

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Natural Resource Program Interns for Bighorn Canyon NRA

Discipline: Natural

Type of Project: Technical Assistance and Education

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Wyoming and Northwest College

Effective Dates: 4/1/2006 - 9/15/2012

Funding Amount: \$50,776

Investigators and Agency Representative:

NPS Contact: Cassity Bromley, Bighorn Canyon NRA, 20 Highway 14 A East, Lovell, WY 82431,
cassity_bromley@nps.gov, 307-548-5416

Investigator: Dan Tinker, Botany Department, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82071; 307-766-4967;
tinker@uwyo.edu; and Ronald Hitchcock at Northwest College, Lovell, WY

Project Abstract:

This project is a collaboration among Bighorn Canyon NRA (BICA) staff, and researchers from University of Wyoming and Northwest College, Lovell, WY. At the beginning of each summer field season, BICA staff will coordinate with student interns, their NWC faculty supervisor and the intern coordinator at NWC to assemble a detailed list of tasks, expectations and skills to be gained based on the interests of the student and the needs of the park. These tasks may include:

- * In summer 2006 students will assist BICA staff with an investigation of the effects on small mammal populations of mechanical thinning of limber pine stands
- * Finding, mapping and controlling invasive plants, including learning proper technique for chemical control and its documentation.
- * Assisting in collecting water quality samples and preparing them for laboratory analysis. Performing analysis of water samples for E. coli.
- * Doing revegetation and habitat improvement projects for bighorn sheep, and in areas impacted by historic ranching and trailing practices.
- * Participating in other resource management work tasks as required.

Northwest College Faculty include Ronald Hitchcock, John Campbell and Jessica Rose. These faculty will help in selecting students and serve as internship advisors for summer internships.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

Each summer the interns will be trained and given resource management projects, including data collection and entry, invasive plant fieldwork, and performing and monitoring revegetation projects. Work on at least one project will be written up by the student as a final report for park staff and NWC/University of Wyoming faculty. These reports will be due by December 31 of each year.

Keywords: student interns, invasive plants, bighorn sheep ecology, water quality, Bighorn Canyon NRA, University of Wyoming, Northwest College

For Administrative Use Only:

Date Annual Report Received:

Date Final Report Received:

Publications, etc. on file: