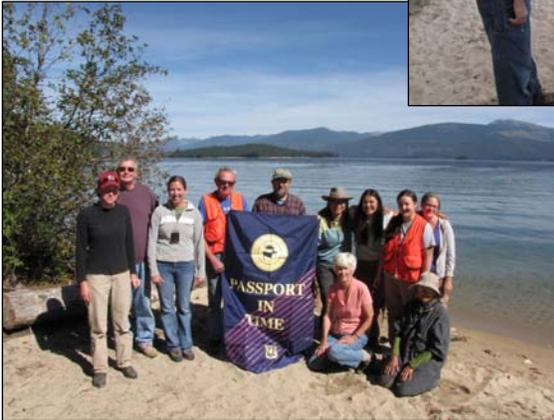
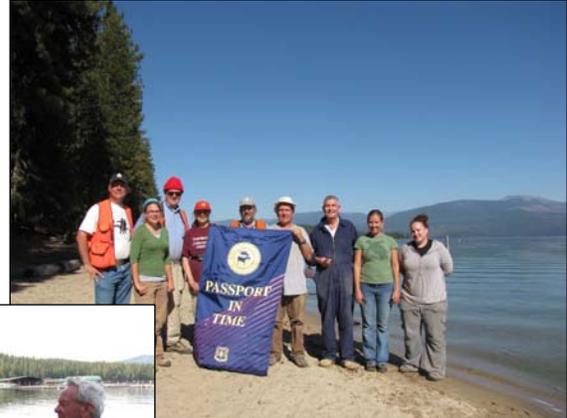


Idaho Panhandle National Forests FY 2009 Priest Lake Project Accomplishments



**Stephan E. Matz
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USDA Forest Service
Idaho Panhandle National Forest
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho**

Front page shows portion of Atlas Map IX C8 27 from Midwest Jesuit Archives Missouri Collection De Smetiana of Priest Lake area (top left), Passport in Time (PIT) volunteers and Forest Service staff from second week of project (top right), PIT volunteer Mae Lewis conferring with IPNF archaeologist Tom Sandberg while PIT volunteers Bob Faulkner and Gordon Kaufman look on (center), PIT volunteers and FS staff from first week of project (lower left) and 1935 photo of Kalispell Bay Camp F-142 from the Priest Lake Heritage Project web site (lower right).

Priest Lake Project Executive Summary

The second year of the Priest Lake Project involved additional background research, organization of the Priest Lake Museum collections, development of a public access web site, additional work on Geographical Information Systems (GIS) base layers, research design development, report preparation of the 2008 field work, and inventory of one kilometer of Priest Lake, Idaho shoreline to better understand and interpret past human use associated with this important geographic feature. The Northern Region of the Forest Service (R-1) grant for \$20,000 was matched by over \$20,000 of salary and expenditures by the Idaho Panhandle National Forest (IPNF) during FY 2009. The Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Midwest Jesuit Archives, Museum of North Idaho, Eastern Washington University and Priest Lake Museum partnered with the IPNF to complete this year's activities. Accomplishments for FY 2009 included funding a graduate student from Eastern Washington University to complete: 1) The report of the 2008 field investigations; 2) additional work and formatting of the annotated bibliography begun last year; 3) developed a web site for the Priest Lake history project that featured the history and photos of the CCC at Priest Lake; 4) researched open source GIS models for use on the website; 5) transferred oral history tapes to digital format; and 6) began the nomination of the Priest Lake Museum to the National Register of Historic Places. The Midwest Jesuit Archives provided curator time to research historic DeSmet maps, allowing four maps to be used for the cost of scanning alone. The Museum of North Idaho provided images for the website. Eastern Washington University MARS Lab provided support for development of the web site and transfer of the oral histories from tape to digital formats. The Kalispel Tribe of Indians provided the "Kalispel Ethnohistoric Uses of the Priest Lake Basin" and the "Kalispel Ethno-biology Study Report: The Relative Importance of *Odocoileus virginianus* to the Family Provisioning needs of the Lower Kalispel Bands". The forest also partnered with the Priest Lake Museum to fund per diem for a volunteer to scan and input data into Past Perfect database software for the artifact, photo and document collections at the museum. This data was used to direct a two-week long field project that included intensive visual inspection and excavation of 150 shovel probes along one kilometer of Priest Lake shore line that resulted in the identification of three archaeological sites. Additionally, one day of the project was focused on underwater survey of the shoreline using SCUBA to better develop field protocols for future inventory work.

