

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Popular Environmental History of Sand Creek Massacre NHS

Discipline: Interdisciplinary
Type of Project: Education
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Effective Dates: 9/1/2008 - 12/31/2009
Funding Amount: \$5,048

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Fran Pannebaker, Bent's Old Fort NHS, 35110 State Highway 194, La Junta, CO 81050; 719.383.5010 x112; 719.383.2129 (fax); Fran_Pannebaker@nps.gov

Investigator: Mark Fiege, Department of History, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, 80523, 970-491-6468, mark.fiege@colostate.edu

Researcher: Elizabeth Michell

Project Abstract: The overall objective of this project is to convert the existing Sand Creek Massacre NHS Environmental History manuscript (completed by Elizabeth Michell in 2007) into a manuscript intended for a trade publication. Using consultation with NPS and Western National Parks Association (WNPA) staff to finalize target length and format, additional research, and creative writing techniques appropriate for popular audiences, the author will produce an edited version of the existing scholarly manuscript. The revised, condensed text will provide visitors and others interested in the site with a general introduction and overview of the historic and contemporary landscape at the Sand Creek Massacre NHS, and will also address the role of environment factors in the events of the massacre, provide an explanation for how the NPS is managing and interpreting the site in an ecological context that has changed over time, and help readers to understand how the human and natural combine to create landscapes. The investigators will consult with National Park Service and Western National Parks Association employees to revise and edit the existing narrative, include new research material as necessary, and suggest appropriate sources for historic photographs, ideas for contemporary photographs, graphics, and maps to enhance the text and make it more accessible for a non-scholarly audience.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

- February 2, 2009: Draft manuscript including a complete bibliography and suggested maps and illustrations submitted for review and comment to the park and outside reviewers
- March 13, 2009: Review comments for draft manuscript delivered to project PI
- May 29, 2009: Final manuscript in PDF form, incorporating appropriate review comments

Keywords: popular book, environmental history, Sand Creek Massacre NHS, Western National Parks Association, National Park Service, Colorado State University