**PROJECT ABSTRACT**

**Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**(Cooperative Agreement # H1200-09-0005)**

**Park:** Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

**Project Title:** Lake Clark National Park and Preserve Ice Patch Archaeology: Year 3

**Funding Amount:** $107,000 in 2010

**CPCESU Partner Institution:** University of New Mexico

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**Start Date:** June 15, 2010

**End Date:** August 1, 2013

Continuation of UNM-22

**Abstract:**

Ancient ice is melting as a result of global warming.  Frozen artifacts, plants, animals, and even human remains, are melting from glaciers around the world.  Discoveries include rare and perfectly preserved prehistoric organic artifacts such as clothing, baskets, and tools. They also include plants, mammals, and birds often containing soft-body tissue, hair, and bone. 14C dating demonstrates these specimens have been frozen for hundreds and even thousands of years, providing a unique opportunity to investigate a wide variety of research questions. This project proposes to conduct research primarily in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve (LACL) and selected areas in Katmai National Park and Preserve (KATM) in South-central Alaska to locate, preserve, and study these rare organic specimens before they degrade and are lost forever. This is Year 3 of an existing project.

**Keywords:**

Ice patch, Arctic, glaciers, archeology, animal ecology, climate change, organic artifacts.