

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

FIRST PEOPLES BUFFALO JUMP

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United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: First Peoples Buffalo Jump

Other Name/Site Number: Ulm Pishkun (24CA1012)

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 342 Ulm-Vaughn Road

Not for publication: X

City/Town: Ulm

Vicinity: X

State: Montana

County: Cascade

Code: 013

Zip Code: 59485

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: ___

Public-Local: ___

Public-State: X

Public-Federal: ___

Category of Property

Building(s): ___

District: X

Site: ___

Structure: ___

Object: ___

Number of Resources within Property Contributing

42

42

Noncontributing

___ buildings

12 sites

___ structures

___ objects

12 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 1

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: N/A

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4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ____ 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 ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of Certifying Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and 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

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ Entered in the National Register
- ___ Determined eligible for the National Register
- ___ Determined not eligible for the National Register
- ___ Removed from the National Register
- ___ Other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic:	AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE DOMESTIC	Sub: animal facility; processing Sub: multiple dwelling; camp
Current:	RECREATION AND CULTURE	Sub: outdoor recreation; work of art

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: N/A

MATERIALS:

- Foundation:
- Walls:
- Roof:
- Other:

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INTRODUCTION

First Peoples Buffalo Jump is one of the oldest, largest, and best preserved bison mass procurement cliff jump localities in North America.¹ It is located 16 km (10 mi) south of the City of Great Falls in west-central Montana and comprises the entirety of the 1,906-acre First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park. Archeological research to date indicates this site was continuously used by multiple Native American groups for thousands of years. Mass procurement of bison was one of the most productive methods ever devised by humans for obtaining great quantities of food and hides from a single hunt event. The carefully laid out landscape design at First Peoples Buffalo Jump reflects the culmination of thousands of years of shared and passed-on knowledge regarding Northern Plains environment, topography, and the behavior and anatomy of bison. Judging by the unusually extensive use area and depth of its bison bone midden² deposits, Precontact peoples identified First Peoples Buffalo Jump as an especially effective locale for conducting mass procurement of bison. It is evident that careful planning in design and exact placement of drive lines and bison trip walls enhanced this aspect of the site's topography.

First Peoples Buffalo Jump is nationally significant under National Historic Landmark Criterion 6 in the area of Aboriginal Precontact (Prehistoric) archeology since it has yielded, and will likely continue to yield, information of major scientific importance including data that addresses nationally significant archeological research questions regarding the evolving sophistication of mass procurement strategies as an expression of complex social organization across the Northern Plains. The only other site that approximates First Peoples Buffalo Jump's antiquity, integrity, area extent, and number and variety of contributing elements is Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in southern Alberta, Canada. First Peoples Buffalo Jump's various contributing elements are unsurpassed when compared with the hundreds of other bison mass procurement sites found within the Northern Plains region of the United States. It is, therefore, well suited to examining the evolution of procurement and processing pursuits as they changed through space and time and as they are related to social complexity. Studying social complexity is a nationally significant topic because it is fundamental to our understanding of how societies develop and organize their political, economic, and ideological institutions. The period of significance for First Peoples Buffalo Jump extends from approximately 4000 BCE to 1700 CE.

For thousands of years, hunt leaders who orchestrated communal bison killings applied their sophisticated knowledge of bison anatomy and herd behavior when selecting a particular locale for conducting a communal hunt. The ideal mass procurement locale must first offer water and ample grazing resources in order to attract a bison herd. A broad area of convoluted topography also is needed in order to present opportunities for hunters to mask their presence as needed, while they manipulated and tricked the hopefully unwary herd into moving through a gradually constricting landscape. This natural constriction was enhanced by constructions of drive lines, comprised of hundreds of rock piles (cairns).

¹ While bison and buffalo are members of the same family, *Bovidae*, they do not share the same genus or species. The American bison (*Bison bison*) have a natural habitat that covers most of the United States, northern Mexico, and southern Canada. There are also bison native to Europe (*Bison bonasus*). The two main species of buffalo are the domesticated Asian water buffalo (*Bubalus arnee*) and the African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*). European explorers who encountered bison during the early seventeenth century applied the taxonomically incorrect name of "buffalo" to these animals. As a consequence, "buffalo" and "bison" are interchangeably used in popular American lexicon. In this National Historic Landmark nomination, "buffalo" is used only in the name of this nomination and the name of the Montana Fish and Wildlife state park in which this archeological site is located. Otherwise, "bison" is used since it is the taxonomically correct name for this animal.

² A *midden* is an ancient dump for domestic waste, which may consist of animal bone, human excrement, botanical material, ceramic sherds and lithics, and other artifacts associated with past human occupation. Middens provide archeologists with data regarding the diet and habits of prehistoric societies.

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Placement and spacing of cairns was based on the designer-builders' careful observations of every nuance of change in the roll and sway of the landscape. Nineteenth-century Euro-Americans who had witnessed bison jumps noted some cairns served as markers to indicate where an individual needed to stand. Judgmental use of sticks, grass clumps and bison chips transformed other cairns into figures that made the bison avoid them as they would humans. Other historic accounts describe Native peoples standing on both sides of the drive lines, where the lines converged to their narrowest point. They shouted, waved their arms, and flapped hides as a means of keeping compacted the increasingly agitated and dangerous herd; it was during this final phase of the communal hunt when danger of escape was greatest (Grinnell 1923:229; Harmon 1911:286; Hind 1971:357-358; Kane 1996:80, in Brink 2008:96, 99,136-140).

At First Peoples Buffalo Jump the final run to the cliff is slightly downhill, which prevented the front-heavy animals from breaking their forward momentum. In his May 29, 1805 journal entry, Meriwether Lewis described the final moments of a bison jump, as described to him by a Plains Indian informant. The journal entry notes that, as the herd was brought to the brink of the precipice, "[I]t is then in vain for the foremost to retreat or even to stop; they are pressed on by the hindmost rank, who seeing no danger but from the hunters, goad on those before them till the whole are precipitated and the shore is strewed with their dead bodies" (Lewis 1966: 235).

First Peoples Buffalo Jump includes several notable manmade features: low rock walls positioned adjacent to cliff exposures and overlook steep slopes. It is theorized that the rock walls were constructed to catch "spillover" bison that had avoided the cliff face; the bison would trip or jump over the rock walls and then tumble down the adjacent steep slopes (Aaberg et al. 2009). Although not formally recorded, similar rock walls have been noted at other area bison jumps (Shumate 1967). The strong association of these walls with nearby bison kills argues against construction by historic Euro-American agricultural or industrial interests.

As described by Euro-Americans who witnessed a bison jump in action, at the base of the cliff dozens of hunters swarmed around the mound of bison, killing the wounded and chasing down the unscathed. If any of the latter escaped it was believed they would mingle with other herds and spread the knowledge as to how they had been deceived, thus dooming future attempts at driving buffalo to a kill (Audubon 1960:144; Fidler 1991:74). To obtain energy for the strenuous tasks ahead, the hunt community consumed various raw nourishing organs and leg bone marrow taken from some of the carcasses. The entire mound of bison carcasses was then disassembled and butchering ensued in an orderly fashion. The entire hunt community, perhaps numbering in the hundreds, needed to process in just a few days scores of tons of meat, fat, bone, and hides. Large chunks of meat, balls of fat, hides, and marrow bone were dragged away for further processing at the base camp. At the main camp some of the meat was roasted or made into stews for immediate consumption, with the great remainder cut into thin strips and air- or smoke-dried on pole racks. Another process involved smashing and then boiling in hide-lined pits the marrow-rich leg bones in order to extract bone grease. Some of the dried meat was pulverized and mixed with bone grease, fat, and berries; the mix was then stored in hide containers. Properly cured and packaged, this nutritious mix (pemmican) could last for months and even years (Lewis 1966:376; McDougall 1898:221-222; Schoolcraft 1851 vol. 7:107; Wilson 1924:252).

LOCATION AND SETTING

First Peoples Buffalo Jump is situated on broken grassland terrain where the prairie meets mountain foothills. The vast, glaciated plains of Montana lie to the northeast while the east front of the Rocky Mountains rises to the west. The salient geological feature of First Peoples Buffalo Jump is cliff-rimmed Taft Hill, which rises over 137 m (450 ft.) above the surrounding rolling and broken plains. To the south the terrain slopes gently to

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the Missouri River valley and to the north the slopes trend down to the Sun River valley located 5.6 km (4 mi) away. To the west and southwest the terrain is broken and irregularly eroded with more resistant volcanic sills and laccoliths forming prominent buttes (Alden 1932; Fox 1966).

Taft Hill is part of the divide between the Missouri River, which flows about 4.8 km (3 mi) to the south of First Peoples Buffalo Jump, and the Sun River, located about 3.2 km (2 mi) to the north. Sun River flows easterly and joins the Missouri River at Great Falls, about seven miles to the east. The town of Ulm is 4 km (2.5 mi) to the south while the community of Vaughn is situated in the Sun River valley on the west side of Muddy Creek about 4.8 km (3 mi) to the north. Cycles of uplift and erosion over several million years are probably responsible for creating Taft Hill.

The most southerly part of First Peoples Buffalo Jump is comprised of Glacial Lake Great Falls sediments. This glacial lake was formed at two different times when the continental glacier pushed southward and blocked the flow of the Missouri River. The lake extended from north-central Montana near Big Sandy westward to near Helena. The most recent advance of the continental glacier reached a peak approximately 20,000 years ago. The glacier did not reach as far as Taft Hill but glacial till deposits are present not far to the northeast. Although not present within the boundaries of the First Peoples Buffalo Jump, aeolian silts and sands are present within the Missouri River valley between the towns of Ulm and Cascade. These deposits developed from existing silty sand sediments in the Missouri valley over the last 12,000 years.

Valley and foothill grassland communities characterize vegetation at First Peoples Buffalo Jump with both xeric and mesic species present³. Xeric species dominate open slopes and the top of Taft Hill while mesic species dominate areas below cliff faces where shade and greater ground moisture provide unique micro-environments. Areas that were plowed in the past tend to support a greater percentage of introduced plant species, most notably crested wheatgrass. Areas not farmed in the past are dominated by native species.

Seventy-four plant species were documented within the 1,906-acre First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park by Stephen Aaberg during the 1992 Montana State University archeological investigations. A number of food and medicinal plants that were very important to historic Plains Indians are among these species. Among the more common ethnobotanical species growing in the park are western yarrow, silver sagebrush, fringed sagewort, cudleaf sagewort, slimleaf goosefoot, wild licorice, curlycup gumweed, round-leaf alumroot, wild oregano, wild parsley, chokecherry, prairie turnip, skunkbush sumac, and golden currant. Many more plant species are present within the park.

The Montana Department of Fish and Wildlife State Parks keeps records of confirmed wildlife sightings within First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park. The park website lists over 75 species of birds that include blue heron, mallard, goose, golden eagle, snowy owl, raven, pheasant, dove, and several species of lark and sparrow. Mammals sighted within the park include badger, prairie dog, bobcat, woodrat, porcupine, raccoon, coyote, deer mouse, weasel, mountain cottontail rabbit, pronghorn antelope, red fox, ground squirrel, striped skunk, jack rabbit, and marmot. Boreal chorus frog, Great Plains toad, and tiger salamander are also present. Additional faunal species were present historically in the area, with buffalo being the most obvious. In addition to bison, analysis of bone recovered during Montana State University investigations in the 1990s confirmed the presence in the past of swift fox, wolf (or wolf-size domesticated dog), as well as a number of other species still present in the park (Fisher 1995). Other animals that were likely present within and near First Peoples Buffalo Jump include elk and grizzly bear.

³ *Xeric*—extremely dry habitat; *Mesic*—moderate moisture habitat.

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Current data indicate that some localities within First Peoples Buffalo Jump were occupied by Native Americans beginning about 4,000 BCE, near the end of the arid Altithermal climatic optimum⁴ on the Northern Plains (Aaberg and others 2009; Aaberg and others 2006). Although there have been shorter periods of drought over the past 5,000 years in the Northern Plains, climatic conditions have generally been similar to those of today. Native community vegetation in the area of First Peoples Buffalo Jump has essentially been similar to modern communities through the period of occupation. Farming and livestock grazing has changed the constituent grass species of some communities but the basic character of park vegetation remains as it was during the Precontact Period.

OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Eastern portions of the First Peoples Buffalo Jump main kill and adjacent uplands were in State of Montana ownership by the 1950s. In the early 1970s, the Montana Historical Society acquired a Montana Department of State Lands lease for 160 acres of these state lands (Auchly 2003). In 1972, the Historical Society turned over administration of the site to the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, which operated it as Ulm Pishkun State Monument, primarily for the cultural, scientific, and educational values of its aboriginal Precontact archeological sites, which were recognized as significant by the professional archeological community and many interested members of the public (Auchly 2003). Smithsonian site number 24CA1012 was assigned to the site in 1972. In 1974, the Ulm Pishkun site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places with stated elements of significance associated with the aboriginal bison jump and related midden deposits, drive lines, processing areas and tipi rings (Conklin 1974).

Ulm Pishkun State Monument remained a 160-acre tract up through the 1980s. Through efforts by the archeological community, various Great Falls area service groups, and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, small-scale archeological investigations were undertaken on private property immediately west of the original 160-acre park (Aaberg 1990; Roll 1992; Fisher and Roll 1994; Fisher 1995). These investigations identified intact archeological deposits and led the State of Montana to facilitate a series of land swaps and purchases in the mid-to-late 1990s that resulted in expansion of the state park to just over 1,400 acres. These 1990s investigations included the first scientifically controlled excavations and resulted in acquisition of carefully described and catalogued artifacts and faunal remains that are presently curated at the State Museum in Helena, Montana (Roll 1992; Fisher and Roll 1994; Fisher 1995). The latest park expansion occurred in 2008, when 427 acres of land encompassing the northeastern part of Taft Hill were added to the park, boosting the total park area to 1,906 acres. With this expansion the park now protects and interprets the archeological localities. These localities include: multiple drive lines that lead up to the cliff precipice; trip walls situated at the edge of the escarpment; deeply stratified bison bone beds along the base of the escarpment; extensive concentrations of tipi rings that indicate where the hunter communities processed the bison carcasses; and evidence of ceremonialism as evidenced by pictographs, petroglyphs⁵ and probable vestiges of at least one medicine wheel circle. It is possible that the drive lines recorded within the park extend further to the west of the park boundary and thus onto private lands. At this time, however, permission from the private landowners to address this research topic is not available.

With expansion of the park property came a new vision for development, as well as a new name. As plans were made for constructing a new visitor center, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks solicited input on

³ The *Altithermal climate optimum* was a worldwide warm period during approximately 7,000 to 3,000 BCE ("Before Common Era", which is interchangeable with BC). During this period the Northern Plains region witnessed a severe decline in bison populations due to drying up of water sources and concomitant loss of various grass species on which the bison grazed (Reeves 1973). This warm period was followed by a gradual cooling until about 1 CE ("Common Era", which is interchangeable with AD).

⁵ *Pictographs* are images painted onto a rock surface. The paint is a mineral or vegetal substance combined with some sort of binder like fat residue or blood. *Petroglyphs* are images that are pecked, carved, or incised onto a rock surface.

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the location of the center from American Indians, private citizens, community groups, and members of the archeological community. As a result of consultation with American Indian Tribes⁶ during this period, the Ulm Pishkun State Monument was officially renamed First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park in 2007.

ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Commercial bone-mining of Taft Hill in the 1940s prompted the first documented investigations of the so-called “main kill” when, in 1947, amateur archeologist Maynard Shumate visited the site and witnessed the bone mining in progress (Davis 1978; Shumate 1950, 1967). Shumate documented archeological materials that were being removed during mining, and conducted small-scale testing in the mining trenches. He determined that intact archeological deposits lay below the bottom of the mining trenches. Shumate described his investigations and noted other Taft Hill features and bison bone midden deposits within what is now the proposed NHL boundary of First Peoples Buffalo Jump (Shumate 1967).

In 1968 a crew from the University of Montana-Department of Anthropology investigated the main kill and excavated three test pits (Dicus and Davis 1974). In the Statewide Survey notes, the site is referred to as the “Ulm Bison Jump” and it may have been about this time when the name Ulm became associated with the site rather than Taft Hill as reported by Shumate. It was not until 1974 that the Ulm or Taft Hill bison jump was assigned site number 24CA1012 (Dicus and Davis 1974). Artifacts recovered by Shumate were eventually donated to the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, Montana (Scott 2010).

Between 1977 and 1979, Dr. Leslie B. Davis of Montana State University (MSU) carried out surficial mapping and aerial photogrammetry of tipi rings and drive lines on the south edge of the top of Taft Hill above the main kill (Davis and Carroll 1981). Individual tipi rings at two localities were mapped by crews from MSU under the direction of Davis. Excavations were not carried out for this project and artifacts were not collected.

In 1988 Stephen Aaberg carried out a monitoring project for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. This project involved surface survey of select areas within the park boundary to document site condition and monitor damage from illegal collecting activities and to monitor natural degradation of localities (Aaberg 1990).

