

Bighorn Basin Coring Project (BBCP) Workshop

Dates: Workshop will take place from 9:00 AM June 24 to 5:00 PM June 27. Please plan to arrive on the afternoon of June 23 and to leave on the morning of June 27. Book your flights as soon as possible!

Place: Campus of Northwest College, Powell, Wyoming (www.northwestcollege.edu). The nearest airports are in Cody, Wyoming (30 min) and Billings, Montana (2 hrs). We will try to help with transportation to and from airports but feel free to rent a vehicle and car pool as well.

Workshop Organizers:

Will Clyde, Dept. of Earth Sciences, Univ of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824 (will.clyde@unh.edu)
Philip Gingerich, Museum of Paleontology, Univ of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (gingeric@umich.edu)
Scott Wing, Dept. of Paleobiology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC (wings@si.edu)

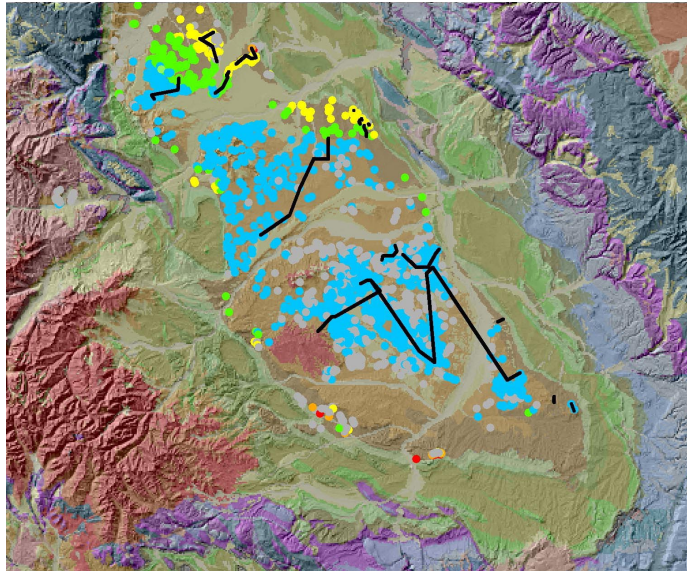
Meals and Lodging: Participants will stay in individual dorm rooms at Northwest College (linen provided) and most meals will be served at the College cafeteria.

Costs: We have received an NSF grant to offset workshop costs. Lodging and meal costs for participants will be covered in their entirety by the grant and participants will be reimbursed for travel costs up to \$1000. Funds left over from unused domestic travel reimbursement will be used to subsidize any additional travel costs incurred by our international colleagues.

Overall Workshop Goal: To produce a comprehensive and coherent scientific drilling plan for coring the Paleogene deposits of the Bighorn Basin that addresses the questions listed below (Q1.1-Q4.5).

Website: A simple web site has been developed to communicate with participants. Please periodically check in to catch any changes to the itinerary.

<http://earth.unh.edu/clyde/bbcp.html>





Day-to-Day Workshop Objectives

Day 1: Determining the scientific questions

- Q1.1 What are the critical scientific questions that can be addressed by coring an early Paleogene continental section like that of the Bighorn Basin?
- Q1.2 What specific hypotheses can be tested with the records that will be produced by the coring project and what kinds of observations/measurements will need to be made to carry out those tests?
- Q1.3 How do these "scientific drivers" relate to ongoing research in other areas and in other fields?

Day 2: Coring Logistics and Site Planning

- Q2.1; How many cores should we plan to drill and how long should they be?
- Q2.2; How can we best integrate these cores into the existing outcrop framework?
- Q2.3; How can we acquire high resolution seismic data for drilling safety and to augment our core data?
- Q2.4; What are the necessary steps associated with permits, permissions, drill rig contracting, and environmental impact statements etc.
- Q2.5; What kind of scientific equipment will we want to have on site for core logging and sampling?
- Q2.6; What will be the sampling protocols and sampling resolution?

Day 3: Field Trip to Potential Coring Sites

- o Visit potential coring sites around the basin
- o Familiarize the scientists new to the Bighorn Basin with local geology, stratigraphy, and paleontology.
- Q3.1: What is the prioritized list of sites for coring in the Bighorn Basin and what is the rationale behind this prioritization?

Day 4: Scientific Administration and Post-Drilling Scientific Plan

- Q4.1; What will be the administrative structure and scientific organization for the BBCP?
- Q4.2; How will scientific responsibilities be delegated?
- Q4.3; How will action items from the workshop be accomplished?
- Q4.4; What kind of budget is necessary to accomplish the project and what funding sources will be targeted?
- Q4.5; What kinds of outreach efforts will be most effective at informing and educating the public about results of this project?