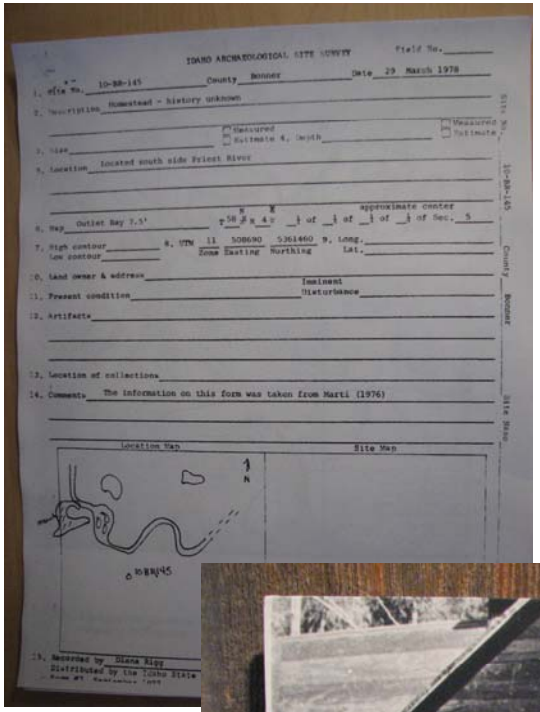
Priest Lake GIS Highlights

Geographical Information Systems
Illustrate Information Gained from
Archival Resources and Archaeology
to Tell the Story of Priest Lake History

Priest Lake Project

- Purpose is to understand and interpret the history and prehistory of the Priest Lake area
- Geographical Information Systems (GIS) computer software can be used to tie historical information to the real world and model how people used the lake basin

Archival Resources Examples Referenced in GIS Maps


IDAHO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE SURVEY

Field No.

1. Site No. 10-BR-145 County Bonner Date 29 March 1978

2. Description Homestead - history unknown

3. Size Measured Estimate 4. Depth Measured Estimate

5. Location Located south side Priest River

6. Map Outlet Bay 7.5' T58N R4W approximate center ¼ of ¼ of ¼ of Sec. 5

7. High contour 8. UTM 11 508690 5361460 9. Long.
Low contour Zone Easting Northing Lat.

10. Land owner & address

11. Present condition Imminent Disturbance

12. Artifacts

13. Location of collections

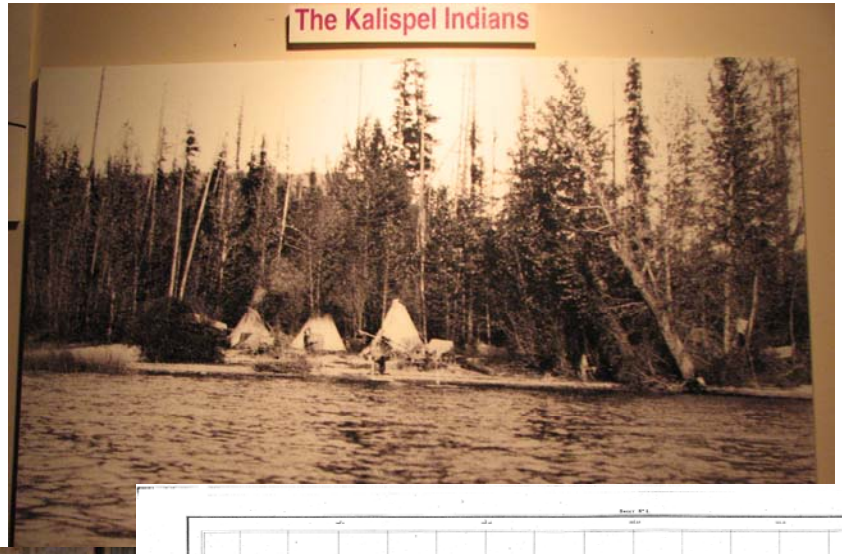
14. Comments The information on this form was taken from Marti (1976)