In the late 1980s a group of citizens formed a private non-profit organization called the Ulm Pishkun Support Group. This group lobbied the state to acquire more property and expand Ulm Pishkun State Park into adjacent areas that also contained part of the bison jump and other associated archeological features. This group was concerned about on-going unauthorized collecting and digging in parts of the site outside the park boundaries. They also believed strongly in the scientific, educational, and tourism values of the site and felt that the state park could be developed into a destination landscape that would attract many more visitors than it had up to that point. The support group also developed a relationship with a landowner who owned the lands immediately west of the state park. Through their efforts the landowner agreed to curtail unauthorized collecting and digging on his property. As a first step in moving toward acquisition of additional lands, the Ulm Pishkun Support Group solicited the assistance of archeologist Stephen Aaberg to make a preliminary assessment of archeological deposits on private lands west of the 1972 state park boundary. Aaberg performed an informal surface survey of private land and also placed a series of small shovel probes along the cliff base west of the

⁶ Regarding First Peoples Buffalo Jump, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks conducts consultations with the Nez Perce Tribe, The Blackfeet Nation, Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy’s Reservation, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, The Crow Tribe, Fort Belknap Indian Community, Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes, and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. Native peoples continue to visit First Peoples Buffalo Jump to commemorate their heritage through regular sacred and celebratory ceremonies and by conducting educational and cultural workshops for Native and non-Native people.

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park in the fall of 1989. Those shovel probes indicated intermittent bison midden deposits to a point about 1.2 km (0.75 mi) west of the 1989 park boundary and provided the first documentation on the extent of the midden deposits in the main kill area (Aaberg 1990).

Results of the preliminary survey and shovel probes, along with encouragement from the Ulm Pishkun Support Group, led the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to sponsor archeological excavations funded by both private and state sources. Archeologists Tom Roll, Jack Fisher and Stephen Aaberg from Montana State University directed these excavations in 1992, 1993, and 1995 (Roll 1992; Fisher and Roll 1994; Fisher 1995).

The Montana State University excavations focused on an area at the base of the cliffs at the southeastern end of Taft Hill in what is historically known as the main kill (Roll 1992; Fisher and Roll 1994; Fisher 1995). These investigations indicated that intact archeological deposits remained after cessation of commercial bone mining operations, and that deeply buried and intact bison bone deposits are present below the deepest levels reached by MSU excavators. The age and cultural associations of these deposits are presently undetermined. Archeological excavations indicate over 10,000 bison were killed in just a portion of the main kill (Fisher and Roll 1998:286). This estimate was based on the amount of identifiable bone recovered during excavations and the amount of bone removed during commercial bone mining. Considering only a small portion of the main kill was sampled, and more deeply buried midden deposits are present, the total number of bison killed at the main kill is likely in the tens of thousands but cannot be determined without further scientific excavations.

These investigations included radiocarbon dating, which produced radiocarbon dates of 1380 ± 90 CE; 1145 ± 90 CE; and 950 ± 90 CE (Fisher 1995). Provisional interpretations of the season of usage of the main kill suggest fall through winter based on analysis of recovered fetal bison remains and recovered dentition (Fisher 1995). Nearly all projectile points recovered by MSU are consistent with date associations derived from radiocarbon dating. One corner-notched projectile point found by MSU could be older. Projectile points salvaged by Shumate during commercial bone mining of the main kill are associated with the Late Precontact Period, the same time range as indicated by the MSU investigations (Shumate 1967; Reeves 2003a). As Fisher (1995) stated, present interpretations of use and age of the main kill area may not be applicable to other bison killing areas within the proposed First Peoples Buffalo Jump NHL. Presence of more deeply buried and older archeological deposits was documented in the main kill but the age and cultural association of bone midden deposits along the north face of Taft Hill are currently unknown.

In 1992 John and Mavis Greer carried out the first recording of rock art along the south cliff face of Taft Hill adjacent to the main kill (Greer and Greer 1992, 2004). Another small-scale project occurred in 2005 when Gar C. Wood and Associates was hired by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to carry out a pedestrian survey of a proposed walking trail that passed up the south slopes of Taft Hill to the main kill. The first systematic archeological survey of First Peoples Buffalo Jump occurred in 2008. This survey identified and recorded all areas of the park that had not experienced cultivation. Approximately 486 hectares (1,200 acres) of park land were inspected during this survey and many more archeological sites (termed "localities" in the resultant report) were located and recorded. Projectile points recovered during the 2008 survey include corner-notched, stemmed and side-notched types collected primarily from the north and south slopes of Taft Hill within First Peoples Buffalo Jump (Aaberg and others 2009), except for Late Precontact Period specimens found on the south slopes of Taft Hill within a large midden site and associated campsite. These projectile points cannot be irrefutably associated with bison jump deposits; however, they do indicate that the Taft Hill area was used by peoples as early as 4,000 BCE.

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RESOURCES

First Peoples Buffalo Jump includes forty-two contributing archeological sites, and twelve non-contributing cultural features that date between circa 1890-Present. Each contributing element is termed a *locality*⁷ that includes more than one archeological component. The contributing localities all have components that are associated with Precontact Period mass bison procurement, which include bison jump localities, bison bone deposits, and thousands of aligned sandstone slab cairns that formed the bison drive lines. Within First Peoples Buffalo Jump are several piled sandstone slab walls, which are interpreted as bison trip walls. Also present are numerous tipi ring site localities. These site localities define the locations of tipi encampments presumably occupied during the construction of drive lines alignments, and during meat and hide processing.

One unusually large stone ring within the property may reflect ceremonial activities associated with bison procurement. Several localities that do not contain tipi rings contain fragmentary bone, heat-altered rock and stone artifacts. Together, these localities point to meat preparation and preservation, and hide processing. Also sites present are several aboriginal rock art localities comprised of pictographs and petroglyphs, which may reflect ceremonial or commemorative expressions related to bison procurement. Material culture content is similar among most localities and methods of construction for tipi rings and drive lines are identical.

Resource Types

The 42 contributing and 12 noncontributing elements are categorized within seven resource types and are grouped by form and function and described as follows:

Middens and Processing Areas

Four bison midden and processing localities are within First Peoples Buffalo Jump. Three localities are primarily bone midden deposits associated with cliff and steep slope bison jumps, that is, mass kill deposits. These include the main kill on the south face of Taft Hill, and localities FP20 and FP28 on the north face of Taft Hill. FP20 and FP28 have never been professionally tested or excavated; however, the main kill has been professionally investigated, including excavation (Aaberg et al. 1990; Roll 1992; Fisher and Roll 1994; Fisher 1995; Fisher and Roll in Davis and Fisher, In Press). The main kill consists of about 1.6 km (1 mi) of nearly continuous bison bone deposits with associated fire-broken rock and lithic artifacts. Artifacts recovered during excavations include projectile points, bifaces, a grooved maul, two shaft abraders, lithic debitage, flake tools, bone tools and ceramic potsherds. Over 1,500 pieces of fire-broken rock were recovered, primarily from areas away from the cliff face. These findings suggest processing activities took place away from the base of the cliff where bison carcasses accumulated during the jump-kill episodes.

Bison bone, including fetal remains, account for the majority of faunal material in the main kill. Non-bison bone was also recovered and includes canid, rodent, rabbit, pronghorn antelope, snake and bird. Provisional interpretations of seasonality of use of the main kill suggest different periods of use ranging from fall through winter and late spring. Multiple cultural layers were identified in the main kill although the number of separate kill events is not yet clear. Cultural materials were found up to about 2 m (6 ft) below the present surface but more deeply buried cultural materials were not sampled.

⁷ In this nomination *locality* is used instead of *site* since the former term was applied in the first professional report regarding First Peoples Buffalo Jump (Shumate 1967). Succeeding publications regarding First Peoples Buffalo Jump adhere to this precedent in order to avoid possible confusion. A site is a place where evidence of past activity is preserved, and represents a part of the archeological record. Sites may range from those with few or no remains visible above ground, to buildings and other structures in use. Beyond this, the definition and geographical extent of a site can vary widely, depending on the period studied and the theoretical approach of the archeologist. Sites are distinguished by the presence of artifacts (e.g., ceramics, stone tools) and features (e.g., stone-lined hearths, tipi ring, bison bone bed).

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Locality FP32 is the largest archeological locality within First Peoples Buffalo Jump. It was primarily a bison processing area as indicated by dense scatters of heat-altered rocks, numerous intact cooking or heating features, and high frequencies of lithic artifacts. Ten tipi rings are scattered throughout this site locality.

Formerly cultivated agricultural fields in the northeast corner of the park and at the south end of the park contain variably distributed quantities of fire-broken rocks and a few lithic artifacts and bone fragments. These former agricultural fields occur in depositional settings where very thick sediments have accumulated. Although these plowed areas have not been formally investigated or recorded, they likely represent processing areas in disturbed contexts. It is possible that intact, deeply buried cultural materials occur below the plow zone.

Stone Alignments

Forty-seven individually mapped Precontact stone alignments, formed by over 1,400 individual cairns, are documented within First Peoples Buffalo Jump (Aaberg et al. 2009). The complexity and number of these alignments make it difficult to discern separate bison-driving episodes and the relationship between many of the alignments (Figure 3). Many alignments either intersect or merge with each other, while a few others are discrete, single-line alignments. For recording purposes, alignments were lumped together into six site localities (Localities FP02, FP03, FP05, FP08, FP09, and FP25) based on physical proximity. Some of these alignments indicate bison driving occurred toward the south face of Taft Hill whereas other alignments indicate bison driving took place toward two site localities on the north face of Taft Hill. It is presumed that these alignments are associated with bison procurement that includes driving, hazing, and blocking; however, it is possible some of the shorter alignments held some other function(s). All alignments are formed of discrete cairns of piled sandstone slab rock (Figures 9 and 10).

Cairns

Eight sites (FP01, FP05, FP06, FP09, FP10, FP25, FP27 and FP30) contain a total of 39 stacked sandstone slab cairns, which are believed to be different in function as opposed to those aligned cairns that comprise the drive lines (Figure 3). These cairns on average are much larger than alignment cairns, are constructed of far more stones, and are much higher above ground surface than alignment cairns. Just two localities, FP05 and FP06, consist entirely of cairns. Other cairns are proximal to stone alignments but are not apparently associated with the alignments or tipi rings. The function of these Precontact Period cairns remains undetermined. A representative example of cairns in First Peoples Buffalo Jump is one that lies just east of alignment FP25DLA (Figure 11). This cairn is 1.5 m (4.6 ft) in diameter, is constructed of 51 visible stones and rises about 0.5 m (1.5 ft) above the ground surface.

Stacked Sandstone Walls

Two localities, FP11 and FP26, consist of low walls formed of stacked sandstone slabs (Figures 3, 12 - 15). These features occur only along the rim of Taft Hill above steep slopes adjacent to cliff-jump locales. Locality FP11 occurs on the east face of Taft Hill and not far from the main jump on the south face of Taft Hill. Locality FP26 occurs on the north face of Taft Hill adjacent to drive lines at FP25 and above midden and processing deposits at FP20.

The stacked stone features are interpreted as bison trip-walls that were placed adjacent to cliff exposures to catch "spill-over" bison that were being driven toward the cliff exposures. The slopes below the trip-walls are steep but not so steep as to prevent bison that strayed from adjacent drive lines and cliff exposures from escaping to the lowlands below. As interpreted by Aaberg et al. (2009), the stacked sandstone walls were constructed to force escaping bison to jump or trip over the walls and tumble down the steep slopes below.

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The co-occurrence of these stacked stone walls abutting cliff jumps adjacent to steep slopes is likely more than coincidence. More of these stacked rock walls may occur at other Plains bison kill sites; but because they are not a recognized aboriginal cultural feature, they may have escaped detection and/or recording. Indeed, stacked rock walls could be the only indication of the presence of a kill site or jump locality if a midden has not been identified. At multi-component bison kills like First Peoples Buffalo Jump, it would be difficult to associate the trip walls with a particular episode of jumping. However, recent research strongly suggests that the use of optically stimulated luminescent dating on surface features like the trip walls holds great promise.

Aaberg and others (2009) hypothesize that bison morphology, with much more weight carried on the front quarter of the animal, resulted in animals being unable to sustain balance after jumping or tripping over the walls and landing on the steep slopes below. Some of the bison that tumbled down the steep slopes would sustain injuries that would make them easy targets for armed humans waiting below. Fragmentary bison bone below site FP26 supports Aaberg's hypothesis.

To date, evidence for similar trip walls at any other North American bison kill sites is lacking in the literature. However, in a report on the Taft Hill bison kills, Shumate (1967) noted some of the stacked stone walls now within First Peoples Buffalo Jump. Shumate also reported similar low stacked stone walls at other area bison kills including one in the nearby Sun River valley, where he also noted Avonlea projectile points.

It is possible that these trip walls are time-sensitive features associated with northerly expressions of Avonlea culture.⁸ Avonlea arrow points were among specimens recovered during excavations in the main kill along the south face of Taft Hill (Roll 1992; Fisher and Roll 1994; Fisher 1995; Fisher and Roll in Davis and Fisher, In Press). An Avonlea arrow point was also recovered from a tipi ring site on the upland surface above the main kill (Aaberg et al. 2009). More research is necessary before a trip-wall procurement adaptation can be firmly associated with Avonlea culture. Regardless, these stacked sandstone walls are unique in bison procurement strategies described for North America.

The stacked sandstone features at FP26 occur along the north edge of a mid-elevation bench on north face of Taft Hill. The west wall segment is about 12 m (37 ft) long and has been constructed in a notch in the sandstone cliff where there are natural, higher cliff exposures. The west segment is more collapsed than the east segment and its original height is difficult to determine.

Stone Rings

Twenty-two site localities (FP01, FP05, FP10, FP12, FP17-FP21, FP23, FP24, FP29-FP33, FP38, FP39, FP42-FP44, and FP46) at First Peoples Buffalo Jump contain tipi rings (Figure 3) ranging in number from one to twenty-four (Aaberg et al. 2009). Rings at all sites are formed of sandstone slab rocks that were used as tipi lodge cover weights. Thus, tipi rings mark the location where domestic lodges were erected. Given the presence of fragmentary bone, fire-broken rock, and stone tools at some of the tipi ring sites, interpreted activities include processing bison obtained from nearby jump-kills.

Some tipi ring sites occur proximal to stone alignments and may have been occupied by people constructing the alignments. A few tipi rings sites are not near midden areas or stone alignments and may have been occupied for other purposes. None of the tipi ring sites have undergone professional archeological excavation. Descriptions of all tipi ring sites were based on surface attributes (Aaberg et al. 2009).

⁸ The Avonlea culture period dates between 150-950 CE, and is noteworthy for its introduction of the bow and arrow to the Northern Plains. Greater detail regarding the Avonlea Culture, as well as the other Precontact Northern Plains cultures, is presented in Section 8 of this National Historic Landmark nomination.

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Locality FP18 exemplifies tipi ring sites within First Peoples Buffalo Jump. This site is situated in a small basin formed by a mid-elevation bench to the south, a narrow ridge to the west, and a low ridge to the north. It consists of three definite tipi rings and two or three other likely eroded and scattered rings. Also present is a dense scatter of lithic debris and tools as well as numerous bone and tooth enamel fragments.

Tipi rings and other cultural materials are shallowly buried, and materials are generally visible in areas deflated by fluvial and aeolian processes. The visible rings are relatively large, with diameters averaging 6.5 m (21 ft), formed of single-course sandstone slab rocks. Two of the rings have interior heat-altered rock features associated with them. Lithics include pressure flakes, thinning flakes, and shatter made of chert, obsidian, porcellanite, basalt and silicified sediment. Tools found at FP18 include projectile points, flake tools, an end scraper and a biface/knife. All identifiable projectile points are associated with the Late Precontact Period/Old Women's Phase (1,000-1700 CE). Numerous bone fragments are present; some are identified as bison bone.

Locality FP30, located on the top of Taft Hill in the southwestern part of First Peoples Buffalo Jump, consists of tipi rings, cairns, a stone-lined depression, and a large stone circle that likely does not mark the location of a domestic tipi lodge. This site contains at least five stone rings averaging 5 m (16.4 ft) in diameter. These features likely mark the location of domestic tipi lodges. The tipi rings are all single-course and are formed of medium-size to large sandstone slabs. One ring exhibits a depression in the center with some associated stones. It is not clear if this depression is part of the original feature or is a vandalism/collector pit.

The largest ring is formed of very large sandstone slab rock with many rocks exceeding 34 kg (75 lbs.) in weight. A few rocks near ring center may represent an interior feature. The ring is either double coursed or a thick single course and exhibits an exterior diameter of approximately 9.0 m (29 ft). This ring is larger than any recorded tipi rings within First Peoples Buffalo Jump. It is formed using stones that are far larger and far heavier than stones in most tipi rings recorded in Montana. It is possible this stone circle is not a tipi ring but the remnant of some other type of special purpose feature.

Also present within the site is an oblong depression containing large sandstone slab rocks around the perimeter and a few rocks in the center. Artifacts were not visible around this feature so its age, function, and cultural association are undetermined. Five cairns occur within the boundaries of FP30. Neither Precontact nor historic cultural materials were observed at FP30 in 2008 (Aaberg and others, 2009) but very heavy grass cover obscures much of the site surface.

Locality FP12 consists of a single large stone circle (Figure 16) that lies near the south cliff face above the main kill and is adjacent to several drive lines. Frison (1991) suggests that solitary rings near cliff faces at bison jumps may be associated with ritual and ceremony.

Locality FP01 contains the greatest number of tipi rings of any locality in First Peoples Buffalo Jump. It consists of eight well-defined tipi rings and 16 poorly defined and badly scattered tipi rings. Other poorly defined rings may occur within the site boundary; however, these possible features are so badly scattered that they could not be irrefutably identified as features and definite diameters could not be obtained (Aaberg et al. 2009). The eight well-preserved rings appear to be double/multiple course (non-concentric circles) with thick walls (Figure 17). These rings exhibit interior clusters of rocks that could be cultural features, such as hearths.

Locality FP01 occurs in the interior of the northern part of Taft Hill on an upland bench with a commanding view of the Sun River Valley to the north and east and the Missouri River valley to the south. This tipi ring

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locality, adjacent to two alignments (FP02 and FP03), could have been occupied by people who constructed these alignments as they prepared for mass bison procurement at nearby jump localities.

Alignment FP09-DLAg forms an arc, which could be part of a very large circle (Figure 18). Vegetation in the area of the arc possibly obscures additional cairns. If so, it could give the alignment an entirely different configuration. Conversely, if this alignment is the remnant of a circle the diameter would exceed 46 m (150 ft). Such extremely large circles are often attributed to ceremonialism and ritual, as exhibited in medicine wheels. Thus, alignment FP09-DLAg may be a significant ceremonial feature.

Cultural Material Scatters

Localities FP14 and FP35 are scatterings of fire-broken rocks, lithic artifacts, and fragmentary bone, and represent processing or camp sites. Locality FP14 contains two heating or cooking features formed of heat-altered rock. One of those features was exposed in the banks of a shallow wash (Figure 19), indicating shallowly buried archeological deposits are present. More deeply buried deposits may be present. Locality FP14 occurs on the north lower slopes of Taft Hill.

Locality FP35 is a scattering of fire-broken rock, lithic debitage, and stone tools. Observed lithic debitage includes flakes of chert, basalt, quartzite, and quartzitic sandstone. Six stone tools include a projectile point fragment, the proximal end of a biface or un-notched projectile point, two flake tools, a biface/knife fragment, and an end scraper. The projectile point exhibits morphological attributes attributed to the Oxbow Phase of the Middle Precontact Period (Aaberg et al. 2009). This point currently represents the oldest artifact found within First Peoples Buffalo Jump and may indicate occupations approximately 4,000 BCE.

Locality FP35 is within a deep draw that bisects the east face of the southwest portion of Taft Hill. The site has an easterly view of the south face of Taft Hill where the main kill is located; other views are restricted. Although cultural materials are exposed on the surface, it is possible more deeply buried deposits occur in the thick rocky slump block sediments. An abandoned two-track road passes through the site, extending from the top of Taft Hill to a drainage and reservoir below and east of the site. A cluster of flakes and tools are in a cut portion of the old road, suggesting cultural materials occur below surface.

Rock Art

Eight instances of Precontact rock art with numerous images occur along the south cliff face of Taft Hill in 2008 (Aaberg et al. 2009). Rock art includes both pictographs and petroglyphs. Greer and Greer (1992, 2004) recorded rock art within First Peoples Buffalo Jump and grouped the rock art into four localities (Areas A-D) along the south cliff face of Taft Hill.

Area A consists of a single petroglyph formed by a rectangular pattern of small pits placed on a smooth vertical sandstone face.

Area B consists of a series of pictographs that occur in a small rock shelter. The pictographs are executed in red pigment and include a three-finger line (possible bird track), a possible animal outline, a bear paw, and other red stains.

Area C, the largest of the rock art localities, is on a high overhanging portion of the south cliff and contains a number of pictographs formed of red pigment. Area C includes a concentration of about 50 handprints, small circular shields, finger smears and finger lines, and a geometric figure.

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Area D occurs on a smooth rock face of the south cliff and consists of two petroglyphs: a three-pole tipi with a flag on top and a vertical line adjacent to the tipi image. These Area D petroglyphs are interpreted as historic Native American images likely created with a metal tool (Greer and Greer 1992, 2004).

Contributing Resources and Integrity

Forty-two archeological sites (localities) within First Peoples Buffalo Jump are contributing and retain varying degrees of integrity. Many of these sites contain dateable organics in the form of bone and/or charcoal, which permit determination of chronologic and cultural context. A number of sites contain surface features such as tipi rings and stone alignments. Some of these sites do not contain surficial dateable organics or time-sensitive artifacts, although such materials could occur in shallowly buried contexts not currently visible on the surface. Regardless of absent dateable organics or time-sensitive artifacts, surface features may be dated using recent advances in optically stimulated luminescence. Undisturbed surface features also retain integrity of location and contain significant information associated with construction methodology, procurement adaptation and invention, and interpreting human living spaces and activity patterning. As a whole and compared to other buffalo jump sites and districts, First Peoples Buffalo Jump contains excellent archeological integrity that allows for the study of nationally significant research topics. Following is the list of the 42 contributing archeological sites within First Peoples Buffalo Jump:

Locality FP01, comprised of 24 tipi rings and a cairn, generally retains integrity although a now-abandoned two-track section line road passes through the site. This road passed directly through one tipi ring, resulting in some scattering of ring stones. A section fence also passes through the site and crosses another tipi ring with some scattering of stones apparent. Some tipi rings are poorly defined but it is not clear if lack of definition is a result of heavy grass cover at the time of recording or if ring stones have been scattered by Precontact Period cultural activities associated with “breaking camp.”

Locality FP02 is a short stone alignment, its south end terminating at the north edge of tipi ring site FP01. It is not clear if this alignment was once longer or was perhaps scavenged by people constructing the tipi rings at FP01. In its present form FP02 has good definition and retains integrity.

Locality FP03 is a stone alignment that was likely much longer in original form. The north end of this alignment extends an unknown distance to the northwest on to private land. This alignment is crossed by a section fence and an abandoned section road. A noncontributing historic homestead (FP04) interrupts a portion of the alignment, and construction of the homestead destroyed an approximately 50 m (164 ft) portion of the alignment. From the homestead the alignment extends southeasterly onto State of Montana land not presently within the boundary of the state park. The alignment extends onto this non-park land but it was not completely mapped.

The south part of non-park state land southeast of the alignment was once cultivated in the past, which likely destroyed the alignment in this area. Alignment FP03 possibly once extended southeasterly for about 1.6 km (1 mi) where it may have linked up with one of the alignments closer to the main kill. Although portions of alignment FP03 have been destroyed, the remaining mapped segment retains good definition. Its presence will add to understanding the system of procurement alignments within First Peoples Buffalo Jump.

Locality FP05 consists of stone alignments, tipi rings, and cairns. A now-abandoned two-track road and a fence line pass through the site. The road passes through one of the four tipi rings at the site and has scattered some of the ring stones. Some areas south of the fence were once cultivated, resulting in destruction of some of the alignments located here. The remainder of the site retains integrity and will assist in understanding use of a bison kill (Locality FP28) just below the north edge of FP05.

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Locality FP06 consists of two stacked sandstone cairns that are of Native American construction (Aaberg et al. 2009). These cairns are partially collapsed; however, they retain integrity and may be associated with bison procurement.

Locality FP08 consists of a complex of stone alignments that covers about 16.7 ha (40 ac). A now-abandoned two-track road passes through easterly portions of the site but this road does not appear to have damaged the alignments. Westerly portions of some alignments end in once-cultivated areas, and plowing destroyed portions of west-to-east oriented alignments. Portions of a prairie dog town encompass FP08A, resulting in destruction of some cairns by burrowing. If prairie dog expansion continues, this adverse activity will impact additional alignments. The remaining alignment segments are well-defined and clearly visible. The longest continual alignment in the FP08 complex is oriented northwest to southeast and is intersected by a county road at its south end. Notably, FP08 alignment aligns with another long alignment (part of FP09) on the south side of the county road. Together, these alignments extend for about 1.6 km (1 mi) or more and terminate near the cliff edge above the main kill. Portions of the alignment complex of FP08 are destroyed; however, remaining segments retain integrity and will assist in understanding Precontact bison procurement.

Locality FP09 consists of a complex of 31 individually mapped Precontact Period alignments that cover about 67 ha (160 ac). These alignments are associated with bison procurement along the south face of Taft Hill where the main kill is located. Some alignment segments in the southeasterly part of FP09 were destroyed by cultivation and construction of a state park access road. An area immediately west of FP09 was also cultivated and some FP09 alignments may have once extended farther to the west. Much of FP09 is encompassed by an active prairie dog town and burrowing has adversely affected some cairns in some alignments. The remaining alignments of FP09 are well-defined and clearly visible. They retain integrity and will assist in understanding Precontact bison procurement. This site also includes several noncontributing, east-west oriented rock pile alignments (alignments DLe, DLi and DLy in Aaberg et al. 2009) that are clearly of historic age and mark the edges of former fence lines. Three large rock piles attributed to agricultural activity are also noncontributing features of this locality. These noncontributing features occur on top of Taft Hill in the south portion of First Peoples Buffalo Jump.

Locality FP10 consists of tipi rings, cairns, fire-broken rock, and lithic artifacts. This site was mapped by Davis and Carroll (1981), who identified a cluster of 18 tipi rings. Only four of these tipi rings were relocated in 2008 (Aaberg 2009). Construction of a park access road in the late 1990s destroyed some of the tipi rings that were mapped in the early 1980s. Grass cover on the east edge of FP10 may be obscuring some tipi rings. Prairie dog burrowing also destroyed portions of this locality. Remaining features and archeological deposits at this site retain integrity, yielding time-sensitive artifacts and holding potential for producing dateable organics.

Locality FP11 consists of stacked sandstone trip walls and cairns. The cairns may be historic agricultural features; however, the trip walls are of aboriginal construction, in good condition, and retain integrity. These trip walls are uncommon, if not unique, in the archeological record. They are considered extremely important in understanding Precontact bison procurement.

Locality FP12 consists of a single, well-defined tipi ring and a nearby cairn. Both features are undisturbed and retain integrity.

Locality FP14 consists of a surficial to buried cultural material scatter that includes fire-broken rock, lithic artifacts, and fragmentary bone. A shallowly buried fire-broken rock cooking or heating feature was noted at

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the site. A now-abandoned two-track road passes through the site but has only disturbed about one percent of the site area. The site is otherwise undisturbed and retains integrity.

Locality FP16 consists of a scatter of fire-broken rock that may be of Precontact age. Although the fire-broken rock was observed on the surface, the site occurs in a deep depositional setting where deeply occurring archeological deposits with integrity could occur. Much of the site is encompassed by the remains of a noncontributing historic homestead that likely dates between 1907 and 1946; the six homestead features include depressions, foundations, and a trash dump/trench. Historic non-aboriginal rock art in this site is also noncontributing, as well as the now-abandoned two-track road that passes just east of the area and which has not affected the integrity of the locality. Although Locality FP16 has been impacted by historic development, specifically the construction of the homestead, it retains the potential for deeply occurring archeological deposits and is counted as a contributing resource.

Locality FP17 consists of a single tipi ring and associated fire-broken rock and lithic artifacts. The site is undisturbed and retains integrity. A now-abandoned two-track road passes just west of the site boundary but has not affected the locality.

Locality FP18 consists of tipi rings and associated very dense scatter of lithic artifacts, fire-broken rock, and fragmentary bone. Natural erosion from a wash that runs through the site has adversely affected some portions of the site but much of it retains a high degree of integrity.

Locality FP19 consists of tipi rings, fire-broken rock, lithic artifacts, and bone, including some complete buffalo elements. Natural erosion has affected a few areas of the site but much of the site retains integrity.

Locality FP20 consists primarily of cultural deposits that include bison bone, lithic artifacts, and fire-broken rock. Construction of a small stock dam has impacted a portion of the southeastern part of the site. Natural erosion has also affected portions of the site. However, large areas of the site retain integrity and buried archeological deposits are present.

Locality FP21 consists of a single tipi ring and associated fire-broken rock. The ring is undisturbed and the site retains integrity.

Locality FP23 consists of four tipi rings. Although natural erosion has affected one ring, the site generally retains integrity.

Locality FP24 consists of a single tipi ring. Portions of the ring have been exposed by natural soil deflation but the feature is otherwise undisturbed and retains integrity.

Locality FP25 consists of two stone alignments and a cairn. The alignments are well-defined and clearly visible. The alignments retain integrity and are important in understanding Precontact Period bison procurement strategies. It is associated with midden deposits at FP20, which lies immediately below FP25.

Locality FP26 consists of an aboriginal stacked sandstone trip wall. Some natural collapse of the trip wall has occurred but generally this feature is in good condition and retains integrity.

Locality FP27 consists of seven cairns that may be associated with bison procurement. They are undisturbed and retain integrity.

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Locality FP28 is a midden and processing area with a moderately dense scatter of fire-broken rock, bone and tooth enamel, lithic debitage and lithic tools that were evident on the surface. The site occurs in a depositional setting where deep midden deposits could occur. Collector digging has occurred here, but this digging affected only about 5 percent of the site area. The site generally retains integrity and could contain deeply buried archeological deposits that could help understand the history of bison procurement within First Peoples Buffalo Jump.

Locality FP29 consists of tipi rings, bone and teeth enamel fragments, scattered heat-altered rocks, and likely intact cooking or heating features. The site yielded a McKean projectile point and one other fragmentary point. In addition to time-sensitive artifacts the site contains dateable organics. The site is undisturbed and retains integrity.

Locality FP30 consists of at least six stone circles, some of which appear to be tipi rings and others that could be special purpose features. Also present at the site are three aboriginal cairns and an oblong stone-lined depression of unknown age. This site is undisturbed and contains the largest stone circle documented within first Peoples Buffalo Jump. The site retains integrity.

Locality FP31 consists of at least 15 tipi rings, fire-broken rock, lithic artifacts and fragmentary bone. A corner-notched projectile point, likely associated with the Pelican Lake Phase of the Middle Precontact Period, was found at the site. A park walking trail was constructed through the site but does not appear to have seriously impacted the locality. The site has yielded time-sensitive artifacts and contains dateable organics. The site is in good condition and retains integrity.

Locality FP32 is the largest site in the district and contains tipi rings, fire-broken rock, cooking or heating features, bone and lithic artifacts. The site has yielded time-sensitive Late Precontact projectile points and contains dateable organics. It is likely a processing area associated with the main kill. A park walking trail extends through a portion of the locality and this trail has disturbed some surface archeological deposits. This trail has affected less than one percent of the locality. Some areas of the site are affected by natural erosion but large areas remain undisturbed. Portions of the site occur in depositional settings where archeological deposits were observed in cut bank exposures. This site retains integrity.

Locality FP33 consists of three tipi rings and a light cultural material scatter that includes fire-broken rock, lithics, fragmentary bone and tooth enamel. A Late Precontact projectile point was found here, and dateable organics are also present. The site is undisturbed and retains integrity.

Locality FP35 is a small, low density scatter of fire-broken rock, lithic debitage, and stone tools that were evident on the surface. The site occurs in a depositional setting where more deeply buried archeological deposits could occur. Survey produced an Oxbow Complex projectile point, which dates to circa 5,300-4,500 B.P. It is one of the oldest artifacts found within the district. A now-abandoned two-track road passes through the site locality and has impacted an estimated five to ten percent of the site area. Natural erosion has also affected portions of the locality; however, undisturbed portions may contain intact archeological deposits that include time sensitive artifacts and dateable organics. Undisturbed portions of this site retain integrity.

Locality FP38 consists of nine tipi rings and one cairn along with a very low density scatter of lithic artifacts. A Late Precontact projectile point was found at this locality, which is undisturbed and retains integrity.

Locality FP39 consists of four tipi rings, one cairn and a very light scatter of lithic artifacts and fire-broken rock. This site is undisturbed and retains integrity.

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Locality FP40 consists of a single undisturbed aboriginal cairn, which retains integrity.

Locality FP41 consists of a linear cairn or short alignment. It is distinctly different from other cairns recorded within the district and is believed to be of aboriginal origin. This site is undisturbed and retains integrity.

Locality FP42 contains a single undisturbed tipi ring that is in good condition and retains integrity.

Locality FP43 contains a single undisturbed tipi ring that is in good condition and retains integrity.

Locality FP44 consists of two undisturbed tipi rings are in good condition and retains integrity.

Locality FP46 consists of three tipi rings that are undisturbed and in good condition and retains integrity.

Rock Art Localities A, B, C and D, recorded by Greer and Greer (1992), retain integrity although natural fading of the pictographs has occurred.

The Main Kill Site has experienced disturbance from commercial bone mining in the 1940s, as well as collector digging that continued through the 1980s. This disturbance is confined to the eastern portion of the main kill. Fortunately, intact archeological deposits are present below the limits of bone-mining and collectors' pits. Western portions of the main kill are undisturbed. Unexamined deeply buried archeological deposits in the main kill are extremely important and likely hold information that could assist in answering the question of when the earliest episodes of bison procurement and mass killing began. The main kill retains integrity.

Noncontributing Resources

Twelve historic sites within First Peoples Buffalo Jump are noncontributing. These sites may be significant and eligible for the National Register, but date outside of the period of significance or are not sufficiently datable to be considered contributing at this time. They are listed as follows:

Locality FP04 is the remains of a homestead that was constructed between 1910 and 1946 (Aaberg et al. 2009). The site occurs on top of Taft Hill in the northern portion of First Peoples Buffalo Jump. Construction of this historic property resulted in the destruction of a section of a long drive line (FP03) associated with First Peoples Buffalo Jump.

