

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Develop an Education Trunk for Community Outreach on the Natural and Cultural Resources of Grand Teton NP
Type of Project: Education
Funding Agency: National Park Service-RM CESU
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Idaho; University of Wyoming; Teton County schools, Southern Oregon University, Grand Teton NHA
Effective Dates: March 1, 2005- March 1, 2006
Funding Amount: \$5,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Investigator: Steve Hollenhorst, College of Natural Resources, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844-1136, (208) 885-7991; Stevenh@uidaho.edu

Project Abstract:

Educational trunks are a component of Grand Teton National Park's (GRTE) vision for its outreach education program. The trunks' theme will be: "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." Diane McGee, the park's Education Specialist, is currently a graduate student with the Department of Conservation Social Sciences in the College of Natural Resources at the University of Idaho (UI) in Moscow, and her master's project is developing this program. Her major professor and head of the department, Steve Hollenhorst, will facilitate the review of the trunk curriculum at UI.

In addition, a graduate student from Southern Oregon University (SOU), Erin Himmel, has been hired as an intern by GRTE's friends group, the Grand Teton Natural History Association, to do her Master's project here. With this grant, we will be able to focus her project on the development of these educational trunks. Her major professor, Steward Janes, the Chair of the Department of Biology, will also be reviewing the trunk curriculum and making recommendations for revisions.

Local 4th grade teachers from the Teton County School District, including Dan Thomasma from the Kelly School and Libby Kruse Wood from Wilson Elementary School, will be reviewing the curriculum as well. A pilot program utilizing the trunks in the classroom and testing the curriculum will take place in Dan Thomasma's class as well as in those of other interested teachers. Revisions will take place before introducing the trunks at the teacher's workshop and making them available to the school district at large.

During the research stages for the curriculum and trunks, Erin will be in communication with the RM-Cluster parks that have established curriculum and/or traveling trunks to incorporate their suggestions and experience. Willing contacts in the Rocky Mountain Cluster are Bob Fuhmann, Education Program Coordinator at Yellowstone National Park, Christine Czazasty, Chief of Interpretation at Devils Tower National Monument and Mark DeGregorio, Education Program Specialist at Rocky Mountain National Park in the Rocky Mountain Cluster. In addition, Marcia Fagnant from Fossil Butte National Monument has offered her help based on her extensive experience with a successful trunk program.

We are working with Carmina Oaks at the Latino Resource Center in Teton County to arrange for the curricula to be translated into Spanish to serve the growing Hispanic population in the surrounding areas.

In addition, a workshop will be held through a partnership with the CESU partner, the University of Wyoming. Representatives, including teachers and administrators from

the 16 local schools (Elementary, Middle School, High School), the home-school group in the local community, and the interested RM Cluster park education staff will be invited to learn about the curriculum and use of the trunks. Dr. Hank Harlow of the University of Wyoming-NPS Grand Teton Research Center has agreed to provide the space for the workshop; GRTE's friends group, the Grand Teton Natural History Association will cover the cost of supplies and refreshments for the participants.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

Final report of the project is due by March 2006. Workshop will be held in fall 2005, with a videotape of that workshop available shortly after the meeting.

Keywords: Grand Teton NP, University of Idaho, University of Wyoming, Southern Oregon University, natural and cultural resources, educational trunk, school curriculum

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Date Annual Report Received:
Date Final Report Received:
Publications, etc. on file: