

At the Rim: magnetometry, archaeology, and a site in danger at Kevin Rim

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One of the most spectacular archaeological localities in Montana, Kevin Rim, is a vast complex of tipi rings, bison kills, and sacred sites. In the fall of 2010, with support from the Bureau of Land Management, we completed reconnaissance fieldwork at Kevin Rim focusing on one particular site, 24TL0811. This is a complex multi-component site with many stone circles, stone tools, and a bone bed that is being adversely affected by cattle grazing and a seasonal stream. We utilized a series of mapping techniques including detailed GPS mapping, magnetometry, and tipi-quick focusing in on the south-west portion of the site. There were two goals to the 2010 field work: to identify stone-circles with magnetometry, and to identify areas for subsurface testing. The ¼ hectare of total field magnetic investigation confirmed the geophysicist's ability to use the magnetometer to identify stone circles; results indicated likely buried stone circles and additional subsurface anomalies. The results offer implications for phase II testing and management decision-making.