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Archaeological survey to include 2,000 acres in Big Horn County

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
TO INCLUDE 2,000 ACRES
IN BIG HORN COUNTY

MISSOULA--

The University of Montana Statewide Archaeological Survey and Decker Coal Company of Sheridan, Wyo, recently concluded an agreement for an archaeological survey of approximately 2,000 acres in Big Horn County, Montana.

The land is leased by Decker Coal and is scheduled for strip mining operations which may endanger or destroy objects of historic or prehistoric interest.

The project, sponsored and financed by the Decker firm, is part of the coal company's salvage and reclamation program connected with the burgeoning coal strip mining operations in south central Montana.

Statewide Survey archaeologist Dale Fredlund noted that this is a prime area for historic and prehistoric remains, and that he expects to conduct an intensive surface reconnaissance this summer to inventory archaeological and historic sites. Should any subsurface, stratified sites be located, they will either be protected or excavated under separate agreements concluded with Decker.

George A. Nugent, manager of Decker Coal, and Floyd W. Sharrock, director of the UM Statewide Archaeological Survey, regard the research project as an essential part of the general reclamation program of Decker Coal for lands scheduled for strip mining.

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