

Report of Task Agreement # J8100060126

Park: Grand Teton National Park

Project Title: Conserve Ethnographic Objects Vernon Collection Phase III

Investigator: Beth Grindell

Project Number: UAZCP - 55

Cooperator: Audrey Lane Harrison

Final Project Report

The cooperator, Audrey Harrison, completed conservation tasks related to ethnographic objects from the David T. Vernon Collection from the Grand Teton National Park in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Guidelines of Practice of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works. Work was performed on-site at the Western Archeological and Conservation Center, Tucson, Arizona. Harrison prepared written examination and condition reports for an estimated 240 objects, formerly located in the Colter Bay museum storage room. The cooperator also conducted conservation treatments and written final treatment reports for approximately 100 objects, of the 500 proposed objects. Most treated objects required more treatment time due to complexity of treatment. Additional time went towards after treatment photography that included multiple digital images which were then downloaded and labeled for digital access and archiving. Some objects required more than just a constructed support or cavity mount. More fragile objects required custom-made storage boxes that would minimize handling and also add additional support and protection.

NPS invited Grand Teton National Park seasonal staff, Laine Thom, to assist with the identification portion of the examination report. This included editing the existing object measurements, material type, cultural group, and description. The extensive descriptions, completed with Thom, took additional time beyond the initially proposed examination. This was a rare opportunity and was prioritized by the park due to Thom's expertise. Harrison worked alongside Thom during all object description rewrites and was responsible for entering all updated identification information, as well as condition information, into the Filemaker Pro database.

Harrison gathered additional conservation treatment ideas and methods for treating museum objects from published resources and from attending lectures and workshops given by conservation specialists. A continued understanding of conservation treatment of various materials and methods for preventive conservation of fragile material was developed throughout the project.