

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Murie Ranch Furnishings Report for Grand Teton National Park

Discipline: Cultural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Effective Dates: 9/30/2011 - 6/30/2013
Funding Amount: \$30,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The Murie Ranch was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 2006 for its association with Olaus, Adolf, Margaret, and Louise Murie, prominent leaders in the American conservation movement. The Muries acquired the ranch in 1945 from the Estes family who had run the property as a dude ranch and subsequently used it to host conservationists and activists. In 1997, a not-for-profit center, the Murie Center, was formed to partner with Grand Teton National Park to become stewards of the ranch and to carry on the work of the Murie family. In 2001, the center launched its campaign to rehabilitate the buildings and improve the ranch infrastructure to create an 18-bed retreat center for carrying out its mission.

The ranch remains much the way that it did in 2003 when the life lease ended upon Mardy Murie's death and the property was turned over to park. The Muries' 4000+ papers, art, and photographs are currently being catalogued and archived, and the buildings were documented in a National Historic Landmark designation, but the furniture has never been evaluated or documented. This project will result in the creation of a historic furnishings report that will document the current and historic appearance of the ranch buildings interiors and make recommendations for future use of the ranch interiors.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: March 1, 2013

Keywords: Murie Ranch, National Historic Landmark, historic furnishings report, Grand Teton National Park, Colorado State University