

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Timbisha Shoshone Homeland Act Administrative History, Death Valley NP, Phases 1-3

Discipline: Cultural

Type of Project: Research

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana

Effective Dates: 8/21/2006 - 9/30/2009

Funding Amount: \$67,300 (\$29,500 added in FY08)

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract:

The University of Montana cooperator will work with Death Valley NP (DEVA) park staff to produce a comprehensive administrative history of the process leading to passage of the Timbisha Homeland Act, which involves the relationship between the tribe and a variety of other agencies and interest groups and how consensus was reached to achieve a goal that satisfied everyone, as well as the relationship between the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe and Death Valley National Park and their co-management of the homeland area within the national park.

The administrative history will function as a key management tool for future NPS administrators and tribal leaders, identifying and discussing the persons, events, policies, and Congressional interest that led to the establishment of Timbisha Shoshone trust lands and rights in Death Valley National Park under the Timbisha Homeland Act (P.L. 106-423) of 2000, and their subsequent administration. It will also provide an informed context for contemporary and future decision-making processes.

The cooperator will work with the NPS and tribes to plan and conduct intensive historical research on the Timbisha Shoshone Homeland Act administrative history, using administrative records of the NPS, the BLM, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Tribe, and possibly other entities, together with oral history interviews with current and former employees of the NPS, the BLM, the BIA, and knowledgeable tribal members. Research will be accomplished by examining the files, records, and archives of the federal agencies and Tribal governments involved in the cooperative relationship. Oral evidence such as unwritten eye-witness accounts of events or statements by participants will also be a vital part of the overall project.

Phase III will involve organization of materials; synthesis and interpretation of information and narrative writing resulting in an eye-pleasing and readable report for distribution in hard copy and compact disk. These final products will be due by September 30, 2009.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

Phase I will be completed over a **12-month** period and the final product for this phase will be a complete collection of textual records for the administrative history.

Keywords: administrative history, oral history, tribes, University of Montana, Death Valley NP, Timbisha Homeland Act