

## Weekly Report for Aug. 22-26, 2016

It was a great first week in the field. We are located in Chipman along the Salmon River. The drive to the area is just over an hour drive. Trevor Dow, Ken Holyoke and Ramona Nicholas went to the area the previous week to scope out the area and to lay in a few transect lines so that we had some test pits flagged. The permit holders are Ramona Nicholas, Ken Holyoke and Shannon McDonnell-Melanson. Because there has to be a permit holder on site there are days when one or another cannot be on site so this allows for particular circumstances.

In this first week a total of 48 test pits were completed. There were three test pits that were abandoned due to big rocks or overhead hazards. In a particular area several of the test pits hit the water table. There were also a few more transects lines flagged in so that the members of the crew have a chance to participate in that process of fieldwork. As we move along towards the river we will be an expectation that everyone gets a chance to participate.

The primary objective of this project is training and capacity building. This is an opportunity for members of the crew to fine-tune their archaeological field techniques and to observe the many processes that happen in a field project. On the first couple of days they worked in pairs to complete the test pits, they also were encouraged to start filling out their own test pit forms. Ken, Trevor, Ramona and Shannon help to explain the stratigraphy and to get a better understanding of soil types, grain size and color. We encouraged the crew to ask questions because it is important for them to understand what they are doing but most importantly why they are recording the information.

At the end of the week they filled out self-evaluation forms. This feedback is important so that not only are we fulfilling in our requirement for this project but so that they can see their progress as well. There was great feedback from the crew. Even though they have had some previous experience and training, we wanted the crew to understand the importance of collecting the data.

On our first rain day we took the opportunity to teach about lithic material identification and sourcing. This will be helpful if we found any lithic artifacts.

Areas for future knowledge sharing:

- Geological history of testing area
- More in identifying lithic material
- Soil layers and soil sampling
- Other potential fields such as aquatics, air quality, etc.
- Archives and additional historical information of the region
- Mapping
- How to use the Flints and Geos