

Final Report to the Intermountain Region of the National Park Service

Task Agreement Number P15AC01287/UCOD-90 (Cooperative Agreement P14AC00749)

For the Intermountain Region Office of Indian Affairs and American Culture (IAAC) Internship

Project Background:

The Intermountain Regional Office of Indian Affairs and American Culture (IAAC) Internship project was initiated between the National Park Service and the University of Colorado Denver 7/1/2015. Dr. David Ruppert, Department of Anthropology was the designated PI. The PI changed to Dr. Tammy Stone, Department of Anthropology 1/1/2018.

The Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado Denver entered into the agreement with the IAAC of the National Park Service to provide student interns and research associates to work part time in support of the IMR Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation (NAGPRA) program, the IMR Cultural Anthropology/Ethnography program, and the IMR Triable Liaison program.

Original Statement of Work:

The agreement stated the PI would work with the Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado Denver to provide student interns and research associates to work part time in support of NPS IAAC activities. The nature of the projects varied through time as needed by the IAAC. PI responsibilities included recruiting student interns/research associates, mentoring students, and working with the University of Colorado Denver to pay student employees, provide quarterly reports (last report submitted 4/16/2018), and final report.

Statement of Completed Work:

Three student interns were employed through the project and served as research associates with IAAC: Katharine Brown (who worked under Karen Wurzbarger), Sarah Simeonoff, and Michael Satchell (both of whom worked under Kim Greenwood). Ms. Brown worked on a project to identify all of the ethnographic reports completed at parks in the IMR region to fulfill a WASO data call. Ms. Simeonoff worked on several projects, including the drafting of a regional policy/guide on sacred sites, NAGPRA conversations for HUTR and the Tribal Research Policies, Processes and Protocols project. Mr. Satchell has worked on Tribal Research Policies, Processes and Protocols project, identified content for the TEK website, and observed NAGPRA conversations for BIBE. All three have helped update the Tribal Consultation Database.

Specifically, the task agreement states the students will engage in the following type of work to give them valuable skills and professional experience as they embark upon their careers. Tasks include drafting tribal consultation correspondence, making phone calls to tribal governments, participating as a note-taker in tribal consultation, drafting NAGPRA notices and gaining a familiarity with ethnographic

research documents and scopes of work. Specific tasks vary based on the skills of the student intern and park projects. The tasks performed and skills gained from these are detailed below.

Students gained these skills in a variety of methods. For example, as part of the Tribal Research Policies, Processes and Protocols project, the student interns (Ms. Simeonoff and Mr. Satchell) contact tribal representatives by phone and email to present the project. During these communications, interns gathered information on contact point persons, policies and protocols the tribes have in place, the process for researchers to request information about beginning new projects as well as any current projects that may be occurring on tribal lands, using structured interviews and open-ended questions to explore areas of concern. Ms. Simeonoff initiated contact with 165 tribes and completed the process with 60 tribes. Mr. Satchell has followed up with an additional 20 tribes and initiated the process with five. These actions help to develop interview methods crucial to ethnographic research and the development of cooperative relationships.

The information gained in these interviews was used to create a webpage on the TEK website with written Tribal informed consent. These activities have led to the development of an understanding and experience in issues of informed consent, ethical behavior, and research design. Additionally, it improves the interns understanding of indigenous concerns over access to and use of traditional knowledge and conflict resolution.

Interns have also helped present information on the projects to diverse (and sometimes very large) audiences. For example, Mr. Satchell recently co-presented on the TEK project at an IMR RSS training workshop. Ms. Simeonoff co-presented to staff and tribal members served by the Denver region of EPA. As a result, the interns both develop and have reinforced skills related to effective oral communication skill and the development and effective use of presentation and supplemental materials (PowerPoint slides, meeting handouts, etc).

Interns are required to write weekly reports. These reports help to develop and reinforce their note taking skills (both in interview settings and in meetings). They also master the skills necessary for the production of progress reports. Finally, written communication skills are honed to a professional level.