Locality FP07 is a single depression or pit that is in-filled with historic debris including lumber. It is hypothesized as a bentonite mining or prospect pit (Aaberg et al. 2009). It is likely of late historic or recent age and occurs on the north rim of Taft Hill.

Locality FP13 is the remains of a late nineteenth - early twentieth Century homestead. This site consists of nine features that are entirely in ruins with no standing structures (Aaberg et al. 2009).

Locality FP15 is a tight cluster of ten rock piles that does not form a discernible alignment. Although the age and origin of these rock piles have not been determined with certainty, proximity to an old irrigation ditch and abandoned two-track road suggest they are of historic or modern age.

Locality FP22 consists of a cluster of small to medium size cairns or rock piles. While the age is not known with certainty, the rock piles do not form a discernible alignment or pattern and occur near an abandoned

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drainage ditch and road. Proximity to these historic or modern features indicates a possible historic or modern association for the rock piles. Artifacts are not visible within the locality.

Locality FP34 consists of an oblong depression. Neither Precontact nor Historic artifacts were observed around or within the depression. The age of the depression is not known but proximity to agricultural fields and former fields suggests historic to modern origins.

Locality FP36 consists of a long rectangular depression dug into a hill slope and a dry laid stacked rock foundation also dug into the hill slope. The features either are remains of a homestead that was constructed between 1910 and 1946 are associated with sandstone quarrying that occurred during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century.

Locality FP37 consists of the mostly collapsed remains of a stone and mortar building with a door that opens easterly. The roof is completely collapsed. The east, west, and northern walls are best preserved. The south wall is mostly collapsed. Many of the sandstone blocks in the walls have been shaped. The structure is likely associated with circa 1890-1920 sandstone quarrying of the south cliffs of Taft Hill.

Locality FP45 consists of a shaped sandstone block feature that is either a well, a cistern, or a spring development. The feature is formed of shaped sandstone blocks with mud and pebble mortar. Age and origin of the feature have not been determined but it is likely associated with either historic sandstone quarrying or historic agricultural activities from the late nineteenth - early twentieth centuries.

Locality FP47 consists of historic sandstone quarry rubble that has been stacked along the edge of the upper slump block at the south end of Taft Hill within First Peoples Buffalo Jump. The sandstone debris was placed in a drainage cleft in the slump block to create a flatter surface or platform on the top of the slump block. A few shaped sandstone block fragments were noted in the stacked fill and some larger shaped blocks were present on the slump block surface adjacent to the surface of the formed platform. The feature is associated with sandstone quarrying that occurred between circa 1890-1920.

Locality FP 48 is the 1.25 mile-long unimproved access road that leads from the park visitor center (FP 49) to the top of Taft Hill. The road closely parallels the escarpment and ultimately exits the park to the west. This non-contributing resource has been in existence since at least the period of sandstone quarrying operations of the late nineteenth - early twentieth centuries.

Locality FP 49 is the First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park visitor center. The 6000 ft² structure was constructed in 1999.

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INTRODUCTION

First Peoples Buffalo Jump is nationally significant under Criterion 6 in the area of Aboriginal Precontact (prehistoric) archeology since it has yielded, and will likely continue to yield, information of major scientific importance. The NHL theme “Peopling Places” is recognized at First Peoples Buffalo Jump due to its continuous use for millennia by multiple Native American groups, as evidenced by remarkably intact cultural strata that collectively date from circa 4,000 BCE to 1700 CE. The theme “Developing the American Economy” is indicated by the site’s many and varied contributing elements, which together resulted in what was perhaps the most productive method ever devised for obtaining great quantities of food and hides from a single hunt event. First Peoples Buffalo Jump provides evidence of Precontact peoples’ technological innovations, which warrants the theme “Expanding Science and Technology.” As examples, their careful designing of drive lines enhanced topographic aspects that are conducive of bison mass procurement; and exact placement of bison trip walls are indicative of the hunters’ understanding and exploitation of bison behavior and anatomy.

First Peoples Buffalo Jump is comprised of localities that reflect a variety of bison communal hunt activities. These contributing elements include a complex pattern of drive lines; bison trip walls that are found only at First peoples Buffalo Jump; a bison cliff-jump unsurpassed in its length; deeply stratified and largely intact bison bone middens; unusually numerous bison processing and tipi ring localities scattered over an area that is far more extensive than other bison jump sites in the United States; and remarkable evidence of ceremonialism that took place here for hundreds, if not thousands, of years. Varieties of projectile point types found at First Peoples Buffalo Jump indicate that, since at least circa 4,000 BCE, various Northern Plains cultural groups recognized the site’s locale as being especially favorable for conducting bison mass procurement hunts. Physical remains of these localities are remarkably well-preserved and numerous relative to what is found at thousands of other places where Precontact bison communal hunts occurred. Equally important to researchers, First Peoples Buffalo Jump contains abundant evidence of a temporal succession of Precontact cultural phases⁹. Together, these phases indicate First Peoples Buffalo Jump was in almost continuous use for some 5,700 years (4,000 BCE-1700 CE); no other communal bison hunt site in the United States possesses such time depth and consequent numbers of represented phases.

Given these attributes, researchers value First Peoples Buffalo Jump as the preeminent archeological locality for addressing nationally significant archeological research questions. A research framework for Plains archeologists is the concept of communal bison hunting as an expression of complex social organization¹⁰. Northern Plains archeological research suggests that, over thousands of years, the trend for Northern Plains “bison culture” societies was that of greater complexity in social organization. It is theorized that this evolving social complexity is a direct result of Precontact peoples’ adaptation of ever more efficient methods of mass bison procurement. For example, the Paleoindian dependence on spears to hunt bison was replaced by succeeding Precontact peoples’ adoption of the throwing stick-dart (*atlatl*), a hunting tool that is more accurate than the spear while also providing safer distance between the hunter and his prey. In turn, the atlatl was replaced by succeeding bison hunting cultural groups with the bow-and-arrow. Compared with the atlatl, a bow

⁹ *Phase* denotes a time period that represents a start and end to a particular cultural manifestation. Subsequent or earlier phases within an archeological site are representations of changing occupation patterns over time. Phases may be identified as stratigraphic layers of horizontally deposited cultural remains, which are defined by certain classes of artifacts and features. Within the High Plains culture region, the broadest phases are the Precontact and Historic Periods, which in turn are subdivided into sub-phases. Pelican Lake, Besant, Avonlea, and Old Women’s are some of the names archeologists have assigned to sub-phases within the Precontact period.

¹⁰ *Social organization* is the system of relationships between persons and among groups with regard to division of activity and functional arrangement of mutual obligations within a society. Cultural anthropologists and archeologists are interested in defining social organization since it provides a theoretical framework for logical interpretations of events associated with an existing cultural group (within the scope of Cultural Anthropology), and events associated with cultural groups associated with prehistoric periods (within the scope of Archeology).

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and arrow was more accurate and had a greater range, which allowed for more rapid discharge of projectile points, and was more powerful than the atlatl (Frison 1991:223-224). By exploiting bison more efficiently, the bow-and-arrow also may have allowed camp and kill site density to increase, which then could have facilitated the elaboration of ideological, social and technological systems (Reeves 1990).

The ideal approach for identifying evolving social complexity on the Northern Plains is to investigate a bison mass procurement site containing features that reflect a wide variety of activities; possess great time depth relative to other bison mass procurement sites; and contain evidence of successive cultural phases and complexes. A comparative assessment of mass bison procurement sites within the Northern Plains region indicates First Peoples Buffalo Jump is the best candidate for addressing this research need. This nationally important cultural resource is key to our understanding the underlying origins and complexity of mass bison procurement. This hunting technique has such scope and complexity that it produced more food in a single moment than all other hunting techniques applied anywhere else in the world (Brink 2008: xiii). Communal bison hunting brought together widely dispersed small hunting groups (bands), which likely did not interact with other bands during the year. Besides providing critical supplies of food, communal hunting would have served varieties of social purposes in Northern Plains culture. Various Native peoples' oral histories indicate that gatherings of otherwise widely dispersed bands of related people presented rare opportunities for socializing on a grand scale. Friends and relatives were reunited, stories and experiences of times apart were shared, marriages arranged, and trade goods exchanged. They conducted ceremonies on a large scale, sang songs, and offered prayers (Densmore 1918; Ewers 1949; Mandelbaum 1979). The area extent of its tipi ring groupings and indications of ceremonialism suggests that, for millennia, First Peoples Buffalo Jump held a dominant position in the world view of the Northern Plains "bison culture."

With its abundant evidence of thousands of years of bison procurement and processing combined with various domestic and ceremonial activities, First Peoples Buffalo Jump's significance cannot be overstated. Inherent in its varied archeological manifestations is the expression of sophisticated and complex social organization that was intertwined with all elements of Northern Plains Precontact bison hunting cultures, which shared a cultural logic and a distinctive tradition of landscape engineering. The construction of what some have called *monumental hunting facilities*, and which are amply demonstrated at First Peoples Buffalo Jump, led Zedeño and others (2014:26) to state that such places

...imply the need and ability to organize and integrate labor under a shared worldview that sanctified order and compliance while helping to retain the hunting ground. The construction of geographically and functionally connected drive-line systems, each uniquely suited to the local topography but all responding to the overarching principles that reified sacred knowledge, provided means to manage not only the movement of the bison herds across gathering basins but also the flow of friend and foe through prime hunting grounds.

Finally, First Peoples Buffalo Jump possesses great importance to present-day Native tribes of the Northern Plains. Its many clearly visible localities are evocative of a past lifeway and its spiritual and secular traditions. Native peoples continue to visit the property and commemorate their heritage through regular sacred and celebratory ceremonies and by conducting educational and cultural workshops for both Native and non-Native peoples.

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MASS BISON PROCUREMENT IN NORTH AMERICA AND ASSOCIATED CULTURAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS

The term “mass procurement” refers to places where numbers of bison were procured in a single event. It is generally believed that mass procurement could only be accomplished by communal methods wherein groups of peoples or communities organized into well-coordinated, disciplined task groups with detailed knowledge of bison behavior and who adhered to ritual proscriptions (Davis and Fisher, In Press). Methods of mass procurement included ambushes, natural traps (e.g. ponds, marshes, rivers, river ice, snow drifts, sinks, box canyons, sand dunes, and arroyos), constructed impoundments/corrals and cliff jumps (Davis and Fisher, In Press; Frison 2004; Davis and Wilson 1978; Fisher and Roll 1998; Malouf and Conner 1962). There are probably thousands of bison kill sites in the western United States and the southern Prairie Provinces of Canada. In Montana alone, over 350 mass procurement sites have been documented, with about 280 of those sites classified as bison jumps (Montana State Historic Preservation Office data base, Damon Murdo, personal communication, 2013).

The cultural and archeological chronology used herein follows Reeves (1969, 1970, 1979, 1983, 2003b). Within First Peoples Buffalo Jump, archeological cultures indicated by projectile point typological cross-dating¹¹ fall within the Middle Precontact and Late Precontact Periods.

Paleoindian Period (10,000 – 6,000 BCE) (also referenced in the literature as the Early Precontact Period)

This period is characterized by archeological complexes containing stone projectile points of triangular, fluted, lanceolate or stemmed forms, and used on throwing or stabbing spears. Paleoindian cultural complexes on the Northern Plains include Clovis and Cody. These groups appear to have been primarily big-game hunters who often moved over vast areas during their annual rounds while visiting preferred resources. Their stone tools can be found great distances from the sources of their raw material. Mass bison procurement sites date to Paleoindian times although methods of procurement for this time period are often unknown or unclear. Archeological data also indicate mass bison procurement of the Paleoindian Period did not occur on a scale comparable to that of the late Middle Precontact and Late Precontact Periods. Paleoindian procurement sites are not as frequent and did not involve the often high numbers of animals procured during later Precontact periods. Paleoindian mass bison procurement sites that contain clearly defined stone drive lines are not known. Kehoe (1978:122) notes that “...the Paleoindian mass [bison] kills resulted from circumstances rather than as a consequence of regular patterned methods.” First Peoples Buffalo Jump does not include a Paleoindian component.

Beginning about 6,500 BCE and continuing to about 3,500 BCE, the High Plains region experienced a long period of drought known as the Altithermal or Mid-Holocene Climatic Optimum. Mass bison procurement sites dating to this drought period are uncommon, likely because bison populations decreased as grassland production dropped. One of the few bison procurement sites dating to the beginning of this period of extensive drought is the James Allen Site in southern Wyoming. This site, dated to about 5,900 BCE, yielded the remains of several bison in an area of very little topographic relief (Frison 1991). Methods of bison procurement at the James Allen Site are not known.

¹¹ Cross-dating of projectile point types is a method used by archeologists to associate a particular cultural group with a time period and regional location.

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Middle Precontact Period (6,000-100 BCE)

This period encompasses both the warm dry climatic interval (the Altithermal), and the initial later return to cool-wet conditions. The Middle Precontact Period began with the appearance of side- and corner-notched throwing-stick-dart (atlatl) projectile points. A number of cultural complexes¹² make their appearance at this time. Very few mass bison procurement sites are known from the first 2,500 years or so of this period. To date, only Middle Precontact and Late Precontact Periods mass bison procurement sites have clearly associated stone alignments that were used by hunters to systematically and predictably move bison toward killing locations.

Dated to between 4,400 and 4,000 BCE, the Hawken Site in the Black Hills of Wyoming represents one of the few bison procurement sites that date to what would have been the height of the Altithermal drought (Frison 1991; Kornfeld and others 2010). The remains of over 70 bison were discovered at this site. Frison (1991) believes that bison were driven up the arroyo to a head cut where further forward progress was blocked, and that the animals were killed at the head cut. By the end of the Altithermal more moist conditions returned to the western Plains. As grassland production increased, bison populations grew. Mass bison procurement appeared again rather abruptly at the end of the Altithermal. Interestingly, after a several thousand-year period, during which little evidence for mass procurement exists, such procurement appears suddenly with more formal strategies and planning expressed at some sites relative to what is evidenced at earlier dated mass bison procurement sites. This is clearly evidenced at First Peoples Buffalo Jump.

The oldest North American bison kill site that is irrefutably associated with cliff jumping is Head-Smashed-In, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in southern Alberta, Canada, located approximately 370 km (230 mi) northwest of First Peoples Buffalo Jump. The oldest bone bed at this site dates to approximately 3,700 BCE, during the Middle Precontact Period. The cliff-jump at Head-Smashed-In was used at various times from approximately 3,700 BCE up to the historic period (Reeves 1978). Methods of bison mass procurement found at both First Peoples Buffalo Jump and Head-Smashed-In imply an intimate knowledge of bison behavior that far exceeds what is discovered at mass procurement sites dating to the early Middle Precontact Period.

A complex series of stone alignments, termed *drive lines*, are associated with driving or guiding bison toward the cliff-kill; drive lines are present at both First Peoples Buffalo Jump and Head-Smashed-In. Although drive lines at First Peoples Buffalo Jump have not yet been individually dated, some of them are believed to be associated with the oldest jumping event at the site (Aaberg 1990). The co-occurrence of drive lines with layered midden deposits at the base of the cliffs suggests that both of these sites hold some of the earliest evidence of a sophisticated evolution of bison procurement that appeared at the end of the Altithermal. This is significant because it indicates the climatic shift from arid to cool-moist conditions resulted in resurgence of the bison population. This favorable climatic shift, in turn, soon led to the beginnings of mass bison procurement, as indicated by drive lines at First Peoples Buffalo Jump.

The McKean Complex (3,000-1,000 BCE) defines widely dispersed communities within the Northern Plains region that began to coalesce along streams and river terraces. Utilizing skin tips, these peoples developed hunting and gathering adaptations involving careful scheduling of economic activities through the year to coincide with the seasonal abundance of plants and animals. Mass bison procurement sites attributed to the McKean Complex occur with greater frequency through time. McKean atlatl dart points have been discovered at First Peoples Buffalo Jump, suggesting that the deepest depositions of bone middens at this site were due to bison mass procurement activities by McKean hunters.

¹² A *Complex* is a grouping of artifacts and traits that regularly appear together in multiple sites within a defined region over a period of time, and are presumed to represent an archeological culture. Multiple complexes frequently occupy the same region at more or less the same time.

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The Scoggin Site in Wyoming is a McKean Complex bison procurement site that has yielded evidence of use of a constructed corral or impoundment wherein bison were contained and killed (Lobdell 1973; Frison 1991). The Scoggin Site represents one of the oldest instances where use of a constructed feature for procurement is undisputed in the Northern Plains region. Although there is ample evidence of bison procurement during the latter part of the McKean Complex, methods of procurement at many of these sites are unknown or unclear. Several late McKean Complex bison kill sites have been documented in the Powder River Basin area of southeastern Montana and northeastern Wyoming. Among these sites is the Powers-Yonkee Site in southeastern Montana, where a large number of bison were killed near the head of an arroyo at approximately 750 BCE (Roll and others 1992; Bump 1987). There are no drive lines associated with this site and the exact method of procurement is not clear.

