

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: 2014 Crow and Northern Cheyenne Tribal Field School Program

Discipline: Cultural

Type of Project: Education/Technical Assistance

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: Northwest College, Little Big Horn College, Dull Knife College

Effective Dates: 6/11/2014 - 1/31/2019

Funding Amount: \$18,100

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: In FY2014 Bighorn Canyon NRA joined with Northwest College to establish an accredited 10-day archeological field school tailored to fit the needs of American Indian students. The project objective is to provide \$25,000 to support planning, supplies, and day to day transportation expenses, and payment of tuition/field fees for Crow and Northern Cheyenne tribal students as needed for the 10 day field school and subsequent project write-up, archiving and curation. Since 2005, the park has hosted an accredited archeological field school to focus on survey and documentation of the park cultural resources. This program has also resulted in logging over 5,000 hours annually to the parks V.I.P. program. The FY2012 Tribal Field School Program resulted in an additional 8400 hours to the parks V.I.P. program.

The park is currently conducting an extensive multi-year class III inventory of park lands focusing on documentation of Cultural Resources and habitat improvement project compliance for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The opportunity to continue the field school exclusively for American Indian Tribal students serves multiple purposes:

1. Help Bighorn Canyon NRA complete the inventory of undocumented cultural resources in the park.
2. Provide Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for natural resource habitat improvement projects.
3. Help participating tribes establish their own tribal archeology program with training recognized by Federal Agencies, State and local Governments, and business interests.
4. Help tribes protect, preserve and interpret cultural and natural resources in the park and ultimately, on their reservations.
5. Create jobs to stimulate the reservation economy during construction, and energy development projects.
6. Provide adequate training for participants to qualify for jobs with Cultural Resource Contractors on projects throughout the country.
7. Establish a better working relationship and create an invaluable element of trust and understanding between American Indian Tribes and the NPS.
8. Serve as a transferable pilot program for other parks.
9. Increase the number of V.I.P. hours logged annually by the park.

Northwest College will partner with Little Big Horn College (Crow Tribe) and Dull Knife College (Northern Cheyenne Tribe) to provide students for the field school. Participants will complete one 10-day session (100 hours) conducting Class III surveys in the park, learning to identify sites, analyze cultural material, map and document sites, conduct limited testing and excavation, and then catalog and curate cultural materials recovered during the project. Successful participants will receive 2 hours of college credit, and training from Northwest College. The Park Archeologist/Cultural Resource Manager will participate in this program as an instructor.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: Final Report - December 2015 or eight weeks after receipt of NPS comments, whichever is later

Keywords: archeological field school, American Indian student, cultural resources, Bighorn Canyon NRA, Northwest College, Little Big Horn College, Dull Knife College