

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Update of Ethnographic Overview of Devils Tower National Monument, Phase 1-2

Discipline: Interdisciplinary

Type of Project: Technical Assistance

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Wyoming

Effective Dates: 7/9/2006- 9/9/2008

Funding Amount: \$90,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Dave Ruppert, National Park Service, Office of Indian Affairs & American Culture, 12795 West Alameda Parkway, Denver, Colorado 80228, Office Phone: (303) 969-2879, Fax: (303) 969-2063, dave_ruppert@nps.gov

Investigator: Michael E. Harkin, Department of Anthropology, University of Wyoming, 1000 E. University Avenue, Dept. 3431, Laramie, WY 82071, (307) 766-6328, FAX (307) 766-2473, harkin@uwyo.edu, and

Fred Chapman, University of Wyoming, American Studies Program, Cooper House, P.O. Box 4036, Laramie, WY 82071, (307) 766-3860, fchapman@uwyo.edu

Project Abstract:

The overall objective of this project is to provide an update to an earlier report on the ethnography of Devils Tower NM. New information regarding affiliated tribes and an evaluation of ethnographic resources will be used as input into park management plans and environmental assessment work interpretation planning (if deemed appropriate by the affiliated communities), a possible National Register nomination of the site as a Traditional Cultural Property, as well as in other park resource-related management decisions.

An important focus of this project is ethnographic and ethnohistoric research on the full range of American Indian tribes and their cultural affiliation with, and use of, places and resources at Devils Tower NM. The NPS also wishes to use the data collected during this research to enhance its long term working relationships with all American Indian communities that have ties to the monument.

Phase 1 of the project will focus on a review and synthesis of existing legal, historic, and ethnographic information related to American Indian affiliation with and use of the monument and the surrounding area. This analysis will focus primarily on federal laws, treaties, executive orders, and other legal documents that address the American Indian ties to the park areas. The historic, archeological and ethnographic analysis will provide a synthesis of existing literature providing an overview of tribal occupancy and use of the monument and the surrounding area. This first phase will provide the background information necessary to determine likely tribal affiliation with the monument as well as preliminary contact with the tribal government officers to seek their guidance on the next phase of work.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: (1) Quarterly Progress Reports are due October 9, 2006; January 9, 2007; and April 9, 2007, October 9, 2007, January 9, 2008 and April 9, 2008 (2) Draft Technical Report due by June 11, 2008, (3) Final Technical Report due September 9, 2008

Keywords: Devils Tower NM, University of Wyoming, ethnography, Native American tribes