

## **Project Summary**

### **Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title:** Creating DVDs to Preserve Traditional Salish and Kootenai Tribal Knowledge about Glacier National Park Forests  
**Discipline:** Natural and Cultural Resources  
**Type of Project:** Education  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Salish Kootenai College  
**Effective Dates:** 5/29/2007 - 12/31/2008  
**Funding Amount:** \$15,000

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** Salish Kootenai College in cooperation with Glacier National Park, will document traditional Salish and Kootenai tribal knowledge of the forests of Montana, and provide that information in an educational, interactive DVD format that can be shared with Glacier National Park staff and visitors, as well as with Montana's wider educational and tribal communities. This project will result in the production of a two-DVD set describing Salish and Kootenai knowledge of the forests in Glacier National Park and the rest of northwestern Montana. The DVD sets will be given to Glacier National Park for use in park interpretive centers. The DVDs also will be used at Salish Kootenai College (including Dendrology, Forest Botany and Native Language classes), and will be distributed to the Tribal Culture Committees, The Peoples' Center, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council, and both Salish and Kootenai language immersion schools. Copies of the DVDs also will be made available to any tribal institution that provides education concerning language or culture. In addition, copies will be given to all school districts within the Reservation, as well as to the Reservation-wide Public Broadcasting Station, KSKC-TV. As such, this product will assist local school systems in meeting the cultural education mandates of the new Montana-wide Indian Education for All Act. The first DVD will be organized into "chapters," one for each forest community. In each chapter, tribal Elders will give the names in both Kootenai and Salish of major plants in that forest type and traditional uses of some of these plants. A subtitle will appear on the screen with the Salish and Kootenai words written in international phonetic font. Total video length will be roughly 30 minutes. The second DVD will be in an interactive format that allows users to "explore" each forest type in more detail. The general concept is that for each forest type, a photo of the forest community will appear. As the user drags his or her mouse over individual plants, a menu will appear, offering both text and audio files of the plant's name in Salish, Kootenai, English, and Latin (scientific name). The menus also will link to short video clips containing audio comments from the Elders concerning that particular plant. By producing two separate discs, users will have both a "passive" yet informative video and a more active, involved interactive disc where learning can proceed at the user's own pace.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:** (1) informational DVD and (2) interactive DVD describing four forest communities. Each DVD will highlight Salish and Kootenai names and knowledge of forest plants, Due by December 31, 2008.

**Keywords:** native vegetation, forests, DVDs, Glacier National Park, Salish Kootenai College, interpretation, education

**For Administrative Use Only:**

Date Annual Report Received:  
Date Final Report Received:

Publications, etc. on file: