

**Three RM-CESU Students Awarded 2010 Jerry O'Neal Fellowship for Research in Glacier National Park, Grant-Kohrs National Historic Site, and Little Bighorn National Monument**

The Jerry O'Neal Fellowships, funded through the Crown of the Continent Research Learning Center at Glacier National Park, were announced for student work in summer 2010. This student award is named for the former deputy superintendent at Glacier NP, in honor of his dedication to science and research in the NPS. The competition was facilitated through the Rocky Mountains CESU and was open to students at all of the RM-CESU universities. **This year's Fellowship recipients are:**



**Alexandra Urza, M.Sc. candidate in Ecology at Colorado State University, "Direct and Indirect Influences of Climate Change on Post-Fire Forest Establishment in Glacier National Park"**

Alexandra's study will examine the role of climate in post-fire plant reestablishment in subalpine forests dominated by *Pinus contorta* (lodgepole pine). She will investigate the direct effects of post-fire climate conditions for plant recruitment, as well as the indirect effects of climate on disturbance severity.



**Helen Keremedjiev, Ph.D candidate in Anthropology at the University of Montana, "Ethnography of Cultural Heritage: Interpretation and Commemoration Practices at Big Hole, Little Bighorn, and Rosebud Battlefields"**

Helen's research project will examine how different groups of people perceive and participate in annual cultural heritage activities at three historic battlefields in Montana: Big Hole, Little Bighorn, and Rosebud. In particular, she will examine how cultural landscape affect those who manage or visit these places and how do commemoration activities impact those individuals' impressions and knowledge of these historic events.

J.O Fellowship will support work at Little Bighorn only.



**Matthew Larson, undergraduate student in Biological Science at the University of Montana, "Avian Surveys to Inform Assessment of Hayfield Management: Stuart Field Site, Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, Montana"**

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site (GRKO) is a working cattle ranch with an explicit commitment to the preservation of both its historical and ecological landscape. Matt's project will assist GKRO in developing best management practices in its grassland habitat. More specifically, it will help to minimize negative impacts on birds that result from haying operations.

As a requirement of their Fellowships, Alexandra, Helen, and Matthew will provide a final project report and copies of any publications as a result of the research. In addition, they will prepare a one-page, illustrated project summary, which will be featured in a future RM-CESU Newsletter. For more details contact Lisa Gerloff, Executive Coordinator of the RM-CESU at the University of Montana at [rmcesu@umontana.edu](mailto:rmcesu@umontana.edu).