Another late McKean Complex site is the Kobold Site, a bison cliff-jump in southeastern Montana that is part of Rosebud Battlefield State Park. Unlike the Powers-Yonkee Site, the Kobold Site has several associated stone alignments that indicate drive lines were used in the procurement process (Frison 1991, 1970; Kornfeld and others 2010). Because there are two more recent bison bone beds above the Yonkee Phase deposits, it is not clear if the drive lines are associated with the oldest procurement event. These two sites represent the earliest evidence of systematic procurement of large numbers of bison in Montana.

By around 1,800 BCE forests of the Northern Plains had begun to encroach farther south into lands previously covered by parklands and grasslands. This shift was caused by a change toward cooler, wetter summers that approximated present-day climate. The Pelican Lake Complex (1,500 BCE-200 CE) on the Northern Plains is assigned to widespread hunting communities that depended almost exclusively on communal mass bison procurement and more so than in previous time periods. Proliferation of mass hunting during Pelican Lake times may have been due to an increasing density in bison populations brought about by favorable changes toward cooler summers (Foor 1988:111; Greiser and others 1983; Reeves 1990). First Peoples Buffalo Jump does not contain radiocarbon-dated Pelican Lake localities; however, surface scatters of corner-notched points attributed to Pelican Lake are situated among a cluster of fifteen tipi rings (FP31).

The Old Women's Buffalo Jump in southern Alberta, Canada, also contains a Pelican Lake component that is associated with cliff jumping, as does the Kobold Site in Montana's Rosebud Battlefield State Park (Frison 1970, 1991). The Keaster Site in north-central Montana is a Pelican Lake mass procurement site that dates to approximately 100 CE. Although the Keaster Site occurs in an arroyo, method of procurement is unclear and stone alignments or drive lines were not found at this site. The Seline Site in east-central Montana is another Pelican Lake age bison kill site that dates to approximately 50 CE (Roll et al. 1993). The method of procurement is unclear but is hypothesized as trapping animals in a steep-sided draw or arroyo. Other Pelican Lake bison kills in arroyo type settings of eastern Montana include the Ayers-Frazier Site and the Koepke Site, both dating to approximately 200 BCE (Bump 1981; Clark and Wilson 1981; Davis and Stallcop 1965; Forbis 1962).

Late Precontact Period (100 BCE–1700 CE)

The sophistication and complexity of mass bison procurement in the Late Precontact Period increased dramatically from preceding periods (Davis and Wilson 1978; Frison 1991; Kornfeld et al. 2010). At First Peoples Buffalo Jump, this Period is made evident by artifact assemblage indicants of the Besant, Avonlea, and Old Women's Phases. Some of the Northern Plains hunter-gatherer communities during the period began to practice incipient horticulture in the southeastern end of the Northern Plains, and the earliest ceramics for this region made their appearance around 50 BCE. Together, these cultural traits define what is termed the Besant Phase. Based on numerous radiocarbon dates, the time period for the Besant Phase ranges between 100 BCE and 900 CE (Aaberg et al. 2006).

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Although Besant hunters still used the atlatl and dart, they may have been the most sophisticated bison-hunting group on the Northern Plains in pre-horse times, as indicated by the evidence found in Wyoming and Montana. The size and complexity of corrals drive line fences and ramps indicate a high level of familiarity with bison behavior. Besant manifests the most convincing evidence for ritual activity associated with large animal procurement in the archeological record, and is an indicator of social complexity. The Besant Phase is included in the Late Precontact Period because this culture appears to represent an evolution in bison procurement that carried through to succeeding archeological cultures of the Late Precontact Period (Frison 1991). The occurrence of corrals and jumps in Besant procurement sites in Montana and Wyoming led Frison (1991: 105) to state that the Besant Phase culture was “a sophisticated bison hunting manifestation.” Besant-type atlatl dart points have been discovered at First Peoples Buffalo Jump (Aaberg and others 2009).

Another Montana bison kill site with a Besant component is Wahkpa Chu’gn, which includes well-preserved bone middens. Drive lines are not present at Wahkpa Chu’gn, but the site setting is within the city limits of Havre, Montana and the area exhibits extensive urban developments. Post molds thought to be remnants of a corral or impoundment were discovered at Wahkpa Chu’gn but they are believed to associate with later periods of use. Since there are no cliffs present at this site, and because pound construction is known from the Besant Phase, it is possible that the Besant peoples at Wahka Chu’gn used some type of impoundment for mass bison procurement (Brumley and Stallcop, In Press; Davis and Stallcop 1966).

Two Wyoming Besant bison mass procurement sites with evidence of impoundments or corrals are the Ruby Bison Pound and the Muddy Creek Site. Frison (1991) described what could be the remains of a ceremonial structure associated with bison procurement at the Ruby Site. A Besant bison kill, the Antonsen Site in the Gallatin Valley of southwestern Montana, dates to approximately 400 CE and represents one of the oldest mass procurement localities within the Rocky Mountains of Montana (Davis and Zeier 1978). The method of procurement at Antonsen is not known with certainty but the occurrence of the site at the base of a steep bluff led the researchers to speculate that a corral or impoundment had been built there.

Davis and Brownell (In Press) suggest a range of dates for use of the Madison Buffalo Jump in Montana that includes the Besant Phase. This bison mass procurement site is a cliff jump with drive lines but it is not known if the drive lines are associated with the Besant component. Madison Buffalo Jump was severely damaged by artifact collectors before it became a state park. Small-scale professional documentation of this site is presently incomplete. The Kobold Site, located within Montana’s Rosebud Battlefield State Park, contains a Besant component. This site is a cliff jump with drive lines. Because both earlier and later components are present it is not entirely clear if the drive lines are associated with the Besant component (Frison, 1970, 1991).

The Late Precontact Period following the Besant Phase saw a peak in mass bison procurement both in terms of numbers of animals killed and the frequency of mass kill sites. Research continues regarding when the bow-and-arrow was introduced into the Northern Plains; however, it is generally accepted that, following the Besant Phase, this technology was widely used.

The Avonlea Phase of the Late Precontact Period is most often attributed to the first of the bow-and-arrow cultures on the Northern Plains (Kehoe 1988:7). Reeves (1970, 1983) proposes a temporal range of Avonlea between approximately 150-950 CE with earlier dates tending to occur in northern locales and later dates tending to occur in southern locales. Avonlea sites are usually associated with large-scale bison kill sites having bone middens as much as 6 meters (19 ft) thick, and usually associated with encampments (Fredlund 1988; Kehoe 1978; Reeves 1990). Avonlea peoples based their seasonal rounds on the movement of bison herds. Beginning in the spring and continuing into the summer months, mobile Avonlea communities congregated on

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the Northern Plains to communally hunt bison and build up reserves of hides and pemmican for winter. Restricted by resource scarcity and limited mobility during the winter, Avonlea peoples split into smaller groups and followed bison into more sheltered river valleys. Careful planning and rationing of bison meat was essential to survive the over-wintering period; however, availability of fire wood in wintering areas was just as important as a limiting resource (Davis and Fisher 1988; Reeves 1990).

Avonlea peoples hunted bison in a variety of ways, then processed meat and hides in an assembly line fashion, with different areas assigned to different processing duties. This efficient approach to processing bison was the result of gradual development of complex social organization over a period of hundreds of years. Avonlea bison mass procurement sites are typically found in association with topographic features that facilitated mass slaughter, such as bison jumps and areas naturally lending themselves to setting up drive lines, pounds, corrals or surrounds. These mass kill techniques had been in use for hundreds of years prior to the appearance of Avonlea peoples on the Northern Plains; however, it was their introduction of the bow-and-arrow that represented a significant technological advance in the region's subsistence practices. Bow- and-arrow technology rapidly replaced the atlatl as the primary hunting technology on the Northern Plains (Reeves 1990).

Avonlea mass bison procurement sites are common from the southern prairie provinces of Canada to Montana and Wyoming (Kornfeld et al. 2010; Frison 1991; Davis and Wilson 1978; Davis 1988). Methods of procurement include impoundments and cliff jumps. The main kill at First Peoples Buffalo Jump contains considerable evidence of an Avonlea component (Fisher and Roll 1994, In Press). Other well-known sites associated with this culture include Head-Smashed-In, Wahkpa Chu'gn, and Antonsen. The Henry Smith Site, in north-central Montana, contains a dense bone bed with Avonlea projectile points. Archeological evidence indicates the method of procurement at this site was an impoundment with associated drive lines. The Henry Smith Site also contains stone effigies, which points to ceremonialism (Ruebelmann 1988). The Wardell Site in Wyoming is an Avonlea bison procurement site with evidence of use of a corral or impoundment (Frison 1973, 1991; Kornfeld and others 2010). First Peoples Buffalo Jump contains abundant evidence of usage by Avonlea hunters.

The last of the Late Precontact Period cultures on the Northern Plains are grouped into the Old Women's Phase, which refers to most southern Alberta and Montana bison hunters' camp and kill sites dating approximately 1,000-1700 CE (Reeves 1969). Researchers, however, recognize local sub-phases in order to better define distinctions in material culture and subsistence patterns among geographically discrete sites. Diagnostic artifacts for the Old Women's Phase are comprised of types of arrow points reflective of sub-regional changes through time and space, distinctive types of pottery and bone tools, and several seasonal types of hunting and camp sites (Reeves 2003a; Brumley and Rennie 1993). Reeves (1983:20) proposes ethnic affiliations for the Old Women's Phase in which regional and temporal variants represented certain tribal constituents such as Blackfeet and Gros Ventre.

A few Old Women's Phase bison mass procurement sites from this period were in use up to earliest contact with Euro-Americans around 1700 CE. Mass bison procurement reached a crescendo during the Old Women's Phase, surpassing all previous times in terms of frequency of sites, complexity of sites and numbers of bison that were killed. Although impoundments and traps are known from this period, cliff-jumping dominated procurement strategies with many sites exhibiting drive lines (Frison 1991). Mass procurement sites of this age number in the thousands in the western United States and hundreds of such sites are present in the Canadian Prairie Provinces, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and western North and South Dakota.

Among the many bison procurement sites of the Old Women's Phase is the phase type site, the Old Women's Buffalo Jump, on the Alberta (Canada) Register of Historic Places. This cliff-jump site contains many layers of

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bone that date to the Middle Precontact Late Precontact Periods (Forbis 1962). Both First Peoples Buffalo Jump and the Head-Smashed-In Site in Alberta contain deep deposits of Old Women's Phase bone beds (Reeves 1978).

A unique procurement site that was used between approximately 1450-1700 CE is the Vore Site in Wyoming's Black Hills (Reher and Frison 1980). An estimated 10,000 to 20,000 bison were killed here by driving them into a deep sinkhole. Frison (1991) describes three Wyoming Late Precontact bison jumps that he believes were used by the Crow Indians.

In Montana, procurement sites of Old Women's Phase age include the main kill at First Peoples Buffalo Jump, Wahkpa Chu'gn (Saddle Butte sub-phase), the Antonsen Site, and the Madison Buffalo Jump. The Kutoyis Bison Hunting Complex on the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana contains an elaborate drive line system and bison kill deposits that date to the Old Women's Phase (Zedeño and others, 2010). The method of procurement at Kutoyis may have included both impoundment construction and cliff- or bluff-jumping.

Fisher and Roll (in Davis and Fisher, In Press) suggest that the main kill at First Peoples Buffalo Jump was not used after about 1700 CE. Pre-1700 use could have involved any of several area American Indian groups. The word *pishkun* (var.: *pis'kan* or *pisskan*) is of Blackfeet origin and refers to bison jumps and bison kill sites in general that were used by the Blackfeet (Scott 2010). It is interpreted as meaning "deep blood kettle" (Auchly 2003). Although *pishkun* is given as the name of the main kill at First Peoples Buffalo Jump, one should not presume that use of this name means a historic connection exists between the main kill and the Blackfeet. There is little question, however, that First Peoples Buffalo Jump falls within traditional Blackfeet territory. Other Northern Plains Indian tribes may have used a jump or jumps within First Peoples Buffalo Jump, but ethnographic documentation for such use is presently lacking.

A number of factors combined to create a relatively abrupt end to mass communal bison procurement on the Northern Plains by the time of contact with Euro-Americans around 1700 CE (Geist 1996). Decimation of Plains Indian Tribes by smallpox well before actual contact may have interrupted communal undertakings that required planning and large groups of people. With acquisition of the horse and gun, hunting of individual bison and herd hunting became more efficient and was more easily executed than communal mass procurement. As Euro-American settlement progressed in the West, the trade in bison hides and meat had a substantial effect on bison populations (Bergman 2004). In the mid- to late-nineteenth century, American politicians pressed the U.S. military to engage in intentional efforts to destroy bison herds in an attempt to deny many Native American tribes their primary food source and force them into submission (Geist 1996). Euro-American sport hunting, as well as intentional efforts by industry, including westward-expanding railroad companies, almost brought to extinction the American bison, thereby bringing to a close the Plains Indian "bison culture."

Nationally Significant Research Potential of First Peoples Buffalo Jump

First Peoples Buffalo Jump offers far greater potential than any other bison jumps in the United States for addressing nationally significant research questions. First Peoples Buffalo Jump may contain evidence of the earliest instance of cliff-jumping in the United States. Evidence in the form of projectile point cross-dating indicates that Precontact people were using the Taft Hill area by around 4,000 BCE. Only archeological testing and excavation in the north (FP20 and FP28) and south (main/south kill and FP32) middens and processing areas of First Peoples Buffalo Jump can answer the question of when the earliest instance of cliff-jumping occurred and if the projectile points recovered from the surface are associated with cliff-jumping events. Archeological excavation of these First Peoples Buffalo Jump localities would recover dateable organics and time-sensitive artifacts. Identifying the earliest instance of cliff-jumping in the United States would permit

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development of the theory that this procurement strategy arose from cultures occupying the northern Plains, which subsequently spread to other areas of western North America.

Archeological excavation of bison midden deposits at FP20 would allow for firmly documenting successful use of trip-walls as a unique method of procurement not documented elsewhere in North America. Excavation of this locality would also assist in identifying the age and affiliation of the archeological culture responsible for construction and use of the sandstone slab trip walls. Optically stimulated luminescence dating¹³ also offers potential for determining the age of construction of the trip walls and possible correlation with radiocarbon-dated midden deposits below the trip walls.

The staggering complex of drive lines likely associated with bison procurement at First Peoples Buffalo Jump offers a unique opportunity to determine the number of discrete procurement events represented by the drive lines. Use of optically stimulated luminescence dating could allow for age determinations of the drive lines and age correlation of various drive line segments. Age determinations of drive line segments would also assist in determining how the drive lines were used in the procurement process. Although drive lines are relatively common at bison jumps, exactly how they were used is poorly understood. The number and complexity of drive lines at First Peoples Buffalo Jump is unusual and study of these features could add considerably to understanding bison driving and use of drive lines for blocking, culling and directing herd animals in a mass procurement event.

The oldest documented tipi ring site in Montana is around 1,900 BCE and is among the oldest documented tipi ring sites in North America (Brumley and Dickerson 2000). At First Peoples Buffalo Jump, recovery of projectile points that are between 4,000-3,000 BCE may indicate early use of tipi lodges since those projectile points were found not far from tipi rings. Also, clusters of tipi ring localities at First Peoples Buffalo Jump are widely distributed. Some of these localities are encampments wherein bison processing and consumption occurred. Other tipi ring localities are possibly associated with the construction of drive lines, and still others are associated with procurement planning, ritual and procurement commemoration (Aaberg and others 2012). Archeological excavation and use of optically stimulated luminescence dating may allow for tipi ring age determinations that pre-date the earliest known use of tipi rings in Montana and much of the western United States.

Ceremonialism at bison jumps is expressed at several Late Precontact Period sites in Wyoming and Montana by presence of large stone circles and/or medicine wheels. Ceremonialism at First Peoples Buffalo Jump is indicated by presence of large stone circles and pictographs (rock art) at various locations along the Taft Hill cliff face. Archeological excavation of these large stone circles, use of optically stimulated luminescence dating, and possibly radiocarbon dating some of the pictographs, could establish that ceremonialism occurred at First Peoples Buffalo Jump at dates earlier than documented at other bison jumps in the United States.

Development of Hunter-Gatherer Societies

The study of past hunter-gatherer societies can identify the evolution and emerging complexity of subsistence economy, social differentiation and political strategy (Fitzhugh 2003). Archeological clues to this complexity may be found in the intentional modification by hunter-gatherers of a particular natural landscape. According

¹³ Although the best known form of luminescence dating is *thermoluminescence* (or TL), *optically stimulated luminescence* (OSL) can specify the date of certain artifacts or soil sediments by measuring the amount of light energy trapped in the mineral's crystals. Certain minerals (quartz, feldspar, calcite) store energy from the sun at a known rate. The energy is lodged in the imperfect lattices of the mineral's crystals. Heating these crystals (such as when a pottery vessel is fired or when rocks are heated) empties the stored energy, after which time the mineral begins absorbing energy again. It is theoretically possible, therefore, to apply OSL dating to the underside of tabular rocks used to construct the trip walls at First Peoples Buffalo Jump, the theory being that the underside of these rocks would have ceased absorbing the sun's energy at the moment when these rocks were stacked.

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to Zedeño and others (2014: 24), this modification is intended to increase permanence and manage the flow of people and resources, and thus plan for the future. Stone surface architecture, when combined with other data, can provide solid evidence of social investment on big-game hunting worldwide and define its social and political implications (Scheiber and Finley 2010).