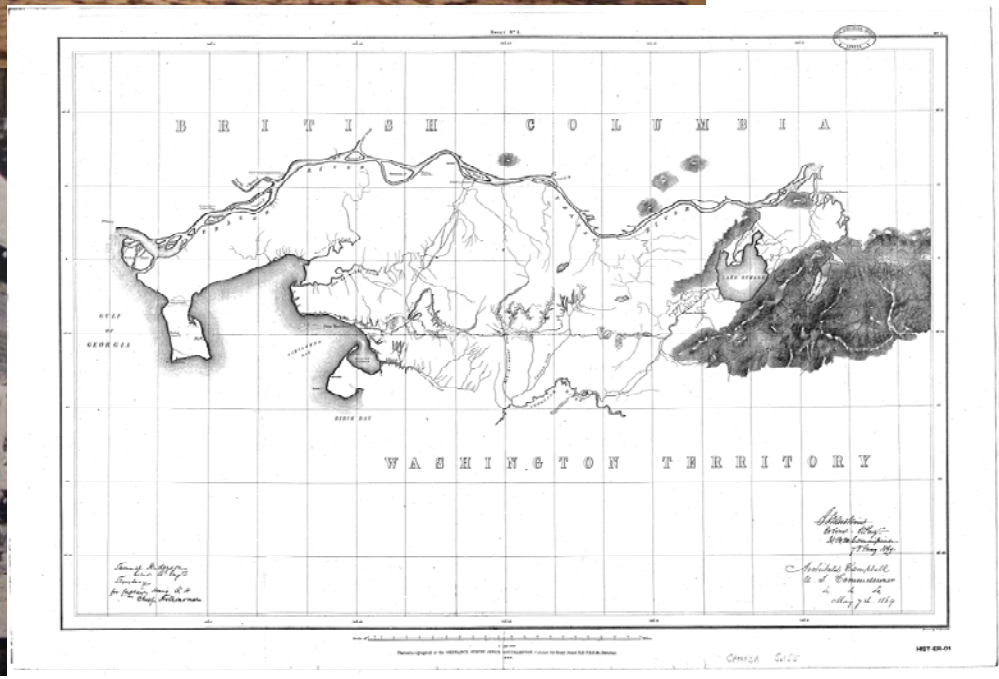
Location Map Site Map

N

10-BR-145

15. Recorded by Diana Rigg
Distributed by the Idaho State





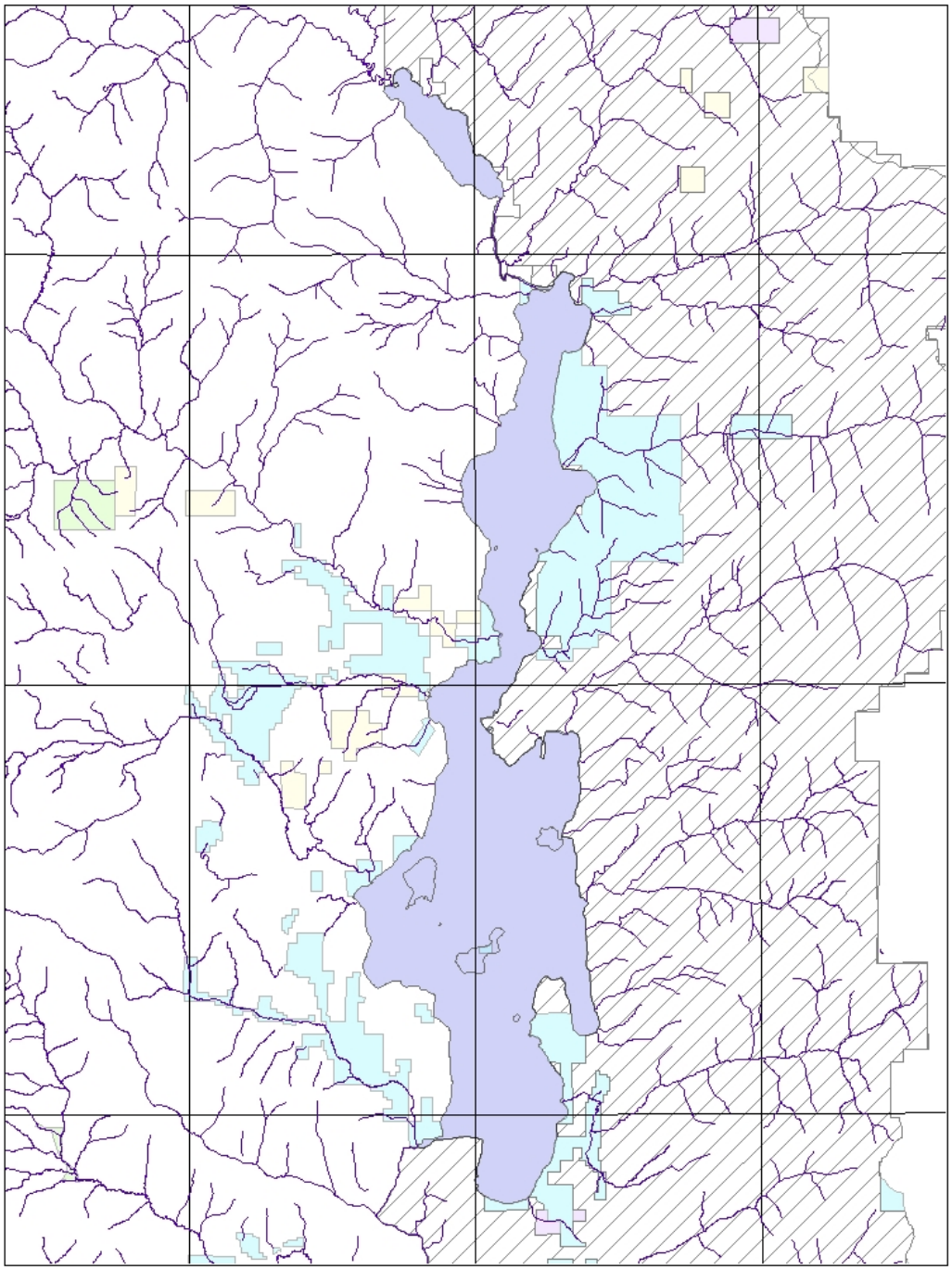
Shovel Probes: Initial Exploration Below the Surface

Shovel probes are one technique archaeologists use to look below the surface of the soil. These 12-24” round holes are screened through wire mesh to document the presence of artifacts. At a later time we can use larger 3’x3’ size holes to give us more precise information about the past.

