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UM TEAMS WILL EXCAVATE LIBBY DAM SITE THIS SUMMER

The University of Montana will work for the United States government for the next two years combing over the area the Libby Dam will fill with water.

A team of UM anthropologists and sociologists headed by Dr. Dee Taylor has made a contract to undertake archaeological salvage excavations at the Libby Dam Reservoir Project on the Kootenai River in the Columbia Basin in northwestern Montana. The area to be covered under the agreement is the reservoir pool area upstream from the dam site to the Canadian border. For the work the University will be paid \$10,000.

The investigating crews will consist of from four to eight advanced students in anthropology under direction of Dr. Taylor. He has directed field work in Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota and Yellowstone National Park. Assistant director will be Philip Hobler.

Survey crews will interview local people to determine the locations of known and suspected sites and will photograph artifact specimens in local collections, according to terms of the contract. The crews will also undertake physical search for other archaeological sites other than those already known. The sites will be recorded, mapped and sampled by test excavations. The artifacts recovered will be prepared and analyzed. A final comprehensive report will present the results of these investigations.

Crews will devote a ten to twelve week field session to survey and testing during the summer of 1966. Research and analysis in the laboratory will be done between the 1966 and 1967 field sessions. A crew is expected to finish

(more)

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the field work of surveying and excavations during the summer of 1967. All work is to be completed by Oct. 1, 1967 and completed reports will be finished by June 1, 1968. Publication of the study will likely be in the University's Department of Sociology and Anthropology series, Sociology and Anthropology Papers.

The reservoir is in an area which was occupied in historical times by the Kutenai, Blackfeet and Salish Indian tribes. Although the area apparently contains relatively few archaeological sites, the investigators hope it may contain data pertaining to the culture of its early occupants, their origins and movements and possibly information regarding contacts between the peoples of the Columbia Plateau and the Plains.