

RM-CESU -Completion Report, FY 10

Project Title: Taming the Herbarium

Parks: Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area

NPS Key Official: Chris Finley, 307-548-5413

Funding Source: Rocky Mountains CESU Technical Assistance Funding

University PI: Robert Kelly

CESU Partner: Northwest College, Powell Wyoming (U. Wyoming will serve as pass through)

Completion Report

Summer 2010

During the Summer 2010 season, two Northwest college interns, Don Mayes and Kaci Weinschrott, worked extensively with the BICA herbarium collection under the guidance of DeAnza Harrison (NPS Museum Staff). Over the course of 10 weeks, the students processed 1208 specimens into the ICMS+/ANCS+ database, decreasing the herbarium backlog from over 1800 items to 500 items. During this process, students entered existing specimens into the catalog and assisted in a compilation of specimens existing at the Rocky Mountain Herbarium at the University of Wyoming. This project has substantially decreased the backlog catalog and curation of the herbarium database at BICA, making the records more complete, accessible, and searchable to both park staff and researchers.

In addition, both students participated in natural and cultural resource management activities including working with historic orchards restoration, archeological site recording, and construction of a horse guzzler at the wild horse range.

During the course of these internships students had the opportunity to learn a multitude of skills. These included: introductory training to museum cataloguing, inventory, and curation; database management and organization; introduction to historic restoration; archeological field methods including surveying, site recording, GPS basics, and photography. They gained knowledge and further expertise in the following programs: ICMS+ and Microsoft Office. Working closely with NPS personnel also gave the students an opportunity to observe the varied career opportunities that the federal government offers.