

## **Project Summary**

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

**Project Title: Complete Multiple Property Document and Determinations of Eligibility for Backcountry Trails in Yellowstone National Park**

**Discipline:** Cultural Resources  
**Type of Project:** Research  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Wyoming  
**Effective Dates:** 7/30/2013 - 12/31/2016  
**Funding Amount:** \$35,000

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

NPS Contact: Tobin Roop, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone NP, WY 82190; Tobin.Roop@nps.gov; 307-344-2224 (phone);

Investigator: Marcia Peterson, University of Wyoming, Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist, Department 3431, 1000 East University Avenue, Laramie, WY, 82071; marcia.peterson@wyo.gov; 307-721-0882

**Project Abstract:** This project will complete phase two of the National Register evaluation of the backcountry trails in Yellowstone National Park. The park is currently completing the development of a historic context which covers the periods of trail construction and the history of trail development. Phase 2 of this project will entail the completion of a multiple property documentation form per the National Register regulations and the completion of cultural property site forms (specific to the state/s in which the various trails lie) and an associated determination of eligibility for the National Register for each trail using the criteria established in the Multiple Property Document. Evaluations of National Register integrity of the seven aspects of the trails will be developed in conjunction with Yellowstone National Park Cultural Resource and Trails staff. Aspects of integrity of location, as discussed above, will concentrate on providing backcountry access to campsites, scenic areas such as water falls, rivers and streams, high mountain vistas, and unique geologic features and not actual past location of trails. Aspects of integrity of design, materials and workmanship will concentrate on rustic and natural. Use of logs, rock, and soils from the immediate surroundings and the use of rough lumber will continue to provide the historic feeling and association with the trails as they have been originally constructed.

This will entail use of the historic context and additional research to complete the multiple property document, GIS documentation of the existing Google Earth "windshield survey", documentation of the trails, and site forms, and for recommendations on eligibility determinations for the National Register of Historic Places. Research will primarily be at the Heritage and Research Center in Gardiner, Montana or electronically at the researchers' primary location.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:**

Multiple Property Document- December 31, 2014  
DOE and Cultural Property Inventory Forms - July 30, 2015

**Keywords:** National Register, evaluation, Determinations of Eligibility Backcountry Trails, Yellowstone National Park, University of Wyoming