

Project Completion Report Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU)

Project Title: Museum Management Project Intern

Project Code: NPS: P15AC00900, CSU: 5349001

Type of Project (Research, Technical Assistance or Education): Technical Assistance

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Partner University: Colorado State University, Public Lands History Center

NPS Agreement Technical Representative (with complete contact information):

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

Principal Investigators (with complete contact information):

Sarah R. Payne, Public Lands History Center; Colorado State University; Fort Collins, CO 80523-1376, Tel: (970) 491-6130; sarah.payne@colostate.edu (original PI, Janet Ore, Department of History, 2-155 Wilson Hall, Montana State University; Bozeman, MT 59717-3440, Tel: (406) 994-4395; Janet.Ore@montana.edu)

Start Date of Project: June 1, 2015

End Date of Project: December 15, 2017

Funding Amount: \$21,999.90

Project Summary:

Through student internships, CSU's Public Lands History Center (PLHC) assisted museum staff at Grant-Kohrs National Historic Site on a variety of museum collections management and preservation tasks. These collection tasks included cleaning, storage, and environmental monitoring. Additionally, the interns updated the artifact database and worked on a project that varied from year to year, and that increased public access to collections online. All interns participated in the annual cleaning and maintenance of artifacts on display and of historic structures. The interns in 2015 and 2016 scanned artifact photos and added them to the database. In 2017, the intern researched artifacts and wrote potential interpretive text for the website. In addition, during fall 2017, an intern worked remotely to provide historical research on 10 artifacts in the museum collection.

Number of students participating in this project: undergraduates, graduate students, degrees conferred.

Between 2015 and 2017, 3 interns participated in this project, one each summer. All were CSU graduate students in the Public History MA program

- Katrina Cotter, graduate student summer 2015
- Shannon Kelly, graduate student summer 2016
- Kailtyn Cherry, graduate student summer 2017

Lessons Learned from this project:

Students gained valuable experience with collections, historic structures, and interpretation during this internship. The work performed by each of the three interns—annual cleaning, inventory, and digital work—is work that is ongoing.