

Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee

Project Completion Report

FY 2008

Unit: Gallatin National Forest
Project Name: Ice Patch Archaeology
Project Description: This CYCC Proposal would be addressed to the topic “ <i>Ecosystem Health; climate change and effects to the ecosystem</i> ”. The Ice Patch Archaeological Project is in its third year and in the previous two years has encountered incredibly well preserved evidence speaking to a paleo-ecology 7,000 years ago when a warming period (the Altithermal) appears to have reduced ancient glaciers and ice fields to the tiny patches left on Beartooth/Absaroka Plateau almost identical to what we are seeing today.
GYCC Funding Received: \$1,500 Partner Funding/In-Kind Received: \$10,000 (Beartooth Platinum Inc.)
Status of the Project: This proposal involves Beartooth Platinum as a partner funding Gallatin NF involvement in the Ice Patch Archaeology Project by supporting archeological studies for the identified target study areas in the Iron Mtn to Chrome Mtn areas and to involve Dr. Craig Lee in recovery of archeological/paleo-ecological features, artifacts and other study matrix. Any findings would be included and analysed along with the other research target areas on the Beartooth Plateau. All the targeted Ice Patches on the Gallatin NF were revisited. The abundance of winter snow and late spring snow melt resulted in no new exposures of ancient ice. No new evidence was encountered or collected. A bison vertebrae with potential soft tissue recovered from an Iron Mountain ancient ice patch recovered in 2007 was prepared for submittal to laboratories for Radio-metric dating and DNA analysis. The sample has not yet been analyzed.
Products that can be shared across the GYA: (GIS data layers, maps, new protocols and methods) N/A
Project results: (Information worth sharing on methods, results, partnerships, etc) N/A
Project contact: (include phone number, email) Walt Allen, 406-587-6941, wallen@fs.fed.us
Report Date: 2/2/2009
Submit to Virginia Kelly: vkelly@fs.fed.us 406-587-6704. Contact Virginia with questions.

Note: You may expand and reduce size of blocks.