

**Thompson Chain of Lakes State Park Hazard Tree Removal, Cultural
Resource Investigation, Lincoln County, Montana**



Middle Thompson Lake campground.

Report prepared for:
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ABSTRACT

Western Cultural conducted a cultural resource investigation for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks under a contract in advance of hazard tree removal activity from the Thompson Chain of Lakes state park. **24LN1541**, a small lithic scatter, was recorded along the north shore of Middle Thompson Lake in 1994. The site could not be relocated during this investigation. The resource may be obscured by forest duff or vegetation, or the site may have been subjected to illegal collecting activity. This investigation did not locate any other cultural resources. It is recommended that the hazard tree removal proceed as currently planned.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract.....	2
Introduction.....	4
File and Literature Search Results.....	9
Methodology.....	10
Results.....	10
Recommendations and Conclusions.....	10
Appendix A: Site Update Form 24LN1541.....	11

List of Illustrations and Tables

Table 1. Previous cultural resource surveys.....	9
Figure 1. Project vicinity map.....	4
Figure 2. Map of the Thompson Chain of Lakes campgrounds.....	5
Figure 3. Project overview, area #4 surveyed for tree removal.....	6
Figure 4. Project overview, area #2 surveyed for tree removal.....	6
Figure 5. Project overview, area #3 surveyed for tree removal.....	7
Figure 6. Project overview, Thompson Chain of Lakes Campground.....	7
Figure 7. Map of the four areas surveyed for tree removal.....	8

INTRODUCTION

Western Cultural conducted a cultural resource investigation at the Thompson Chain of Lakes campgrounds for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in advance of hazardous tree removal activity. The survey occurred over four separate parcels identified by FWP in Section 3, 10 and 11, T26N R27W and covered approximately 7.3 acres. The investigation focused on those areas containing hazardous trees slated for removal next spring as well as the location of a previously recorded lithic scatter. **24LN1541** is a small lithic scatter located on the north shore of Middle Thompson Lake in an unattended campground. The lithic scatter could not be relocated. This investigation focused on the areas identified for the hazardous tree removal activity and the location of **24LN1541**. The completed update form for **24LN1541** is presented in Appendix A of this report.

