

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Correct Museum Records and Preservation Deficiencies with Collections at Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS

Discipline: Cultural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance and Education
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Effective Dates: 3/1/2012 - 9/30/2015
Funding Amount: \$36,000 [FY13: \$17,200; FY12: \$18,800]

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site is the unit of the National Park Service created to specifically preserve and tell the story of frontier cattle ranching and its evolution into modern times. It is a working ranch with cattle, horses, irrigation systems and hayfields as well as a natural resource management program. Collections original to the ranch and the families that lived here are exhibited and stored on site. Deficiencies in museum records and storage conditions are identified through surveys and professional museum staff.

This project, through the work of a student intern, will correct identified deficiencies with museum and archive collections. The Intern will receive orientation to the history and purpose of the National Park Service and the Grant-Kohrs Ranch to understand how their work contributes to the organizational missions. Museum standards and procedures will be taught by museum staff and used to correct several identified deficiencies that will help preserve and make accessible the collections of a National Historic Landmark.

Student intern will be asked to accomplish the following tasks as part of a team, and as time allows:

- Complete a 100% inventory of museum storage areas (cabinets, shelving units, and rooms); identify any storage deficiency, and correct museum record database as needed
- Improve storage of artifacts including cavity packing, insertion of barriers, mark artifact with park acronym and catalog number. for artifacts in storage
- Move artifacts to storage units with like material type
- Establish library vertical file from several existing sources of general historical and technical information.
- Note catalog numbers of photographed artifacts on established index card system
- Clean museum storage areas
- Other work identified by museum staff that matches the specific interest of the student

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

Student intern in residence at GRKO: eight-week period between June 15 - August 20, 2012 and 2013. Final report complete & submitted to RM-CESU & the park: December 31, 2013

Keywords: museum records, inventory, student intern, Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, Colorado State University