



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| STATE            |         |
| COUNTY           |         |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |         |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE    |
| 70-4025-0003     | 4/28/70 |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Madison Buffalo Jump State Monument  
AND/OR HISTORIC: Madison Buffalo Jump Archeological Site

2. LOCATION

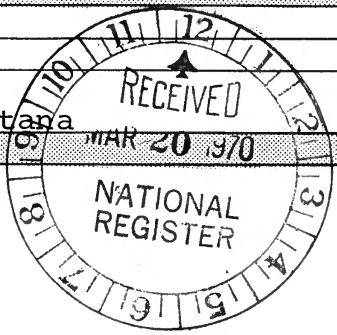
STREET AND NUMBER:  
Township 1 North, Range 2 East (Section 34)  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Approximately 7 miles south of Logan  
STATE: Montana CODE 25 COUNTY: Gallatin CODE 031

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Dick Ellis  
DATE OF PHOTO: Summer of 1968  
NEGATIVE FILED AT:  
Fish and Game Film Center, Helena, Montana

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  
#2 looking east at face of jump  
bison trail  
village site - mid foreground  
bone deposits - center of slope





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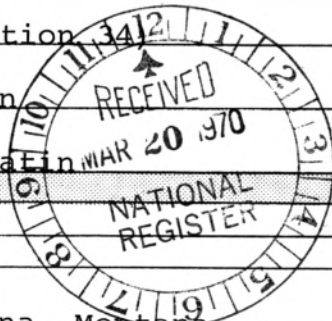
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#3 Crew from University of Montana--Taylor investigation of archeology at village site.



# MADISON BUFFALO JUMP



Several natural and man-made features were essential to the successful operation of a buffalo jump. All of these features, and some others unique to the Madison jump, are well represented at this site.

(1) A grazing area from which buffalo were lured or driven extended beyond the edge of the rimrock.

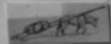
(2) Drive lanes consisting of long rows of rocks marked the walls of a "funnel" through which the buffalo were driven toward the rim of the jump.

(3) The cliff over which the buffalo plunged to their death is the key feature of the jump.

(4) The slope at the foot of the cliff is where crippled animals were killed and carcasses skinned and butchered.

(5) An ancient trail from the grazing area to water below may have influenced the selection of this site for the jump.

(6) The occupation site, located on the flat below the slope, is where final processing of meat and hides took place.



Before Indians got horses in the early 1700's, they had to hunt the all-important buffalo on foot. Several thousand years ago, they devised the Buffalo jump or plinkun, where they stampeded the shaggy beasts over cliffs to their deaths. At older sites, buffalo were often driven over a low hill into a corral or "ound" for slaughter.



You can take an easy foot trail, shown above, to various points of interest on this jump site. View the major jump and kill area from below - then visit the camp site. The trail passes below the jump and comes back to the parking area.  
Trail time: 20 minutes.

