

## Project Summary

### Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

**Project Title:** Research Assistance in Preparation for a Historic Structures Strategy for Yellowstone National Park

**Discipline:** Cultural  
**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Montana  
**Effective Dates:** 9/30/2009 - 12/15/2011  
**Funding Amount:** \$210,620 [FY11: \$100,000; FY10: \$75,000; FY09: \$35,620]

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** Yellowstone National Park has one of the greatest numbers of historic structures in the National Park Service, most of which are actively used for visitor services (e.g., visitor centers, museums, amphitheaters, hotels, entrance stations, and stores) or administration of the park. At least 902 of the park's historic structures may be eligible for listing on the National Register, and the List of Classified Structures (LCS) identifies many of these in fair or poor condition. The park does not have enough current and anticipated funding to maintain all its historic structures, nor do all historic structures contribute equally to the park's core activities. A strategy is needed to establish historic preservation priorities for the park's historic structures to provide a framework to guide management decisions regarding the evaluation, treatment, and disposal of historic buildings, and to streamline associated compliance. The Heritage Preservation Program at the University of Montana will provide student assistance to compile historic structures information from the various park files and provide the information to the researcher. The students will have an active role in the structures evaluation and strategy development.

This historic structures strategy will provide park managers with a rational and justifiable framework to prioritize structures for maintenance and preservation, focusing on those buildings core to the park's mission and historically significant. It will assist the park with its efforts to assess, triage, and strategically identify which structures to reduce from the park inventory, thereby allowing the more important structural assets to be managed, improved, and maintained in good to excellent condition. The strategy will be developed in agreement with the Wyoming and Montana State Historic Preservation Offices. The final outcome of this project would be a master, parkwide strategy for the park's historic structures that will help identify and prioritize preservation projects for the park's historic structures

Outcomes with Completion Dates: **September 15, 2012**

1. Initial work plan and completion dates to assist in meeting the project goals.
2. Final report describing prioritized LCS structures, documentation of the park-wide meetings where structures are prioritized. Report will further document initial research gaps and historic themes for further study. Prioritized list will be analyzed and bands of structures will be created ranging from those that must be preserved to those that are of little historic significance and do not serve a useful purpose with intermediate categories. A list of structures which need Determinations of Eligibility and Historic Structure reports will be prepared based on research and prioritization of LCS structures.

**Keywords:** historic structures, technical assistance, Yellowstone National Park, University of Montana