

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Interpretive Exhibit Design and Fabrication
Type of Project: Education; Technical assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: Montana State University
Effective Dates: 9/15/2004 - 08/25/2006
Funding Amount: \$5,425.00 in FY 04 and 05

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Chris Ford, Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS, 266 Warren Lane, Deer Lodge, MT 59722, 406-846-2070 x242, chris_ford@nps.gov

Investigator: Bill Rea, Montana State University, 237Cheever Hall, Bozeman, MT 59717, (406) 994- 994-7570, brea@montana.edu

Project Abstract:

The purpose of this project is to continue the interpretation project started in FY 04 with additional funds and time in FY 05:

- Provide on-site visitor orientation to the evolution of ranching in the American West, the Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS, and the bunkhouse structure.
- Provide interpretive text in each bunkhouse room. The interpretive text will be holistic in its total and based on the site's primary interpretive themes.

GRKO is a 1,500-acre historic ranch with 89 historic structures, several housing exhibits, and historically furnished period rooms. The bunkhouse is one of the most interesting buildings on the site. Its historical evolution mirrors the history of the site. It also is where the story of the common person can be told, in comparison to the ranch owners' Victorian home across the driveway.

There is no visitor center on the ranch where visitors can receive an adequate orientation to the history of ranching and how this site fits into that story. There is a vacant "buggy shed" located where most visitors first arrive at the ranch. This is a perfect area to provide that introduction. It is imaged that a "time-line" can be created in bands - the top band would be national events, the 2nd band events at Grant-Kohrs Ranch, and the 3rd band the history of the bunkhouse structure. This project will design and fabricate interpretive displays in the bunkhouse.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

- Multi-panel free-standing exhibit
- Associated project materials (field notes, drafts, photographs, electronic records) submitted to GRKO project coordinator (Due August 25, 2006)

Keywords: interpretive exhibit, Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS, Montana State University, history, bunkhouse, visitor education

For Administrative Use Only:

Date Annual Report Received:
Date Final Report Received:
Publications, etc. on file: