Two of these sites have glass trade beads found at the base of tree, cast iron Dutch oven.

FORTY DAYS IN THE WILDERNESS: 2015 PARK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND ASSESSMENT OF THE SHOSHONE NATIONAL FOREST, WYOMING

Lawrence Todd (PCHPC), Emily Bruns (Iowa State University), and Kyle Wright (Shoshone National Forest)

ABSTRACT

Portions of the Washakie Wilderness, Shoshone National Forest, Wyoming are among the most remote in the continental US. A partnership between the Park County Historic Preservation Commission (PCHPC) and the Shoshone National Forest undertakes basic inventory for these difficult to access back country areas, and to provide rapid assessment as part of post-fire evaluations. In 2015, using a variety of funding sources, PCHPC-led teams spent 45 days on the Washakie Wilderness conducting site curation. Although considered remote and little used today, the montane and alpine settings of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem have a complex archaeological record required balancing research and management.

NRHP EVALUATIONS: Late Prehistoric and Protohistoric Campsites

21 June–2 June. Funding provided by the Wyoming SIPO CLG grants program allowed us to spend field season during limited testing of several high elevation (>3400m) Proto-Historic and Historic Period sites that were exposed by the 2006 Little Vendor Fire. Testing of these sites began in 2014, and the 2015 season allowed us to expand excavations at the site with the most abundant artifact remains (48PA328, see Wilson and Todd 2015), which in 2014 yielded an extensively processed bone assemblage (including several fibre bog sheep) with metal and stone tools. In addition, we conducted a systematic metal detector survey of large portions of the 48PA335, which contains a diverse surface assemblage of stone and metal artifacts, glass trade beads, and ornaments associated with distinct hearth and stone circle features. This group of sites is being considered for a National Register nomination.

ARCHITECTURAL ASSESSMENT: Anderson Lodge

12–21 July. With funding from an Alliance for Historic Wyoming, Historic Preservation Commission (HAAF), our second field season emphasized documenting current condition and developing a plan for work needed to preserve the National Register-listed Anderson Lodge (48PA250), which is listed as eligible under criteria A, B, and C. HAAF funds allow essential Lesley Gilmore and structural engineer Sumner C. Lowe to live on both the Lodge and nearby cairn. Since, other than lack of maintenance, one of the key issues facing preservation of the structure was认定, and is trusted to be relevant to the intended use.

POST-FIRE INVENTORY: Hardluck Fire

20–27 August. With funding from the Wyoming SIPO CLG grant program, we completed our second field season of post-fire inventory in area burned in the 2016 Hardluck Fire. The 2015 inventory continued work in a high elevation area started immediately after the fire in 2015 and again with a field crew of 10 days in 2014. This area is characterized by very high site density, with more obscure use of locally available potential wood. In addition to surface artifact documentation, in 2015 we also conducted limited test excavations at three sites. A second year’s data were also collected on three transects to monitor post-forested plant and animal communities.

ALPINE LANDSCAPE DOCUMENTATION: Ice Patches and Lithic Scatters

16–26 August. In 2014, we were able to spend only a limited time in the higher elevation (>3400m) portions of our project area, but the limited maintenance and use of our site probability model suggested that more intensive evaluation was needed. With funds from a Wyoming SIPO CLG grant, and in collaboration of Robert Kelly (University of Wyoming) and Rachel Reckin (Cambridge) our team was able to investigate a series of ice patches identified by Craig Loe in having high potential for perishable materials and to begin documentation of the adjacent archeological surface. Of particular interest was the surprising number and diversity of Palaeoindian sites, and the presence of the large and diversity of stone tools and debitage associated with an array of stone and ice patch features. We plan to return to this area next year to continue ice patch inventory, surface documentation, and perhaps testing.