Priest Lake Project Summary

The Priest Lake area (Figure 1) has a long history of human use that has significant research potential. American Indian habitation and resource exploitation are documented archaeologically for at least the last 5100 Radiocarbon years. Today, it is a significant part of the aboriginal territory of both the Kalispel Tribe of Indians and Kootenai Tribe of Idaho. Starting with Father DeSmet the Priest Lake area contains over 150 years of Euro-American history, including: Fur trapping, settlement, mining, logging, recreation, CCC and Forest Service development. This resource provides significant research and interpretive potential for the community of Priest Lake in the spirit of the Preserve America program.

Today, this area draws recreationists from local, regional and national population centers who come to camp, fish, hunt, boat, ski, and snowmobile on the archaeological, traditional and historical sites of years past. Besides dispersed and day use there are 121 recreation residences, several resorts, and numerous campgrounds located along the shoreline. This use has the potential to damage or destroy significant archaeological, traditional, and historical sites. Trends appear to be heading for more, bigger and better recreation opportunities in the Priest Lake area that will place additional pressure on these fragile and irreplaceable resources.

While fuels reduction projects are underway in the Priest Lake area additional work is needed to protect this heavily populated zone from the threat of wildfire. Intensive treatment of forested zones for fuels reduction and wildfire has the potential to damage the historical and archaeological resources on the islands and along the shores of the lake. With expected drying trends, forest disease and increased public use of the islands, lake shores and forested slopes of Priest Lake, wildfire is becoming a more serious threat every year that will contribute to a downward trend in the condition of historical and archaeological resources around the lake.

To date, there has never been an intensive examination of the islands and entire western shoreline of Priest and Upper Priest Lakes in Federal ownership. In order to document the patterns of past human use and identify significant archaeological, traditional and historical sites a complete and thorough inventory of the Priest and Upper Lake western shoreline is proposed. The project involves visual inspection, and subsurface testing of all potential landforms within Federal ownership to identify, record and evaluate traces of past human use for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places. The results of the inventory will be used to interpret the history of the Priest Lake area for the public and better manage significant resources for future generations. By partnering with recreation staff, local universities, the Idaho SHPO, affected federally recognized Indian Tribes and local historical associations and communities the remnants of the Priest Lake past can be recognized, protected, preserved through documentation, and interpreted for public benefit.

