

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Determination of Eligibility (DOE) for Elk Ranch

Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Discipline: Cultural
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Wyoming
Effective Dates: 6/1/2010- 3/30/2011
Funding Amount: \$ 5,088

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The Elk Ranch complex comprises 180 acres of grazing land just south of Moran Junction in Grand Teton National Park. The ranch was developed in the early 20th century, and became the largest cattle ranch in the Jackson Hole area in the 1920s. It was purchased by the Snake River Land Company in 1928, and was used to raise hay for the National Elk Refuge and for livestock used by the Grand Teton Lodge Company. In 1950 the property was donated to the National Park Service and became part of the expansion of Grand Teton National Park. Since the park's acquisition of the ranch, the buildings have been used for equipment storage and the land is still used for permit grazing. Potentially significant cultural resources, in addition to the land itself, include seven buildings, a corral, and an irrigation system. This project will thoroughly document and evaluate the property following the current guidelines of the National Park Service and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office. Grand Teton National Park is currently developing its *Historic Structures Management Plan (HSMP)*, and this determination of eligibility is critical for the completion of the HSMP as it is one of the last known unevaluated properties in the park that is 50 or more years old. This project will produce a report that will guide management of cultural resources in Grand Teton National Park.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: March 30, 2011

Final reports, a completed DOE on a Wyoming Cultural Properties Form or a National Register Nomination Form (if applicable), for the Elk Ranch in Grand Teton NP

Keywords: Elk Ranch, determination of eligibility (DOE), National Register of Historic Places, Grand Teton National Park, University of Wyoming