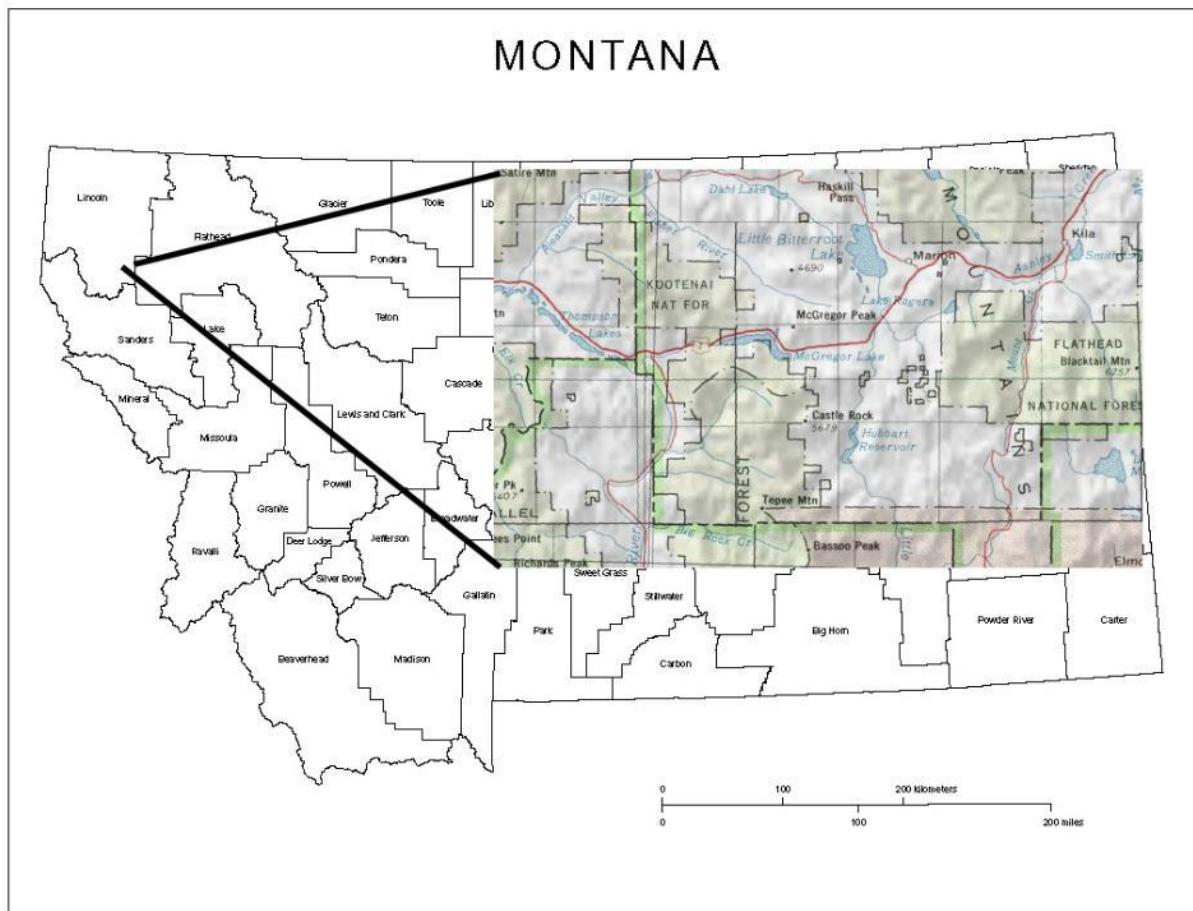


Figure 1. Project vicinity map.



Figure 3. Project overview, area #4 surveyed for the hazard tree removal activity facing S.

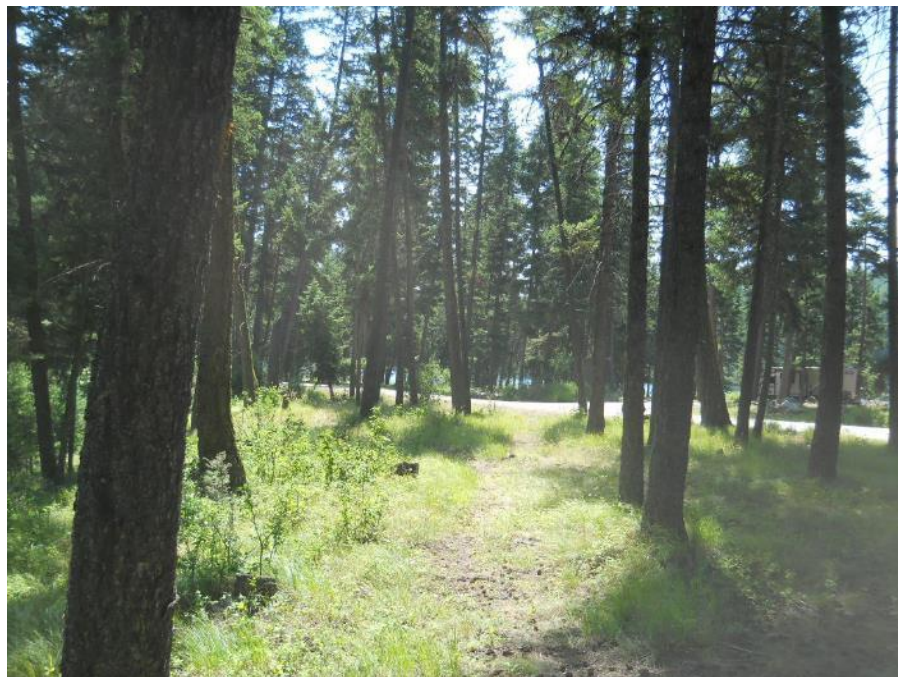


Figure 4. Project overview, area #2 surveyed for the hazard tree removal activity, facing E.



Figure 5. Project overview, area #3 surveyed for hazard tree removal, facing W.



Figure 6. Project overview, Thompson Chain of Lakes Campground.