The following two avenues of research, identified by Montana State Historical Society SHPO Mark Baumler, and SHPO staff archeologist John Boughton (personal communications, September 2014), hold promise in determining the development of Northern Plains hunter-gatherer complex societies. With its monumental record of stone surface architecture associated with its deeply stratified bison bone deposits, First Peoples Buffalo Jump furnishes a unique opportunity to search for these clues. This opportunity exists because First Peoples Buffalo Jump's localities are largely intact; represent a variety of activities; and demonstrate some 5,700 years of almost continuous use. The only other mass bison procurement site possessing comparable antiquity, area extent and internal complexity is Head-Smashed-In World Heritage Site in Alberta, Canada.

- **The Old North Trail:** First Peoples Buffalo Jump is located approximately 6.4 km (4 mi) south of Sun River Valley, a conduit for one branch of the Precontact and Historic Period trail network collectively termed "The Old North Trail." This trail network was one of the most ancient and well-used Native American travel corridors in North America. It connected the bison-favorable ecosystem that comprises northern Montana/southern Alberta (within which First Peoples Buffalo Jump is approximately centered) with various other ecosystems within the Rocky Mountains and northern Plains regions (Greiser and others 1985; Reeves 1992). Bison-hunting and ceremonial sites along the Sun River Valley branch trail include lithic¹⁴ materials that derive from quarry sources located as much as 640 km (400 mi) away. The various projectile point types made from these non-local lithic materials indicate the Sun River Valley trail was in use between circa 3,000 BCE-1800 CE (Oetelaar 2014: fig.2). It is inferred that, since the Sun River Valley branch trail is nearby, bison hunter groups who utilized First Peoples Buffalo Jump also would have employed The Old North Trail. By doing so, these bison hunter groups were active participants in an interregional trade-and-communication interaction sphere.

Archeological research at First Peoples Buffalo Jump can address research topics that hold direct relevance to Old North Trail studies regarding Native American settlement patterns through time and space, and changing subsistence patterns. Analysis of lithics derived from First Peoples Buffalo Jump can determine, for example; where the site's occupants obtained their lithic materials. Also, analysis of *palynological* and *macrobotanical* remains¹⁵ derived from the site's habitation localities may determine climatic shifts through time, as well as vegetal diet of the site's inhabitants.

- **Stone Circles and Other Stone Features:** The tipi or lodge, which is the basic habitation unit of hunter-gatherer settlement on the Northern Plains, is represented by the surface stone circle, the stones used to hold down the covers or liners of skin lodges. Multiple stone circles in proximity to one another represent single or, in some cases, multiple occupations of a specific land form (e.g., Taft Hill, the land form on which First Peoples Buffalo Jump is situated). Such multiple re-occupations may have occurred

¹⁴ Archeologists use the term *lithics* to refer to artifacts made of stone. Lithic analysis is the study of those objects. It entails various types of analytical techniques that can determine, as examples: Where the stone was quarried (called *sourcing*); approximately when the stone was modified in the process of making a tool; and identifying types of evidence that determines how, and on what, the tool was used (e.g., butchering bison, harvesting wild cereal grasses).

¹⁵ *Palynology* is the study of pollen, the virtually indestructible, microscopic, but identifiable plant parts in archeological sites. When identified to species, archeological pollen can be used to identify clues to prehistoric climate (what kind of plants grew in the neighborhood of a given site) and diet (what kind of plants were consumed at a given site). *Macrobotanical* remains are those plant remains from archeological sites that are visible to the naked eye; primarily seeds, nutshells, and charcoal. It is also used to identify prehistoric climate and diet.

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over successive years or hundreds, and even thousands of years distant in time. Arrangements of stone circles have been used in interpretations of social relations within large prehistoric and historic Native American encampments (Deaver 1983). Archeologists who have investigated First Peoples Buffalo Jump recognize that some of its stone circle configurations are of comparatively large size and of complex form. These configurations probably had a ceremonial function, which may or may not have involved use for habitation (Aaberg and others 2009). Similarly, small stone circles that are less than 2 meters (6 ft) in diameter probably represent special uses (e.g., sweat lodge). The physical characteristics of stone circles and their relative placements within First Peoples Buffalo Jump present several research questions, as follows:

Does the arrangement of stone circles within First Peoples Buffalo Jump shed light on social organization or number of occupations? These patterns of stone circle placement may demonstrate differing socio-organizational principles that existed among Middle and Late Precontact peoples who occupied First Peoples Buffalo Jump.

Do certain unusual stone circles and other stone features within First Peoples Buffalo Jump reflect subsistence or ceremonial activities? First Peoples Buffalo Jump contains various categories of rock piles (cairns): Those used to delineate drive lines (which also may have functioned as spirit/prayer trails), shrines, and possible rock stockpiles presumably intended for constructing trip walls and erecting tipis. Investigation of these types of features may provide a greater understanding of both the domestic and ceremonial activities that occurred at First Peoples Buffalo Jump and Precontact peoples of the northern Plains as a whole.

At First Peoples Buffalo Jump, are there definable activity areas within clusters of stone circles, and, if so, what were their functions? Ethnographic documents suggest activities that occurred within tipis were clearly delineated during the historic period. It is likely, therefore, that similar areas of activity were defined at First Peoples Buffalo Jump.

It is also possible certain activities occurred only within habitation areas defined by clusters of stone circles, while other activities were restricted to areas beyond the stone circles. At First Peoples Buffalo Jump, the function(s) of these latter activity areas are presently not fully understood. Locality FP32, for example, contains significant deposits of bison bone intermixed with varieties of lithic tools but has yet to be test excavated. Bone preservation is typically poor at most Precontact archeological sites on the Northern Plains. Fortunately, at First Peoples Buffalo Jump, bison bones are in excellent state of preservation (Aaberg and others 2009). Consequently, various bison processing techniques can be identified through the excavation of bison bone localities at this site. Analysis of bone that exhibit patterned manipulation (e.g., breakage patterns, butchering marks) is likewise possible.

First Peoples Buffalo Jump stands out in the archeological field of bison mass procurement research, this due to the site's millennia-long period of use, clear evidence of the hunters' sophisticated exploitation of the landscape, intact cultural strata reflecting multiple cultural periods and phases, varieties of represented feature types, and unusually extensive processing encampments. All of these features enhance the site's abilities to answer nationally significant questions and contribute to the archeological literature.

Drive lines formed by stone cairn alignments within First Peoples Buffalo Jump are complex in their overall design. There is little question that, during Precontact times, the network of drive lines on Taft Hill was truly extraordinary in scale and complexity. The drive lines are significant because they represent various methods of bison procurement, and because they indicate experimentation, invention and technological application.

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Drive lines at First Peoples Buffalo Jump also indicate that Precontact peoples had an intimate understanding of bison ecology.

First Peoples Buffalo Jump also contains one feature type that is unknown at any other bison mass procurement site in North America of any age in any geographic area. This feature type is interpreted as a bison trip wall, constructed of dry-laid sandstone slab rocks. Two sites at First Peoples Buffalo Jump consist of multiple trip wall segments. These features are significant because they represent a previously undocumented procurement strategy that reveals experimentation, invention and technological application by Precontact peoples. Construction and use of these trip walls for mass procurement adds to understanding Precontact cognitive processes that included a profound knowledge of bison behavior and landscape use.

Excavation and small-scale shovel testing of the main kill documented continuous midden and processing materials that extend for approximately 1.8 km (1.1 mi) along the jump cliff face. Research so far indicates these main kill midden deposits extend laterally for a greater distance than any such deposits in North America including Head-Smashed-In in Alberta, Canada (Aaberg 1990; Roll 1992; Fisher and Roll 1994; Fisher 1995; Davis and Fisher, In Press). Despite bone mining during the mid-twentieth century, most of the middens are intact. Archeological testing indicates these middens occur as multiple layers of cultural deposits down to a depth of least 4 meters (13 ft) below surface. The middens also retain information significant to Precontact technological applications. Careful study of middens and nearby processing areas provides information on bison herd composition, age and season of birth, and taphonomic¹⁶ study provides information on circumstances surrounding bison death and final disposition of carcasses. First Peoples Buffalo Jump offers the best opportunity for obtaining such data at just one location since no other bison mass procurement site in the United States contains comparable, deeply stratified cultural deposits.

The north kill deposits at First Peoples Buffalo Jump have not undergone subsurface testing or excavation so the age and extent of bone deposits at these locations are unknown. Recovery of McKean and Oxbow projectile points within 200 m (610 ft) of the north kill locations suggests bone deposits are present that could be as old as, if not older, than those found at Head-Smashed-In. If McKean midden deposits are present at First Peoples Buffalo Jump, they would represent one of the few instances of known use of cliff-jumps by McKean peoples.

Typological cross-dating of projectile points found in various locations at First Peoples Buffalo Jump indicates use of the Taft Hill area beginning around 4,000 BCE, up to approximately 1700 CE. Some of the oldest projectile points documented at First Peoples Buffalo Jump suggest that bison jumping occurred much earlier here than at any other kill site in the United States.

Ceremonialism at bison jumps is expressed at several Late Precontact Period sites in Wyoming and Montana by presence of large stone circles and/or medicine wheels. Ceremonialism at First Peoples Buffalo Jump is indicated by presence of large stone circles. Although it was mapped as an alignment, feature FP09-DLA_g could be a portion of a very large stone circle. A portion of this feature was likely destroyed by road construction. The remaining arc, however, may be a segment of a circle. If so, the circle diameter would have been over 46 m (150 ft). Researchers believe circles of this size are indications of ceremonialism.

Sites Comparisons

As previously noted, thousands of bison kill sites occur within the Northern Plains region of the United States and Canada; approximately 280 of these sites are located in Montana alone. Unfortunately, due to twentieth

¹⁶ In general, *taphonomy* is the study of the process regarding how fauna and flora become part of the fossil record. When archeologists use the term, they focus on defining and describing evidence of human use of fauna and flora, separating out natural processes from cultural ones.

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century commercial mining of bison bone deposits, ongoing urban development and non-scientific relic collecting, many bison kill sites have suffered great loss of integrity, and those that survive and retain high integrity are few in number. The following examples of bison kill sites, which are previously mentioned in this nomination, serve to illustrate this point:

- Madison Buffalo Jump in southwestern Montana was in use between 500 BCE-1700 CE, and is comprised of a cliff jump and extensive drive lines. Madison Buffalo Jump has associated tipi rings, possible eagle-catching features or ceremonial features, and drive lines (Brumley and Stallcop, In Press; Davis and Brownell, In Press). Relic collecting occurred at the site prior to it becoming a state park; however, archeological assessments to date indicate the largely intact site holds potential for addressing research questions of sub-region significance (Montana SHPO John Boughton, pers. comm., May 2013).
- The Kobold Site, located within Rosebud Battlefield Site in southeastern Montana, contains three cultural components: the earliest bison bone deposit (Besant Phase) has a date range of circa 1,100-700 BCE; the next bone layer (Avonlea Phase), circa 50 BCE-400 CE; and the top layer (Old Woman's Phase), circa 1550 CE. The site contains a bison cliff jump, petroglyph panels, and tipi rings. Although Kobold is considered an important archeological resource, it lacks the great antiquity and number of represented phases as exhibited by First Peoples Buffalo Jump.
- Wardell Buffalo Trap in central Wyoming is an Avonlea bison procurement site that dates between 250-900 CE. This site includes a cliff jump, an impoundment at the base of the cliff jump, a structure that is interpreted as evidence of ceremonialism, and ceramics that suggest an Athabascan (possibly early Navajo) component (Frison 1991:21). Wardell holds the earliest known evidence of a communal bison hunt involving the use of the bow and arrow, but does not have the extensive processing camps as are exhibited by First People's Buffalo Jump.
- Vore Buffalo Jump, in Wyoming's Black Hills, is a unique bison mass procurement site where hunters killed thousands of bison by stampeding them into a sinkhole over a period of about 300 years (Reher and Frison 1980). Drive line remnants are present nearby and may have been used to direct bison toward the sinkhole (Kornfeld et al. 2010: 276). Part of a circle of bison skulls was exposed in the sinkhole during University of Wyoming excavations and likely represents evidence of ceremony. The unique depositional environment of the sinkhole created very fine resolution stratification, which permits definition of 22 distinct bone beds (Reher and Frison 1980). Vore Buffalo Jump is significantly different than First People's Buffalo Jump because the latter holds far greater antiquity with concomitant greater numbers of cultural phases, which is a requirement for addressing research questions at the national level of significance.
- The Kutoyis Site contains a number of tipi ring sites including two that contain hundreds of stone circles. It is not known if these multi-feature sites represent single or multiple occupations or if all of them are associated with mass bison procurement. Evidence of ceremonial activities at Kutoyis is suggested by possible remains of a medicine wheel and effigy features. Radiocarbon dating of bone beds at Kutoyis indicates the earliest period of use as around 1100 CE, and a date from the processing area indicates use around 1670 CE (Zedeño et al. 2010, 2014). Projectile points recovered from Kutoyis are all associated with the Old Women's Phase of the Late Precontact Period. In contrast to the Kutoyis Site, First Peoples Buffalo Jump contains copious archeological evidence of both the Late and Middle Precontact periods.

CONCLUSION

First Peoples Buffalo Jump is nationally significant under National Historic Landmark Criterion 6 in the area of Aboriginal Precontact (Prehistoric) archeology since it has yielded, and will likely continue to yield, archeological information of national importance. Its monumental record of stone surface architecture, deeply stratified bison bone deposits, multiple tipi ring concentrations, and evidence of ceremonialism indicate that, for

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over 5,700 years, First Peoples Buffalo Jump held the paramount position in the Northern Plains “bison culture.” Carefully laid out landscape designs at First Peoples Buffalo Jump reflect the culmination of thousands of years of shared and passed-on knowledge regarding Northern Plains environment, topography, and the behavior and anatomy of bison. Scientific research at First Peoples Buffalo Jump has provided, and will continue to provide, opportunities for identifying discrete activity patterns associated with bison hunter groups dating back to at least circa 4,000 BCE. Definition of the development of complex social organization as exhibited by past and present cultures is one of the core missions of the disciplines of Cultural Anthropology and Archeology. It is asserted that First Peoples Buffalo Jump holds potential for not only defining the evolving sophistication of mass procurement strategies as practiced by Northern Plains “bison culture” in particular but may also provide meaningful insights regarding cultural development of Precontact hunter-gatherer societies in the western United States as a whole.

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2014 Landscape Engineering and Organizational Complexity among Late Prehistoric Bison Hunters of the Northwestern Plains. *Current Anthropology* Volume 55, Number 1, February 2014.

Zedeño, Maria Nieves, Jesse Ballenger, William Reitze, Nicholas Laluk, and Robert Jones

2010 *The Kutoyis Bison Hunting Complex on the Two Medicine River, Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Glacier County, Montana, Final Report 2007-2009, Kutoyis Archaeological Project*. Report prepared by the Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology, University of Arizona-Tucson for Tribal Historic Preservation Office-Blackfeet Tribe and the National Park Service, Tribal Heritage Program.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- Previously Listed in the National Register. Listed December 17, 1974
- 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: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
- Federal Agency
- Local Government: Cascade County Historical Society, Great Falls, MT
- University: Montana State University, University of Montana

FIRST PEOPLES BUFFALO JUMP

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 1,906 acres

UTM References:

Point	UTM Coordinates		
	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	12	460,240.0	5,261,909.9
B	12	458,666.2	5,261,923.0
C	12	458,679.4	5,261,139.4
D	12	459,436.7	5,261,119.6
E	12	459,423.5	5,259,466.8
F	12	457,862.8	5,259,473.4
G	12	457,856.3	5,258,650.2
H	12	459,430.1	5,258,650.3
I	12	459,430.1	5,257,504.5
J	12	458,936.2	5,257,497.9
K	12	458,929.6	5,257,300.3
L	12	459,423.5	5,257,306.9
M	12	459,430.1	5,257,030.3
N	12	461,010.5	5,257,004.0
O	12	460,977.6	5,259,236.4
P	12	460,437.6	5,259,242.9
Q	12	460,457.3	5,260,290.0
R	12	460,226.9	5,260,289.9

The coordinates above (in NAD 83) describe polygon A through R, wherein the boundary of the nominated area is located (See USGS 7.5' quadrangle map with referenced UTM coordinate locations).

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the district coincides with the boundary of First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park. The nominated area is in Township 20 North, Range 1 East, Sections 12, 13 and 24 and Township 20 North, Range 2 East, Sections 7, 18 and 19, Principal Meridian (Montana) 1867, Cascade County, Montana. The boundary is more particularly described as follows: NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 12, South $\frac{1}{2}$ Section 13, and a portion of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 24, T 20 North, R 1 East; West $\frac{1}{2}$ Section 7, West $\frac{1}{2}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, portion of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 18, all of Section 19, T 20 North, R 2 East.

Boundary Justification

The 1,906-acre NHL boundary is the property boundary of First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park. The area encompassed by this boundary is comprised entirely of Precontact cultural manifestations that include intact bone middens, bison processing localities, drive lanes, bison trip walls, cairns, aboriginal rock art, tipi rings and other stone circles. As shown in Figure 3 of this nomination, formerly plowed fields located to the south and northeast of the Taft Hill cliff base contain extensive surface scatters of Precontact artifacts and bison bone, which extend up to the NHL/state park boundary. These cultural manifestations have not been formally investigated; however, it is suspected that intact cultural deposits occur below the plow zone. Private properties adjacent to First Peoples Buffalo Jump also likely contain archeological resources associated with First Peoples Buffalo Jump. Permission to assess archeological resources on these properties is presently not available.

