

TIN CUP DAM Heritage Site Monitoring

On September 22-23, I hiked into Tin Cup Lake and observed work currently underway on the dam. During my visit, I monitored site conditions at 4 previously recorded Heritage sites in the vicinity of the Lake. The dam itself (site number 24RA0542) was determined Not Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1996. A second site (24RA0429) is located at the opposite end of the lake from the dam, and there is no potential for the dam work or associated support activities to affect this site. A third site (24RA0492) consists of the Tin Cup Lake Trail, and again, the project activity should have no impact on the Trail. The fourth site (24RA0428) is an unevaluated site consisting of two components, both of which potentially could be affected by excavation activities associated with the current project work. Terri Anderson and I examined the anchor location for the proposed log boom, and determined that its Area of Potential Effect (APE) would not include site 24RA0428. It does appear that erosion of fill deposited along the dam during the 1997-1998 work has resulted in the migration of materials from the dam onto the southern portion of 24RA028, partially burying but not otherwise disturbing the site. The condition of 24RA028 was reported to the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes during a consultation meeting on September 25. The Tribal Preservation Officer was satisfied that the 2003 repair work constituted no threat to the site, but agreed that the site eventually needs to be evaluated and a formal determination of eligibility made, since it seems likely that maintenance and repair activities will continue so long as the dam is in use. The TPO is currently considering my recommendations for site testing in 2004 or 2005.