

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Update Archive Collection at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, Phase 3

Type of Project: Technical Assistance/Education
Discipline: Cultural
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Colorado at Boulder
Effective Dates: 9/30/2011 - 12/31/2015
Funding Amount: \$20,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

Agency Representative: Keith Payne, Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, PO Box 185, 15807 County Rd 1, Florissant, CO 80816, 719-748-3253; keith_payne@nps

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Project Abstract: Background

This project will electronically preserve and protect important historical and natural resource documents relating to the establishment of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument and the protection of its paleontological resources. These documents relate to the research, history, and preservation of the fossil resources; previous land ownership and private stewardship of the resources; commercial tourism, the legislative establishment of the Monument; and the people of the local community.

The Monument has a deficiency in the data description and digital image linkage for its archive collection in the ICMS database. This archive includes research materials associated with the fossils, publications about the paleontological resources, historic letters of correspondence, photographic transparencies, photographic prints, historic land ownership maps and homestead documents, copies of legislative documents, and other related materials. Some accession folders contain multiple unrelated documents that need to receive separate catalog numbers. Some of these archival records use outdated technology (i.e. cassette tapes, 3.5" diskettes, and zip drives) that needs updating so that it can be replaced by a single standardized contemporary technology that is more easily accessible and available for future migration. Some potential archive documents in the Monument's library and in the Paleontologist's office still need to be added to the archive collection, and these would be surveyed and processed as needed by the proposed project.

This project will ultimately enable Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument to preserve a digital record of the Monument's rich past and unusual legal and legislative establishment. This project will also provide efficient intellectual access to the collection, as the archives are isolated from our working area (0.75 miles away) and are time-consuming to access. Having a digital file of the archives attached to ICMS will minimize the handling of the actual original records, which, in turn, would minimize the degradation of these archival records.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: Draft technical report for Year One due 5/31/13; final report due eight weeks after receipt of NPS comments. Draft technical report for Year Two due 5/31/14; final report due eight weeks after receipt of NPS comments.

Keywords: Catalog, paleontological resources, archival collections, Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, University of Colorado at Boulder, students