

## **Project Summary**

### **Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title:** Recording and Evaluating Two Ranch Complexes and the Baca National Wildlife Refuge

**Discipline:** Cultural  
**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance  
**Funding Agency:** US Fish and Wildlife Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Colorado at Denver  
**Effective Dates:** 8/1/2012 - 12/31/2012  
**Funding Amount:** \$30,000

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** The Baca National Wildlife Refuge in the San Luis Valley of south central Colorado has two ranch complexes that date to the early 1900s. Each complex has several buildings that are individually eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and each of the two complexes is probably eligible as a Historic District. Within these complexes are buildings and structures that are not eligible or contributing to a District due to their period of construction or integrity issues. Very little is known about these complexes and information is needed in order to facilitate planning for new construction and preservation of historic properties.

These two complexes reflect the early ranching traditions in the San Luis Valley. There is increased interest in the history and heritage of the San Luis Valley as demonstrated by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar's Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area initiative began in January 2012. At that time, Secretary Salazar noted that "The cultural and historic value of the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area to Colorado and our nation is immeasurable." This initiative includes the whole landscape and involves government agencies, private organizations, businesses, and individuals in conserving and interpreting the importance of the region. This, in combination with the Landscape Planning Process and Comprehensive Planning Process currently underway in the Valley illustrate the need to record, research, interpret, and preserve cultural resources reflecting this heritage.

The Center of Preservation Research (CoPR) will collect and organize the information needed to document and evaluate the significance of the two ranch complexes at the Baca National Wildlife Refuge in the San Luis Valley of Colorado.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:**

The fieldwork and research will be conducted in August/September 2012. Analysis, survey forms, and report writing will occur during fall 2012. The report and forms will be completed by the end of December 2012.

**Keywords:** US Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Colorado at Denver, Baca National Wildlife Refuge, San Luis Valley of south central Colorado, early 1900s ranch complexes, National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), Historic District