

Project Completion Report Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU)

Project Title: Cultural History and Archeology of Four Transboundary Kootenai Indian Trails

Project Code : P12AC10464, SKC-15

Type of Project: Research

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Partner University: Salish-Kootenai College

NPS Agreement Technical Representative: Lon Johnson, Cultural Resource Specialist,
Glacier National Park, West Glacier, Montana 59936 406-888-7943

Principal Investigator: Jeff Bendremer, Professor of History, Salish-Kootenai College, Big
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Start Date of Project: April 15, 2012

End Date of Project: December 31, 2013

Funding Amount: \$12,000

Project Summary:

The Principal Investigator prepared a 50-page report that pulled together information from a large number of sources. He wrote in the conclusion: "An elaborate network of trails was used by the Kootenai and the Ktunaxa people in northwestern Montana and southern British Columbia and Alberta. Even though the remnants of many of these trails are today hidden by dense forest or are obscured as a result of their use as modern park trails or roads, they still remain an important part of the Kootenai heritage."

The report will, for the first time, provide park management with a fuller understanding of these linear features that cross the park landscape. These travel corridors are significant resources that should be preserved and interpreted in collaboration with the Kootenai and Ktunaxa people.

The project proposal included a two-phase project, with only one phase being funded. The lack of a second phase came at the expense of undertaking similar research across the international boundary in Canada.

Number of students participating in this project: undergraduates, graduate students, degrees conferred. None to my knowledge

Lessons Learned from this project: This report should help park management with an understanding of where Native American trails crossed the park, and should allow for efforts to increase Cultural Resource protection in the park. Having an investigator working at SKC was valuable in getting access to this cultural resource information.

Other RM-CESU agencies or research partners who participated in this project: N/A