

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Documenting & Inventorying Ethnographic Resources at Yellowstone National Park

Discipline: Cultural

Type of Project: Technical Assistance and Education

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana

Effective Dates: 6/1/2005 - 2/28/2006

Funding Amount: \$3,722.00

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract:

This project will provide a graduate student at University of Montana with an opportunity to work on an internship at Yellowstone NP to inventory ethnographic resources. YNP established an Ethnography Program in 2000, and have gathered a large amount of ethnographic information through conversations and oral history interviews with the 26 park-associated tribes. Also, various tribal members have provided ethnographic information about the importance of park wildlife to their people in relation to Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). However, due to lack of funding, these data have remained in oral history interviews, administrative files, and reports, becoming useless to park managers and researchers. In order to become useful, these data must be culled and inventoried. The Ethnographic Resource Inventory (ERI), an NPS service-wide database, was created for that reason - to house in an organized and accessible fashion, primarily for management decision-making, ethnographic resource data for national parks.

Documents such as oral history interviews, EIS documents, and administrative files will be surveyed for ethnographic resource data. Appropriate research will be conducted for each ethnographic resource including obtaining scientific name, description data, documenting location, documented bibliographic sources, cultural significance, and attaining any visual documentation of the resource in digital format. Park scientists, park-associated tribal members, and park GIS specialists will be consulted to properly research and document ethnographic resources. Eighty new and/or existing uses of previously known ethnographic resources will be identified and entered into the ERI. The goal for this project is to transform the ERI database into a comprehensive and accessible tool for park staff including managers, planners, interpreters, and researchers.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

Eighty (80) ethnographic resources will be entered into the Ethnographic Resources Inventory. These resources can include new entries and/or new uses or new culture groups for an already entered resource. New entries will be reported to the region and national office, and added to the country-wide inventory.

Keywords: affiliated tribes, student intern, Ethnographic Resources Inventory, Yellowstone National Park, University of Montana

For Administrative Use Only:

Date Annual Report Received:

Date Final Report Received:

Publications, etc. on file: