

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Bighorn Canyon History: The River Before the Dam: Oral History Transcription

Type of Project: Research and Education
Discipline: Cultural Resources
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana
Effective Dates: 9/1/2010 - 12/31/2012
Funding Amount: \$57,232 [FY11: \$6,137; FY10: \$51,095]

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: Bighorn Canyon NRA is a young park with a lot of history. Though the park was only established in 1966, it has a long history of human occupation. While park archeologists continue to uncover the park's prehistory, much of the more recent history of the park is being lost. The will collect, curate and interpret some of this history while the best sources are still available. We will focus on three particular story lines: The history of the river before the dam, the building of the dam, and the work and history of Eddie Hulbert, a self taught silversmith at the Hillsboro ranch. University of Montana student interns will be used to find sources, conduct interviews and convert old format media (e.g. old home movies of the river before the dam) to a format more usable by the park. Results will be used to begin construction of an exhibit at the Hulbert Cabin at Hillsboro ranch, a film festival, and to strengthen the parks interpretation of the river and the dam.

Due to an overwhelming show of interest and support from the public, a great deal more data were collected than originally thought during the original project scoping (2010). This task agreement (2011) will continue where the original project ended, and allow for all of the interviews to be transcribed. In particular, it is important for the primary interviewer to make the transcriptions to ensure maximum accuracy. These transcriptions are an important last step in the successfully completion of the Bighorn Canyon History project and will allow for a complete archive to be available for use by the NPS and the public

Outcomes with Completion Dates: July 1, 2012

Keywords: park history, Bighorn River, Yellowtail Dam, student interns, Bighorn Canyon NRA, University of Montana