, inclement weather played a role in shaping the schedule, and visibility at several locations was marginal. Although we did not find any cultural material directly associated with ice patches, we did collect a number of paleobiological samples. The samples were field stabilized and transported to University of Wyoming. Following genus/species identification, a selection will be submitted for radiocarbon dating. Field conditions are subject to local and regional variability, and I believe we should continue to aim for late summer early fall surveys, i.e., early September.

For Year 2 we will have the benefit of the USGS proprietary imagery taken during an extremely high melt year as well as the time necessary for CSKT and BN to consider the integration of traditional knowledge to survey locations. I've already been to the *2nd Biennial Frozen Pasts Conference* in Trondheim, Norway and presented on mid-latitude ice patch research in North America. The *3rd Biennial Frozen Pasts Conference* will be held in Whitehorse, Yukon in 2012. It will coincide with the opening of the Kwanlin Dün Heritage Center. This meeting would be an ideal place to share future project results.

Reference Cited:

Lee, Craig M.
2010 *Ice on the Edge: Methods and Recommendations for Conducting Ice Patch Surveys in Rocky Mountain National Park*. Report on file with National Park Service, Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, Colorado and Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit, Missoula, Montana.