Examples of Artifacts Recovered

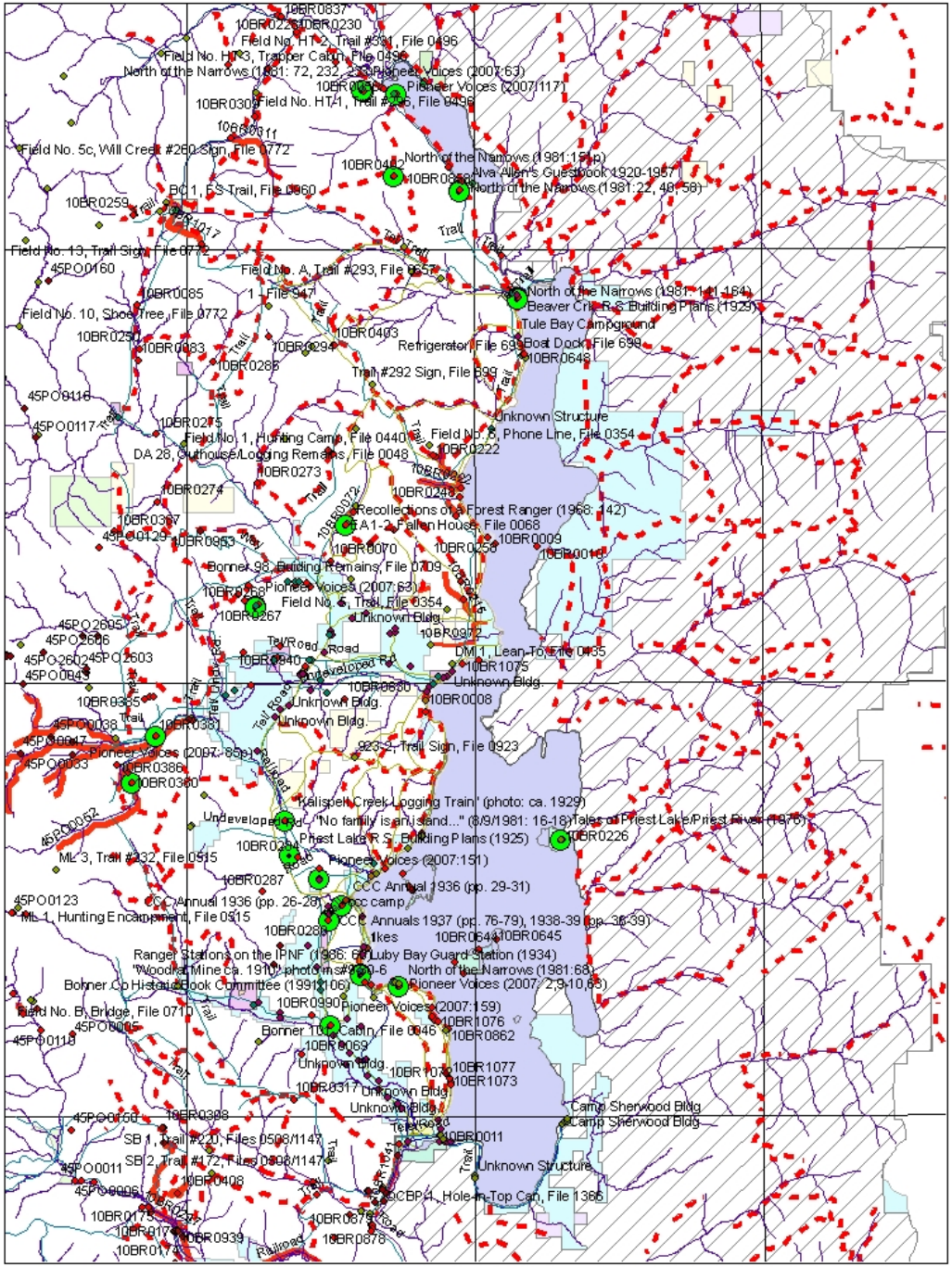
Priest Lake

Geographical Information Systems (GIS) can illustrate the relationships between the landscape and the sites, events, artifacts and archival resources documented during the project.



