

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: President George W. Bush Childhood Home Reconnaissance Study

Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Discipline: Cultural
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Colorado at Boulder
Effective Dates: 6/14/2013 - 12/31/2014
Funding Amount: \$7,588

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Christine Whitacre, Program Manager, Heritage Partnerships Program, NPS Intermountain Region, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225-0287; 303-969-2882; christine_whitacre@nps.gov

Investigator: Paul S. Sutter, Associate Professor, Department of History, Hellems Arts & Sciences Building, Room 204, University of Colorado Boulder, 234 UCB, Boulder, CO 80309-0234; 303-492-6208; Paul.Sutter@Colorado.EDU

Project Abstract: For presidential sites, the Director of the National Park Service or the Secretary of the Interior has traditionally sent a letter to each former president, inviting them to suggest a site for affiliation with the National Park Service. Once the former presidents responded to the invitation, the NPS has used these suggestions as a guide to conduct the survey.

Through this project, the NPS will work with the cooperator (University of Colorado Boulder - History Department) to conduct historical research and prepare a reconnaissance study that addresses the four NPS Criteria for New Parklands. The reconnaissance survey will include a preliminary assessment of the George W. Bush Childhood home as well as a comparison of other places associated with his life and career. As part of the review process, the NPS will retain 2-3 academic peer reviewers for the survey. These advisors will be acknowledged authorities and/or biographers of President George W. Bush and will be selected after consultation with the NPS Chief Historian as well as Rep. K. Michael Conaway, the executive director of the George W. Bush Childhood Home and others.

The project will include one site visit to Texas by the CU Boulder researcher in order to complete research and visit the comparable properties.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: March 31, 2014

Keywords: President George W. Bush, historical research, reconnaissance study, site affiliation, National Park Service, University of Colorado at Boulder