

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Plant Identification Training Workshop for Grant-Kohrs Ranch Personnel

Discipline: Natural

Type of Project: Education

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana

Effective Dates: 9/25/2005 - 12/31/2006

Funding Amount: \$2,938.00

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract:

The goal of the proposed work is to provide training in plant identification that will enable the resource management staff and the general staff of the Grant Kohrs Ranch NHS to incorporate site specific vegetation knowledge in fulfilling their missions at the Ranch. The vegetation is the basis of the rangeland resource at the Ranch and central to both the cultural as well as the natural resource rationale for establishing and maintaining this particular national historic site. The staff being able to identify and name the major plant species and understanding their basic functioning in the ecosystem is necessary for management of the resource and interpretation for visitors.

Peter Rice will plan and present two half day sessions in consultation with the GRKO Chief of Resource Management. One session will be tailored for the general staff and an advanced session will be conducted for the natural resource staff. The general staff module will utilize common names of the major species in native uplands, improved pastures, and the riparian zone. This "lay person" module will identify the noxious weeds as well as the most abundant natives and introduced pasture grasses. The general traits of life forms and most common species will be discussed in context of the functional differences between upland native rangeland, improved pastures, and the riparian zone. The advanced session for the natural resource staff will include the scientific names for the indicator species which define the classified community types present on the Ranch and the more abundant species within these communities. Life form and life cycle will be explained in relationship to the functioning and management of the uplands, improved pastures, and riparian zone and the potential for maintenance, succession, or degradation of the communities.

Both sessions will be conducted outdoors in the appropriate community types. The GRKO Chief of Resource Management plans to video tape the sessions for use in future staff training. The proposed dates are from mid-June through the end of June 2006 when many of the indicator species are in bloom. Peter Rice will come to the Ranch for two days in advance of the training sessions to pick the routes for the tutorials, review and find examples of the taxa (*Salix*, *Carex*) which are more difficult to identify.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

two workshops; final report that includes agenda and participants in the workshops; video tapes prepared by park staff (due 12/31/2006).

Keywords: plant identification, workshop, Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, University of Montana

For Administrative Use Only:

Date Annual Report Received:

Date Final Report Received:

Publications, etc. on file: