Project Highlight: GIS to Visualize the 1851 Horse Creek Treaty Site

Research Associates within IMR GIS collaborate on a number of interdisciplinary projects with other Regional programs and offices. RAs are currently collaborating with the National Historic Landmarks and Heritage Partnerships Program to utilize GIS 3D spatial capabilities to help identify a previously undetermined site of the landmark Treaty of Horse Creek 1851. There are many firsthand accounts of the treaty council, but the only indication of the location is a sketch by the landscape artist Quesenbury. IMR GIS utilized ESRI ArcGIS Pro’s interactive viewshed tool to examine the landscape along the Platte River and Horse Creek. By overlaying the analysis with the original sketch indicates that the previous confluence of Horse Creek and the Platte River is not depicted in the sketch, but instead the confluence of Horse Creek and Owl Creek.