

Clovis To Coal

Musselshell Valley Historical Museum
11,000-year Community Identity Project



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Late Ice Age Clovis hunter

Greetings,

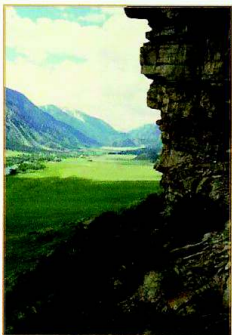
The Musselshell Valley Historical Museum in Roundup, Montana is currently developing an 11,000-year community identity project. The project is being designed and implemented by Dr. Larry Lahren, archaeologist and owner of Anthro Research in Livingston, Montana and his staff.

Themed, from "Clovis to Coal", the project includes several components. Existing archaeological collections have been reviewed by Dr. Lahren and archaeologist Tom Jerde for inclusion in the exhibit. Historian Jerry Brekke is assisting in the creation of interpretive displays that explain the human connection to the Musselshell Valley from the end of the last Ice Age through the homestead settlement era.

The exhibits will also feature a world-class interpretive display of replica stone tools, bow and arrows, and other prehistoric tools by master craftsman Bill McConnell, founder of the Past Skills Wilderness and Tracking School in Bozeman, Montana.

Buffalo Jumps Over The Bank ←


"They told me that in the winter they [Crow] were always to be found at a park by the foot of the mountains ..." — Francois-Antoine Laroque, 1805



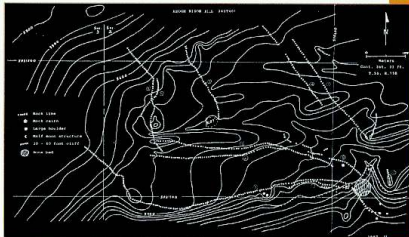
A cooperative interpretation by:
Key-O, Inc.
Stillwater Mining Co.
Anthro Research, Inc.

2010

→ Buffalo Jumps Over The Bank





"Man says, 'Woman, iniskim, man. They are powerful.'
Man says, 'Those rocks, I move them around. It is powerful.'
Woman says, 'Those rocks, I move them around. It is powerful.'
Good running of buffalo. The driver is coming with them.
We have fallen them. We are happy."
— Piegan Buffalo Song



Bison drive system mapped by Tom Jerde, 1997

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Buffalo Jumps Over



Elson — More Than Meat

Interpretive panels prepared for the 10th anniversary of Stillwater Mining Company's Good Neighbor Program.

The project is scheduled to be completed for the museum opening in May 2013. A public presentation and demonstration of the use of the atlatl, Ishi bow, and stone tool making and use by Bill McConnell is planned for the May event.

The project has been made possible by contributions from the individual donors, the Musselshell Valley Community Foundation, the local school system, and a private memorial.

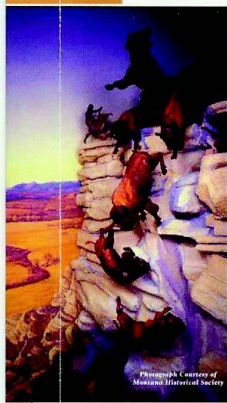
TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS FOR THE PROJECT can be submitted to the Musselshell Valley Historical Museum, 524 First Street West, Roundup, Montana 59072.

For further information contact Dr. Larry Lahren, Box 1218, Livingston, Montana, 59047 (e-mail: larrylahren@msn.com, phone 406-222-3168) or museum board member Gary Thomas, 602 First St. West, Roundup, Montana, 59072 (e-mail: dthomas@midrivers.com).



© Bill McConnell

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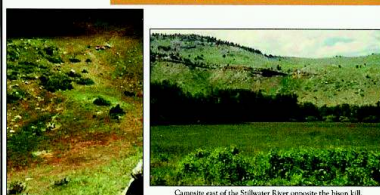


"From what was learned from these Indians, all their human needs were supplied by these cows."

— Francisco Vázquez de Coronado, 1541

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Buffalo Jumps Over The Bank



View from the top

Campsite east of the Stillwater River opposite the bison kill.

"... the poundmaster, after thanking the 'master of life' for his bounty, offered the end of his pipe to the 'chief' of the herd within the pound, saying: 'My grandfather, we are glad to see you, and happy to find that you are not come in a shameful manner, for you have brought plenty of your young men with you. Be not angry at us; we are obliged to destroy you to make ourselves live.'"

— ed. John McDunnell



Butchering took place at the bison kill site. Processing was completed at camp across the river to the east.

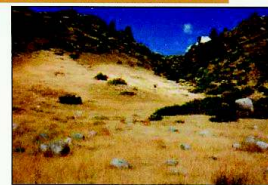
Jake Smith helps with extraction of out-cut No. 1.

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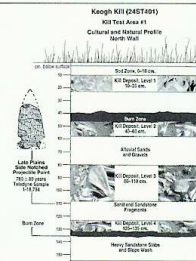


Excavated bison bone tools: awl and hammer stones used to shatter jaws to aid tongue removal.

Buffalo Jumps Over The Bank



"Early in the morning, this Medicine Man would stand on the edge of the upper cliff facing the ridge. He would take a pair of bison hind quarters and, pointing the feet along the line of stones, would sing his sacred songs and call upon the Great Spirit to make the operation a success as the two head drivers and their helpers headed up the ridge along the line of stones, they would stop and burn incense on the ground, repeating the process four times. When the two groups reached the top, they formed a line and started down the ridge." — Charles Tea Bear



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Roundup, Montana, 1908 — Photo Courtesy of Musselshell Valley Historical Museum



Photo Courtesy of Musselshell Valley Historical Museum