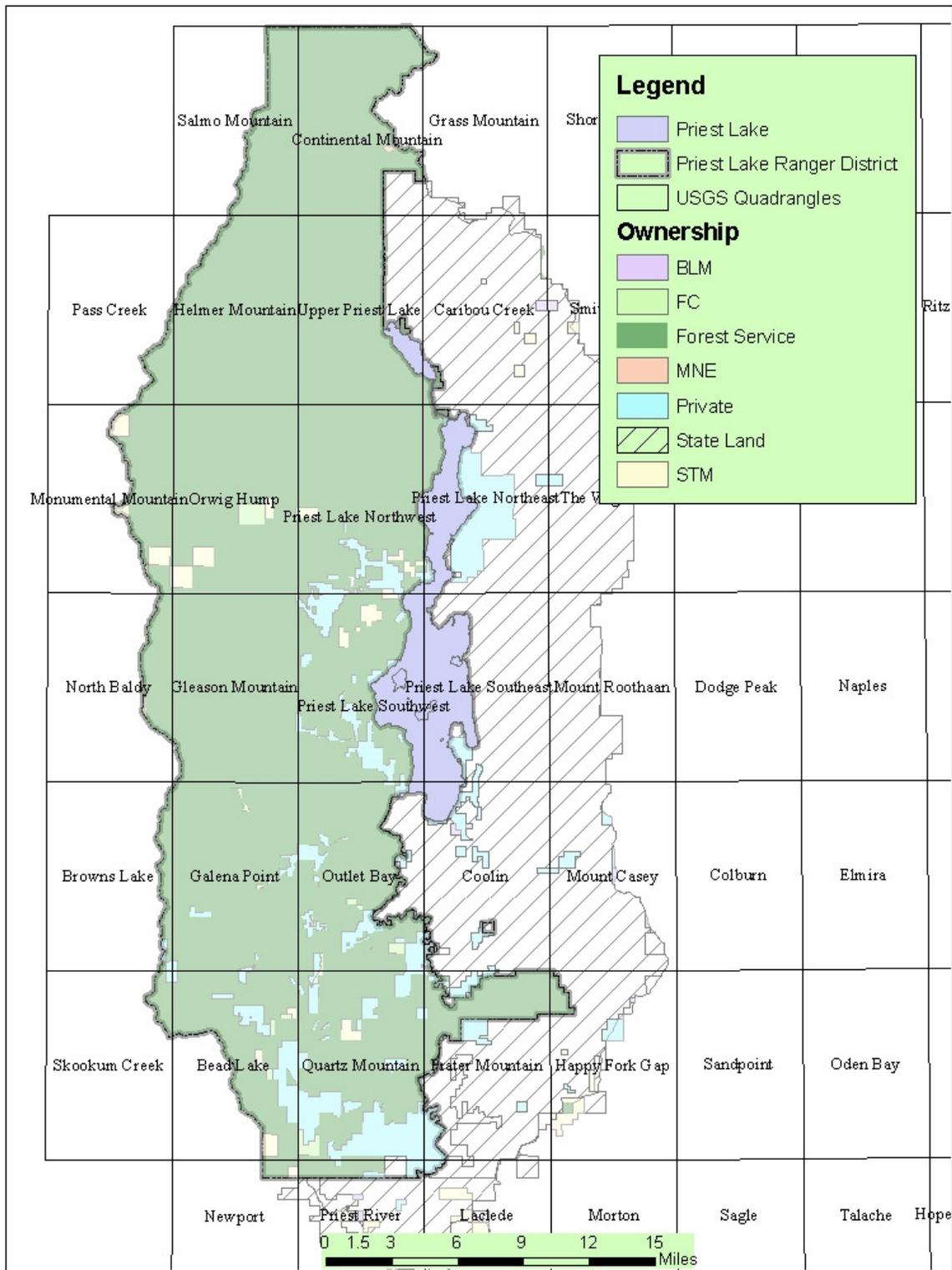


Figure 1. Priest Lake Project area map showing associated USGS quadrangles.

The project is presently scheduled from 2008 through 2010, at which time its future will be evaluated for longer term implementation. In 2008, the project focused on initial development of background resources, development of the research design and initial testing of field procedures. In 2009, work focused on additional archival research, preservation of archival materials at the Priest Lake Museum, development of public education materials and a Passport in Time volunteer project to inventory additional sections of the shore line and test the underwater inventory procedures. In 2010, it is envisioned that a summary historic context/overview document will be produced, along with more in depth papers about certain aspects of the local history and an archaeological evaluation of the sites found in 2008 and 2009. Additional historic archival research and field inventory designs will be developed and refined as necessary. This will allow field inventory work to be focused on high probability zones along the lake to test the inventory design and help us understand past patterns of land use.

In 2008, archival research at two-Forest Service facilities, three museums and seven libraries was undertaken and a 58-page annotated bibliography was prepared. Previously recorded archaeological and historical sites, Section 106 review projects, bibliographic references, and features identified on nine historic maps for the Priest Lake Ranger District were digitized into multiple Geographical Information Systems (GIS) layers. In September, a one-week field project was conducted to test the model. Eighty-one shovel probes were excavated by three teams along one-half kilometer of Priest Lake shoreline. The boundaries of two archaeological sites were confirmed through recovery of a small number of lithic (stone) artifacts and historic trash. Unfortunately, due to a late season budget freeze, scheduled underwater inventory could not be completed.

The second year of the Priest Lake Project involved additional background research, organization of the Priest Lake Museum collections, development of a web site (http://www.fs.fed.us/ipnf/rec/heritage/priest_lake_project/), additional work on GIS base layers, research design development, report preparation for the 2008 field work, and inventory of one kilometer of Priest Lake shoreline. The Northern Region of the Forest Service (R-1) grant for \$20,000 was matched by over \$20,000 of salary and expenditures by the Idaho Panhandle National Forest during FY 2009. The Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Midwest Jesuit Archives, Eastern Washington University and Priest Lake Museum partnered with the Idaho Panhandle National Forest (IPNF) to complete this year's activities. Accomplishments for FY 2009 are described by partner and activity.

