Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: The Rock Art Research Program: An interdisciplinary approach to enhancing international scholarship through emplacement of geographical perspectives on the analytical study of rock art resources

Discipline: Cultural
Type of Project: Research
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Colorado Denver, Mesa Community College
Effective Dates: 9/30/2009 – 12/31/2012
Funding Amount: $17,373 [FY10: 8,795; FY09: $8,578]

Investigators and Agency Representative:
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Project Abstract: This work will assist in the continuation of the Rock Art Stability Index project (RASI) in fall 2009, spring 2010, and summer 2010. Petrified Forest National Park serves as the primary laboratory and field exercise locality for students from the University of Colorado Denver (UC-Denver) and Mesa Community College (MCC) participating in this joint institution project. Students, Co-PIs Allen (UC-Denver) and Cerveny (MCC), and graduate student assistants will travel to the park over their Fall, Spring, and Summer Breaks during the next academic year. These students voluntarily choose to spend their breaks working in the park, practicing the RASI skills they have learned in the classroom, assisting the park in developing resource management plans and practices, and training for potential careers in the National Park Service or other public land agencies.

Work preformed will include digital documentation of petroglyph panels and motifs, full RASI assessments of all panels, and collection of pertinent GIS data (e.g., UTM coordinates, exposure, angle, etc.). As part of the students' learning process, each student will prepare an executive summary of their completed work synthesizing the activities conducted and written stability assessments for each panel studied.

One historic building will be assessed by Allen and a student from UCD. This building is believed to be a 19th century Stage Coach Station. The building has suffered recent deterioration and is slated for stabilization and rehabilitation work this summer. The RASI analysis will add an additional level of understanding to the long-term preservation strategies for this potentially eligible National Register property.

The Co-PI's will prepare a brief report (5-10 pages) outlining the work completed during 2010 at AZ:K:13:005 and the historic building. This report will provide recommendations for preserving the historic stage coach station and outline measures that the park can take to ensure that any future preservation efforts mitigate the degradation of the masonry. Additionally, the report will provide scores for all rock art panels assessed at AZ:K:13:005 and provide a prioritized list of the panels in the most immediate need.

The RASI project will spend two (2) weeks on park in summer 2009 conducting field work funded through Mesa Community College and University of Colorado Denver. Principal Investigators (PIs) Dr. Niccole Cerveny and Dr. Casey Allen plan to bring three (3) graduate students and a small crew of undergraduates (5) to conduct the first summer season's field work. Their efforts will focus on the National Register Painted Desert Petroglyph District in the northern portion of the park, specifically at site AZ:K:13:005. This site is one of the largest and most spectacular petroglyph sites within the entire park.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: Final Report due on **6/01/2012**

Keywords: Petrified Forest National Park**,** University of Colorado Denver, Rock Art Stability Index project (RASI); student training; historic building assessment