

# **Project Completion Report**

## **Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU)**

**Project Title:** Historic Structure Reports for Grand Teton NP Properties: Beaver Creek #10/Old Administration Building, and the Snake River Land Company Residence/Buffalo Dorm, Office, and Garage

**Project Code:** J1460060031; CSURM-61; mod CSURM-64

**Type of Project :** Research

**Funding Agency:** National Park Service

**Partner University:** Colorado State University\* (P.I. changed institutions during project, but partner university did not)

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**Start Date of Project:** Sept. 20, 2006

**End Date of Project:** Dec. 31, 2009

**Funding Amount:** initially \$29,375; modified with additional \$10,000

### **Project Summary:**

Using students who came to Grand Teton NP, the P.I.s measured/inspected the two historic properties encompassing 4 structures and prepared Historic Structure Reports in NPS format, documenting the history and historic uses as well as current condition of the structures. The reports included recommendations for treatment and, generally, for how the structures could be rehabilitated and used in the future. The reports have been useful to park staff in preparation of funding proposals and in considering options for stabilization, repair, and potential adaptive use of these properties. The reports helped affirm the historic value of these properties and will inform the 2001 Historic Properties Management Plan, which will propose priority properties for rehabilitation and use as park housing, administrative offices, or other appropriate purposes.

One unexpected major research finding was that Beaver Creek #10, previously documented to date to the 1920s, was actually built sometime prior to 1908 and included two small, separate structures that were later joined into one and subsequently modified several times. Historic photographs clearly show the two buildings and a surrounding landscape looking much more open and treeless than today's landscape. The information enriches the history of how the park and its predecessor national forest was administered in Jackson Hole.

The reports are titled *Beaver Creek No. 10, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, Historic Structure Report*, and *Snake River Land Company, Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, Historic Structure Report*, are on file at Grand Teton NP, and eventually will be added to the Greater Yellowstone Science Learning Center website at <http://greateryellowstonescience.org>.

**Number of students participating in this project: undergraduates, graduate students, degrees conferred.**

11 students and 3 faculty members in addition to the principle investigator participated in the research and reports. All 4 faculty participated in both properties; 6 students contributed to the Beaver Creek #10 research report; 5 to the Snake River Land Company research and report.

**Lessons Learned from this project.**

The project overall was a good effort. The biggest challenge was that the P.I. transferred institutions in the middle, but neither the P.I. nor the ATR did a good job of discussing how that change could affect the project, except to affirm the commitment to keep going. As a result, the original partner institution was left with a commitment it was not sure it could honor; a dogged new CSU administrator pursued eventual reassignment of a new in-house contact to ensure that the original P.I. produced the product, though with delays.

The ATR learned to be more formal in discussing and documenting commitments, timelines, and responsibilities on the part of parties should similar circumstances occur with P.I.s or critical students changing universities/institutions mid-project.