

The Beartooth Ecosystems Alpine Archaeological Research (BEAAR) project will host three separate field sessions for the 2022 season. All sessions will take place in the High Lakes region of the Beartooth Mountains of Montana, at elevations between 2900 and 3900 meters (9,500–10,150 feet) above sea level. The High Lakes ecosystem hosts evidence of ancient activities spanning the Holocene, displaying diagnostic material ranging from ~10,000 calYBP in the Paleoindian to historic activities.

The 2022 field sessions will focus on new site recordation, pedestrian survey, as well as revisiting previously recorded sites for further analysis and data collection. New survey areas chosen for the 2022 season will necessitate hiking for several hours a day while documenting regional archaeology, recording sites, and mapping new localities. Data collection from previously recorded sites will focus on sub surface testing and mapping surface artifacts and features. Sites chosen for further subsurface analysis and testing include two localities whose upper strata host features dating to the Late Prehistoric period, but with surface artifacts dating to the Early Holocene.

Session 1: August 1 - 8th

Session 2: August 11th – 18th

Session 3: August 20th - 26th

Volunteers will need to be ready for variable mountain weather, shifting between potential snow and hailstorms, to 80-degree sunny days. Appropriate field gear (boots, raingear, tents, sleeping bags, coats, gloves, sunglasses) will be necessary for each volunteer, as hypothermia, sun stroke, and dehydration are real dangers in these ecosystems, even in the same stretch of 24 hours. This ecosystem will test your tents water proofing.

Volunteers personal gear and BEAAR project equipment will be transported into and out of the project area by a UTV. This allows volunteers to leisurely hike the 5 miles into the project area with little weight.

Crews will arrive at Upper Lady of the Lake Trail Head (north Of Cooke City Montana, on LuLu Pass Road) the morning of the field session start date (1st/11th/20th).

Crews will depart the field the morning of the field session end date (8th/ 18th/ 26th).

While in the field the crew will give twice daily (morning and night) check-in texts on a Garmin-In Reach Satellite texting device. Garmin-In Reach devices will be on hand at all times.

All three sessions have emergency UTV transport arranged with Bear Claw UTV out of Cooke City, to transport BEAAR crews out of the project area and back to Cooke City if emergencies arise. Note, Cooke City has no medical facilities, from Cooke City the nearest medical assistance is another hour drive to Cody, Wyoming.