

TRANSECT ARCHAEOLOGY

720 NE Michigan St. (509) 334-1236 (office)
Pullman, WA 99163 (206) 550-3401 (cell)
archaeological@aol.com

CULTURAL RESOURCE RESEARCH OVERVIEW:

McKenzie Property, North Newman Lake, Spokane County, Washington.

5/9/2011, Lyle Nakonechny

Location:

The McKenzie Property Study Area is a 106 acre parcel located at the northwest end of Newman Lake, Spokane County, Washington (Figure 1). The Study Area is located in T. 27N., R. 45E., Sections 27 & 28, and can be located on the Newman Lake 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map. The Study Area is located approximately .40 miles north of the modern Newman Lake Shoreline, and is located west of Thompson Creek.

Environmental Context:

Newman Lake is a remnant “inlet” or “lobe” feature of the Pleistocene glacial Lake Columbia (Atwater 1984; Rigby 1982). Recent sedimentological studies adjacent to the northwest shore of Newman Lake (Buddington and Kienke) have revealed glaciolacustrine rhythmic deposits of sands and silts bedded with what are likely glacial-lake Missoula flood outburst deposits of coarse sands, gravels, cobbles, and boulders of diverse non-local rock materials. These late Pleistocene lake-bed deposits were observed by Buddington and Kienke at 689 meters in elevation (2235 feet). Cultural occupation of the Newman Lake landscape could have occurred in the late Pleistocene following subsidence of floodwaters. The Newman Lake shoreline region has likely been utilized by people since the early Holocene.

The northern shore of Newman Lake, including portions of the McKenzie Study Area acreage, consists of Semiahmoo muck soils (NRCS Web Soil Survey) that were submerged by Newman Lake in early historic times. The late Holocene and early historic “paleoshoreline” is easily discernible as a distinct break in elevation, vegetation, and sediment deposition. Gleeson (Gleeson 1974) suggests that the lake level was lowered in the early 1900s as a result of the construction of a log-transport and flood-control ditch at the southern end of the lake. Prior to the early 1900’s the flat muck soils of the Study Area were covered in water and the periphery landscape was a lakeshore.

Archaeological Context:

Paul Gleeson and Derek Valley (Gleeson 1974) conducted an eight-day archaeological survey of Newman Lake for the Soil Conservation Service in 1974. O.G. Clanton assembled archival information regarding the historic use of Newman Lake (Gleeson 1974). Their exact survey methodology and coverage is not clear, but the work included extensive interviews/ visits with local landowners and pedestrian survey of the landscape. Gleeson and Valley identified 8 prehistoric sites located around the shoreline of Newman Lake. The prehistoric sites consist of “campsite” type artifact concentrations with projectile points, scrapers, cores, flakes, and pestles. Gleeson and Valley also identified 4 historic sites on or near the shore of Newman Lake. The Newman Lake archaeological sites are summarized in Table 1.

