

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Evaluation of Cultural Landscape Management Needs for McGraw Ranch, Rocky Mountain National Park

Discipline: Cultural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University
Effective Dates: 8/1/2014 - 9/30/2015
Funding Amount: \$18,994

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: This project will provide Rocky Mountain National Park with an updated integrated resource management strategy for McGraw Ranch Historic District, the home of the Continental Divide Research Learning Center. The park has identified some deficiencies with the baseline information in the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI, Shapins Associates, 2002), which impacts the ability for park staff to set priorities and fulfill management directives. In the absence and anticipation of a full Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), which will eventually serve as the primary treatment document and provide a higher level of evaluation and research, this project will produce interim, prioritized guidelines and treatment recommendations and an assessment and update of the existing CLI database. The products of the agreement will emphasize site management problems associated with the aftermath of the 2013 flood at the site and will provide the park with tools for developing a flexible approach to achieving desired outcomes at the ranch while continuing to follow the guidelines of NPS-28, the National Park Service Cultural Resource Manual, as well as continuing to maintain the historic integrity and character-defining features of the district. This agreement will also provide the CSU research team with an opportunity for an interdisciplinary investigation into management and preservation challenges at a significant historic site.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

June, 2015 - Final Report Due

Keywords: cultural landscape, management, McGraw Ranch, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado State University