

Project Completion Report

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU)

Project Title: Complete Analysis and Report of Year 1 of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail Archeological Investigation

Project Code : UWY-158, P11AC90787

Type of Project : Research

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Partner University: University of Wyoming (Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist)

NPS Agreement Technical Representative:

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Start Date of Project: September 15, 2011

End Date of Project: December 31, 2015

Funding Amount: \$10,000

Project Summary,

The final product, *An Archaeological survey and assessment of four locales associated with the Nez Perce in Yellowstone Park in the summer of 1877*, By Daniel H. Eakin (UW/OWSA), Brian C. Vivian, Doug Mitchell, and Kevin Thorson (Lifeways of Canada) has been received and is on file at the YNP Research and Heritage Center, Gardiner, Montana. The information is restricted from public access under 43CFR Part7 (a) (1).

In 2006 Yellowstone National Park entered into an agreement with the University of Calgary and Lifeways of Canada LLC, to perform archeological inventory and evaluation on select segments of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail which bisects Yellowstone National Park. This work was designed to identify and evaluate archeological sites associated with the flight of the Nez Perce during the US - Nez Perce War of 1877. After field investigations were completed the materials collected were not analyzed and a final report was never completed. This RM-CESU project completed analysis and reporting on the collections made by Lifeways of Canada in 2006. It was complemented by an additional three years of field work completed on other

portions of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail by the UW/OWSA, in partnership with the University of Wyoming, under other RM-CESU agreements.

The PI analyzed historic artifacts collected during 2006 to determine type, time period, function, and any other discernible features. Efforts were made to determine whether specific artifacts could be linked to the Nez Perce flight and/or military pursuit. The PI conducted the analysis and reporting in cooperation with archeologists at YELL as well as utilizing archives and collection staff and expertise at the Heritage and Research Center.

The re-analysis of collected artifacts by the PI allowed all original (2006) project objectives related to survey and documentation to be met. Recommendations for future work on several sites were also proposed, including additional investigation at Nez Perce Ford and Indian Pond. Clarification of specific survey areas, site boundaries, and the temporal and cultural context of several artifacts and artifact types also resulted from the analysis.

The PI performed artifact analysis, report preparation, and artifact curation preparation. Artifacts were entered in to the ICMS cataloging program. The final report consisted of complete results of survey and inventory, including background research, culture history, archeological results, archeological recommendations, data tables, maps, and photographs. The report and all documentation materials meet the standards set forth by the Department of Interior and Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office. Recommendations were made regarding the potential eligibility of archeological sites analyzed.

The PI also provided GIS data in the form of shapefiles that outline site boundaries, datums (if determined), lineal sites/features, and isolates. The survey area perimeters were also delivered as hardcopy sketch maps on USGS 7.5 minute topographic quadrangles. Spatial data were accompanied by Federal Geographic Data Committee (FDGC) metadata and were delivered in digital format.

In addition to providing cataloging and research assistance, YELL reviewed all products prior to final submission and worked with the cooperator to correct deficiencies.

Number of students participating in this project: Given the nature of the project, no student involvement was possible.

Lessons Learned from this project: This project illustrated that subject matter expertise and cooperator focus on project delivery are crucial to a successful completion of such complex projects. The agency must make every effort to select cooperators who possess sufficient capacity to meet commitments, and must be proactive in managing timelines, budget, and deliverables. The agency should also take necessary actions to ensure that project goals are met, and should have contingency planning in place should adequate progress not be apparent.

Other RM-CESU agencies or research partners who participated in this project: University of Calgary