

Beartooth Ecosystems Alpine Archaeological Research (BEAAR) Project
2024 Field Schedule

For the 2024 field season, the BEAAR project will host two separate field sessions. One (20-day) session will be in and around the High Lakes region in the Beartooth Wilderness of Montana, with one shorter (5-day) sessions in the Bridger Mountains of Montana. These high-elevation ecosystems represent two very different mountain environments; the Beartooth ecosystems are inundated with alpine lakes and whitebark pine groves between 9,000 and 11,000 feet above sea level, while the Bridgers is an isolated spine range, with hanging basins and sparse lake features. Both mountain ranges are part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and host evidence of ancient activity spanning the Holocene from ~10,000 calYBP in the Late Paleoindian to the contact period no more than 250 years ago, in addition to evidence of the Pleistocene-Holocene transition. For the 2024 season, we will be focusing on new site recordation and pedestrian survey, as well as revisiting previously recorded sites for further analysis and documentation.

The BEAAR project 2024 field goals are to continue understanding the nature of alpine habitation and landscape use in the mountain ranges of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

BEAAR Project 2024 Field Staff

P.I.-Research Director	Scott Dersam Ph.D., RPA	(406)546-8891 scott.wd@icloud.com
C0-P.I.	Sari Dersam M.A., RPA	(406) 498-1139 Sbdersam@outlook.com

2024 Field Sessions

Session 1	North of Bozeman	5 Days	July 26 th – 30 th
Session 2	North of Cooke City	22 Days	August 3 rd – August 22 nd

Welcome PCRG Volunteers!

Please feel free to contact Scott Dersam for any questions or concerns about field work or safety in the field.

Session 1

- **Location 1 -Bridger Range (July 26th – July 30th)**
(Please arrive at Bozeman, MT the evening of the 25th)

-Crewmembers will arrive at Bozeman, MT, on the evening of July 25th to prep for getting into the field the following day. We will drive our gear in the morning of the 26th.

-We will use a truck to haul gear and crew in and out of the field. Our base camp will be ~3 miles back in the Bridger Mountains.

-We will meet Walmart parking lot (on 7th Street) near the auto center at 8 am the morning of the 26th. If you have a truck that is suitable for off-road backcountry driving, feel free to bring it. Otherwise, space will be provided for you.

The session will consist of pedestrian survey, as well as lithic debitage mapping and limited preliminary testing at some larger sites. The focus will be on collecting and assessing data related to habitation, occupation patterning, seasonality, and activities represented within these locations.

- We will arrive back in Bozeman on the afternoon of the 30th.

Session 2

- **Location 2- Beartooth Range (August 3rd – 22nd)**
(Please arrive at Cooke City on the evening of the 2nd)

- Arrive at Cooke City on the evening of August 2nd to enter the field the following day. We will pack our gear in on the morning of the 3rd, and we will be meeting at the Upper Lady of the Lake Trailhead, which is accessible ~5 miles up Lulu Pass road, East of Cooke City.

-We will use a UTV and single-track trailer to haul gear both in and out of the field. Our base camp will be in the Northwestern high lakes region.

The session will consist of limited testing and mapping of larger sites around the region. The data collection will consist of lithic debitage mapping, as well as continuing our goals from the first session of collecting and assessing data related to habitation, occupation patterning, seasonality, and activities represented within these locations.

- We will return to Cooke City on the evening of the 22nd.

****Note Lulu Pass Road is a rough road. A Subaru can make it but enter at your own risk. If you need a ride from Cooke City to Upper Lady of the Lake Trailhead, please let Scott know beforehand so he can facilitate a ride.**

Please contact **Scott Dersam** if there are any questions or concerns.

Field Gear Suggestions

Gear/luggage:

Regarding clothes and personal gear – the weather should be good this time of year, with warm days and cool nights, with afternoon thunderstorms and rain (occasional snow and hail possible) likely. Will be camping and working at high elevations, so come prepared for variable conditions. Hypothermia is a risk at any time of year in this area, so be sure your gear (tents, outer layer/raincoat, pants, boots, and the like) is high quality and durable. Remember that all bear attractants will be taking up space in the bear-resistant storage containers, so don't overload on shampoos, deodorants, breath mints, etc. (not only does nobody care, but the smell of most of these things are really nummy to bears). Do be sure to bring any personal medication, sunscreen, and insect repellent.

Regarding field equipment, we'll be doing surface documentation, predominantly non-collection. We will have two Emlid RS Reach GNSS units and a Garmin InReach. I have Goal Zero Yeti and Sherpa Solar batteries and solar panels to recharge all field equipment (note, we are fairly protective of our electric power in the backcountry, but we should have more than enough to be able to charge Phones, Kindles or other sorts personal electronic items).

Let me know of other special equipment that you'll be bringing and it's approximate weight and bulk (individual GPS units can be carried on your person and won't count as either gear or equipment).

