

## Project Summary

### Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

**Project Title:** YPP: North District Bighorn Canyon NRA Improve 3 Public Access Trails

**Discipline:** Interdisciplinary  
**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance/Education  
**Funding Agency:** National Park Service  
**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Wyoming- Wyoming Conservation Corps  
**Effective Dates:** 7/13/2015 - 12/31/2015  
**Funding Amount:** \$14,500

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

NPS Contact: Suika Rivett, Park Archeologist/Cultural Resource Manager, Bighorn Canyon National Rec. Area, 20 US HWY 14A East, Lovell, WY. 82431, Phone: 307-548-5420, Fax: 307-548-5409, email: suika\_rivett@nps.gov.

Investigator: Patrick Harrington, Project Coordinator, Sr., Wyoming Conservation Corps, Dept. 3994, 1000 E. University Ave, Laramie, WY 82071-2000, PHONE: 307-766-3048, FAX: (307)766-3616, email: pharrin2@uwyo.edu

**Project Abstract:** Project work consists of trail improvement on 3 trails at the North District of BICA located near Fort Smith, MT. These trails provide access to our parks cultural and natural resources, both scenic and educational, and offer opportunities for exploration into nature, our cultural history and the effects of past and current events. Work will include: resurfacing and building safer and more defined trails and repairing trail assets to improve visitor access to park resources. 3 Mile Trail: Follows the Bighorn River, a world class fishery, ending at a wildlife viewing area. Work includes: Installing 3 culverts to repair degraded trail surface caused by flood damage, adding crushed aggregate to 500 yards of the degraded trail approximately 4' wide and 2" deep and removing approximately 1 mile of brush to mitigate tripping hazards, reduce fire fuels, increase visibility, and reduce vegetative encroachment. Beaver Pond Nature Trail: Wildlife viewing. Work includes: Repairing the current concrete anchor and abutments on a pedestrian suspension bridge, replacing worn planking, and removing brush and grass along approximately 1 mi of trail to improve degraded surface tread, mitigate tripping hazards, reduce fire fuels, increase visibility, and reduce vegetative encroachment. Headgate Trail: Ends at a picnic area near what remains of the Bighorn Head Gate, the system that irrigated the lands in the upper Bighorn Valley in the early 1900's. Work includes: Excavating and in kind replacement of 500lf of rotted cantilevers and railing, repairing degraded surface tread on approx. 500lf of trail to mitigate tripping hazards, reduce fire fuels, increase visibility, reduce vegetative encroachment and eliminate social trails.

The project engages recipients, partners, communities, and/or visitors in shared environmental stewardship. The principal purpose of the project is to support the Government's objective to provide opportunities for youth to learn about the environment by spending time working on projects in National Parks. The NPS receives the indirect benefit of completing conservation projects. The project motivates its youth participants to become involved in the natural, cultural and /or historical resource protection of their communities and beyond. Students gain "real world" or hands-on experience outside of the classroom of natural, cultural and/or historical resource projects. Improved and safer trails will allow, for the public, safe and unrestricted access to our parks cultural and natural resources, both scenic and educational, offering opportunities for exploration into nature, our cultural history and the effects of past and current events.

**Outcomes with Completion Dates:** December 31, 2015

**Keywords:** Technical Assistance, Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, Wyoming Conservation Corps, University of Wyoming