

## **Project Summary**

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

**Project Title:** Along the Trail with the Nez Perce: The Summer of 1877 in 2012, Yellowstone National Park

**Discipline:** Cultural Resources  
**Type of Project:** Research  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Wyoming  
**Effective Dates:** 9/15/2011 - 9/30/2016  
**Funding Amount:** \$62,000 [FY12: \$52,000; FY11: \$10,000]

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** In cooperation with Yellowstone National Park, 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 immediate vicinity of sites 48YE728 and 48YE413, Lower Geyser Basin, where the Nez Perce and General Howard's army may have camped; the east bank of the Yellowstone River in the vicinity of Nez Perce Ford, another potential Nez Perce camp area; the large sagebrush park and timbered area adjacent to Indian Pond where the Nez Perce are said to have camped for two nights; Cache Creek, where the Nez Perce are said to have butchered cattle and camped after crossing the Mirror Plateau. The team will define site limits, draw site 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 under the direction of Daniel Eakin (OWSA). The remainder of the field crew will consist of one field technician. In addition to fieldwork, the cooperator will also undertake the historic artifact analysis, lithic analysis, report preparation, and artifact curation. These activities will be conducted at the OWSA in Laramie, Wyoming, in Fall 2012 and, if necessary, Spring 2013. A full archeological survey report will be provided upon completion of the fieldwork and analysis no later than 2014, but preferably by Summer 2013. 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.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:** June 10, 2014

**Keywords:** excavations, cultural materials, Nez Perce National Historic Trail, Yellowstone National Park, University of Wyoming