

## **Project Summary**

### **Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title:** FY13 Plan and Conduct Oral History Project

**Discipline:** Cultural  
**Type of Project:** Research  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Colorado State University  
**Effective Dates:** 7/1/2013 - 7/31/2017  
**Funding Amount:** \$31,767

**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 the modern era. It is a working ranch with cattle, horses, irrigation systems and hayfields as well as a natural resource management program. The NPS holds 25 water rights associated with the ranch, many dating back to the mid- to late-1800s. Water in the arid west is often a scarce commodity. The story of this site's flood irrigation systems using water available through water rights and managed through irrigation companies is critical to its own history as well as reflective of the larger environmental history of the west.

This project, through the oversight and work of a team from the Public Lands History Center at Colorado State University, will plan and implement a study of a segment of irrigation at the ranch as it relates to the larger story of water use in the west. Colorado State University will use its previous training and experience in oral history projects to help the ranch plan and execute this project.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:**

Final Report: January 30, 2015

**Keywords:** ranch, irrigation oral history, Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, Colorado State University