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YUKON-CHARLEY RIVERS NATIONAL PRESERVE
RESOURCE SURVEY/INVENTORY REPORT

PRELIMINARY SURVEY
OF
ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

CRESCENT CREEK RESOURCE BASE CAMP

26 JUNE - 3 JULY 1984

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Introduction

Beginning June 26 I had the opportunity to spend 7 days in the upper Crescent Creek area and undertake a preliminary archeological survey of this area. I was able to inventory and map 55 sites for future reference.

Purposes of the Survey

Essentially the purpose of this survey was:

- To obtain baseline information on the archeological resources present.
- To inventory and map sites discovered
- To locate "unimproved" landing sites
- To evaluate man's impact on this area

Previous Surveys

To my knowledge this was the first survey of this type to be done in this specific area. Bowers and Hoch (1976) surveyed portions of Copper Creek approximately 20 miles to the east

Methods

Steve Ulvi, Ted Swem and Ralph Moldenhauer flew out with the helicopter from Eagle to the head waters of Crescent Creek. Once there they found and established a base camp from which to work.

Leslie Taylor and I were to fly in by fixed wing to Gelvin's airstrip on the mainstem of the Charley River. The helicopter met us there and shuttled people and gear over to the base camp at the 2500' elevation on the east fork of Crescent Creek.

Results

Tuesday, June 26, we flew into Gelvin's strip on a wing and a prayer with Mark Lynch, Tatonduk Flying Service. We had to make one extra trip in because of all bulk of the gear and poor strip conditions.

Steve, Ted and Ralph left Eagle earlier via helicopter for upper Crescent Creek to look for a good spot to set up a main camp. After the helicopter dropped Steve and his party off it flew on into Gelvin's to pick up Leslie and myself and took us on into upper Crescent Creek from there.

Steve picked out a good spot for main camp. There are a lot of "kame and kettle" like features all around so I'm sure it will be a good area for archeological site's.

There are to work out of main camp taking day hikes with plan to cover as much ground as we can each day.

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We have 5 people in our party: Steve Ulvi, Ted Swem and V.I.P. Ralph Moldenhauer will be working on a bird and sheep inventory, Leslie Taylor will be working on the geology of this area and myself who will be undertaking an archeological survey.

On Wednesday, June 27, we started off around 9 am with a cloudy sky and rain. We all headed down the creek to check out the area around Moraine Creek and the Lakes close by.

The first site I found had a few pieces of black chert on it and a beautiful green shale blade or scraper. I marked this site D, mapped it and marked where it was found on the site and then collected it. The reason I collected this piece was that not 100 feet away was an old camp fire site that hunters had apparently used a few years back. Near the mouth of Moraine Creek we found a super cub landing area.

The blade (or scraper) was on the surface of a blow out just waiting to be picked up. So I decided to collect it for future interpretation rather than letting some spring bear hunter or fall sheep hunter find it and take it home.

We then checked out the lakes (zone B, see map #1) where I found two more sites, E and F. Site E had one flake of obsidian on it and F had some kind of broken point. Here we stopped to have lunch and give Ted and Ralph a chance to look at birds. After lunch we walked on down to the creek to check out the landing area. We found where someone had cached two 5 gallon cans of gas, so more than likely the strip is still being used.

We then walked on over to the other kame lakes on the north side of Crescent Creek (zone C) where I found 11 more sites (see map #3 and inventory sheet). Of these sites Q was the most interesting as here I found a nice piece of obsidian about the size of a quarter. I'm sure there are more flakes around but the site had vegetation on it and I chose not to disturb the surface by digging around to look for more. I'm confident there will be more sites found in this area, but it will take more time and some digging around to find them.

On Thursday, June 28th, we walked up the East Fork of Crescent Creek. I didn't find a site until I came to one lone kame and here I found a few flakes of black chert and 6 white quartz flakes. I called this site A (see map #2). We then walked up to the head of the valley where some high glacial lakes were. Here we sat in the rain had lunch and watched for birds. After lunch I headed on down to the other side of the creek where I found sites B & C (see inventory sheet). All in all this area had very few sites in it and looks like most of the hunting activity was taking place lower down in the valley.

On Friday, June 29th, we walked on up a ridge north of camp with Steve, Ralph and Ted looking for birds. I'm starting to learn more birds as a result. Started to walk up down the ridge.

