

# **National Park Service Project Completion Report Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (RM-CESU)**

**Project Title: Conduct Archeological Testing to Support Determination of Eligibility for Stuart-Menard Cabin Site**

**Project Code: SKC-18**

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

**Funding Agency: National Park Service**

**Partner University: Salish Kootenai College**

**NPS Agreement Technical Representative (with complete contact information):**

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**Principal Investigators (with complete contact information):**

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**Start Date of Project: April 30, 2013**

**End Date of Project: April 30, 2018**

**Funding Amount: \$46,349**

## **Project Summary,**

In order to gather enough information to complete a Determination of Eligibility, the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site (GRKO) worked with Salish Kootenai College's Tribal Historic Preservation program to complete the testing of the archeological resources associated with a 19<sup>th</sup> century homesite. A Rocky Mountain – Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit (CESU) agreement was used to transfer National Park Service cultural resource project funds to the school to accomplish a scope of work developed by the Principle Investigator, Dr. Jeff Bendremer and GRKO Key Official and Integrated Resource Manager, Christine Ford.

The scope of work called for development and execution of a testing program based on previous historic context and archeology survey work. Testing was completed during two summer field seasons. All materials recovered from the study were cataloged by students and park staff. A final report and associated field records were submitted.

In Dr. Bendremer's assessment, this site is ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an individual site, even under Criteria D. This is based on the lack of integrity and little potential for contributing to our historical knowledge. However, because of the site's importance

in relation to Grant-Kohrs Ranch, the Stuart-Menard Site may nevertheless constitute a contributing property to the Grant-Kohrs Ranch/Warren Ranch Historic District which, at the time of its nomination, included 72 contributing resources. In particular, some aspects of integrity, including Location, Setting and Association are well preserved which are the qualities of integrity most relevant to the site's relationship to Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site. An opportunity for comparative research exists in both the areas of socio-economic status and cultural diversity at Grant-Kohrs Ranch and the lack of internal integrity and individual distinction of the Stuart-Menard Site does not disqualify the site from eligibility as a contributing resource. The State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with this recommendation. The site will be treated as an eligible property.

Dr. Bendremer was able to ensure his students received the practical training and experience to enable their professional development while meeting NPS policies and standards. This project gave the park an opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with the Salish Kootenai College and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

**Number of students participating in this project:** 13 undergraduates in the Historic Preservation program.

**Lessons Learned from this project:**

The relationships developed over the project proved as important as the work itself.

The need for students to recover all cultural material and field catalog was very important for their training but it also resulted in a large number of items that might not have been valuable as diagnostic material was accessioned and cataloging into the site's collection. There was not enough funds for cataloging and that responsibility largely fell to the park.

**Other RM-CESU agencies or research partners who participated in this project:**

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