

## Report on Spring term 2025 JEDI project. Mary E. Baxter, Earth & Environmental Sciences

As I stated in the plan outlined in my original proposal paper, before Spring term of 2025 I had a long conversation with Avery Coyote. We spoke for several hours about native people's connection to numerous places now established as National Parks in the American West. He gave me multiple lines of enquiry that I could undertake to increase my knowledge and understanding of the pre-Park presence of, and treatment of natives after, the parks were founded.

I had mentioned to Avery that I hoped that he (as advisor to the Native American Student Association) could/would ask the students of the Association that were Klamath if they wanted to come and speak about how their culture viewed the area now included in Crater Lake National Park. I believe that Avery had family issues that caused him to be away from Lane for at least part of the term, and he never got back to me about that proposal. I'm going to try again this term to make connections again with Avery and also with Shane Doyle (also mentioned in the original proposal paper, and who was instrumental in the development of Yellowstone's Teepee Lodge village mentioned below).

I was gratified to find content about the presence of native peoples for the following National Parks over the hours spent accessing and duplicating content from their websites:

Yellowstone, Yosemite, Glacier, Mt. Rainier, Zion, Arches, and Rocky Mountains.

Some of this content I presented in class during lecture time. Some of these were assigned as readings for students to do on their own time. I was apprehensive this Spring of 2026 that content of that type would have been pulled from the websites due to the anti-DEI initiative of the present US government. Fortunately, those I've checked still have the content on indigenous/native peoples and their history in the parks.

I had also researched outside of the National Park websites for most of the parks mentioned above, and found relevant content on Yellowstone, Mt. Rainier, Crater Lake, Glacier and others in printed books, non-Park websites, and Blogspots, such as:

<https://blog.nativehope.org/six-grandfathers-before-it-was-known-as-mount-rushmore>

Below I've duplicated 2 examples of the content pages that I developed for students, sometimes for presentation in class, sometimes assigned for students to access outside of the classroom.

### 1. Glacier National Park

This US park (1910) shares a boundary with Waterton National Park of Canada (1895), and together they form Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park (1932), and in 1995 that was designated as a World Heritage Site. In 2017 the Peace Park was designated as the 1<sup>st</sup> International Dark Sky Park.

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/waterton-glacier-international-peace-park-world-heritage-site.htm> has general information about this Peace Park.

[https://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/general\\_info.htm](https://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/general_info.htm) for some factual data about both sides of the Peace Park.

You'll be working with a Geologic Map of Glacier, but geologic structures aren't truncated by international boundaries, and therefore you should realize that the same rock formations and similar geologic structures are present north of the border as well. The Geological Societies of both the US (Geological Society of America) and Canada (Geological Society of Canada) work closely together, and in 2019 held a joint annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona (which I was lucky enough to attend).

<https://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/photosmultimedia/at-home-in-this-place.htm>

There are multiple videos made by various native peoples of the Glacier area at the address above, but in class I'll be showing you videos made by elders of 3 tribal entities (Blackfeet, Kootenai, & Salish and Pend d'Oreille) that consider the Glacier area their homeland.

Blackfeet: <https://www.nps.gov/media/video/view.htm?id=B0A21218-B79B-9BD5-1B7CBB04DD888B92>

Kootenai: <https://www.nps.gov/media/video/view.htm?id=64B75A66-155D-451F-675BB26472A9A8CC>

Salish and Pend d'Oreille

<https://www.nps.gov/media/video/view.htm?id=6A519999-155D-451F-67E81D31AA5B1E44>

## **2. The Native American presence in the Black Hills.**

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/rushmore-sioux/>

<https://www.history.com/articles/mount-rushmore-native-american-protests>

<https://blog.nativehope.org/six-grandfathers-before-it-was-known-as-mount-rushmore>

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/mount-rushmore-national-memorial-501080.htm#4/31.80/-78.13>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/the-strange-and-controversial-history-of-mount-rushmore>

The site will ask you for your email address. This will not cost you anything, and you can later unsubscribe if you do not want to receive emails from National Geographic.

<https://www.lowerbrulesiouxtribe.com/lower-brule-territory>

Goes through all the various treaties and land grabs of the area.

<https://www.tiktok.com/@mrcultdaddy/video/7436857225789918507?lang=en>

great short video of the meaning of the Black Hills. Only glitch is that the narrator refers to "God" as if Native Americans worship(ed) one all mighty entity as do some other cultures.

I've continued my quest to find more content so that I'll be able to add more information about the presence of native peoples in pre-Park times, and their Current influence on the Parks. An example of current influence is the Yellowstone Revealed; TeePee Lodge project: <https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/event-details.htm?id=62B6A3EC-98FC-5222-26DC7AB187A27598> This event occurred in August of 2022.

From the site above: Yellowstone is coordinating with Mountain Time Arts and numerous Tribal Nations to premiere a series of public, place-based projects and artworks created by an inter-Tribal group of artists and scholars in locations throughout the park. Join us to learn about historic and continued presence of Indigenous people in the Yellowstone region. Located in Madison Junction, this project will feature 13 teepee lodges and 15 teepee rings that signify a new era of Indigenous inclusion and representation in Yellowstone National Park. The spaces represent the 27 affiliated tribal nations of the Yellowstone area.

As I find new information it will be added into this course so that it can be presented the next time the course runs. It is on the schedule for Spring 27.