

Rocky Mountain CESU – 2002 Completion Report

Project Title: Wildlife Intern from Salish Kootenai College
Receipient: Cheryl Buffalo, Polson, MT
Project Supervisor: Joyce Lapp, Supervisory Horticulturist, GLAC

Grant Amount: \$6024

Summary:

This summer internship involved the student in all aspects of native plant restoration, including work with the restoration crew and work in the native plant nursery in seed collection, plant propagation and maintenance and routine nursery operations. Additional work included vegetation and wildlife monitoring, observations and record keeping.

Accomplishments:

Ms. Buffalo joined the native plant restoration program staff in June of 2002. She received training in safety, 1st aid and CPR, defensive driving, Equal Employment Opportunity, Working safely in Bear country and orientation to GLAC. Throughout the season, she received additional instruction in restoration techniques, botany, plant identification and horticulture techniques, as well as wildlife monitoring methods. Cheryl worked with the native plant program 3 days a week and with the wildlife staff 1 day a week. Because of a work-related injury, Cheryl was unable to finish her internship at Glacier. After she recovered from her injuries, she transferred work location to the native plant nursery at the Salish Kootenai College where she worked for Ms. Dawn Thomas.

Products:

Cheryl received work experience and skills in a number of areas including botany, horticulture, wildlife management and restoration ecology. Cheryl functioned well in the nursery and her work was certainly appreciated by the wildlife staff. It was unfortunate that she was injured but the transfer to SKC was very beneficial for both Cheryl and the staff at SKC nursery, as this location was closer to her home and family and SKC was glad to have an experienced worker.

Long Term Benefits:

Cheryl received hands-on expereince in a number of field oriented biological sciences. This experience may well serve to direct Cheryl in future studies in understanding what she does/does not want to do with her academic and professional career. I believe the transfer to SKC was especially good for Cheryl as she had a difficult time being away from her family. Glacier certainly benefited from our association with Cheryl as her native American heritage was important to her and she shared her knowledge and perspective with all of our staff.