

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Natural Resources Research Synthesis at Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site

Discipline: Natural

Type of Project: Technical Assistance

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University

Effective Dates: 8/1/2007-4/1/2009

Funding Amount: \$20,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Karl Zimmermann, Sand Creek Massacre NHS, Chief of Operations and Natural Resources, 35110 Highway 194 East, La Junta, CO 81050, 719-383-5010 x 123, Karl_Zimmermann@nps.gov

Investigator: Tim Seastedt, INSTAAR UCB 450, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado 80309-0450, 303.492.3302, Timothy.Seastedt@Colorado.edu

Project Abstract: Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site (SAND) is located in Kiowa County, Colorado within the Central Shortgrass Prairie Ecosystem. SAND was authorized in 2000 with an authorized area of 12,500 acres. The current established boundary of SAND encompasses approximately 2,400 acres. The National Park Service and SAND previously contracted and compiled research to evaluate the status of the natural resources and associated ecological habitat at SAND. The existing research results are extensive, varied, and may contain conflicting data. The objective of the current project as proposed here, is to evaluate, reconcile, and report on the varied findings of the resulting research as compiled - for the purpose of determining consistencies, inconsistencies, and overall completeness - in order to ensure effective long term planning and subsequent sound management actions.

The cooperator from the University of Colorado at Boulder will:

- Document the status of current natural resources reports for completeness with regard to information necessary to determine and manage site conditions.
- Identify consistencies and inconsistencies in existing data and reports.
- Identify potential data gaps and making recommendations for additional data collection, if necessary.
- Produce a draft and final report detailing these findings.

Additional funds were added at the end of the FY to allow for both the scientific review and development of more web content by a research associate currently working with Utah State University.

Outcomes with Completion Dates

- August 2007 to June 2008 - literature review and compilation of existing information, synthesis of existing information, and initiation of report writing.
- June 1, 2008 - report writing, completion of first draft of report, draft review by NPS.
- December, 31, 2008 - report revision and submission of final report.

Keywords: natural resources reports, synthesis, critical review, web content, Sand Creek Massacre NHS, University of Colorado at Boulder

For Administrative Use Only:

Date Annual Report Received:

Date Final Report Received:

Publications, etc. on file: