

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Intermountain Region ASMIS Condition Assessment Assistance
Discipline: Cultural Resources
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Wyoming, Northwest College
Effective Dates: 8/1/2006 - 12/31/2010
Funding Amount: \$61,950 [\$26,200 was added in FY08]

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The National Park Service (NPS) Associate Director for Cultural Resources issued a memorandum regarding the Corrective Action Plan for ASMIS Site Condition Data. The Associate Director's memorandum explained that auditors for the DOI Inspector General found deficiencies in the Archeological Sites Management Information System (ASMIS), which records information about known and documented park archeological sites. In addition, the memorandum mandated that NPS parks develop Corrective Action Plans to correct deficient ASMIS information. In general, the deficient ASMIS information is for those archeological sites that were initially documented before 1990, and which do not reflect the current ASMIS information standards.

Through this project, the NPS Intermountain Region, Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, the University of Wyoming and Northwest College will work cooperatively to update ASMIS information within the Rocky Mountain Cluster, specifically ASMIS information for Bighorn Canyon NRA. This work will involve travel to Bighorn Canyon NRA, the preparation of updated condition assessments on prehistoric sites within Bighorn Canyon NRA, and the preparation of new site forms for those archeological sites. In addition, an investigation consisting of magnetic field gradient survey will be conducted at high data sample densities on four historic ranches located in the park. The objective of the survey will be to locate and map potential buried archaeological features to provide a reliable database concerning the actual footprint and historic use of the cultural landscape of each ranch for management and interpretive purposes. Of particular interest will be the identification of anomalous magnetic fields created by buried fire-altered features to determine prehistoric use of the landscape prior to settlement of the sites by early homesteaders and ranchers. To accomplish this field work, the BICA archeologist will work with the University and College to conduct an annual field school at the park.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

- 1) Updated ASMIS Condition Assessments due by December 31, 2010
- 2) Presentations by students and faculty at archeological meetings; preparations of journal articles.
- 3) remote sensing maps of four historic ranches, due by December 31, 2010

Keywords: Archeological Sites Management Information System, Bighorn Canyon NRA, University of Wyoming, Northwest College, historic ranches