Boots – you'll need high-country hiking boots. Your boots must be well waterproofed, and you should have a good pair of gaiters to cross small streams (<10 cm deep).

Things the Project Provides:

If you have your own bear spray, bring it. If not, we'll have canisters available for loan at the trailhead when backpacking. Otherwise, all attractants must be stored in the project's

bear-resistant panniers. In no case should you plan to have any attractants in your tent (this includes things like toothpaste, insect repellent, wet wipes, rum, sunscreen, midnight snacks, and so forth).

We'll have a satellite phone and In-Reach emergency transmitter for communication in the field. Note that there will not be cell phone coverage anywhere in the field. The project Sat. phone can be used for you to receive emergency contacts while in the field through text messages. This is not a personal "check-in at the home phone." We will send "All Safe" messages daily to USFS representatives and crew family members so everyone knows we are all ok. If you would like to add a number to the daily message, please let me know. NOTE- please tell family members not to respond to these texts, as you personally will not be responding back. We do not have the phone on at all times during the day. The primary purpose of the phone is to contact the outside world in case of an emergency situation that we might need help with and will not be available for general chats at home, etc.

Food

We'll be buying and packing all the basic food. Meals will be Mountain House Freeze dried for several reasons: 1) they produce little garbage, 2) can be prepared and consumed in less than 15 minutes with each person responsible for their own 'cooking,' and there are no dishes to clean up, 3) they are compatible with both a "leave no trace" and a "food's just fuel" field philosophies, 4) they're light, compact and easy to pack, 5) can be prepared even when having fire bans, 6) they provide vegetarian and omnivore options, and 7) they make daily calorie planning fairly simple.

In terms of utensils, bring a cup, bowl, and your own longish handled spoon. A note on coffee and tea – will have the Folgers dunk-in-cup coffee bags and a small variety of tea bags for general consumption.

Water filters

We have 2 Katadyn Gravity 3-liter filters that work well and quickly for general camp use and a hand pump filter for daily in-field use. It's a good idea to bring at least two or three one-liter water bottles each. If you have your own filter and, like me, don't think your day pack is complete without one, please feel free to bring it along.

Stoves

We have two JetBoil stoves for general water heating. Campfires may be a rare evening or cold morning event but are usually not the norm. There are almost constant fire bans in the Beartooth Wilderness, and we will not deviate from the Law- regardless of temperature.

Leave No Trace

We try to work as closely as possible within a leave-no-trace framework. If not familiar with LNT, visit (<https://lnt.org/>). Toilet paper can be tricky, so I recommend using natural wipes that don't need to be curated and packed out – sun-warmed rounded cobbles are a special backcountry treat.

Medical and Risk Planning

We have a comprehensive backcountry first aid kit, and at least two team members have had Wilderness first aid/or First Responder certification. You may, however, want to bring several personal medical items that you know you might need. For example, I know that a couple of Ibuprofen help me sleep and that I should have some extra duct tape for blisters, so I have these things with me in my daypack. It is especially important that if you have preexisting conditions or are taking medications, you let us know.

Bear Safety

We're in grizzly bear habitat, and bear safety rules for food/attractant storage will be in place (we have aluminum bear-resistant panniers). You will be required to have bear spray with you at all times.

FIELD GEAR SUGGESTIONS:

Total personal gear weight must be at or less than 50 pounds. Unless you are comfortable hiking in any weight over that amount.

Clothing

Waterproof Boots!

Pants (2 for wet/cold conditions-Levis and other cotton pants do not dry quickly and are not optimal)

5-6 pairs of socks

1-2 T-Shirts

Kerchief

Gloves/mittens

Long underwear (tops and bottoms)

Down/fleece vest

Microfiber base-layer

Sweater or warm coat (Down)

Hats (brimmed and stocking)

Sturdy Raincoat/pants

Gaiters

Gear

Packs (lightweight day pack)

Sleeping bag & liner

Stuff/ Dry bags for keeping clothing dry in your tent

Sleeping Pad

Tent (sturdy and rain proofed)

Belt

Water Filter (optional-we provide group filters)

Pocket knife

Flashlight/headlamp

Watch/Alarm clock

Sunglasses

Camera

Stuff (many of these are bear attractants and must be stored safely – limit the amount you bring)

Ibuprofen

Bug Spray (Lots of Mosquitos)

Aloe or Sunscreen

Lip goo

Blister repair/Duct tape

Any personal medications

Personal Hygiene (e.g., biodegradable soap)

Ideas of Personal use items

Nail clippers

2-3 1 liter water bottles

Utensil set – fork/knife/spoon

Batteries/ Battery Packs for personal electronics

Blister kit

Coffee press cup, e.g., REI/Jax

Good coffee if needed

Cough drops

Walking poles

Ideas for Personal Between meal Snacks

(These are all bear attractants and must be stored safely)

Granola bars

Dried fruit and Nuts

Gorp

Summer sausage

Jerky

Power bars

Kool aid/emergency Vitamin C – drink powder

Hard candy/mints/chewy stuff