

# Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee

## Project Completion Report

FY 2007

<b>Unit:</b> Bridger Teton National Forest (BRTE), Grand Teton National Park (GRTE), Shoshone National Forest (SHOS), National Elk Refuge (NER) & Yellowstone National Park (YELL)
<b>Project Name:</b> Second Phase: Document & Inventory Natural Resources in GRTE, BRTE, SHOS, NER & YELL significant to American Indians (Ethnographic Resources)
<b>Project Description:</b> In the first phase of this project, the five jurisdictions were invited to an orientation/education meeting that resulted in the development of template forms to be used by each to enter information about the significance of natural resources to tribes (ethnographic resources). Once submitted, they were to be used for data entry into the National Park Service (NPS) national database known as the Ethnographic Resources Inventory (ERI). Information was solicited from jurisdictions and, along with archival sources, data was successfully entered. The second phase sought to increase the information obtained from each jurisdiction by traveling to these jurisdictions, reviewing records and documenting resources there, and then entering that data into the ERI. The focus was upon tribally significant natural resources that are also priorities for the GYCC. These include (1) watersheds; (2) aquatic ecosystems; (3) invasive weed species; (4) whitebark pine; (5) cutthroat trout; and (6) threatened and endangered species (trumpeter swans, wolverines, bears, moose, lynx, and eagles). This information is useful in GYCC planning and compliance, and will be helpful to management decision making. It is also useful in understanding the historical ecological dimension of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE). For example, information collected in the ERI has recently served to inform GRTE and NER's Bison/Elk Management EIS. During the second phase, additional information about tribally significant natural resources was collected from each jurisdiction, as well as ethnographic research conducted to obtain the tribal significance of GYCC prioritized resources. All information was prepared for data entry into the ERI, which entailed additional work to fill out required fields. The information is now accessible to all GYE managers, planners, researchers, and visitor educators.
<b>GYCC Funding Received:</b> \$10,000
<b>Partner Funding/In-Kind Received:</b> \$4,480
<b>Status of the Project:</b> COMPLETED
<b>Project Summary:</b> Seasonal staff traveled to and solicited information from some jurisdictions, while others provided information by mail. Staff worked collaboratively with jurisdictional managers to successfully amass a large quantity of tribal information about GYA natural resources. In addition, independent ethnographic research yielded voluminous information about the tribal significance of GYCC's top seven categories of natural resources. Seasonal staff entered into the ERI database all of that ethnographic information, as well as information from several large ethnographic reports (e.g., the Ethnographic Overview and Assessment of Grand Teton National Park and the National Elk Refuge and the multi-jurisdictional study of ephemeral log structures). Copies of the ERI database have been disseminated to jurisdictions, but because of technological and security issues, databases have yet to be properly installed. Consequently, Yellowstone's Ethnography Office acts as the primary source and intermediary for obtaining ethnographic information stored in the ERI database.
<b>Products that can be shared across the GYA: (GIS data layers, maps, new protocols and methods)</b> Reports, notes, consultation outcomes, literature searches and other documents gathered during this project unearthed volumes of information pertaining to the tribal significance of GYCC prioritized natural resources, as well as many others. The ERI database holds valuable ethnographic information about the natural resources found in all jurisdictions of the GYA. GYA managers are invited to utilize this database for their planning, compliance, management, and decision-making needs. Please contact Yellowstone's Ethnography Office for requests and more information: (307) 344-2229.
<b>Project results: (Information worth sharing on methods, results, partnerships, etc)</b> Despite the need for the ERI database to be accessed and used by land managers across the GYA, the logistics of making a

*Note: You may expand and reduce size of blocks.*

cross-jurisdictional database work are technologically complicated. The three main concerns are (1) ensuring the security of the sensitive ethnographic information stored in the database; (2) providing access for employees of both the Department of the Interior (NPS) and the Department of Agriculture (USFS) to access it when security barriers prohibit it; and (3) not duplicating information that can be found in other databases. For example, the SHOS manager opted not to include remaining ethnographic information into the ERI as it is duplicative of some of the entries in the Forest Service archeological database. Forest Service managers suggest merging their database and the ERI to form a comprehensive database. Solutions to reconcile all of these issues and concerns are currently being investigated. Until the point of resolution, Yellowstone's Ethnography Office upholds the responsibility for ensuring the ERI's security and availability for all GYA managers.

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