Jamie Litzkow, a graduate student in Anthropology at Eastern Washington University (EWU), took on the majority of the archival research, report writing and web design activities. She completed: 1) The report of the 2008 field investigations; 2) additional work and formatting of the annotated bibliography begun last year; 3) developed a web site for the Priest Lake history project that featured the history and photos of the CCC at Priest Lake (see <http://www.priestlakeheritageproject.com/> and sample page as Figure 2); 4) researched open source GIS models for use on the website; 5) transferred oral history tapes to digital format; and 6) began the nomination of the Priest Lake Museum to the National Register of Historic Places. The Museum of North Idaho provided images for the website. The Eastern Washington University MARS Lab employees, Nick Brown and Lance Walker, under the supervision of

History Professor/Washington State Digital Archivist Larry Cebula PhD, provided support for development of the web site and transfer of the oral histories from tape to digital formats.

Jamie, working with Dr. David Miros, Archivist for the Midwest Jesuit Archives, was able to obtain four maps of the Priest Lake and surrounding area for use by the IPNF and its partners. According to Dr. Miros, the maps have never been used in previous research or scanned for digital presentation. The IPNF paid the cost of scanning the documents through a local vendor and the Midwest Jesuit Archives waived the usual fees for archival research and use. IX C8 27 is a 20x24” map of the Spokane, Clark and Kootenay Rivers and their tributaries with the rivers, lakes and valleys named after saints, Jesuits, American prelates and relatives. IX C8 28 is a 17x11” map of the Spokane and Clark Rivers with their tributaries, including Kalispel, Roothann (Priest) and Coeur d’Alene Lakes. IX C8 35 side two is Victor’s 9x7” map of Roothann’s (Priest) Lake from DeSmet’s diary. IX C8 36 side two is a 15x12.5” map of Roothann Lake and Priest River that may be a later version of DeSmet’s original map copied by an unknown author (Figure 3). The first map has DeSmet’s name on one corner, while the second appears to be just the section of the first map that details the Priest Lake area. The third map is likely a drawing by or copy of a drawing by Victor, a Chief of the Kalispel Tribe during DeSmet’s time. None of the maps are dated, but probably are from the mid-1840s when he visited the area. The maps may now be corrected for scale and orientation using ESRI’s ARC MAP program to more easily identify tributaries and other geographic features on the historic map (Figure 4).

The Kalispel Tribe of Indians provided the “Kalispel Ethnohistoric Uses of the Priest Lake Basin” and the “Kalispel Ethno-biology Study Report: The Relative Importance of *Odocoileus virginianus* to the Family Provisioning needs of the Lower Kalispel Bands”. Kevin Lyons, Cultural Resources Program Manager for the Tribe, authored both documents that provide invaluable information regarding past use of the Priest Lake basin by the Kalispel People. Information from both documents have been incorporated into the research design for the project.

The forest also partnered with the Priest Lake Museum to fund food and travel expenses for a volunteer to scan and input data into *Past Perfect* database software for the artifact, photo and document collections at the museum. Brooke Shelman, a Museumology graduate from University of Washington, spent the summer organizing, scanning and entering explanatory information about the museums collections into the database so that it can be easily searched and accessed. She spent 537 volunteer hours at a value of \$11,460 to input 1630 items, including 1000 photos and 630 objects. A copy of the digital data will be provided to the IPNF once the project is completed in October.

At the end of the year a two-week long field project was undertaken to further explore the shores of Luby Bay (Figure 5). The project included intensive visual inspection and excavation of 150 shovel probes along one kilometer of Priest Lake shore line and preliminary attempts at diving, snorkeling and inspecting the resources hidden by the lake. The efforts resulted in the identification of three American Indian archaeological sites and one possible historic site. The field project took place over the course of two weeks: September 14-18 and 21-25. IPNF staff, including Steve Matz, Tom Sandberg, Sarah Wilson, Jyl Wheaton-Abram, Jamie Litzkow and Tiffany Fulkerson worked with PIT volunteers to inventory the shore line. The first week’s

volunteers consisted of Robert Faulkner, Jennifer Filipowski, Gordon and Judy Kaufman, Brooke Shelman, Mae Lewis and Barbara Ross. Volunteers for the second week included: Robert Faulkner, Gordon and Bunny Pfister, Stephen Waylett and Brooke Shelman. Both weeks Gordon and Judy Kaufman provided their pontoon boat for a much appreciated and luxurious tour of Priest Lake that included refreshments. The volunteers donated 424 hours of their time at a value of \$4520.

As in 2008, the inventory crew was split into three sections in order to cover the shoreline, near shoreline and forested sections of the lake (Figure 6). Shovel probes were laid out by tape and compass (Figure 7). They were excavated at 20 meter intervals parallel to the shoreline and ten meter intervals perpendicular to the shoreline to create a sample grid that should locate all sites within the sample zones (Figures 8-11). The first week concentrated on completing the shore section south of last year's work, while the second week concentrated on the shore line north of last year's project. One hundred and fifty shovel probes were excavated by the crews over the course of two weeks. During the first week excavation within a sparse scatter of stone waste flakes that was found last year was completed; thus establishing the site's boundaries. During the second week, four additional sites were documented. The two historic sites included a surface scatter of cut wood and cable debris and in one shovel probe located on a beach was over 100 nails, bolts, washers, bottle fragments and miscellaneous materials that may be associated with an old dock or other structure. The two American Indian sites included a very small sample of waste flakes from tool sharpening or production, a single bifacially flaked tool mid section fragment, several bone fragments and a possible graver for incising lines or shaping wood or bone.

Initial conclusions are that the American Indian sites may represent the single use of a particular resource. The single long bone fragment from a medium or large size mammal and a single long bone fragment that may be from a bird provide a tentative look into how the shoreline was used by Native peoples. While the sample size is very small and not necessarily reliable, the recovery of these remains with sparse waste flakes from tool sharpening suggests that this portion of the shoreline may have been used for exclusively for game hunting. There were no signs of dense concentrations of stone artifacts or fire hearths that would be consistent with village sites, suggesting that the people who visited this part of the shore line lived elsewhere.

Finally, IPNF Archeologist Sarah Wilson, completed a brief test of proposed underwater archaeological methods along the lake. During the morning of the 23rd of September Sarah made a single dive (Figure 12) from one of the boat docks out to near the edge of the submerged shore line seen in Figure 5. She worked north and south transects back to the dock, inspecting the sediments for artifacts and other visible signs of features. Nothing other than a couple of golf balls were located. Sarah and Steve Matz then inventoried a short section of the shallow shoreline next to the docks. Sarah snorkled the shallow waters, while Steve waded along the edge of the lake looking for artifacts. A single submerged flake was found in the beach washed gravels next to the water line. Sarah then used both a nylon mesh bag with 1/4" holes and a plastic screen with 1/32" holes to excavate a 50x50 sized cm unit down to about 10 cm in depth (Figure 13). While no artifacts were found, it appears that the screen may provide an adequate method to sample under water deposits.



October 5, 2009

The Civilian Conservation Corps

Soil Soldiers in Priest Lake, Idaho

Home

The Beginning

The Camps

The Final Years

The Legacy

Links

"KalisPELL Bay" Camp F-142

History of Companies 1994 & 4798 (1933-1936)

- Formed: Camp Dix, New Jersey (April 20, 1933)
Company: 243 (before it was 1994)
- Camp F-3: Cleanwater River, Idaho (June 27, 1933)
Company: 1994
- Camp F-142: KalisPELL Bay, Priest Lake, Idaho (October 17, 1934)
Company: 1994
- Camp F-142: KalisPELL Bay, Priest Lake, Idaho (October 16, 1936)
Company: 4798



Company 1994 (click [here](#) to view a pdf. of the 1935/36 winter annual)

Company 1994 moved into the KalisPELL Bay winter camp on October 17, 1934. During the winter of '34-'35, Priest Lake was "... frozen over in the bays and the boys had ideal skating." The camp was equipped with pool, card, and ping pong tables, as well as numerous reading materials. During this same winter the company had spike camps set up at Port Hill, constructing a flood protection dike, and the Priest River Experimental Station to build a bridge across Priest River. On April 16, 1935, 65 five men were transferred to Company 1994 from Troy, Idaho. During the summer of 1935, the KalisPELL Bay camp was selected by Headquarters to host the District Red Cross Life Saving School, which included an additional 84 trainees from all over the District for a week. In August, another spike camp went up near the head of Upper Priest Lake, with twenty men working for two months building a fish trap and hatchery near Granite Creek (see related newspaper clippings 1, 2, 3, and 4).

