

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Catalog Museum Objects and Improved Collection Storage/Exhibit Areas

Discipline: Cultural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Effective Dates: 9/1/2008 - 3/31/2010
Funding Amount: \$33,027

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Christine Ford, Integrated Resources Program Manager, Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS, 266 Warren Lane, Deer Lodge, MT 59722, 406-846-2070 x242, 406-846-3962 fax, email: chris_ford@nps.gov

Investigator: Janet Ore, Department of History, Clark B-366, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1776; (970) 491-6087; Janet.Ore@colostate.edu

Project Abstract:

Background and Objectives

Museum collections must be cataloged to provide accountability in accordance with NPS Management Policies and Directors Order 24. This project will assist Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site in achieving accountability by cataloging and photographing approximately 400 history objects and 183 biological specimens.

Facilities housing collections are required to meet museum standards in accordance with NPS Management Policies, Directors Order 24, and the NPS Museum Handbooks. This project will result in a number of deficiencies noted on the 2007 Museum Collection Preservation and Protection Checklist being corrected.

Park are required to complete and have current a Museum Management Plan and a Collection Condition Survey in accordance with NPS Management Policies and Director's Order 24. This project will assist park staff, regional staff, and contractors prepare for and prepare both plans.

Park Responsibilities:

- Provide background information on the National Park Service, the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, and NPS museum cataloging and collection exhibit and storage standards before or upon arrival of intern.
- Provide specific on-site training to accomplish work per NPS and museum standards.
- Provide all work space, equipment and supplies necessary for completing tasks.
- Provide daily supervision including identification of work tasks and review of products.
- Complete any internship documentation that may be required by the university.

Principal Investigator (PI) and Student Intern Responsibilities:

The cooperator will complete the following tasks to provide accountability for museum collections at Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site in accordance with the requirements of the Museum Handbook and Cataloging Handbook.

- PI will select intern(s) with sufficient training and experience to learn cataloging and collection care tasks with minimal training and supervision by park's Museum Technician
- Intern will perform work at Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, Deer Lodge, Montana.
- Intern will become familiar with the mission of the National Park Service and the Grant-Kohrs Ranch.

Cataloging:

- The intern will prepare with the park's Museum Technician a processing plan to photograph and catalog approximately 400 history objects and 183 biological specimens.
- The intern will complete all necessary storage upgrades for preservation of the objects.
- The intern will enter catalog records into the ANCS+ database and update all other necessary documentation such as accession files.
- The intern will produce a summary of work accomplished.

Collection Storage and Exhibit Upgrades

- The intern(s) will prepare with the park's Museum Technician a plan for correcting NPS identified deficiencies.
- The intern(s) will identify and move approximately 200 objects from sub-standard collection areas to the 2002 museum storage facility - completing all necessary storage upgrades for preservation of the objects and updating locations in ANCS+
- The intern(s) will install earthquake restraining brackets on all open shelving in 2002 museum storage facility
- The intern(s) will review all exhibit areas to identify sensitive objects on exhibit. Locate and price reproduction artifacts for purchase.
- The intern(s) will inventory storage units for needed storage upgrades and complete upgrades, e.g. cavity packing, appropriate archival quality materials.
- The intern(s) will re-house film-based archives for cold storage and update location in ANCS+
- The intern(s) will develop protocols for gathering and analysis for environmental data from newly purchased data loggers.

Museum Management Plan and Collection Condition Plan

- The intern(s) will assist with updating and editing a history of the park's collection and its management.
- The intern(s) will gather and provide access to museum objects as required for the condition survey
- The intern(s) will assist in updating records with information from the condition survey
- The intern(s) will assist with the Museum Management Plan as requested during site visits by team

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

Final Report and/or Project Deliverables - due September 30, 2009

Keywords: Museum collections, cataloging, collection storage, Museum Management Plan, Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS, interns, Colorado State University