

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: FY16-FY17 Develop Plant Phenology Documentation Program at Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS

Discipline: Natural
Type of Project: Technical Assistance/Education
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: The University of Montana
Students Involvement: yes
Effective Dates: 6/1/2016 - 12/31/2018
Funding Amount: \$19,900

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: Students and citizen scientist collecting data as part of educational and visitor programs at Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site (GRKO) lack basic plant identification tools. The University of Montana (PI Peter Rice) will provide technical assistance for developing a plant phenology documentation program for orientation and use by students and citizen scientist to identify and document responses of plants to climate change and livestock grazing. Students working as seasonal bio technicians at GRKO will be responsible for producing new digital images of plants to assist in identification. In coordination with GRKO and the Crown of the Continent Research Learning Center, the University of Montana will provide plant identification and phenology monitoring materials. These materials will assist students and citizen scientists with plant identification and plant phenophase documentation. This information can be entered into Nature's Notebook hosted by the USA National Phenology Network. The phenology program will connect the public to the resource. An indirect benefit to GRKO is data collected may inform grazing management.

Keywords: students, citizen scientist, plant phenology, Grant-Kohrs National Historic Site, Grant-Kohrs Ranch, University of Montana