Company 4798 (click [here](#) to view a pdf. of the 1937 annual)

Company 4798 was first organized at Camp Pike, Arkansas, and arrived at the KalisPELL Bay winter camp F-142 on October 16, 1936. That particular winter, it was not unusual for over five feet of snow to be on the ground at all times, a relatively new site for the Arkansas boys stationed there. The summer work of Company 4798 involved the improvement of recreational facilities within federal ownership on the western side of Priest Lake, including the Luby Bay campground. At Luby Bay, F-142 the company installed faucets and built roads, as well as cleared the dense woods and landscaped the campgrounds. In KalisPELL Bay, the "boys" constructed a trail stretching through Luby and Outlet Bays, as well as a dock, warehouse, and boathouse. Telephone lines, roads and trails were also maintained, and the company aided in the construction of Lookouts and bailing hay for the pack trail horses (see related newspaper clippings 1, 2, and 3).

Notes

1) KalisPELL Bay was originally designated Camp F-31 and was occupied by Company 1269 in June of 1933 (see pg. 5 of related article dated 8/27/1933, [here](#)).

Figure 2. KalisPELL Bay CCC Camp page from Priest Lake Heritage Project web site.

Roothan (Priest Lake) and Priest's River



Figure 4. Map IX C8 36 side two with modern GIS features overlain on historic landscape. The historic map was aligned to the modern geographic features using ESRI's ARC MAP program anchored to general location of the Priest Lake outlet and thoroughfare features.

