

# FINAL PROJECT REPORT

RM-CESU Cooperative Agreement Number: H1200040001

USU Proposal/Grant Code: 05-1208

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TITLE OF PROJECT: Tehabi Internships – Historic Fence Restoration/Repair

NAME OF PARK/NPS UNIT: Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS

PROJECT SCHEDULE AND FINAL PRODUCTS:

Project Initiation: September 15, 2004

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

Final Project date: December 29, 2006

PROJECT SUMMARY:

This project supported two Tehabi internships and Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site (GRKO) in Deer Lodge, Montana. This year Tehabi had 19 students from seven universities participate with the internship program. These interns worked with the NPS, BLM and a private corporation in seven states at twelve offices. The internship began with a 2-week field course held from May 15-27, 2005 at GRKO. 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 in a three-credit course that continued with topics from the field course. After 12 weeks all of the interns returned for a final meeting held August 15-18, 2005 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:

*Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS (GRKO)*

*Historic Fence Restoration*

Supervisor: Ben Bobowski

Interns: Lindsay Hadfield (Utah State University)

Jesse Wyasket (Utah State University)

Lindsay and Jesse worked under Ben Bobowski at Grant-Kohrs National Historic Site in an internship focused on documentation of existing fence types. Their duties included the following:

- Measuring fence dimensions and identifying fence types
- Repeat photography of existing fences
- Photography of new fence types
- Repeat photography of vegetation
- Performing ranch duties as assigned, including horse and livestock care

Lindsay and Jesse organized their findings and information from Cultural Landscape Plan and interviews into a document that will be used in the future to assist employees when building new fences. This document will help employees choose an appropriate fence

type for the time period of significance. Lindsay and Jesse completed their project and achieved all critical results outlined in their EPPRs.



Lindsay working on ranching duties.

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. Additional pictures of interns at work are available from Ben Baldwin ([Ben.Baldwin@usu.edu](mailto:Ben.Baldwin@usu.edu)).

#### PROJECT SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

This project provided excellent education opportunities for the students. The internships allow students to work with their agency supervisors to engage in their discipline and gain first-hand experience of the job. In most cases the supervisor also acted as mentor and provided the interns with additional support, advice and challenges. The interns learned numerous lessons, many of which were not intended but appreciated. Overall, internships, and Tehabi internships in particular, provide students with good experiences with agencies. And in turn, the offices get good summer employees and completed projects that they need done.

Challenges to the internship program include:

- Funding. Funding provides the greatest challenges to this program. The funding issues can be broken down into several main categories:
  - Inconsistent funding – each year the offices that have available funds for interns changes. This makes position development difficult. In essence, there is not “internship” funding available but rather funds from projects or seasonal hires.
  - Lack of funding – Offices just don’t have money in their budgets for internships (as well as many other things). Even if offices have willing supervisors and good projects often they simply don’t have funds available for the intern.
  - Late funding – offices don’t have their final budgets or are not allowed to spend until late into the recruiting season. This makes getting qualified candidates harder.
- Housing – Due to the remote location of many of the Great Basin offices and the short duration of the internships, housing becomes an important factor. In some locations there is not available housing and in others it becomes cost prohibitive. Offices that are more successful in providing housing or helping the students find affordable housing are usually more successful at finding qualified interns.

- Challenging positions – Most students are looking for challenging positions within their discipline. The goal is to find positions that challenge the student and allow them to apply their educational background. This usually means finding a supervisor that can modify existing projects to fit the skill set of the student and help them when they are having difficulties. In addition, the short duration of the summer internships makes it hard to give the interns a full experience that introduces them to their job and agency.

Additional comments (student and supervisor feedback and evaluations) are available from Ben Baldwin ([Ben.baldwin@usu.edu](mailto:Ben.baldwin@usu.edu)).