

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Jerry O'Neal, National Park Service Student Fellowship Program

Discipline: Interdisciplinary

Type of Project: Education/Research

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana

Effective Dates: 8/31/2006- 6/30/2012

Funding Amount: \$38,579 [\$12,600 added in FY08]

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Investigator: Perry Brown, Dean, College of Forestry and Conservation, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812, 406-243-5521; pbrown@forestry.umt.edu,

Project Abstract:

The National Park Service will work with the University of Montana to organize and administer a student fellowship program to allow students to work on projects at Glacier NP, Little Bighorn Battlefield NM, and Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS.

Applications will be judged on scientific merit, technical feasibility, and relevance of the proposed work to park managers. Proposals may cover a portion of an ongoing research project, a one-time survey or project, or the expansion of an existing project that includes the above mentioned criteria. Projects may be of one to three year duration. Projects will need to comply with appropriate agency regulations and permits (separately administered from this fellowship.). For the first year of this program, the student applicants must be graduate students or superior upper division undergraduate students (3.2 GPA or above) at one of the RM-CESU member universities.

Fellowships will range from \$1,000-\$5,000 per project, and may include housing provided at Glacier National Park. In addition to a summary report or publication, students are expected to provide one or more educational products to facilitate information transfer beyond the scientific audience, such as a presentation to site managers, a public seminar, CD, or non-technical article.

In FY07 three graduate students at UM, MSU and UWyo were selected to receive fellowships. At the end of FY07, the NPS-RMCESU added funds to the program; Glacier NP added funds at the end of FY08. The second call for proposals resulted in three student awards in 2008 for work in fire ecology, amphibian research and Clark's nutcracker monitoring in Glacier NP. Two of the students were from University of Montana, and one from UC-Denver. The next call for proposals will go out in November 2008.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

October 15, 2006 - release of call for proposals

October 2006 - January 2007 - select members for review panel

January 15, 2007 - deadline for submission of student applications

January 31, 2007 - confirm review panel membership

February 1-23, 2007 - review panel meets to select student awardees (one day; may be done via conference call)

February 28, 2007 - award announcements

March - May 2007 - funds dispersed; support arrangements made with park(s); Repeat cycle for FY08 and FY09

Keywords: Jerry O'Neal Student Fellowship Program, Glacier NP, Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS, Little Bighorn Battlefield NM, University of Montana, RM CESU universities
