

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Bighorn Canyon NRA 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: 9/30/2009 - 12/31/2012

Funding Amount: \$16,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: On May 19, 2005, the 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.

In response to that mandate, the NPS IMRO is now initiating an effort to begin updating ASMIS information of parks, including those within the Rocky Mountain Cluster. Through this task agreement, Bighorn Canyon NRA and Northwest College in cooperation with The University of Wyoming will work cooperatively to update ASMIS information for Bighorn Canyon NRA.

As part of this effort, Northwest College, Powell WY., in cooperation with the University of Wyoming will assist the NPS in preparing new condition assessment for archeological sites. This work will involve travel to the parks, the preparation of updated condition assessments on prehistoric sites within BICA, 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.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: December 31, 2012

Keywords: Archeological Site Management Information System, Bighorn Canyon NRA, University of Wyoming, Northwest College