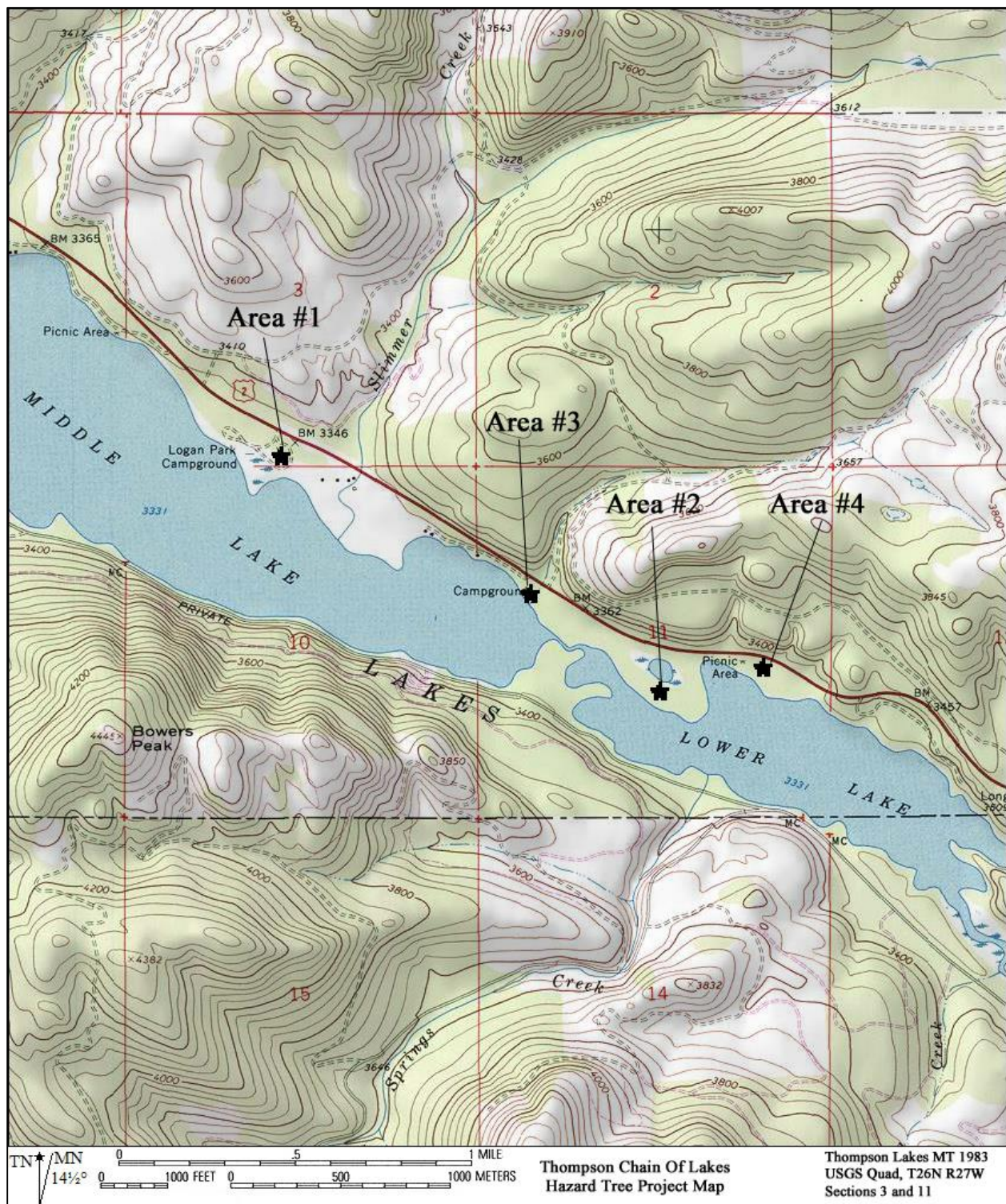


Figure 7. Map of the project areas showing the four hazard tree removal areas.

FILE AND LITERATURE SEARCH

The Montana State Historic Preservation Office conducted a file and literature search of the project area. The search revealed the presence of one previously recorded site, 24LN1541, and six previous cultural resource surveys. The previous surveys are presented below in Table 1.

One previous survey, Long (1988) is in the project area, a cultural resource survey for construction of campground improvements that included the Peninsula Campground, which is Area #2 in this report. That survey did not locate any cultural resources.

TABLE 1. Previous cultural resource surveys.

CRABS DOCUMENT NUMBER	REPORT TITLE	AUTHOR	DATE	SURVEY WITHIN PROJECT AREA
LN 4 05164	Cultural Resource Reconnaissance, Montana Department of Highways, Project # F 1 – 1(26)69	Smith, Charlene	1985	No, survey north of project area
LN 6 05206	A Cultural Resource Inventory Report For Two Project Areas Along the Thompson Lakes in Northwestern Montana	Long, William	1988	Yes, survey of Peninsula Campground, Area #2
FH 1 13661	Flathead National Forest, Rock Creek Timber Survey Report	Quirk, Phillip	1992	No, incorrect legal locations
LN 6 16070	Road 9A Right Of Way Cultural Resource Survey	Spencer, Jennifer	1994	No, south side of Thompson Lakes
LN 6 34001	MT-01 Thompson Lake Telecommunications Tower, Lincoln County, Montana	Payette, Jacquie	2008	No, south side of lakes
LN 6 39546	Skyway Towers: Visual Impact Assessment and Cultural Resource Inventory	Hope, Shane	2018	No, incorrect legal locations

METHODOLOGY

The field work was conducted by Daniel S. Hall, archaeologist, on July 23, 2019. Digital photographs were taken and proper photograph logs maintained. Field notes were taken during the survey. Mr. Hall carried field maps showing the area at a 1:24,000 scale, Magellan GPS unit, digital camera, compass, photograph logs, blank MT SHPO site forms, previously recorded site forms. The GPS units recorded the UTM coordinates for the sites encountered. Pedestrian transects spaced 15 meters apart covered the four project areas. Montana FWP provided a map and an aerial photograph depicting the hazard tree removal project. Mr. Hall met with the campground hosts, Bob and Debbie, who have been the campground hosts for the previous 8 years. They were quite knowledgeable about the history of the area, the history of the campground and very enthusiastic about this cultural resource survey. Bob explained the hazard tree removal process and gave a short tour of the areas slated for tree removal. Bob showed areas of hazard trees that were beyond the areas mapped by FWP, these areas were also surveyed. The field investigation focused on the areas identified for the hazard tree removal as well as trying to relocate the one previously recorded cultural resource. The results are presented below.

RESULTS

The field survey did not locate any new cultural resources. The field investigation failed to relocate **24LN1541**, a small lithic scatter. The lithic scatter was recorded in 1994. It appears from the site sketch map on the original site form that the archaeologists located cultural material next to, or in the lake bed, possibly eroding from the lake shore. They noted the possibility of illegal collecting activity as a possible future impact to the site, which may explain why the site was not relocated. It is also possible that the flakes are hidden below forest duff or vegetation.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The field investigation failed to relocate **24LN1541** and did not locate any new cultural resources. The lithic scatter, located in Area #3, may be obscured by forest duff or vegetation, or the campground improvements, or it may have been subjected to illegal collecting activity. It should be noted that the entire Thompson Chain of Lakes area is considered as high probability for containing prehistoric resources. The combination of flat terrain, with appropriate vegetation, in close proximity to water provides the ideal location for prehistoric occupation sites.

The hazard tree removal activity should proceed as planned; individual trees are dropped and cut into firewood for the campground, the branches are cleaned up and removed, and the tree roots are left in place. Ground disturbing activities should be avoided or minimized at all times. If any evidence of cultural resources are discovered during the hazard tree removal activity, the Montana State Parks Heritage Program Manager should be contacted.

**APPENDIX A:
COMPLETED CRIS FORM
24LN1541**

MONTANA CULTURAL RESOURCES INFORMATION SYSTEM (CRIS) FORM

1. IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Smithsonian Number: 24LN1541 UPDATE

1.2 Field Designation:

1.3 Project Name: Thompson Chain of Lakes Hazard Tree Removal

1.4 Agency Project Number:

1.5 Consultant Project Number: 19-04

2. LOCATION

2.1 Township/Range: T 26 N, R 27 W, Section 11 ; ¼ Section(s): NE SW SW

2.2 County: Lincoln

2.3 UTM Coordinates: Zone 11 645368 E m; 5321069 N m,

Datum used: ☒ NAD 83 conus

2.4 Administrative/Surface Ownership: State of Montana, Montana State Parks

2.5 7.5' USGS Map Name, Date: Thompson Lakes MT 1983 USGS Quad

2.6 Narrative of access: The original site form stated "The site is a small lithic scatter located in an unattended campground on the shore of Lower Thompson Lake."

From Kalispell, drive west on Highway 2 approximately 30 miles to the Thompson Chain of Lakes. The Middle Thompson Lake campground is marked with a sign on the highway. Turn into the campground and park, the site is located along the shore.

2.7 Vicinity of (city/town): Kalispell, MT

3. DESCRIPTION

3.1 Site Type: Lithic scatter

3.2 Site Time Period
(use dropdowns):

Prehistoric: X

Historic:

Paleontological:

Combination: ☐Unknown: ☐

3.3 Narrative Description of Site: The original site form stated "The site is a small lithic scatter located in an unattended campground on the shore of Lower Thompson Lake. The site is on the northern shore of the lake an unnamed drainage. The lithic material is a reddish and tan chert."

Site update – the site could not be relocated. The text in the original site form states the site is on Lower Thompson Lake as well as on Middle Thompson Lake. The site sketch map places the site on Middle Thompson Lake. Both locations were searched for evidence of the resource. The site sketch map is probably the correct location, the information depicted on the map is accurately portrayed. However, no evidence of the site could be located. The campground hosts had no information about seeing any lithics in the area.

3.4 Site Dimensions: The original form stated "170 meters along Lower Thompson Lake shore roughly north-south"

Surface visibility: The original form stated "70% along shoreline and 0 – 5% near the drainage." The update confirms the same visibility conditions.

3.5 Feature Descriptions: None

3.6 Artifacts: (✓ all that apply) ☒ Chipped Stone ☐ Wood ☐ Ground Stone ☐ Ceramics ☐ Bone ☐ Trade ☐ Other

Description: The original site form recorded five artifacts. "2 biface fragments, tan chert. 1 utilized flake red chert. 1 piece of shatter red chert. 1 flake red chert." No artifacts were observed during the site update.

MONTANA CULTURAL RESOURCES INFORMATION SYSTEM (CRIS) FORM

3.7 Diagnostic Artifacts: N/A

3.8 Subsurface Testing: No subsurface testing occurred during the original recording or the site update.

3.9 Site function/interpretation: Occupation site

4: ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

4.1 Geographic Setting: The original site form "Confluence of the unnamed drainage and Middle Thompson Lake."

4.2 Contour: ☒ Known ☐ Approximate ☐ Unknown

4.3 Elevation: 3310 ft

4.4 View/Aspect: Open in all directions

4.5 Sediments: The soils consist of a brown sandy gravel and grey silt, primarily alluvial deposits.

Deposition: ☐ Surface Only ☐ Buried Only ☐ Surface and Buried ☐ Redeposited ☐ Other

4.6 Available Water Source: Lake

4.7 Major River Drainage: Thompson River

4.8 Minor Drainage:

4.9 Local Vegetation: lake side, ponderosa pine,
douglas fir, grasses, brushes

Regional Vegetation: (use dropdown here)

5. ASSESSMENT, RECORDING & MANAGEMENT

5.1 Significance: The original site form stated "Without subsurface testing, we were unable to determine National Register status." The site update could not relocate the site and agrees with the need for subsurface testing.

5.2 Condition/Integrity: The original site form stated "The site is in a campground, increasing the chance of pot hunting." The site update could not relocate the site, possibly due to collecting activity. The site may also be obscured by forest duff or vegetation.

5.3 Possible impacts to site: The original site form did not address impacts. The site update could not relocate the site, possibly due to collecting activity.

5.4 Evaluation: Does this property meet National Register criteria for eligibility? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Unevaluated

Evaluation Procedures/Justification: The original site form stated "Without subsurface testing, we are unable to determine National Register status." The site update agrees with the original recording.

5.5 Recording status: ☒ surface examination ☒ photo ☒ map ☐ subsurface tested

5.6 Recommendations (use dropdown): The original site form "Re-evaluate and shovel test if activity is proposed for the area." The site update agrees with the need for subsurface testing.

Comments:

5.7 Site Located by: Jennifer Spencer and Tammy Howser

Date Located: 08/30/1994

MONTANA CULTURAL RESOURCES INFORMATION SYSTEM (CRIS) FORM

5.8 Site Recorded by:

Date Recorded:

5.9 Site form update and revisions by: Daniel Hall, Western Cultural, Inc.

Date Updated: 07/24/2019

5.10 Federal/State Permit No:

5.11 Publication(s)/Report(s) where site is described: Thompson Chain of Lakes Hazard Tree Removal, Cultural Resource Investigation. Western Cultural, Inc., prepared for Montana State Parks, 2019

5.12 Artifact Repository: N/A

5.13 Field notes/maps/photos repository: The original notes and maps are at the University of Montana Anthropology Department.

6. DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC SITES

6.1 Property boundaries: The original site form “170 meters along Lower Thompson Lake shore, roughly north – south”

: estimated

: measured

Boundary justification:

6.2 Physical description of buildings/ structures/ features; dates of construction and major alterations; contribution of building/ structure to property significance:

6.3 Artifacts observed, collected: N/A

6.4 Subsurface Testing Methods and Results:

6.5 Historical Information and Context (footnote sources):

6.6 Sources, files, people consulted:

7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MONTANA CULTURAL RESOURCES INFORMATION SYSTEM (CRIS) FORM

PHOTOGRAPHS

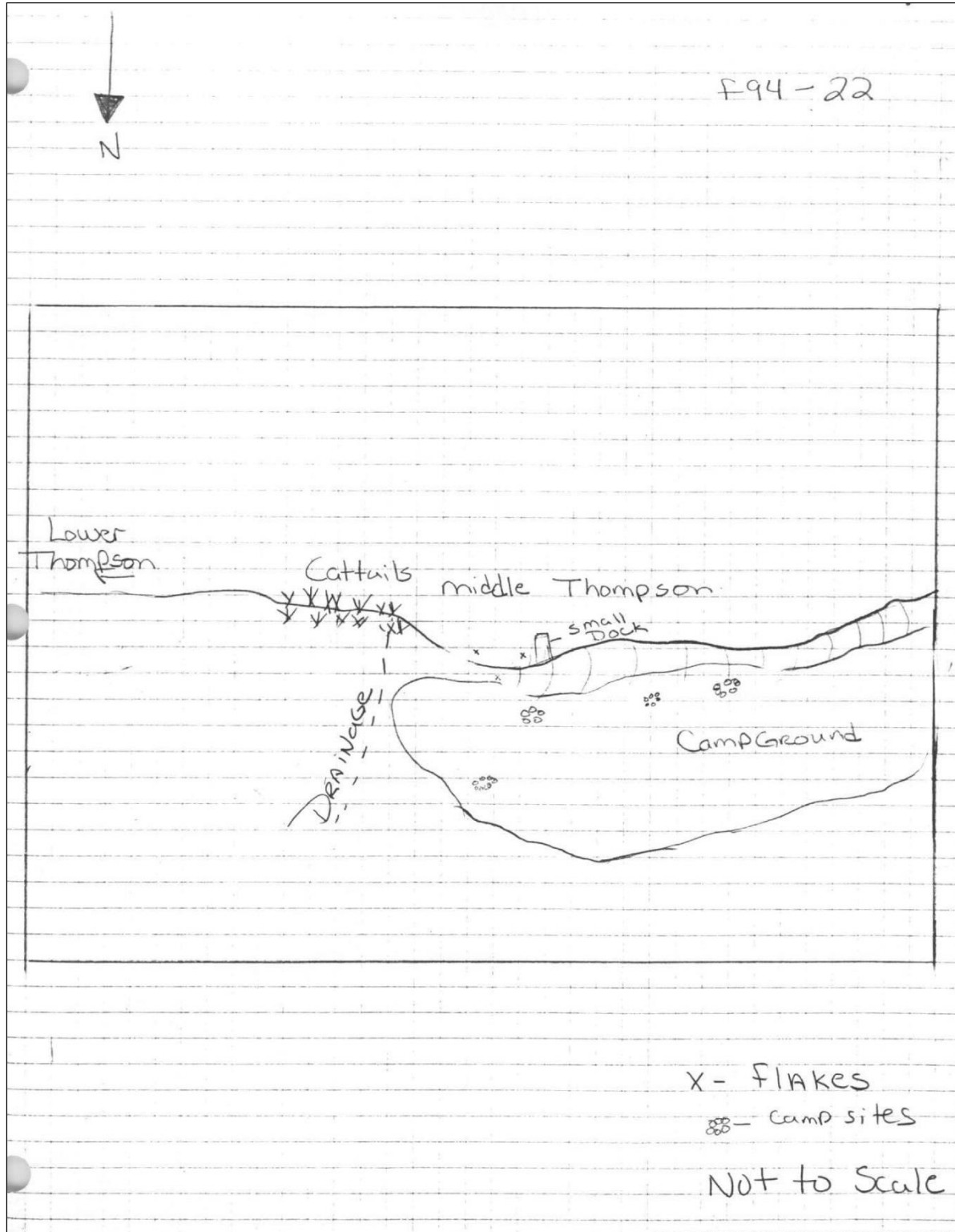


Site overview, facing south towards site location.



