

RM-CESU - Project Completion Report, FY 05

Project Title: Development of Educational Trunks for Community Outreach on the Cultural and Natural Resource Connection within Grand Teton National Park

Park: GRTE

Funding Sources:

Rocky Mountains CESU Technical Assistance Funding	\$5000
Reference materials for gathering background information for curriculum development	\$ 274
Educational Trunks for curricula & materials storage	\$ 324
Materials for Trunks/Lessons: Curriculum binders with contents, specimens, & props	\$ 1704
Translation of Curriculum into Spanish	\$ 750
Teacher/Administrator stipend for participation in workshop	\$ 1000
Workshop facilitator & workshop report for dissemination	<u>\$ 948</u>
Total	\$ 5000

Donated/In-Kind Items

Southern Oregon University: GRTE Intern to Develop Curriculum & Trunks	\$2700
University of Idaho and SOU: Review of Curriculum	\$ 400
University of Wyoming-NPS Grand Teton Research Center: Facility for Workshop	\$ 300
Grand Teton Natural History Association: supplies & refreshments for workshop	\$ 200
National Museum of Wildlife Art: food & beverage for workshop	\$ 150
National Museum of Wildlife Art: staff travel & participation	\$ 175
Jackson Hole Historical Society & Museum: food for workshop	\$ 100
Jackson Hole Historical Society & Museum: staff travel & participation	\$ 175
RM Cluster Yellowstone NP: staff travel & participation	\$ 250
Grand Teton NP: audio-visual equipment and staff support, videography, and planning	<u>\$ 550</u>
Total Donation/In Kind Support	\$5000

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University Partners: University of Idaho, Dr. Steven Hollenhorst; Dr. Hank Harlow of the University of Wyoming-NPS Grand Teton Research Center; Dr. Stewart Janes, Southern Oregon University

Teacher Participants: Workshop – Ten 4th Grade Teachers from Teton County, WY School District and Teton County, ID School District

Student Participants: As of the writing of this report the American Indian Era trunk was used by nine teachers with 240 students. Beginning in January, two teachers have signed up to use the Trapper Era trunks with 60 students.

Project Description:

Grand Teton National Park (GRTE) is in the early stages of developing an outreach education program with the vision of making the program sustainable over time. The traveling education trunks help achieve sustainability in that they can be used independently of a ranger instructor. In addition, trunks give the park the ability to share information regarding the park's resources and mission to a wider and larger audience. A travel trunk is a container that can be easily transported and contains lesson plans, activity materials, wildlife and cultural specimens and other supplemental learning materials. The lesson plans, in order to be credible and useful to educators, must be standards-based for Wyoming and Idaho State Educational Standards.

Project Results:

Trunks were created by a graduate student intern from the Environmental Education Master's Program at Southern Oregon University based on the theme: "Grand Teton NP lies in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, one of the largest intact ecosystems found in the world. The continued preservation of these natural and cultural resources depends upon visitor's appreciation for and understanding of their role as stewards." The trunks have three topics on cultural and natural resource preservation in this ecosystem illustrated through the peoples of the American Indian, Trapper, and Explorer Eras. These target the 4th grade audience because these topics tie directly into the State Educational Standards. The trunks include teaching materials and hands-on activities that are age appropriate. These units are being translated into Spanish to serve the growing Hispanic population in the surrounding areas.

The curriculum was reviewed through the CESU partner, the University of Idaho (UI), as well as Southern Oregon University (SOU) and local teachers. A pilot program utilizing the American Indian Era trunk in the classroom was conducted and revisions were made based on this test run.

Once the trunks with their curriculum and materials were developed, an all day workshop was held with 4th grade teachers and community organizations and agencies that would use them to obtain their input before the project was finalized. In addition, the organizations made brief presentations regarding the natural and cultural resource materials they have available for the 4th grade teachers as well. From this workshop, revisions were made and a key suggestion incorporated, which was to make duplicate trunks to serve more teachers because they are teaching the same content at similar times. The workshop was held through a partnership with the CESU partner, the University of Wyoming. The session was recorded and has been made available to non-attendees via the loan of videotapes.

Thus the products that were delivered are:

- Three high-quality educational trunks based on the theme: “Grand Teton NP lies in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, one of the largest intact ecosystems found in the world. The continued preservation of these natural and cultural resources depends upon visitor’s appreciation for and understanding of their role as stewards.”
- An educational force trained and adept at maximizing the effectiveness of GRTE’s educational trunks.

Follow-up of this Project

The park will use feedback from evaluation forms that were created to assess the trunks’ on-going viability, as well as to incorporate any changes.

Publications, other reports expected: Internal reports for GRTE’s Outreach Education Program including statistics on number of contacts and contact hours to be included in the SIR.