

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Develop Education/ Interpretive Programing and Media to Connect Visitors with Sensitive Resources

Discipline: Interdisciplinary
Type of Project: Education/Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Blackfeet Community College
Students Involvement: yes, interns
Effective Dates: 6/26/2017 - 12/31/2020
Funding Amount: \$13,304

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: This project will work with park staff, affiliated Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, Tribal Culture Committees and Tribal College Interns to develop and implement culturally appropriate education and interpretation programs. The specific products/media will be developed through consultation with the two affiliated Native American Tribes and be focused on increasing awareness of and protection of ethnographic resources. The park has a large number of ethnographic resources located in remote areas infrequently visited by park staff, yet subjected to high visitation. These resources are located along popular backcountry trails, scenic viewpoints, and mountain tops listed in climber's guides. The project includes consultation with the affiliated Tribes and tribal college students where traditional knowledge can be shared between the students and tribal elders. The goal of the project is to build awareness and appreciation of these sites with park visitors by informing them about their importance to Native Americans, of their fragility, and of their continued use by tribal members. Development of education and interpretive programs will include visits to identified sites by NPS staff, Tribal Historic Preservation Office staff, and tribal community college students to inventory the sites, determine their significance and identify strategies for creating culturally appropriate messaging and education/ interpretive programs, (such products developed with this funding and in consultation could include oral presentations, brochures, signage, videos, tours, etc.) The direct result of the project would be an enhanced visitor experience, increased opportunities for the public as well as underrepresented groups to connect with the park resources and enhanced preservation of sensitive resources through visitor education.

Keywords: inters, interpretive programing, sensitive resources, Native American, Glacier National Park, Blackfeet Community College