

FINAL PROJECT REPORT

RM-CESU Cooperative Agreement Number: H1200040001

USU Proposal/Grant Code: 051557

TITLE OF PROJECT: Tehabi Internships – Interns for Bighorn Canyon NRA and Glen Canyon NRA for summer 2005

NAME OF PARK/NPS UNIT: Bighorn Canyon NRA and Glen Canyon NRA

PROJECT SCHEDULE AND FINAL PRODUCTS:

Project Initiation: February 15, 2005

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

Final Project date: December 30, 2006

PROJECT SUMMARY:

This project supported three Tehabi internships. Two of the internships were stationed at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GLCA) in Arizona, and one was stationed at Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area (BICA) in 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 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 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, 2006 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)

Tehabi coordinator: John Spence

At GLCA there were two interns. The Tehabi program is coordinated at GLCA by John Spence, who also serves as an individual supervisor. Each intern has an individual supervisor that handles the day-to-day activities and duties.

Restoration Ecology

Supervisor: John Spence

Intern: Dawn Hanseder (University of Nevada at Reno)

Dawn Hanseder's primary project as a restoration ecology intern was to plan and organize the restoration of springs in the Navajo Point area that are critical habitat for a variety of wildlife and vegetation. Her primary duties included collecting baseline data at spring sites prior to restoration, contracting the job of physical rehabilitation and planting, and monitoring the progress of the project. Dawn organized and supervised the physical restoration project and for her final deliverables she produced a data record for each of three spring sites and a monitoring

plan for the future of the springs. Dawn completed her project and achieved all the critical results on her EPPR.



Dawn Hanseder and John Spence working on a spring restoration.

Range Ecology

Supervisor: Steven Bekadam

Intern: Melissa Sanders (Utah State University)

Melissa worked in the Resource Management Division on a wide range of projects with an emphasis on continuing development of a Rangeland Health Assessment Plan. Her duties included data entry, boat operation on Lake Powell, ongoing range monitoring, rangeland health assessment development and implications. Melissa's project focused on the Soda allotment and the Wahweap area. She compared grazed and un-grazed areas and data collected from 1995 to data collected in 2005 in order to assess livestock impacts on vegetation. Her deliverables included data sheets, photo plots, notes on the methods used, a species list for each plot and a write up on what was found when the data was analyzed. Melissa completed her project and achieved all the critical results on her EPPR.



Melissa conducting a range survey.

Bighorn Canyon NRA
Wildlife

Supervisor: Cassidy Bromley
Intern: Kody Menghini (Utah State University)

Kody Menghini worked at Bighorn Canyon Recreation Area in Northern Wyoming and Southern Montana. His main task was to track radio-collared bighorn sheep and collect location data, primarily lambing locations of female bighorn. Kody documented 751 bighorn throughout the summer, many of which were repeat sightings on the same bighorn. Kody also mapped potential sage-grouse habitat in the park. He discovered that overall the grouse habitat is marginal and only a few pile of old scat were located. Kody completed his project and achieved all the critical results on his EPPR.



Kody doing radio telemetry.



A photo Kody took of bighorn sheep.

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).

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).