

## **CESU Agreement #J8100080246**

**Park:** Chiricahua National Monument

**Project:** Move Chiricahua National Monument Collections to Western Archeological & Conservation Center.

**Investigator:** Rich Lange/Beth Grindell

**Project #:** UAZCP – 143

**Cooperator:** Erin Bilyeu, Anne Iverson, Margaret Kipling, Audrey Harrison and students, Rebecca Keaton, Jessica Blaz, Brenda Taylor

### **Final Project Report**

One week of training was provided to Bilyeu to familiarize her with NPS collections management policy. The first assessment trip and moving of objects was completed by NPS employee Kim Beckwith. The second trip, Bilyeu and Iverson assisted NPS employees Beckwith and Susan Wells on the first of four additional trips to Chiricahua National Monument, where the Collections Storage Building was evaluated for cataloged objects, as well as any other important (uncataloged, unaccessioned) items and documents. Park employees Dave Evans and Kathrine Neilsen provided input on objects that should be discarded and those that should be accessioned and cataloged. A strategy was developed for moving objects that were not housed in cabinets first, since active rodent activity in that facility made those collections most vulnerable.

Objects to be relocated were packed in boxes and checked off an inventory formed from the CHIR catalog database. Any items that appeared to be related to collections or Faraway Ranch House, but which were unaccessioned and uncataloged, but which park staff had identified as needing to be integrated into their collection were labeled with as much information as the park could provide, and were added to the inventory of items removed (accessioning and cataloging of those items subsequently occurred at WACC). In all, during that trip, there were 12 boxes of history items, 11 boxes of biology, 3 boxes of geology, and 1 box of archeology packed and moved. A trip by Kipling and Harrison as part of a CHIR conservation project brought back 18 entomology drawers of pinned insects, mostly uncataloged, and that team informed the collections team that there were more objects at the Faraway Ranch to be collected for storage at WACC. Thus, another trip was scheduled. During that trip, Bilyeu, and NPS employees Beckwith and Wells packed and transported more than 30 additional boxes of cataloged History items from the Faraway Ranch house and collections storage, which included an uncataloged Fungi collection. Lastly, a trip to the Monument was made by Bilyeu and Wells in an attempt to assess the Cowboy House for any final objects and to pick up a few biology objects from the Collections Storage building that had not been previously transported due to vehicle space limitations. In addition, Cultural Resources Manager Dave Evans brought a number of boxes of uncataloged objects on trips he made to WACC. In all, the collections move resulted in six new accessions at WACC.

Students assisted Bilyeu with the objects that needed to be cleaned, freezing all organic objects, and storing the cataloged objects at WACC. All necessary accessioning and loan paperwork and database work was completed by Bilyeu. A total of 519 unaccessioned and/or uncataloged park

objects were accessioned and cataloged on behalf of the park, with the exception of the insect collections (989 biology items).

All non-exhibit collections items stored in the Collections Storage Building, the Faraway Ranch House, and the Cowboy House were removed to WACC by September 30, 2009.