

FINAL PROJECT REPORT

RM-CESU Cooperative Agreement Number: CA-1200-99-007

TITLE OF PROJECT: Support of Collaborative Natural Resource Stewardship (Tehabi) – Continuation of USU 07

NAME OF PARK/NPS UNIT: Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS and Glen Canyon NRA

PROJECT SCHEDULE AND FINAL PRODUCTS,:

Project Initiation – August 1, 2003

Final Products include: Final presentation and summary report of the internship

Final Project date – August 25, 2005

PROJECT SUMMARY:

This project supported five full and two partial Tehabi internships. The five full internships were stationed at Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site (GRKO) in 2004. The two partial internships supported students that extended their original internships. These interns were stationed at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GLCA) in 2003. This year Tehabi had 22 students from six universities participate with the internship program. These interns worked with the NPS, BLM and an NGO in 6 states at 9 offices. The internship began with a 2-week field course held from May 16-18 at Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site (GRKO) in Deer Lodge, Montana. At the conclusion of the field course interns traveled to their sponsoring office to work under the direct supervisor of the agency. Over 12 weeks the interns developed and completed a performance plan and individual project and completed other duties as assigned by their supervisors. In addition to their work duties, the interns participated with a three credit on-line course that continued with topics from the field course. After 12 weeks all of the interns returned for a final meeting held August 14-17, at the USU Bear Lake Training Center. The interns discussed their internship experiences and gave individual presentations on their summer internships and final projects.

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS:

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GLCA)

Supervisor - John Spence

Monica Orton (University of Nevada - Reno)

Michael McDonough (Utah State University)

Both of these interns were originally supported by a previous RMCESU agreement. The additional support provided by this agreement allowed them to extend their internship to complete projects. Their internships were covered in the 2003 RMCESU final report.

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site (GRKO)

Supervisor: Ben Bobowski

Mary Cheney (Utah State University)

Christina Howard (Utah State University)

Liza Slusser (Colorado State University)

James Stuart (Utah State University)

Mike Weeks (North Carolina State University)

All five of the interns worked in the Resources Division. The initial proposal was written to have individual students work on specific duties. The project was modified so that all of the interns were combined as a team to complete tasks. This was done to enhance their learning opportunities and provide a variety of experiences. This internship team worked to complete: fence restoration project along the Historic Site's boundary, restoration, repair, and maintenance of the historic irrigation system, various ranch management and resource monitoring projects and a demonstration project of cattle eating weeds (all of the tasks outlined in the original agreement). The demonstration project was part of the BEHAVE consortium (<http://www.behave.net/>) and funded by the Cooperative Conservation Initiative as a pilot the use livestock to manage or control invasive species at Grant-Kohrs Ranch. Interns assisted the Project Coordinator (Kathy Voth) on a part time basis by picking weeds and mixing rations for the animals, monitoring their progress, building temporary fencing for in-pasture trials, and moving and caring for the animals while they were in pastures. They shared information via the daily web blog available at <http://livestockforlandscapes.com/stl-web/b2/>.

Each intern was required to complete an individual project for the summer. Three interns chose to base their individual project on the weed management pilot.

- Mary Cheney worked on a stimulus control demonstration project. For this project she investigated the possibility of using visual cues (cones and feed tubs) to modify cattle behavior (move the cows around). She wrote a summary report of findings. Mary completed this project and achieved all of her critical results on her internship EPPR.
- Liza Slusser focused on plant responses to grazing in which she monitored in-pasture weed consumption and regrowth. Lisa completed this project and achieved all of her critical results on her internship EPPR.
- James Stuart worked to identify a network of local ranchers and agriculturalist that related to the demonstration project. He worked with this network to share results of the pilot via on-site visits and to learn from their related experiences. James participated in the field tour for the project on August 26, 2004 after his internship was over. James produced a final report (including GIS maps) documenting this network of community members. He completed this project and achieved all of his critical results on his internship EPPR.

The other two interns based their projects on topics related to their academic experience and desired career goals.

- Christina Howard worked with Laura Rotegard (GRKO Superintendent) investigation public relations within Deer Lodge. Emphasis was placed on identifying issues that needed to be addressed and resolved. Christina produced several summaries of these meetings and worked with Dr. Mark Brunson to produce a survey for the community to further identify issues and concerns. Christina completed her project, (the survey is undergoing the approval process) and achieved all critical results on her internship EPPR.
- Mike Weeks developed a nutrient management summary report that addressed nutrient loading of the Grant-Kohrs effluent pastures. Part of this summary included assisting the resource manager to develop information addressing nutrient management options consistent with NPS policies. Mike completed this project and achieved all critical results on his internship EPPR.

The final reports, summaries and any intern individual project products were approved by and left with their NPS supervisor at the conclusion of the internship. Pictures of some interns at work are available from Ben Baldwin (Ben.Baldwin@usu.edu).