

**Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Summary**

**Project Title:** YPP Implement Resource Management Internship Program Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS

Task Agreement #: P19AC00440 Modification(s): 2  
Discipline: Interdisciplinary  
Type of Project: Technical Assistance/Education  
Funding Agency: National Park Service  
Cooperators: Montana State University  
Student Involvement: yes, interns  
Effective Dates: May 15, 2019 through December 31, 2023  
Funding Amount: \$69,484

**Investigator and Agency Representatives:**

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**Project Abstract:** For over seven years, Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS resource management and the Principle Investigators have worked together to provide student interns with real-world resource management experience. This Agreement will provide up to 3 student interns annually for a 12-week hands-on learning experience for natural resource inventory and monitoring data collection, ranching program support, and museum collections care. The three interns will be provided training by the site's Natural Resource Program Manager, Range Technician, Museum Curator, and the Inventory & Monitoring crews on how to monitor vegetation, wildlife, water, soil, historic and cultural resources at GRKO and will then work either as part of a monitoring team or as an independent team determining pasture utilization, noxious weed density, Columbian ground squirrel densities, soil nutrient levels, irrigation water flow, historic structure condition and museum collection care. The interns will learn about the mistakes of the past and the actions necessary for restoration as they help provide vegetation photopoint monitoring to support the site's Superfund project manager as cleanup of the Clark Fork River floodplain begins. The interns will be actively involved with daily movement of cattle through a rotational grazing system aimed at improving soil health while promoting sustainable land stewardship. The interns will use their utilization data to determine when cattle movement to the next pasture should occur. In addition, the interns will provide necessary support for labor intensive museum collections care and will help with special interpretive events by demonstrating how hay was historically harvested and will help young visitors brand a piece of wood during the cattle branding event. They also will learn participatory citizenship values by helping the park provide support to the non-profit Big Sky Draft Horse Exposition event through an agreement that's centered on draft horse history and maintaining the park's heritage. The interns will annually organize copies of all data collected and prepare a summary report of effort and findings.