

# FINAL PROJECT REPORT

**RM-CESU Cooperative Agreement Number: H1200040001/J2119060104/USURM-20**  
**USU Proposal/Grant Code: 061517**

---

TITLE OF PROJECT: Tehabi Internships – Interns for NPS Rocky Mountain Inventory and Monitoring Network

NAME OF PARK/NPS UNIT: Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site and Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument

## PROJECT SCHEDULE AND FINAL PRODUCTS:

Project Initiation: February 15, 2006

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

Final Project date: December 30, 2007

## PROJECT SUMMARY:

This project supported two Tehabi internships stationed at Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site in Montana. One intern also spent time at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. This year Tehabi had 19 students from eight universities participate with the internship program. These interns worked with the NPS and BLM in five states at seven offices. The internship began with a field course held from May 20-27, 2006 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 13-16, 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:

### **Rocky Mountain Inventory and Monitoring**

Tehabi coordinator: Dan Manier

There were two interns with the Rocky Mountain Inventory and Monitoring Network. The Tehabi program was coordinated through Dan Manier with assistance from Ben Bobowski at Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS. Dan and Ben shared the responsibility of supervising the interns' day-to-day activities and duties.

### *Grasslands Monitoring*

Supervisors: Ben Bobowski and Dan Manier

Interns: Marne Davenport (Montana State University) and Taylor Robinson (Montana Tech)

Taylor, Marne and NPS seasonal worker, Jesse Wyasket, worked on a grassland monitoring project for the Rocky Mountain I&M Network. The project consisted of vegetation and soil stability monitoring. They gathered data from Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument and Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, two of six National Parks involved in the Rocky Mountain Network project. Their goal was to identify and survey fifteen sites twice at Grant-Kohrs Ranch and complete ten sites once at Little

Bighorn Battlefield. The methods they used to identify vegetation and soil stability included the following:

- Point Frequency
- Continuous Line Intercept
- Canopy Cover Plot
- Soil Infiltration
- Soil Stability

They monitored shrub and grassland areas and took soil samples within the site area. They recorded their findings in a Personal Data Assistant and on data forms. They recorded all data gathered in the field in a laptop for Rocky Mountain Network to have for reference. This will help the network identify the trend of both vegetation and soil over a ten year period to discover if any changes occur.



**Taylor Robinson working on data collection.**



**Marne Davenport getting equipment ready for data collection.**

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 educational 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. In turn, the offices get good seasonal 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 offices we work with 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 interns 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)).