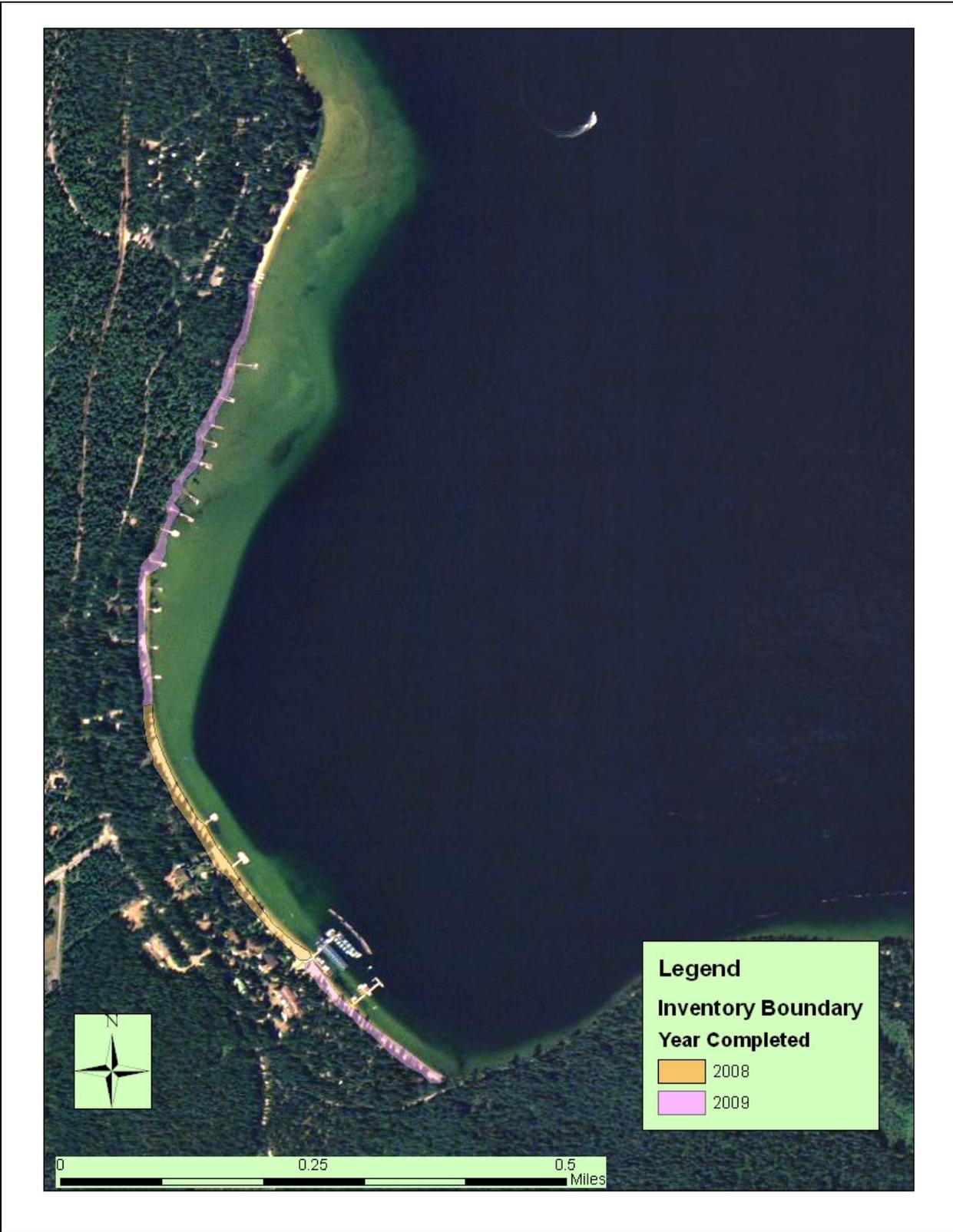


Figure 5. Priest Lake inventory boundary for 2008 and 2009.



Figure 6. Shovel probe units were generally laid out in the forest zone (nearest crew), at the shore-forest interface (middle crew) and along the lake shore (farthest crew).



Figure 7. Project leader Steve Matz doing his best William Clark interpretation while directing volunteer Gordon Pfister during shovel probe mapping. Note “Crossing the Divide” L&C t-shirt on Matz.

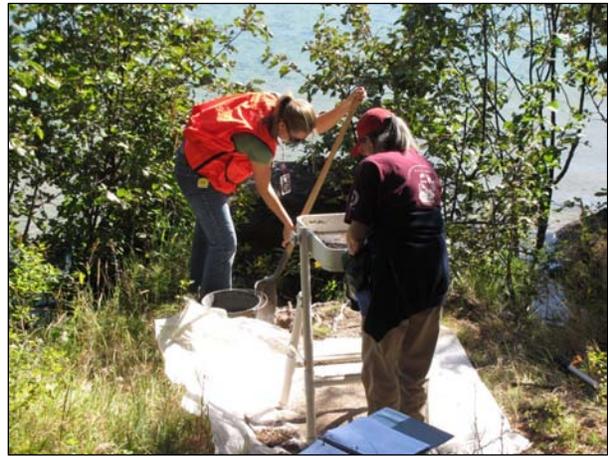


Figure 8. Two examples of shore situations. In the left photo shovel probes are excavated in beach deposits, while in the right photo there is no beach above water and the units were actually excavated in the forested zone. Left photo, from left to right: Volunteer Barbara Ross (left), IPNF Archaeological Technicians Tiffany Fulkerson and Jyl Wheaton-Abraham and volunteer Jennifer Filipowski. In the right photo: IPNF Archaeologist Sarah Wilson (left) and volunteer Bunny Pfister (right).



Figure 9. Two examples of near shore zone excavations. The right photo shows excavation in a resort lawn, while the right photo shows excavation at the tree line in beach deposits. Right photo from left to right: Volunteers Brooke Shelman and Judy Kaufman and IPNF Archaeologist Sarah Wilson. Left photo from left to right: Volunteers Bob Faulkner and Mae Lewis, IPNF Archaeologist Tom Sandberg, and volunteer Gordon Kaufman.



Figure 10. Examples of shovel probes excavated in forested situations. Left photo is Brooke Shelman and Gordon Pfister. Right photo is from left to right: Volunteer Stephen Wylett, Bob Kaufman and Tom Sandberg.



Figure 11. Once the units were excavated the soil was described so that site development processes and relationship of artifacts to the environment could be more thoroughly understood. From left to right are Judy Kaufman, Sarah Wilson and Brooke Shelman.



Figure 12. Sarah Wilson completing underwater inventory (left) and only finds, golf balls (right).



Figure 13. Sarah inspecting mesh bag for artifacts (left) and screen (right).