

# FINAL PROJECT REPORT

CP-CESU Cooperative Agreement Number: 1200-99-009

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TITLE OF PROJECT: Tehabi Intern assessment of Livestock Trailing Impacts

NAME OF PARK/NPS UNIT: Fossil Butte

## PROJECT SCHEDULE, FINAL PRODUCTS, AND PAYMENTS

Annual Project Schedule: May 16 through August 20, 2004

Project initiation- May 16, 2004

Tehabi Intern Presentation: August 20, 2004

Data and Final Report Provided to Park Management – August 20, 2004

## PROJECT ABSTRACT:

An intern from the Utah State University Tehabi Internship Program observed livestock as it is trailed through Fossil Butte National Monument and conducted studies to assess the environmental impact of the stock drive. The intern recorded impacts to soil, vegetation, and wildlife that were observed during livestock drives. The intern helped the park staff select alternative routes where livestock can be trailed without adverse impacts on the monument's natural and human resources. The Tehabi intern also helped develop survey protocols for monitoring livestock impacts to the monuments natural resources.

## PROJECT SUMMARY:

This project supported a Tehabi internship for one student that was stationed at Fossil Butte National Monument. This year Tehabi had 22 students from six universities participate with the internship program. These interns worked with the NPS, BLM and an NGO in 6 states at 9 offices. The internship began with a 2-week field course held from May 16-18 at Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site (GRKO) in Deer Lodge, Montana. At the conclusion of the field course interns traveled to their sponsoring office to work under the direct supervisor of the agency. Over 12 weeks the interns developed and completed a performance plan and individual project and completed other duties as assigned by their supervisors. In addition to their work duties, the interns participated with a three credit on-line course that continued with topics from the field course. After 12 weeks all of the interns returned for a final meeting held August 14-17, at the USU Bear Lake Training Center. The interns discussed their internship experiences and gave individual presentations on their summer internships and final projects.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS:

Project Descriptions:

*Fossil Butte NM*

Supervisor – Clayton Kyte

Garrett Boarts (Penn State)

Garrett worked under the supervision of Clayton Kyte on resource projects primarily livestock trailing. His main tasks were to:

- observe and document the environmental impact of livestock trailing operations
- select alternative corridors where livestock trailing can occur without having an unfavorable impact on the monument's resources

- develop sampling protocols, establish monitoring plots, and gather and manage baseline data on the resource values of alternative livestock driveway corridors.
- generate a report on the impact of livestock trailing, and the evaluation of the alternative routes

In addition to this tasks Garrett spent time working with local ranchers and BLM employees to improve and maintain open lines of communication. His work on this project with local rancher Truman Julian helped improve relations and increase the ability of Fossil Butte to resolve the trailing issues. Overall, this was project provided good learning experience for the intern and helped Fossil Butte work on the trailing issues. Garrett provided good background information on this issue and laid the ground work for additional studies and potential environmental assessments.

The final reports, summaries and any intern individual project products were approved by and left with their NPS supervisor at the conclusion of the internship. Pictures of some interns at work are available from Ben Baldwin ([Ben.Baldwin@usu.edu](mailto:Ben.Baldwin@usu.edu)).