

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: NAGPRA: Work in partnership with the University of Colorado, Boulder Museum to facilitate on-going NAGPRA consultation meetings at Dinosaur National Monument

Discipline: Cultural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Colorado at Boulder
Effective Dates: 9/15/2009 - 3/31/2011
Funding Amount: \$8,000 (\$16,000 in FY08)

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Dave Ruppert, PhD, Office of Indian Affairs and American Culture, National Park Service, 12795 West Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado 80225, dave_ruppert@nps.gov, (PH) 303-969-2879, (FAX) 303-969-2063

Investigator: Stephen H. Lekson, Curator & Professor of Anthropology, University of Colorado Museum of Natural History, 218 UCB, University of Colorado, Boulder CO, 80309-0218, 303.492.6671, 303.492.4195 fax, steve.lekson@colorado.edu

Project Abstract:

The National Park Service is charged with implementing the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA) as it applies to items and human remains in its possession. Many parks have individual collections resulting from archeological excavations covering the past few decades. As a consequence many individual parks have responsibilities under NAGPRA to consult with potentially affiliated Indian tribes and to repatriate these remains and items when appropriate to do so. Dinosaur National Monument is one of these parks.

As part of the compliance work for NAGPRA parks must consult with tribes having cultural affiliation with NAGPRA defined objects and human remains in their collections. As such, Dinosaur NM is required to conduct consultation with a number of tribes given the fact that the NAGPRA items in their possession have been classified as Culturally Unidentifiable. This means that the park will be obligated to consult with as many as 24 Indian tribes regarding the cultural affiliation of their NAGPRA defined collections. This project allows the NPS to partner with the University of Colorado cultural anthropologists, archeologists and museum curators to plan, design and implement an effective consultation meeting with many of these tribes. This facilitated consultation work is one important step in fully complying with the law.

Scope: The cooperator will assist, through the work of a university student(s), Dinosaur NM in the preparation and implementation of this multi-tribal consultation meeting. The cooperator will help identify potentially affiliated tribes, assist the park in communicating with these tribes about the need to hold a consultation meeting, assist the park during the meeting itself, and provide technical advice on final determinations of cultural affiliation (if any). This FY09 funding is in addition to work initiated under the previous RM-CESU agreement.

PROJECT TASKS:

1. Determination of American Indian Tribes having potential affiliation with park NAGPRA collections and presently listed as Culturally Unidentifiable. The completion of the NAGPRA process for these remains and objects has been given high priority within the region. Funds allocated to this agreement will be used to facilitate consultation meeting, determine cultural affiliation, appropriate disposition, and repatriation.
2. Assist the park in tribal consultation on DINO NAGPRA collections: Summer 2009: Collaborate with IAAC and DINO on the coordination of all aspects of at least one tribal consultation meeting on the subject of DINO CUI collections. The meeting and will be held at a location to be determined.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: September 15, 2010

Keywords: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA), consultation meetings, Dinosaur National Monument, **University of Colorado at Boulder**