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look for archeological sites but I got side tracked by a hoary marmot and her family, I didn't have a camera so I had to walk on back up the ridge to find Steve or Ted. By the time I found them and brought them back to the den site she was back in her burrow never to come out again. So that blew our chances of getting some good pictures. Walked on back to camp to give the old feet a much needed rest.

On Saturday, June 30th, I walked down to the far kettle lakes on the north side of creek. Steve and Ralph were trying to find their fiftieth species of bird and I was hoping to find more sites.

We stopped on our way down to get a good picture of the obsidian flake on site Q (zone c). After this we then walked down to the lakes. There we found 3 55 gallon drums that the army must of dropped back in the early 1960's.

Near the lakes I found 4 more sites (R, S, T & U). I marked these on a map and inventories them and headed back across the creek to an end moraine where I picked up on 2 more sites, V and W. These were on the lower end of the moraine (see map #3). On site V I found what looks like a black chert end scraper. I marked this site on the map but no pictures were taken.

On Sunday, July 1, I walked around the moraines (zone A) near base camp closely scrutinizing two unvegetated areas. I found 32 separate sites; 19 of which were found on a terminal moraine (see map 2). Of these sites #19 had 6 obsidian flakes. There may be more but because of vegetational cover I was unable to find any.

On site #20 (see map #2) I found a green slate scraper. This site was mapped and pictures were taken. A copy will be sent to Regional Office as this piece should probably be collected at some later date.

Close to #20 is site #21. This site contained 1 flake of obsidian and makes it the 4th site with obsidian on it and the 55th site total.

On Monday, July 2nd, we waited for the helicopter to come in to pick up Steve, Ralph and Ted. We waited until 10:30 am in hopes of getting a quick ride up on the ridge to the south. It didn't show so Leslie and I hiked up the ridge between Crescent Creek and Moraine Creek. We were able to get some beautiful pictures and Leslie gave me a little bit of background on the geology of the area.

On Tuesday, July 3rd, Leslie and I broke camp and moved everything up to the moraine and waited for the helicopter to pick us up. George came in around 11:00 am and we went to the Coal Creek mine airstrip where Dave Mihelich was waiting. We then Bonanza and flew us back to Eagle. Got back to camp around 2:00 pm - a good trip.

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Recommendations

I would recommend that at some future date a team of archeologists be flown into this area to run the necessary baselines and accurately map and interpret the area's significance. I feel that the tools out there should be collected for interpretive purposes as this area is being used by fly in hunters. These artifacts stand a chance of being illegally removed.

Bill Goebel

Inventory of Zone A (see maps 1 & 2)

Site Number	Description
#1	1 gray and white chert flake
#2	2 flakes of gray chert
#3	2 flakes gray chert
#4	3 flakes white chert
#5	1 black chert, 1 gray flake
#6	2 black, 2 gray
#7	4 greenish gray, 5 black
#8	20 black, 12 gray schist, 2 white chert
#9	3 gray, 1 black
#10	2 orangish red, 2 gray, 3 black, 2 white
#11	2 gray & white striped chert
#12	6 black, 1 greenish white
#13	20 white, 1 black, 3 gray, 1 black chert blade
#14	1 grayish black, 2 black
#15	3 white chert
#16	5 gray chert
#17	3 grayish white, 1 black
#18	3 black
#19	6 obsidian, 1 gray, 1 black
#20	21 greenish-white, 1 green schist scraper
#21	1 flake obsidian
#22	6 black chert
#23	2 black, 1 gray
#24	1 gray schist
#25	2 black, 1 gray
#26	20 black chert (touch-up) flakes mixed with 12 white
#27	1 black
#28	1 black chert (cobble) flake
#29	11 black chert (touch-up) flakes
#30	10 green, 8 gray, 3 black, 18 white
#31	6 black chert
#32	4 black chert

East Fork Crescent Creek

A	4 black chert, 6 white quartz flakes
B	2 black chert
C	1 black chert

Inventory of Zone B & C (see map #3)

D	1 scraper (or blade) of green shale
E	1 flake obsidian
F	1 broken point
G	6 black chert, 3 greenish-gray
H	4 green chert
I	8 green chert

J	2 black chert
K	1 black chert
L	2 black chert
M	2 black chert
N	1 black, 2 marbled, 2 gray
O	15 black chert
P	16 black chert
Q	1 obsidian flake (quarter size)
R	5 gray chert, 1 white quartz
S	8 grayish-white
T	1 grayish-blue
U	10 grayish-white
V	12 gray, 1 black, 1 black chert end scraper
W	21 flakes black chert

*Note: tools and frequency of obsidian flake occurrence.