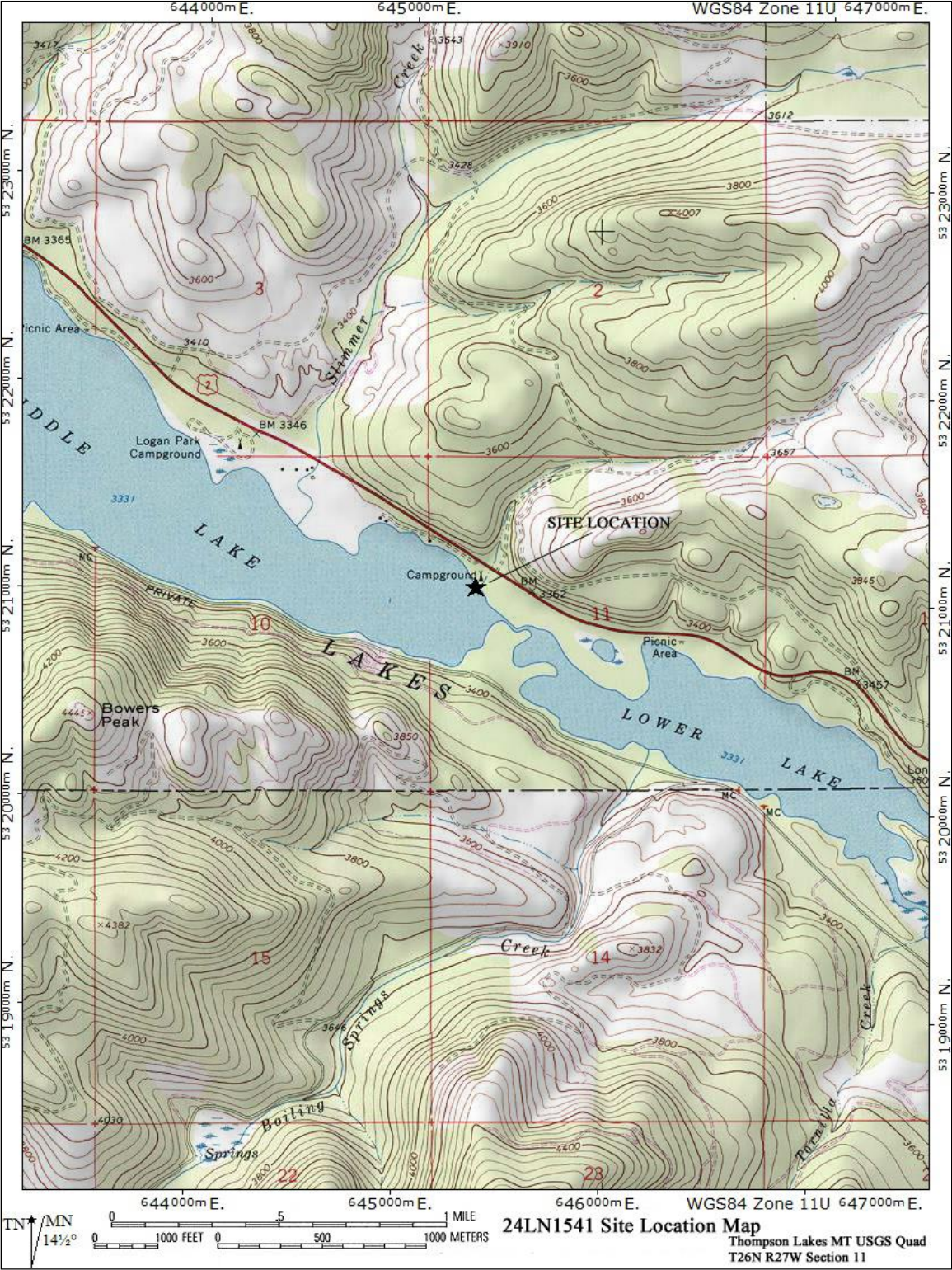
Site overview, facing west at location of chert flakes recorded in 1994.

MONTANA CULTURAL RESOURCES INFORMATION SYSTEM (CRIS) FORM

MAPS

Site sketch map from the original site form. The geographic features of Middle Thompson Lake are accurately depicted on this maps, lending credence to the observation the text incorrectly locates the site on Lower Thompson Lake. The small dock is no longer extant.

MONTANA CULTURAL RESOURCES INFORMATION SYSTEM (CRIS) FORM



Site location map.