Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Project Summary

Project Title: Promote Preservation of Resources through Monitoring at Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS

Discipline: Natural

Type of Project: Technical Assistance/Education

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Cooperators: Montana State University

Student Involvement: yes, interns Effective Dates: 4/1/2015 - 12/31/2019

Funding Amount: \$69,952

Investigator and Agency Representatives:

NPS ATR: Jason Smith, Resources Manager, Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS, 266 Warren Lane, Deer Lodge, MT 59722; 406.846.2070 x232; 406-846-3962 fax; email: jason_f_smith@nps.gov

Investigator: Bret E. Olsen, PhD, Professor of Range Ecology, Animal and Range Sciences Department, Montana State University, P.O. Box 173780, Bozeman, MT 59717; 406-994-3721; Email: bolson@montana.edu

Project Abstract: This project, through the work of student intern(s), is a continuation of an exceptionally successful partnership project between NPS and MSU that has run for the past 3 years. This TA will enable continuation of the same cooperative arrangement to annually use established inventory and monitoring protocols to evaluate natural resource condition at Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, a unit of the National Park Service created to specifically preserve and tell the story of frontier cattle ranching. The data collected annually by the student interns will be used to facilitate resource stewardship at Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS and will be used for the development of educational materials to show park visitors, students, and staff how the ranch on a landscape level contributes to the preservation and protection of natural resources. The project has the public purpose of educating and training the next generation of park stewards through the hands-on, on-site experiential opportunities provided to interns.

Keywords: natural resource conditions, monitoring and survey protocols, student interns, Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS, Montana State University,