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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Eagle's Site

other name/site number: 24LC1080

2. Location

street & number:



not for publication: X
vicinity: X

city/town:



state: Montana



3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally X statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Maeville Shoff MT SHPO 8-13-93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register
 see continuation sheet

determined eligible for the
National Register
 see continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the
National Register
 see continuation sheet

removed from the National Register
 see continuation sheet

other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Janet E. Townsend

Date of Action

10-7-93

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Number of Resources within Property
Contributing Noncontributing

Category of Property: Site

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register: 0

____ building(s)
____ sites
____ structures
____ objects

Name of related multiple property listing: Archaeological
Resources of the Upper Missouri River Corridor,
Lewis & Clark County, Montana

____ 1

____ Total

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Current Functions:

Domestic/Camp

Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Materials:

n/a

n/a

Narrative Description

The Eagle's Site (24LC1080) is a prehistoric campsite in the Rocky Mountains of westcentral Montana. Based upon inferences drawn from intact hearth features, a single temporally diagnostic projectile point, and a substantial number of late stage reduction/re-tooling flakes, this site served as a campsite for a Plains aboriginal group using Pelican Lake Complex technology. Organic materials taken from sites containing the distinctive Pelican Lake projectile point style have consistently produced radiocarbon dates of 1000 B.C.- A.D. 200 (Wettlaufer 1955; Foor 1982; Reeves 1983; Brumley and Dau 1988).

____. Although the terrace is beginning to erode _____, a reconnaissance of the river gravels at the base of the site revealed little evidence of fire damaged rock, or other cultural remains. It is suggested here that most of the site is still intact, but is now in danger of slowly being destroyed through erosion of the river bank. _____

____. The visual inspection of the vertical bank provided a window into the subsurface strata of the terrace. Only a single cultural stratum could be identified through inspection of the site cross section. The cultural stratum is approximately 8-10 centimeters thick, and lies approximately 7-8 centimeters below the present ground surface. Two 1 meter-by-1 meter-by-20 centimeter test pits were placed at the site to determine the width of the site and the consistency of the cultural stratum. Fire damaged rock fragments were noted in both test pits, and a projectile point was recovered with the placement of the second test pit. As evidenced with the soil profile of each test pit, the cultural stratum begins at 7 centimeters below the present surface, and continues in depth for an additional 10 centimeters.

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The Eagle's Site (24LC1080)

[REDACTED] The region in which the site is located has been labeled the transmontane (Malouf 1956). The transmontane refers to the convergence of three distinct culture areas: 1) the Columbia Plateau to the west, 2) the Great Basin to the south, and 3) the Northwestern Plains to the north and east. [REDACTED]

Current surface vegetation consists of short prairie grasses, prickly pear, willow, club moss and sagebrush. Ponderosa pine is located on the hillsides adjacent to the site. Geologically, the site lies within the fold and thrust belt of western Montana. This thrust belt consists of upper Precambrian mudstones and siltstones, and overlying Paleozoic and Mesozoic limestone deposits (Pao 1973:9).

Presently, the site appears to maintain good integrity and is in good condition, although erosion of the river bank is beginning to take a toll on the site. No lithic debitage was noted during the surface reconnaissance of the site, which may or may not reflect the activities of previous artifact collecting. Cultural features associated with this temporary prehistoric campsite can be recognized in their original spatial relations and can provide the opportunity for additional research of the Pelican Lake Complex.

Information on the location of this property is restricted and will not be made available in publications accessible to the general public because of a concern for vandalism and endangerment of the property and its resources.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: D

Areas of Significance: Archeology: prehistoric

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1000 B.C. - 200 A.D.

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: n/a

Cultural Affiliation: Late Plains Archaic

Architect/Builder: n/a

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Eagle's Site (24LC1080) is significant at both local and regional levels. It is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D, for its high potential to provide important information about prehistoric cultural activities relating to travel routes to and from prime economic resource areas, and the locational and spatial patterning of prehistoric settlement areas in the Northern Rocky Mountain region of North America. Scientific research at the Eagle's Site can potentially provide new information on several aspects of the prehistory of the Northern Rocky Mountain region including the use of the Upper Missouri River Corridor to and from key economic resource areas, subsistence and trade, the environmental and geographical setting of campsites during the Pelican Lake Complex, and intrasite activity loci.

Another important research topic worthy of investigation at the Eagle's Site includes the distribution and geological character of lithic materials utilized in the Pelican Lake component. It is well known that some chert quarries were exclusively exploited by peoples of the Pelican Lake complex. These sites include the Schmitt Chert Quarries (24BW559) near the Missouri River Headwaters (Davis 1982 a,b, 1987), the South Everson Creek Quarries (24BE559) southwest of Dillon (Davis 1981), and the Palmer Chert Quarry (24JF226) southwest of Helena (Herbort 1981).

The Eagle's Site is of statewide importance because it is one of only a handful of recognized, isolated Pelican Lake components that may very likely be a single cultural occupation. The widespread spatial and temporal distribution of the characteristic corner-notched projectile point associated with the Pelican Lake assemblage, has raised questions about the cultural affiliation of these sites. Additional information about feature construction, spatial distribution of features, and activity loci within sites may shed light upon the relationships between "Pelican Lake" components in this region (Munson, 1988). As mentioned earlier, the location of this site in a peripheral zone bordering three distinct culture areas offers the potential to study the relationships and population dispersal patterns of prehistoric groups.

Currently, there is an increased interest in the study of prehistoric cultural travel routes (Reeves 1991; Kennedy 1991). It is believed that the Mullan trail, an east-west running historic military travel route within 10 miles of 24LC1080, was established along an already existing aboriginal travel route (Toole 1959). Lewis and Clark also mention a well established "Indian rode" as they traveled through the Gates of the Mountains area (Thwaites 1904:240-260). The Eagle's Site (24LC1080) is situated at the confluence of the Missouri River and an ephemeral drainage that is historically known as American Bar Gulch. A ferry crossing was once located at the mouth of this drainage. This drainage was used, beginning in the late 1800s, as a travel route to and from the Helena Valley. Currently no evidence exists to make the claim that this ferry road, like the vast majority of historic travel routes in the Northern Rocky Mountains, was an adopted aboriginal travel route. The potential does exist to study this hypothesis and to develop a baseline of information for selected travel routes of people using a Pelican Lake complex technology, and to compare this information with the travel route preferences of earlier and later prehistoric groups.

Eagle's Site
Name of Property

Lewis & Clark County, Montana
County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

See Continuation Sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Approximately 1 acre

UTM References:

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
B	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
C	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Verbal Boundary Description

[REDACTED]

Boundary Justification

[REDACTED]

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Patrick Rennie and David Ferguson
organization: Consultants date: April 17, 1992
street & number: P.O. Box 163 telephone: 406/933-5396
city or town: Clancy state: MT zip code: 59634

Property Owner

name/title: Catherine Campbell
street & number: Route 3, Box 117 telephone: 406/458-5273
city or town: Helena state: MT zip code: 59601

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