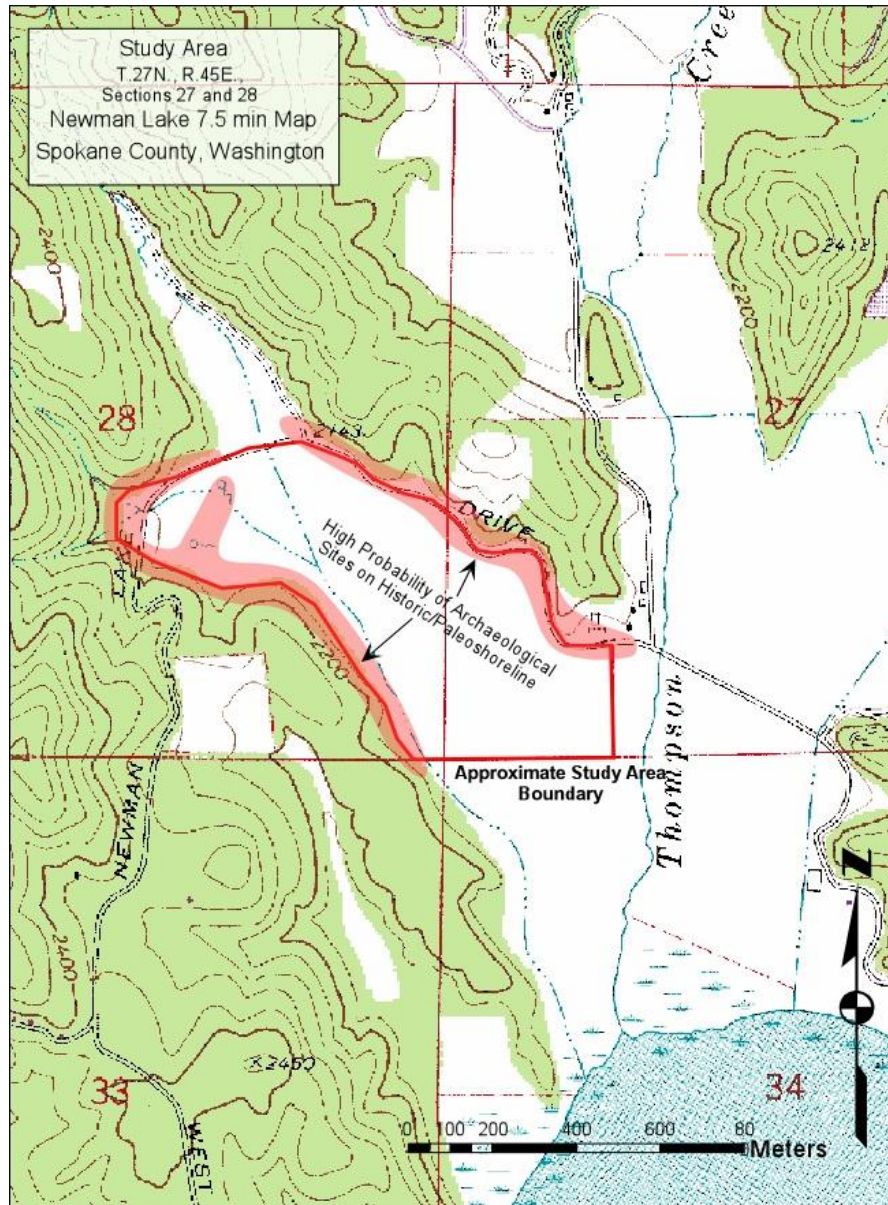


Figure 1. Study Area Location and High Probability Shoreline Landforms.

Table 1. Prehistoric and Historic Sites located adjacent to Newman Lake(Gleeson 1974).

Site #	Period	Type	Date	Description
45SP18	Prehistoric	Campsite	Unknown	Projectile Points
45SP19	Prehistoric	Campsite	Unknown	Pestle, Core
45SP20	Prehistoric	Campsite	Unknown	Projectile Points, Pestles
45SP21	Prehistoric	Campsite	Unknown	Projectile Points, Pestle
45SP22	Prehistoric	Campsite	Unknown	Projectile Points
45SP23	Prehistoric	Campsite	Unknown	Scraper, Flakes, Pestle
45SP24	Prehistoric	Campsite	Unknown	Scraper
45SP25	Prehistoric	Campsite	Unknown	Scraper, Core
45SP26	Historic	Sawmill	1880s-1990s	--
45SP27	Historic	Sawmill	1900s-1930s	--
45SP28	Historic	Sawmill	1926-1930	Mill standing in 1974
45SP29	Historic	Sawmill	1907-1910	Mill footings in 1974

No known prehistoric or historic archaeological sites are recorded within the McKenzie Study Area. The closest known prehistoric site to the McKenzie Study Area (45SP25) is located on the Newman Lake west shore approximately .77 miles south of the Study Area boundary. The closest known historic site (45SP26, Muzzy's Mill) is located approximately .68 miles east south-east of the Study Area. All of the known local archaeological sites have been located on the shoreline of Newman Lake. There is a high probability of there being prehistoric cultural deposits within and adjacent to the historic lake shoreline within the McKenzie Study Area (Figure 1).

Gleeson (1974) notes that all but one of the prehistoric sites was located in areas of intense construction activity adjacent to the lake, and that prehistoric materials are only occasionally located on the Newman Lake beach. There are multiple processes that could be contributing to this observation. Gleeson (1974) recommends archaeological survey of new roads surrounding Newman Lake.

Historic archaeological resources in the Newman Lake region consist primarily of sawmill related structures and features. Homestead related features may also exist, most-likely on landscapes of the historic lake shoreline and adjacent highlands. Clanton (Gleeson 1974) reports that a Hudson's Bay Company trading post may have existed on the Henry Wendler Homestead, and cites multiple historic cabin locations on the west and northwest side of Newman Lake.

Cultural Context: Clanton's archival research (Gleeson 1974) revealed that "local Indian tribes" may have used "Slipper Point" (also known as "Bass Point") as a summer rendezvous site. While not explicit in regard to tribal affiliation, Clanton's archival research and the presence of prehistoric archaeological sites suggests that the Newman Lake area was used by a diversity of people throughout the Holocene. Ancestors of the Spokane Tribe, the Coeur D'Alene Tribe, and the Colville Tribes utilized the Newman Lake Region. These three modern Tribal Nations are the closest to the McKenzie Study Area and should be consulted in the cultural resource investigation process. Projects guided by Section 106 and Executive Order 05-05 will require correspondence with the Spokane Tribe, the Coeur D'Alene Tribe, and the Colville Tribes.

Recommendations: The author believes that a pedestrian archaeological survey of the "paleoshoreline" portions of the McKenzie Study Area (Figure 1) would help to ensure that no significant archaeological or historic resources are impacted by potential landscape developments. Gleeson (1974) indicates that archaeological materials are located in disturbed areas, suggesting that much of the local prehistoric archaeological deposits may be buried and not easily detectable from the surface. Sub-surface shovel testing could be used to sample high-probability areas for subsurface archaeological deposits.

Bibliography

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