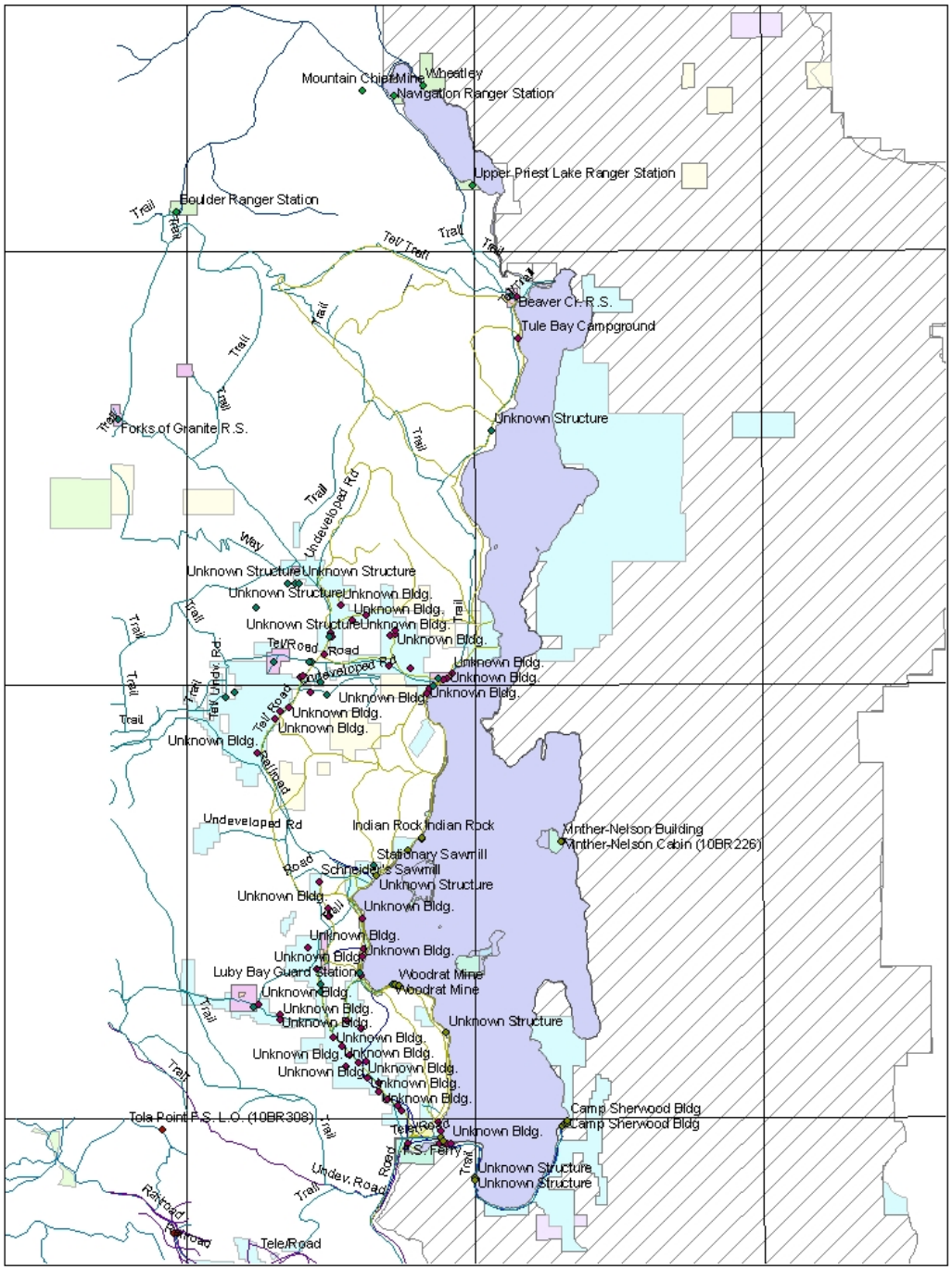
All Layers at Once!

This slide shows all of the GIS layers displayed at one time...obviously too much information!



