

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Ethnographic Overview and Assessment: Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site and Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site

Discipline: Cultural
Type of Project: Research
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana
Effective Dates: 8/15/2008-6/1/2012
Funding Amount: \$87,000 [\$30,000 added in FY09]

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: NPS will work cooperatively with the University of Montana in the preparation of an Ethnographic Overview and Assessment of Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site (BEOL) and the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site (SAND). This project will build on the work already completed in "Traditional Plant Use Study: Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site and Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site". This project will result in an accurate foundation for interpretation of tribal history and culture based on literature review and tribal consultation. At Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, the peoples historically associated with the Fort include the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Kiowa, Apache, Comanche, Taos Pueblo, (New) Mexican and others who may become apparent during literature review. Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes will be the only tribes consulted about regarding the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site. As part of this ethnographic study, the investigator will (1) document the historical and current cultural relationships between the lands and resources used by these groups at each site, including those of spiritual or religious significance, (2) summarize and evaluate existing literature, ethnographic resources and data, (3) compile copies of historical documents, lists/photographs and photocopies of artifacts of interest for living history interpretation, and oral histories relevant to the cultural groups historically associated with each site, (4) provide baseline data through site visits and oral interviews with tribal officials and representatives of cultural communities historically associated with each site, and (5) determine the potential for involvement with these groups in planning for future park programs and management activities.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: Due by June 1, 2012:

- 1) Series of progress reports related to documentation of research activities;
- 2) Draft report on ethnographic overview and assessment at BEOL and SAND; and
- 3) Final report on ethnographic overview and assessment at BEOL and SAND.

Keywords: affiliated tribes, Bent's Old Fort NHS, Sand Creek Massacre NHS, ethnographic overview, University of Montana