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***AIA Jane C. Waldbaum Archaeological Fieldwork Scholarship:
Final Report for Summer Fieldwork with Grand Teton National Park
Cultural Resource Program***

As a student of Classical Archaeology at Brown University, most of my archaeological experience and class work relates to the ancient world, specifically focusing on Greek and Roman archaeology and art. While this area of the world and time period has always fascinated me, I have also been intrigued by archaeology a little bit closer to home and how archaeology functions outside of the academic world. Therefore, this summer I chose to intern with the Cultural Resources Program at Grand Teton National Park where I was able to closely work with the seasonal archaeologist and cultural resource specialist, completing both fieldwork and paperwork relevant to federal archaeology. From this experience, I not only take away an expanded skill set but also a greater knowledge of Northwestern Plains archaeology, an area of study I hope to continue to explore and work with in the future.

Northwestern Wyoming has an incredibly rich cultural landscape and is an area with evidence of human occupation spanning back thousands of years. It is this exciting history that I was able to study and monitor first hand. Roughly 11,000 years ago, Paleo-Indian hunter-gatherers first inhabited the Jackson Hole Valley, which includes Grand Teton National Park. Archaeologists believe that these people lived seasonally in the valley, spending the late spring and summer pursuing wildlife and ripening plants. From about 11,000 to 8,000 years ago, large animals were hunted with projectile point spears. The next 7,000 years experienced a steady increase in human population as well as changing technologies, environment, and wildlife. Roasting pits, notched projectile points, tipi rings, and stone-grinding tools began to be used regularly during this period. Eventually bows and arrows, soapstone bowls, and clay pottery were frequently utilized in this area. Following this prehistoric period was the protohistoric period from 1700 to 1850 when Indians traded European goods, however no records were kept of this activity and little is known except what can be understood from material evidence. Archaeological research beginning in the early 1970s of the Jackson Hole Valley has revealed these broad patterns of past human cultures, behaviors, and environments. Today cultural resource specialists and archaeologists in the park continue to evaluate and study the vast archaeological resources in order to protect them as well as gather any potential, valuable prehistoric and historic data.

The majority of the fieldwork we completed this summer involved site condition assessments and site status evaluations. We would locate previously recorded archaeological sites by following topographic and sketch maps, then conduct an informal pedestrian survey of the area. With a thorough introduction to lithic technology by my immediate supervisor, Stacey Whitman, I quickly was able to identify various kinds of chipped stone tools. Most of the artifacts we observed were

quartzite, obsidian, or chert flakes with the appearance of an occasional utilized flake or piece of a tool. While commonly considered simply rocks, I am now able to spot and identify these prehistoric artifacts. After surveying the area, we would complete a site status evaluation form, which documented the site's condition, level of impact, causes of impact, mitigation assessment, and site recommendations. Out of roughly 400 sites in the park I was able to take part in 15 site updates. Sites size and location varied drastically, some taking only a half hour to survey and document, while others took three hours. The park does not actively excavate for archaeological artifacts but rather manages the archaeological resources either previously identified or newly discovered in various fieldwork endeavors. From this internship, I have learned a great deal about the importance of stewardship and management of archaeological resources, not to be passed over in favor of research.

A highlight of my field internship this summer was taking part in a Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of a historic backcountry cabin six miles up the Granite Canyon Trail in the southern part of the park. Our group consisted of archaeologists, an historic preservation specialist, and a GIS specialist. There is a proposal to restore the cabin next summer and so in order to move forward with this project and potential construction, a 50 foot buffer around the cabin was surveyed for any prehistoric cultural material. The seasonal archaeologist and I conducted the survey by walking lines 15 feet from each other. Despite dense vegetation and a hilly landscape we were able to thoroughly survey the surrounding area and found no cultural material. The historic preservationist photographed the cabin as well as read backcountry logs starting in the 1970s attempting to learn about the original construction of the cabin. The GIS specialist took GPS points of the actual cabin as well as our survey area to be entered into our master GIS map. Because of these findings, this survey only required a short report and letter to be sent to the State Historic Preservation Office. Even though this area lacked cultural material I was still able to learn the process of a Class III Cultural Resource Inventory as well as how to conduct a pedestrian, surface survey.

Finally, part of my internship was spent learning about the National Historic Preservation Act, National Environmental Protection Act, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act and how to complete compliance procedures and paperwork. My supervisor, Katherine Longfield, instructed me about the various types of compliance and showed me examples of past and current projects. After learning these procedures, I was able to complete Streamline Section 106 Compliance, which involved writing short reports for proposed projects on previously disturbed or surveyed areas that will have no effect or no adverse effect on cultural resources. This is an important, yet tedious, process that ensures the protection of all archaeological and cultural resources in the park.

My summer fieldwork experience was multi-faceted and introduced me to the complicated world of cultural resource management and federal archaeology. I learned basic field skills as well as how to complete effective research and reports. This experience would not have been possible without the support of the Jane C. Waldbaum Scholarship, which funded my living and travel expenses for this unpaid field internship. With this hands-on training I now feel excited and prepared to

pursue both graduate work and a career in Northwestern Plains Archaeology as well as cultural resource management. I am sincerely grateful to the Archaeological Institute of America as well as the scholarship fund for allowing me to take part in such a valuable archaeological field experience that has created a strong foundation in archaeological fieldwork, as well as inspired me and opened many doors for the future.