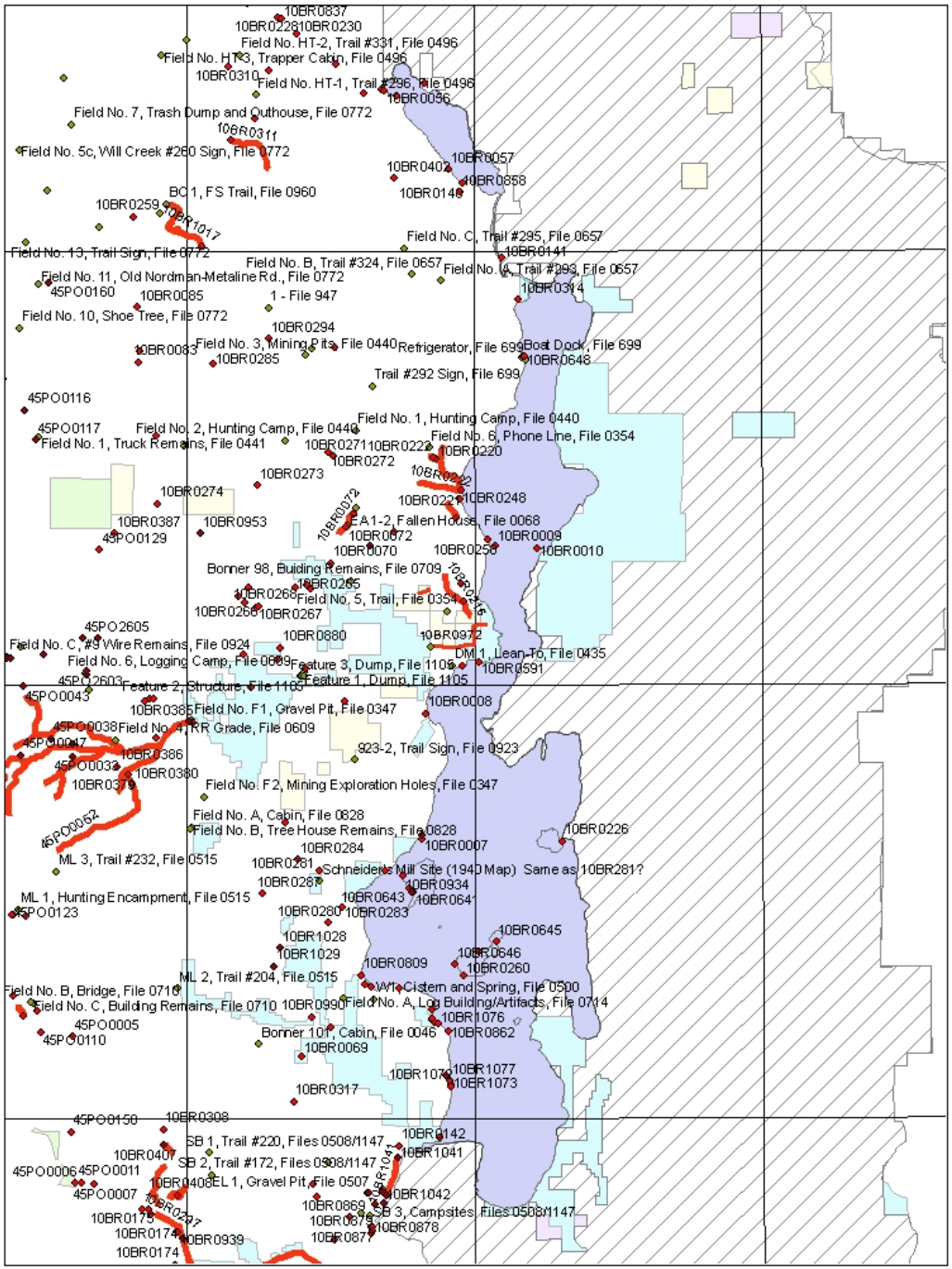
Historic Map Data

This slide illustrates the first attempt to display historic map information graphically. Each point represents a location on a historic map that is useful in understanding and modeling the past.



