

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Archive, Accession, and Catalog Materials in the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument's General Files to Prevent Loss of Significant Historical Data, Phase Two

Type of Project: Technical Assistance/Education

Discipline: Cultural

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Colorado at Boulder

Effective Dates: 12/31/2009 - 6/1/2015

Funding Amount: \$6,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Dr. Herbert W. Meyer, Paleontologist, Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, P.O. Box 185, 15807 Teller County Road 1 (for FedEx or UPS), Florissant, CO 80816 USA; phone: 719-748-3253 / fax: 719-748-3164; Herb_Meyer@nps.gov

Investigator:

Bruce P. Montgomery, Norlin Library, 184 UCB, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309-0184; 303-492-7242; Bruce.Montgomery@Colorado.edu

Project Abstract: During the summer of 2009 a project was started to preserve the Monument's history by organizing and digitizing paper documents, photographs, Kodachrome slides, newspaper articles and other pertinent items. Significant progress was made but uncataloged and unorganized documents, photographs, and other historically relevant materials still occur in the collections and other files at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. These files will be re-housed in the appropriate NPS-approved, archival quality folders, photo sleeves, etc. These documents relate to the preservation of the paleontology and fossil resources; scientific history including documented paleontological excavations, research, and history; previous land ownership and private stewardship of the resources; commercial tourism; the legislative establishment of the Monument for paleontological preservation; and the people of the local community. This project will produce organized paper and electronic files of Florissant Fossil Beds historical items that will be used to expand the paleontology website. Organizing and digitizing these documents will assist scientific researchers by providing them with historical and paleontologically significant documents with the ease of the internet.

Once the documents have been organized and re-housed they will be entered into the ICMS (Interior Collections Management System) database. The document type, date, location, and other applicable information will be entered into the electronic record. Entering the electronic record into the ICMS database will provide a search mechanism that can be used by persons needing information on the Monument's scientific and legislative history as well as paleontology and fossil preservation.

There is also an urgent need to scan and approximately 3,500 existing Kodachrome slides to preserve the images in electronic format producing high resolution scans of fossil images. This will provide high quality images of Florissant Fossil collections that are held by other institutions around the world. These scans will allow for the digital preservation of images, currently existing only as Kodachrome slides that would otherwise degrade over time. Scanning these slides will ensure the information will be available for future Monument staff and researchers. These high resolution scans can also be requested to for use in scientific, educational, and other publications by persons who view the images on the paleontology website.

These slides are also in need of appropriate archival storage to slow degradation. Once scanning is completed the slides will be re-housed in the appropriate NPS approved archival quality packaging and placed in a cold storage unit. A map of the slides in the cold storage unit will be made for easy access to the appropriate slide box. This map will be placed on the door of the cold storage unit to facilitate in finding the correct slide. Organizing and re-housing these slides will allow for the preservation of the Monument's paleontological specimens and provide park staff and researchers with high quality images of fossils that are housed at other institutions in other states or countries. These images will be accessible via the paleontology website and provide ease of access via the internet.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

Completion of all on-site archive activities - August 13, 2010; Final Report due October 2010

Keywords: Archive, Catalog, Historical Data, student intern, Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, University of Colorado at Boulder