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United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

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Telephone: (406) 248-9850

Date: April 24, 2014

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NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS PROGRAM

December 11, 2014

FIRST PEOPLES BUFFALO JUMP

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Tables, Maps, Figures, Photos

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

TABLE 1
RESOURCES WITHIN THE NOMINATED AREA – ALL RESOURCES ENCOMPASSED BY
STATE SITE NUMBER 24CA1012

Resource Number	Resource Description	Resource Type	Precontact Period or Year Built	Contributing Status
FP01	Tipi Rings and Cairn	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP02	Linear Stone Alignment	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP03	Linear Stone Alignment	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP04	Historic Homestead – in ruins	Site	1910-1946	Noncontributing
FP05	Linear Stone Alignments, Tipi Rings and Cairns	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP06	Stacked Stone Cairns	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP07	Historic Depression	Site	20 th Century	Noncontributing
FP08	Linear Stone Alignments	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP09	Linear Stone Alignments and Cairns	Site	Unknown Precontact; 20 th Century	Precontact component – Contributing; Historic component – Noncontributing
FP10	Tipi Ring, Cairns and Cultural Material Scatter	Site	Late Precontact Period: Avonlea Phase	Contributing
FP11	Cairns/Rock Piles and Stacked Sandstone Trip Walls	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP12	Tipi Ring and Cairn	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP13	Historic Homestead – in ruins	Site	1890s-1940s	Noncontributing
FP14	Cultural Material Scatter	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP15	Cairns/Rock Piles	Site	Unknown Historic	Noncontributing
FP16	Historic Homestead – in ruins and Precontact heat-altered rock scatter	Site	Unknown Precontact; Late 19 th Century to Early 20 th Century	Precontact component – Contributing; Historic component – Noncontributing
FP17	Tipi Ring and Cultural Material Scatter	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP18	Tipi Rings and Cultural Material Scatter	Site	Late Precontact Period: Old Women's Phase	Contributing
FP19	Tipi Rings and Cultural Material Scatter	Site	Late Precontact Period: Old Women's Phase	Contributing
FP20	Tipi Ring and Cultural Material Scatter	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP21	Tipi Ring and Heat-altered Rocks	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP22	Cairns/Rock Piles	Site	Unknown Historic	Noncontributing
FP23	Tipi Rings	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP24	Tipi Ring	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP25	Linear Stone Alignments	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP26	Precontact Stacked Sandstone Trip Wall	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP27	Precontact Cairns	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP28	Cultural Material Scatter	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP29	Tipi Rings and Cultural Material Scatter	Site	Middle Precontact Period: Oxbow or McKean Complex	Contributing

FIRST PEOPLES BUFFALO JUMP

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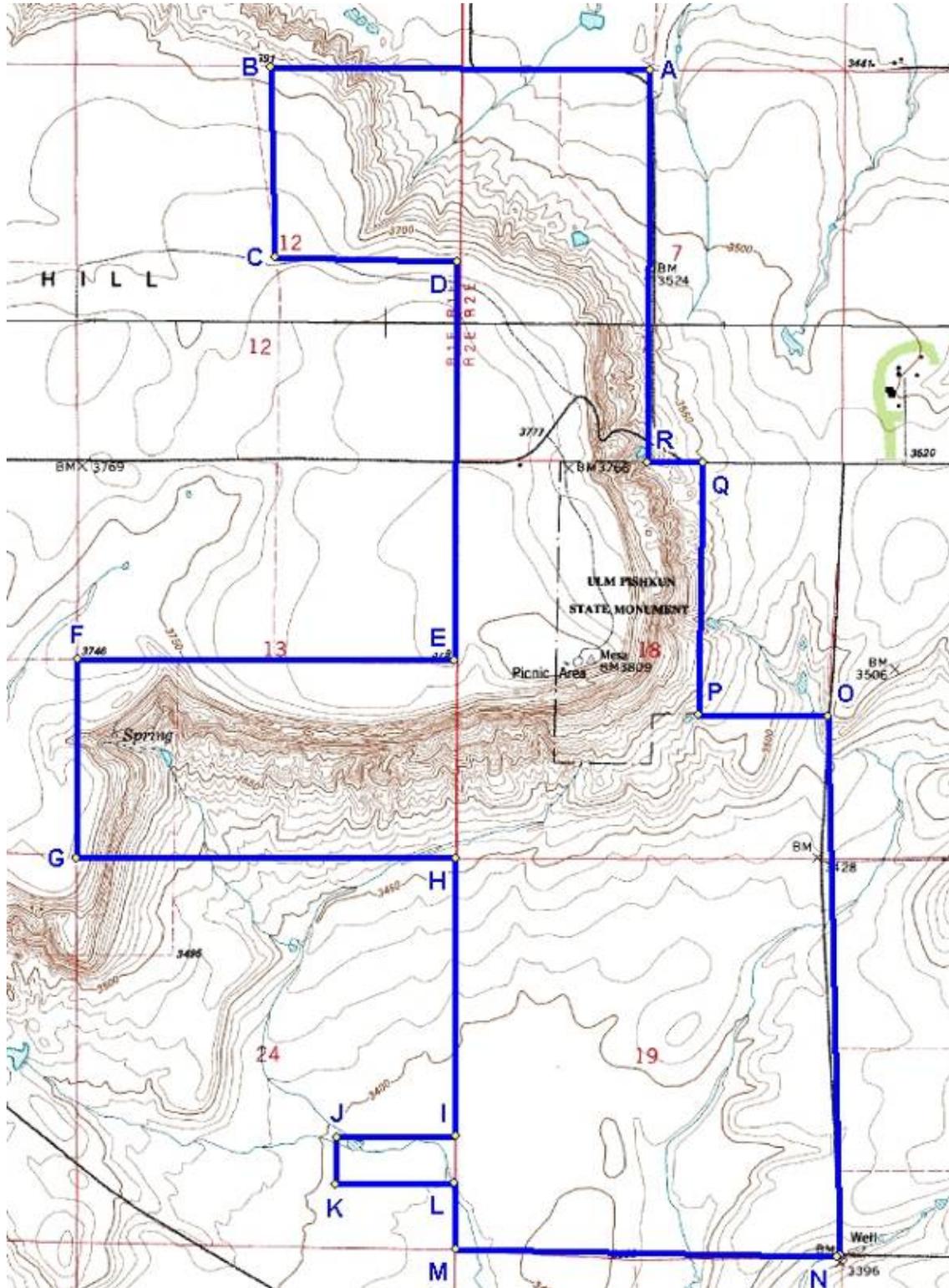
Resource Number	Resource Description	Resource Type	Precontact Period or Year Built	Contributing Status
FP30	Tipi Rings/Stone Circles and Cairns	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP31	Tipi Rings and Cultural Material Scatter	Site	Middle Precontact Period: Pelican Lake Phase	Contributing
FP32	Tipi Rings, Cairns and Cultural Material Scatter	Site	Late Precontact Period: Old Women's Phase and Avonlea Phase	Contributing
FP33	Tipi Rings and Cultural Material Scatter	Site	Late Precontact Period: Old Women's Phase	Contributing
FP34	Depression	Site	Unknown Historic	Noncontributing
FP35	Cultural Material Scatter	Site	Middle Precontact Period: Oxbow Phase	Contributing
FP36	Historic Depressions	Site	1910 to 1946	Noncontributing
FP37	Historic Stone Structure	Site	1890 to 1920	Noncontributing
FP38	Tipi Rings, Cairn and Cultural Material Scatter	Site	Late Precontact Period: Samantha Phase	Contributing
FP39	Tipi Rings, Cairn and Cultural Material Scatter	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP40	Cairn	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP41	Linear Cairn/Stone Alignment	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP42	Tipi Ring	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP43	Tipi Ring	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP44	Tipi Rings	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP45	Sandstone Lined Cistern/Well	Site	Late 19 th Century to Early 20 th Century	Noncontributing
FP46	Tipi Rings	Site	Unknown Precontact	Contributing
FP47	Stacked Quarry Rock Platform	Site	1890 to 1920	Noncontributing
FP 48	Access road	Structure	1999 to present	Noncontributing
FP 49	Visitor Center	Building	1999 to present	Non-contributing
Main/South Kill	Bone midden and processing area	Site	Late Precontact Period: Avonlea Phase and Old Women's Phase	Contributing
Main/South Kill	Bone midden and processing area	Site	Late Precontact Period: Avonlea Phase and Old Women's Phase	Contributing
Rock Art Localities A-D	Aboriginal pictographs and petroglyphs	Sites	Unknown Precontact to Early Historic	Contributing
IF-Point-CC	Isolate: Projectile Point	Artifact Locality	Middle Precontact Period: Pelican Lake Phase	Contributing

FIRST PEOPLES BUFFALO JUMP

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Proposed boundaries of First Peoples Buffalo Jump showing location of referenced UTM coordinates.

FIRST PEOPLES BUFFALO JUMP

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

FIGURES

Figure	Figure captions
1	Location map for First Peoples Buffalo Jump on USGS 1:25,000 scale Great Falls Quadrangle. First Peoples Buffalo Jump is encompassed by First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park, Cascade County, in west-central Montana. The district lies about 8 miles west of Great Falls and a few miles north of Interstate Highway 15 and the Missouri River.
2	Aerial view of Taft Hill and First Peoples Buffalo Jump proposed NHL with Sun River Valley at photo right and Square Butte in the background at upper photo left. View on “draped” 3-dimensional black and white 1995 aerial photograph; image taken from National Aeronautics and Space Administration – World Winds Website – Public access and image use.
█	[REDACTED]
█	[REDACTED]
█	[REDACTED]
6	View of locality FP-28; one of two bison jumps on the north face of Taft Hill within First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park. View looking southeast. Source: Aaberg Cultural Resources Consulting Service.
7	View of FP-25 Alignment 2a ending at cliff jump FP-20 with Sun River Valley in the background. View looking northeast. Source: Aaberg Cultural Resources Consulting Service.
8	View of FP-26 trip walls with FP-25 in background showing proximity of walls to a cliff jump. View looking east-southeast. Source: Aaberg Cultural Resources Consulting Service.
█	[REDACTED]

FIRST PEOPLES BUFFALO JUMP

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

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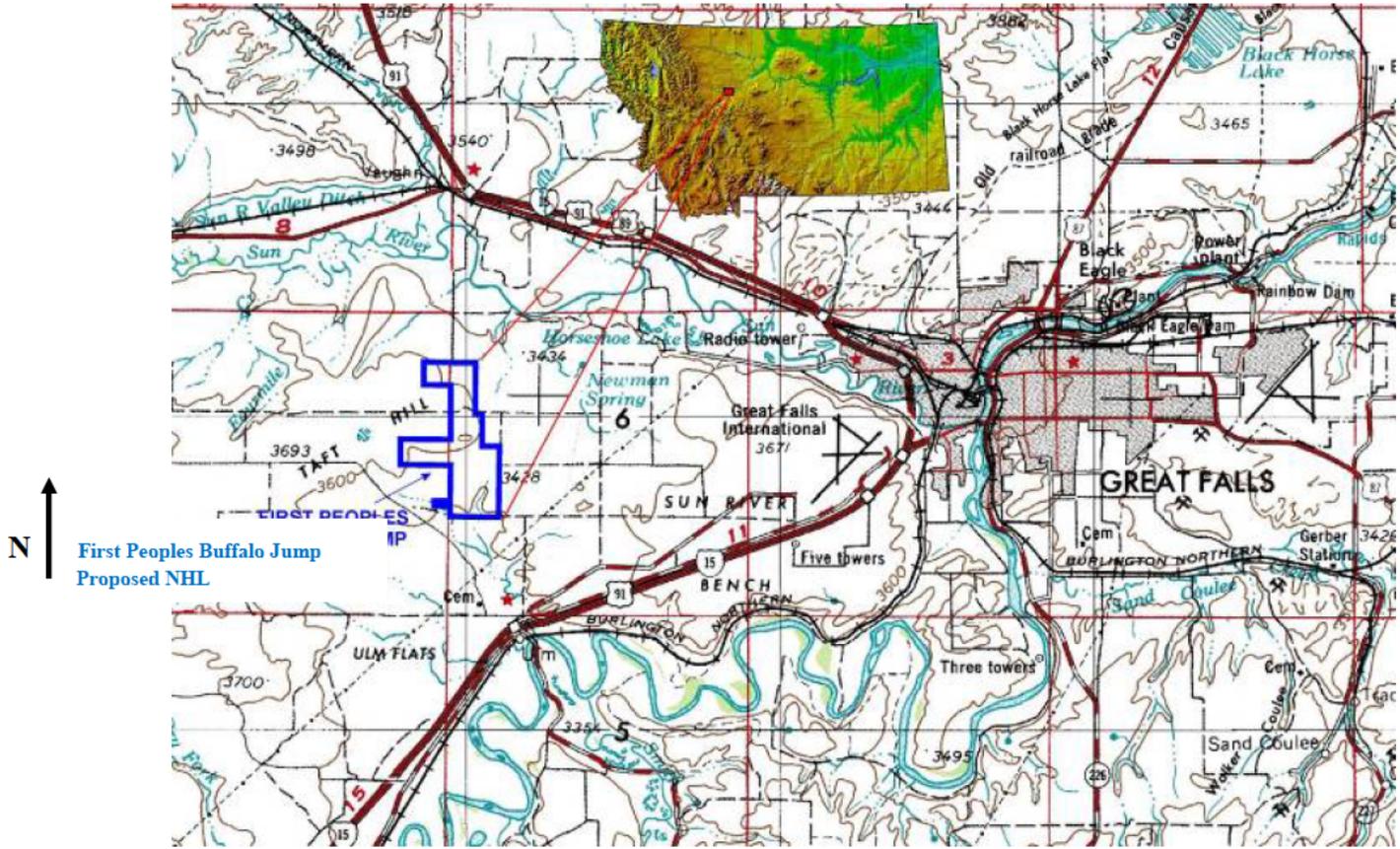


Figure 1: Location map for First Peoples Buffalo Jump on USGS 1:25,000 scale Great Falls Quadrangle. The boundary for First Peoples Buffalo Jump is encompassed by First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park, Cascade County, in west-central Montana. The district lies about 8 miles west of Great Falls and a few miles north of Interstate Highway 15 and the Missouri River.

UTM Coordinates

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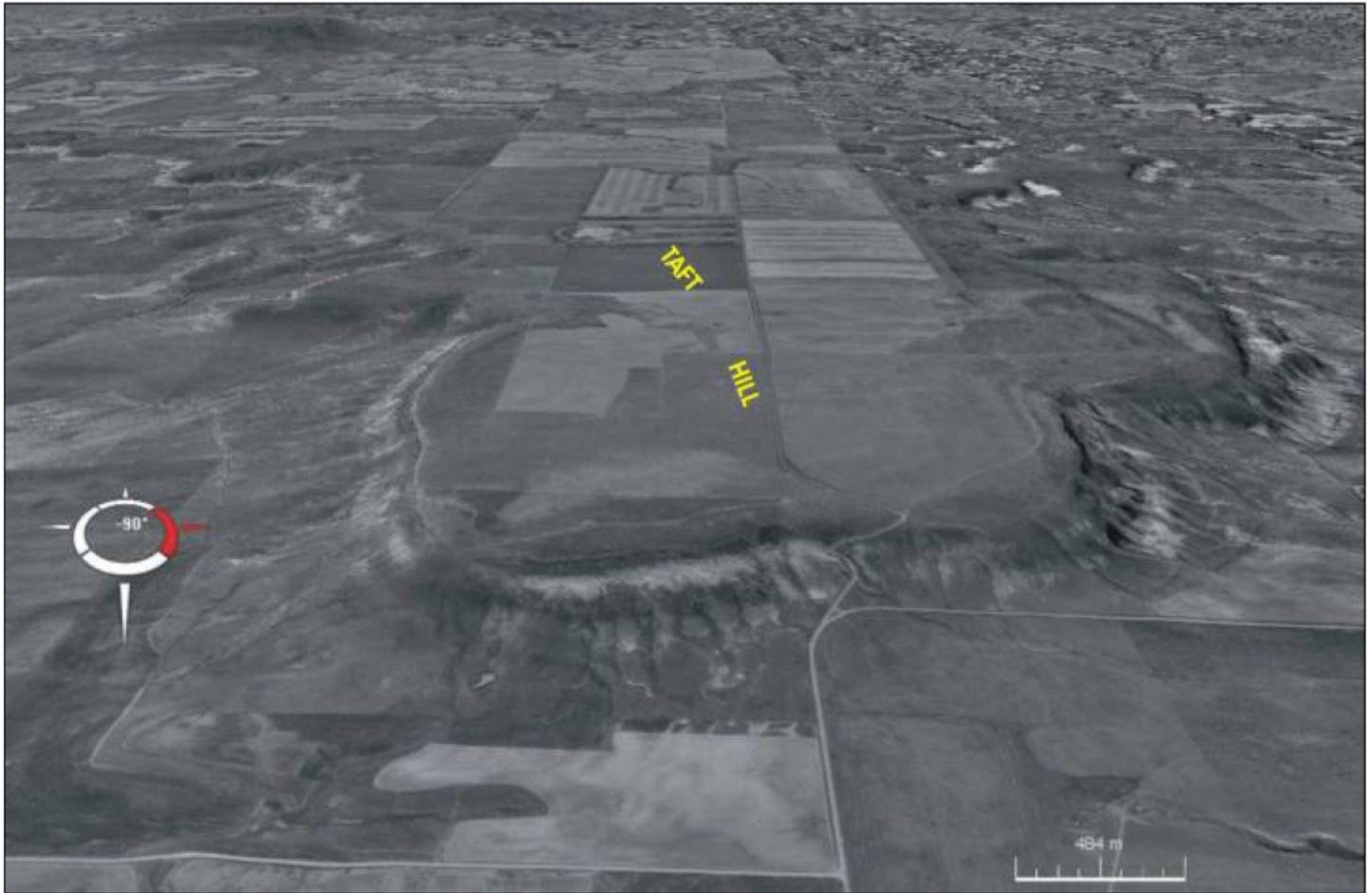


Figure 2: Aerial view of Taft Hill and First Peoples Buffalo Jump with Sun River Valley at photo right and Square Butte in the background at upper photo left. View on “draped” 3-dimensional black and white 1995 aerial photograph; image taken from National Aeronautics and Space Administration – World Winds Website – Public access and image use.

FIRST PEOPLES BUFFALO JUMP

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

National Historic Landmarks
Property Name: First Peoples Buffalo Jump

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Figure Number: 3**Page: 7**

The location of this property is restricted information under law:
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, section 304, 16 U.S.C. 470w-3(a)
- *Confidentiality of the location of sensitive historic resources*

Section 304

[16 U.S.C. 470w-3(a) – Confidentiality of the location of sensitive historic resources]

(a) The head of a Federal agency or other public official receiving grant assistance pursuant to this Act, after consultation with the Secretary, shall withhold from disclosure to the public, information about the location, character, or ownership of a historic resource if the Secretary and the agency determine that disclosure may –

- (1) cause a significant invasion of privacy;
- (2) risk harm to the historic resources; or
- (3) impede the use of a traditional religious site by practitioners.

[16 U.S.C. 470w-3(b) – Access Determination]

(b) When the head of a Federal agency or other public official has determined that information should be withheld from the public pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary, in consultation with such Federal agency head or official, shall determine who may have access to the information for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

[16 U.S.C. 470w-3(c) – Consultation with the Advisory Council]

(c) When the information in question has been developed in the course of an agency's compliance with section 106 or 110(f) of this Act, the Secretary shall consult with the Council in reaching determinations under subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

A redacted version was included with the series, from the state and year for this property that was sent to the Federal Records Center and from there to the National Archives.

A full version was sent in the address restricted series to the Federal Records Center and from there to the National Archives.

Figure 4: Sketch Map including contributing and non-contributing resource locations within the FPBJSP proposed NHL district on 1:24,000 scale USGS Ulm and Vaughn topographic quadrangles.

FIRST PEOPLES BUFFALO JUMP

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Tables, Maps, Figures, Photos

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National Historic Landmarks
Property Name: First Peoples Buffalo Jump

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Figure Number: 4**Page: 8**

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FIRST PEOPLES BUFFALO JUMP

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National Historic Landmarks
Property Name: First Peoples Buffalo Jump

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Figure Number: 5**Page: 9**

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Section 304

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FIRST PEOPLES BUFFALO JUMP

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

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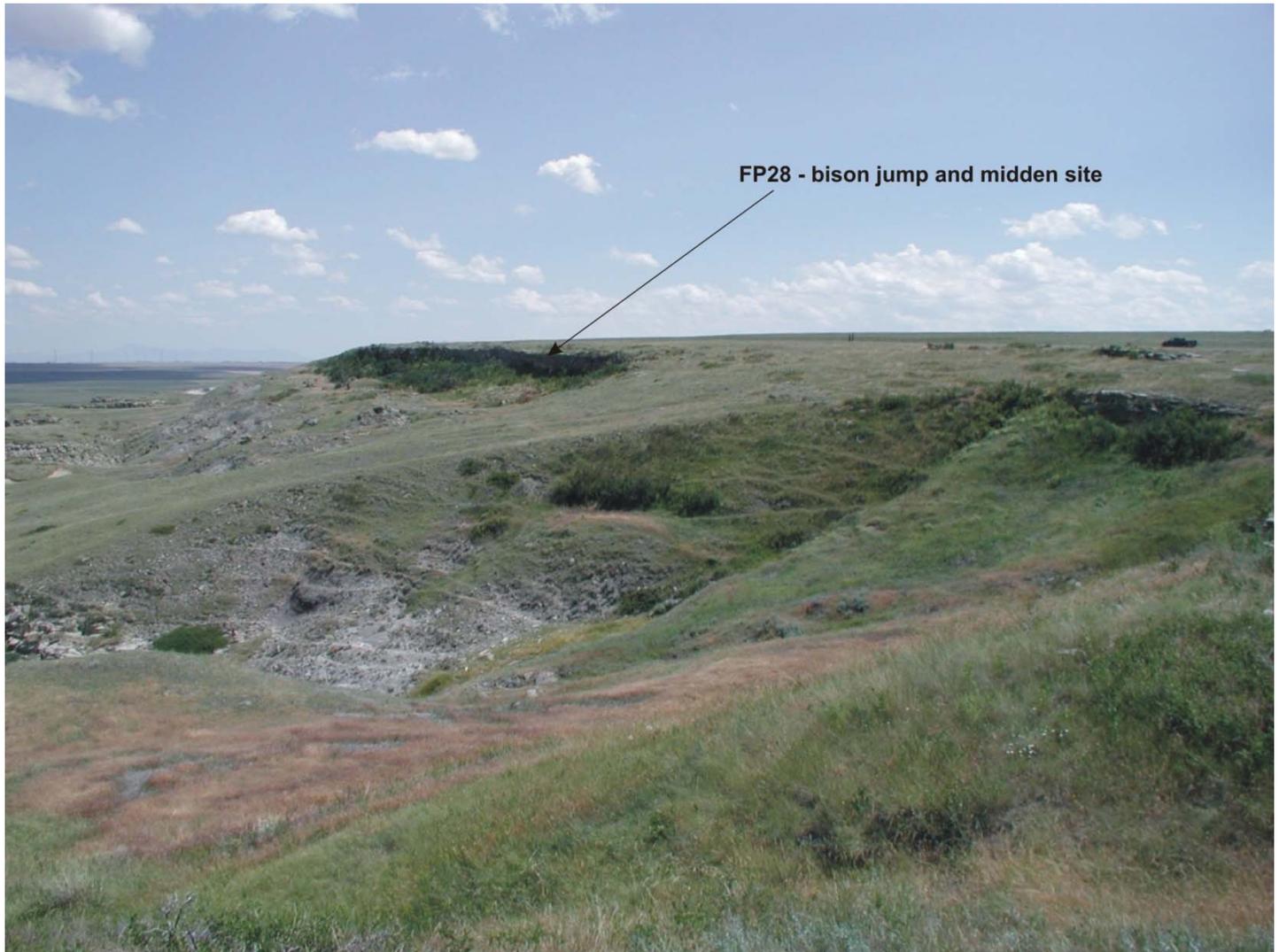


Figure 6: View of locality FP-28; one of two bison jumps on the north face of Taft Hill within First Peoples Buffalo Jump. View looking southeast. Source: Aaberg Cultural Resources Consulting Service.

FIRST PEOPLES BUFFALO JUMP

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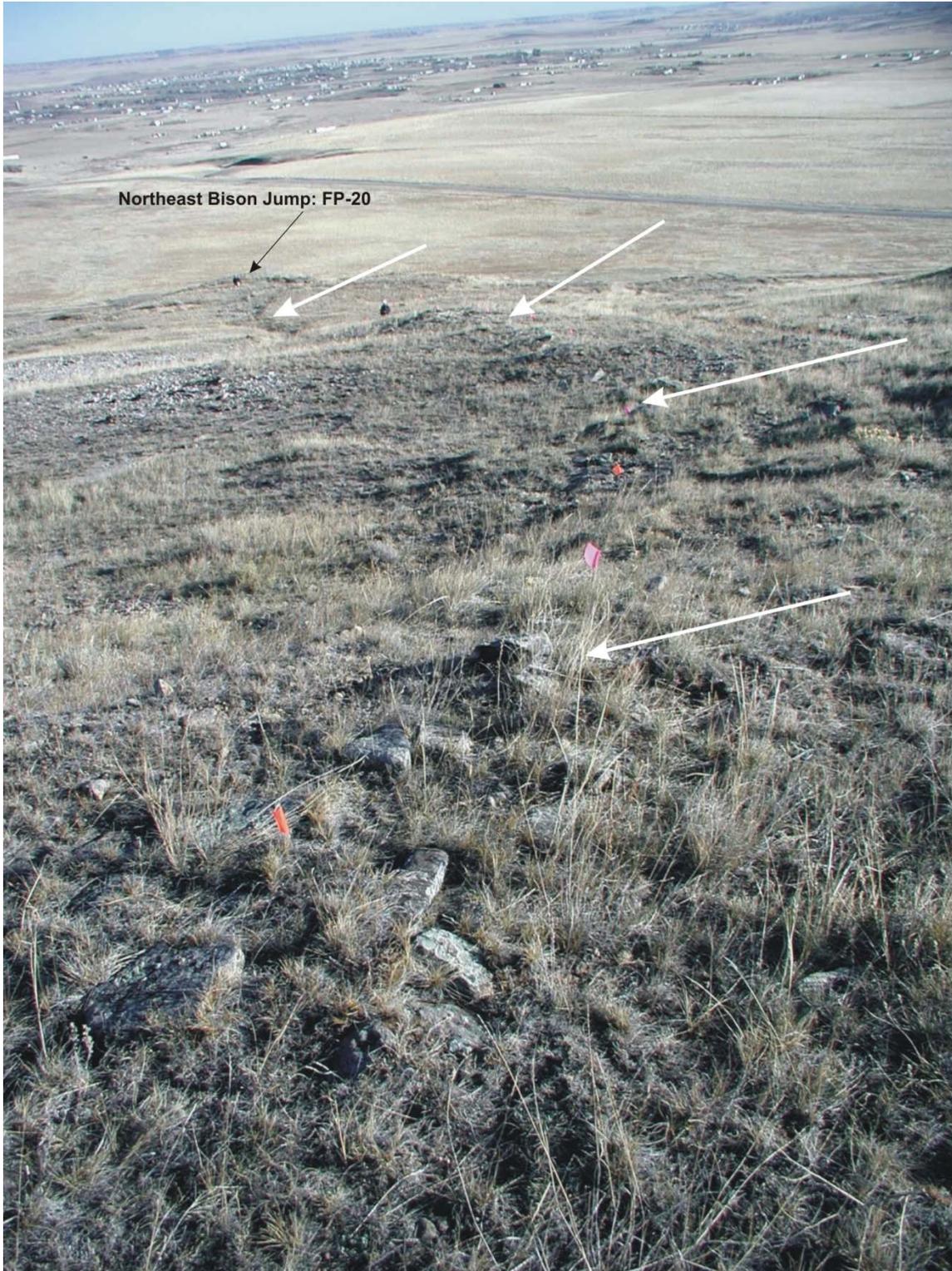


Figure 7: View of FP-25 Alignment 2a ending at cliff jump FP-20 with Sun River Valley in the background. View looking northeast. Source: Aaberg Cultural Resources Consulting Service.

FIRST PEOPLES BUFFALO JUMP

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Figure 8: View of FP-26 trip walls with FP-25 in background showing proximity of walls to a cliff jump. View looking east-southeast. Source: Aaberg Cultural Resources Consulting Service.

FIRST PEOPLES BUFFALO JUMP

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National Historic Landmarks
Property Name: First Peoples Buffalo Jump

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Figure Number: 9**Page: 13**

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[16 U.S.C. 470w-3(b) – Access Determination]

(b) When the head of a Federal agency or other public official has determined that information should be withheld from the public pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary, in consultation with such Federal agency head or official, shall determine who may have access to the information for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

[16 U.S.C. 470w-3(c) – Consultation with the Advisory Council]

(c) When the information in question has been developed in the course of an agency's compliance with section 106 or 110(f) of this Act, the Secretary shall consult with the Council in reaching determinations under subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

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FIRST PEOPLES BUFFALO JUMP

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

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National Historic Landmarks
Property Name: First Peoples Buffalo Jump

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Figure Number: 10**Page: 14**

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FIRST PEOPLES BUFFALO JUMP

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National Historic Landmarks
Property Name: First Peoples Buffalo Jump

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Figure Number: 11**Page: 15**

The location of this property is restricted information under law:
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, section 304, 16 U.S.C. 470w-3(a)
- *Confidentiality of the location of sensitive historic resources*

Section 304

[16 U.S.C. 470w-3(a) – Confidentiality of the location of sensitive historic resources]

(a) The head of a Federal agency or other public official receiving grant assistance pursuant to this Act, after consultation with the Secretary, shall withhold from disclosure to the public, information about the location, character, or ownership of a historic resource if the Secretary and the agency determine that disclosure may –

- (1) cause a significant invasion of privacy;
- (2) risk harm to the historic resources; or
- (3) impede the use of a traditional religious site by practitioners.

[16 U.S.C. 470w-3(b) – Access Determination]

(b) When the head of a Federal agency or other public official has determined that information should be withheld from the public pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary, in consultation with such Federal agency head or official, shall determine who may have access to the information for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

[16 U.S.C. 470w-3(c) – Consultation with the Advisory Council]

(c) When the information in question has been developed in the course of an agency's compliance with section 106 or 110(f) of this Act, the Secretary shall consult with the Council in reaching determinations under subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

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National Historic Landmarks
Property Name: First Peoples Buffalo Jump

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Figure Number: 12**Page: 16**

The location of this property is restricted information under law:
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, section 304, 16 U.S.C. 470w-3(a)
- *Confidentiality of the location of sensitive historic resources*

Section 304

[16 U.S.C. 470w-3(a) – Confidentiality of the location of sensitive historic resources]

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[16 U.S.C. 470w-3(b) – Access Determination]

(b) When the head of a Federal agency or other public official has determined that information should be withheld from the public pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary, in consultation with such Federal agency head or official, shall determine who may have access to the information for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

[16 U.S.C. 470w-3(c) – Consultation with the Advisory Council]

(c) When the information in question has been developed in the course of an agency's compliance with section 106 or 110(f) of this Act, the Secretary shall consult with the Council in reaching determinations under subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

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PHOTOGRAPHS**Common Photographic Label Information:**

Name of Property: First Peoples Buffalo Jump
 Location: Great Falls vicinity, Cascade County, Montana
 Photographer and Preparer: Aaberg Cultural Resources Consulting Service (unless otherwise noted)
 Photograph Date: June-October 2008 (unless otherwise noted)
 Digital Images info: CD-ROM with TIFF images on file with NPS in Washington DC

Information Different for Each View:

Photograph Number, Description of View, Date, and Camera Direction

Photo Number	Description of View, Date	Camera Direction
1	View along north cliff face of Taft Hill with Square Butte and Rocky Mountains in background. Photographer: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Date: unknown.	Southwest
2	View across the top of Taft Hill within First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park with the Rocky Mountains visible on the horizon, Square Butte and Shaw Butte at center photo left.	Northwest
3	View west of main or south kill with Square Butte in the background. Photographer: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Date: unknown	West
4	View of alignment FP9-DLAe.	Northwest
5	Large cairn just east of FP25 alignment 2a.	East-Northeast
6	View of Trip Wall 1 at FP11 looking down steep slope below the wall.	East
7	Upslope view of Trip Wall 2 at FP11 showing detail of wall construction.	West-Northwest
8	Close-up view of east end of the FP26 eastern trip wall segment showing wall construction detail.	East-Southeast
9	View of large, possibly ceremonial, stone circle at FP12.	West
10	View of representative example of domestic tipi rings at FP01 showing sandstone slab construction and thick single or double-course ring.	Southeast
11	Buried heat-altered rock feature (F-2) at FP14, a "cultural material scatter."	South

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Photo 1: View along north cliff face of Taft Hill with Square Butte and Rocky Mountains in background. Photographer: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Date: unknown.

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Photo 2: View across the top of Taft Hill within First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park with the Rocky Mountains visible on the horizon, Square Butte and Shaw Butte at center photo left.

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Photo 3: View west of main or south kill with Square Butte in the background. Photographer: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Date: unknown

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Photo 4: View of alignment FP9-DLAe.

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Photo 5: Large cairn just east of FP25 alignment 2a.

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Photo 6: View of Trip Wall 1 at FP11 looking down steep slope below the wall.

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Photo 7: Upslope view of Trip Wall 2 at FP11 showing detail of wall construction.

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Photo 8: Close-up view of east end of the FP26 eastern trip wall segment showing wall construction detail.

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Photo 9: View of large, possibly ceremonial, stone circle at FP12.

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Photo 10: View of representative example of domestic tipi rings at FP01 showing sandstone slab construction and thick single or double-course ring.

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Photo 11: Buried heat-altered rock feature (F-2) at FP14, a “cultural material scatter.”