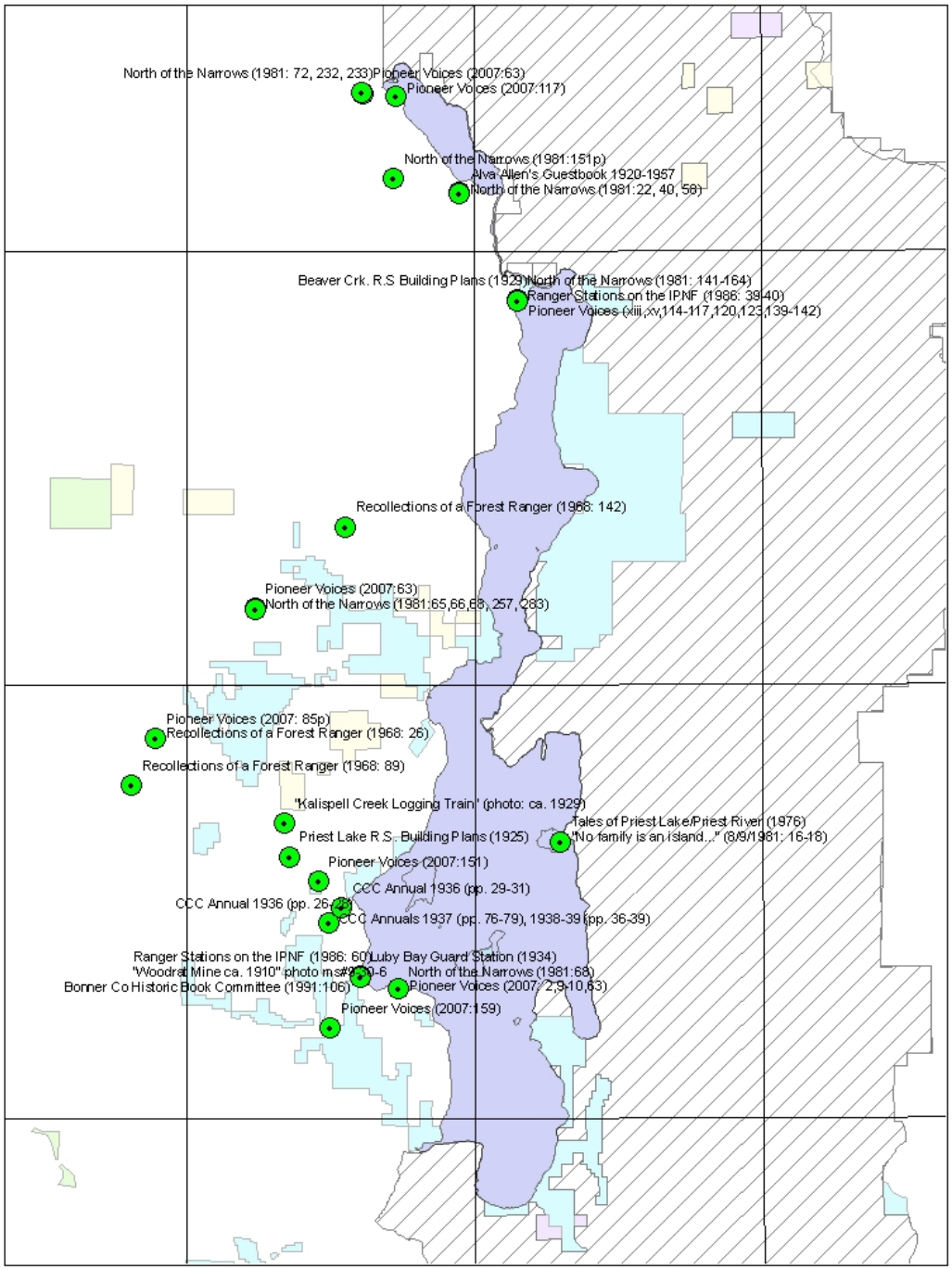
Recorded Sites

Archaeological studies can also be displayed for qualified researchers. Since this information can be used to loot archaeological sites it will not be provided to the general public. Researchers must apply for access under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act by providing a valid research design.



Bibliographic References

Where information in reference books ties into specific locations it will be displayed in GIS.



Geomorphic Model

Aerial photography can also be used in GIS to illustrate the landscape and model cultural site locations.

Shovel Probes

As part of the project archaeologists and volunteers will be excavating small, round holes along the lake shore trying to see below the surface and document the locations and material in archaeological sites.

Site Identification

Using GIS and archaeological inventory techniques the location and contents of archaeological sites can be displayed and better understood.

For More Information

- Click on the IPNF Heritage Web Site Link:
  http://www.fs.fed.us/ipnf/rec/heritage/
- If you would like to volunteer for this or other projects see the IPNF volunteer section on the left side of the page
- For Archival Research materials contact the Forest Archaeologist (see main page)
- Researchers see the Permits link on the left side of the page