

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Rapid Ethnographic Assessment of Fort Laramie NHS

Discipline: Cultural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana
Effective Dates: 5/1/2010 - 12/31/2012
Funding Amount: \$59,205 (FY11: \$30,000; \$29,205)

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The Fort Laramie National Historic Site (FOLA) project will include an identification of past and present tribal affiliations with the site through an analysis of published and unpublished literature and on-site consultation with tribal representatives to identify the places and resources of historical or cultural significance to these tribes. Consultation may include focus groups, site visits, general consultation meetings, mapping, and documentary analysis techniques. More focused than an Overview and Assessment, the REAP will efficiently identify the communities with ties and affiliations to FOLA and will consider the views of the various affiliated tribes as its primary focus. The cooperators will work with a small team of subject matter specialists assisted by NPS Ethnography professionals to identify and document affiliated tribal groups, resources of concern and interest, needs for future research, and identify culturally appropriate ways to manage the resources deemed important by tribal group members, as well as what the affiliated groups may want to share with the public and in what format.

This project will provide management with recommendations for planning, resource protection, interpretation, future research. In addition, the final report will contain recommendations for the development and maintenance of positive working relationships between FOLA and the identified affiliated American Indian Tribes.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: October 31, 2012

A critical analysis of published and unpublished source materials including bibliography; An annotated bibliography of selected key sources; A list of tribes that are historically and contemporaneously affiliated with Fort Laramie NHS; and A narrative describing cultural and historic links between the NHS and affiliated tribes.

Keywords: Fort Laramie NHS, University of Montana, Ethnographic Assessment, tribal affiliations