

Project Completion Report

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU)

Project Title: Catalog and Preserve Collections from Yellowstone National Park's Backlog

Project Code: Agreement Number P14AC01143, CSU account 5333014

Type of Project (Research, Technical Assistance or Education): Technical Assistance

Funding Agency: National Park Service, Yellowstone National Park

Partner University: Colorado State University, Public Lands History Center

NPS Agreement Technical Representative (with complete contact information): Colleen Curry, Museum Curator, PO Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 8219; 307-344-2262 (office), 406-848-9958 (fax), colleen_curry@nps.gov

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Start Date of Project: October 1, 2014

End Date of Project: September 30, 2017

Funding Amount: \$72,738

Project Summary:

Through student internships, CSU's Public Lands History Center (PLHC) assisted Yellowstone's Heritage and Research Center with cataloging and preserving collections from the Park's backlog to make them accessible to researchers. Interns cataloged objects and specimens into the park's collections database. With help from the curatorial staff, the students photo-documented and rehoused objects using archival materials. The students assisted the HRC staff with inventory throughout the park and finding objects with unknown locations.

Number of students participating in this project: undergraduates, graduate students, degrees conferred.

A total of 6 graduate students worked to complete this project. The two students who held the internship in the summer of 2015, Cassie Baumgarner and Rachel Crooks, earned their MA in public history from CSU in the spring of 2016. Of the two students who worked on the internship in summer 2016 one, Samuel Iven, earned his MA in public history from CSU in spring 2017, and the other, Kelsey Matson, is currently a PhD candidate at MSU. The two students who held the internship in summer 2017, Dustin Clark and Hannah Ashely, are scheduled to complete their MA's in public history from CSU in the spring of 2018.

Lessons Learned from this project:

Interns learned how to catalog objects into the Interior Collection Management System (ICMS) database. With the guidance of the NPS Museum Handbook, students became trained in the proper methods of rehousing and documenting cultural objects and natural specimens.

Collections management, in both Yellowstone and the National Park Service is an ongoing process.