

Project Completion Report Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU)

Project Title: COMPLETE ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF 237 ACRES IN THE OLD FAITHFUL DEVELOPED AREA

Project Code (such as UMT-72 and/or the “J” number): UWY – 105 / J1580090408

Type of Project (Research, Technical Assistance or Research): RESEARCH

Funding Agency: National Park Service FLREA and FLHP funds

Partner University: THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

NPS Agreements Technical Representative (with complete contact information):

Elaine Hale
P.O. Box 168
Yellowstone NP, WY 82190
elaine_hale@nps.gov
307-344-2156 (phone)
307-344-2211 (fax)

Principal Investigators (with complete contact information):

Paul Sanders
University of Wyoming
Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist
Department 3431, 1000 East University Avenue
Laramie, Wyo. 82071
psande@state.wy.us
307-721-0882 (phone)
307-745-8732 (fax)

Start Date of Project: July 15, 2009

End Date of Project: December 20, 2010

Funding Amount: \$41,097.26

Number of Students Involved, and Type of Student (Undergraduate, Graduate, Post Doctorate): 2 Undergraduate, 1 Graduate

Project Summary, including descriptions of project deliverables, any changes made during the life of the project, work accomplished and/or major results. If the information is restricted (e.g. location of endangered species or cultural resources), indicate the title and location of the final report.

The 2009 Class III archeological inventory and cultural sites documentation is the second and last phase of the effort to provide archeological survey information for the entire Old Faithful

developed area. This information is necessary to support the park's comprehensive planning efforts for the Old Faithful area. The structures that comprise the Old Faithful Historic District have been previously documented and placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the Old Faithful Inn is a National Historic Landmark, but no comprehensive, systematic archeological survey has been conducted for the Old Faithful developed area which includes a larger area than the historic district. This area is one of the most highly visited in the park and is subject to continual repairs and improvements to the various systems necessary to support the high volume of visitor use.

The project began with a 2007 block inventory of 490 acres in the Old Faithful developed area, funded by the Federal Highway Administrations road rehabilitation program in Yellowstone NP, and completed under a RM-CESU agreement, for which an inventory report was received in 2008. The 2009 archeological survey completes the base-line documentation of the cultural components for the remainder of the Old Faithful developed area. Both surveys were conducted by the Office of the Wyoming State Archeologist (OWSA) through cooperative agreements with the Rocky Mountain Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit and the University of Wyoming Anthropology Department. The field work was conducted OWSA with Paul H. Sanders serving as survey manager and four crew members for an estimated 150 hours.

Elaine Skinner Hale, archeologist with the Branch of Environmental Compliance, Yellowstone Center for Resources, assisted with the survey, providing archeological assistance during the inventory and NR testing, coordinating with the Old Faithful rangers, and serving as the Agreement Technical Representative for an estimated 60 hours. Prior to the 2007 block survey, the park historian, Lee Whittlesey, and Elaine skinner Hale completed, through extensive archival research, a history of the Old Faithful developed area to inform the archeological investigations of the 2007 and 2009 surveys, taking approximately 200 hours. The research also addressed the association of Old Faithful area historical archeological sites and cultural landscapes to periods of development in Yellowstone National Park, as developed by William J. Hunt, MWAC for the Archeological Treatment Plan for Historical Archeological Resources, 1993.

The 2009 field survey of the area was completed using standard methods. The 2009 survey area was mainly upslope areas for utilities and telecommunications and areas in the periphery of the developed area that may be considered for future development, in an effort to move development away from the thermal features. No new sites were recorded in 2009 and the inventory report has been completed and sent to the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office.

The completion of this work combined with the 2007 block inventory provides an accurate indication of historic properties within the Old Faithful developed area and a basis for interpretation of the historic development of the area and inform management in future repairs and rehabilitation of the area. The 23 mostly historic sites documented in the 2007 inventory providing concrete evidence of the rich historic past in the Old Faithful area. Several prehistoric lithic scatters were documented but due to the paucity of the surface cultural material are not considered eligible for listing on the National Register. The 2009 survey with no historic properties located provides valuable information for park management when considering future development.

Although the archeological site information is not available to the general public, the information can be used to interpret the development of the area, the types of goods and services previously available to visitors, such as bath houses in the thermal waters, thermal green houses, historic inscription on relic thermal features, stagecoach services, wagon and auto tent camps, Army protection of the area, and much more. The artifacts can be used for interpretive displays, and most importantly, knowledge of the location of sites will ensure the sites are protected from future development in the area. Most of the sites are in good condition although the army cabins have been previously impacted by the 1960's sewer system and some trash dump sites are within the high visitation area and subject to unauthorized collections.

The field documentation was completed in September, 2009. The total cost of the 2009 archeological survey at Old Faithful is \$41,097.26 with \$34,976.39 for OWSA direct costs and \$6,120.87 for indirect costs (RM-CESU). Funding for this project came from YNP Comprehensive Planning funds provided by the Federal Highway Administration FLHP funds. All funds were obligated for the cooperative agreement. There were no other sources of funding for this archeological project.