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MEDIA RELEASE

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LECTURE ON BIG HOLE BATTLEFIELD FLORA MONDAY, NOV. 23, AT UNIVERSITY

How much do the plants in a Montana mountain valley change in 104 years?

The answer to that question, as it applies to the flora of the Big Hole National Battlefield Monument, will be the topic of a free public lecture at the University of Montana Monday, Nov. 23. The lecture will be at 4 p.m. in the UM Botany building room 307.

John Pierce, a UM graduate student in botany who has spent the past two summers studying the Big Hole's plant life, will speak on the techniques he used and his findings to determine what the Big Hole area grew and looked like when Chief Joseph's warriors fought the white cavalry there in 1877.

Pierce's research came from a project requested by the monument officials to restore the area as nearly as possible to appearance of 104 years ago. Pierce, who has taken the research as his master's thesis project, studied photographs and historical documents, interviewed local residents and made an inventory of the present botanical makeup of the area.

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