



The News Letter

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Celebrating 100 Years

By Lori Jensen

The National Park Service turns 100 on August 25, 2016 and everyone is invited to join in the celebration.

The centennial is a chance to celebrate 100 years of history and look toward the next century of stewardship of America's national parks.

Join us for many centennial activities at Grant-Kohrs Ranch. See "*On the Horizon*" on page 4 for a list of upcoming events.

There will be a fun Centennial Junior Ranger Program for kids who visit the ranch.

There are also many nationwide programs you can participate in:

The National Park Service is launching a movement to spread the word about the amazing places we manage, the inspirational stories that the national parks tell, our country's natural resources, and our diverse cultural heritage.

Calling all fourth graders! You and your family get free access to hundreds of parks, lands and waters for an entire year through the Every Kid in a Park program. Just complete your adventure



NPS Photo by Mike Oestreich
Beaverslide haystacker with stack in the morning mist at Grant-Kohrs Ranch

at <https://www.everykidinapark.gov/get-your-pass/>. Print your certificate and bring it into the Visitor Center to get your pass.

Just in time for the Centennial, the National Park Service is excited to be featured in the film National Parks Adventure. This amazing large-screen format shows parks in never-seen-before, breathtaking ways! It will open at the Yellowstone Giant Screen Theater in West Yellowstone, MT on May 1, 2016.

Learn more about the National Park Service Centennial at <http://www.nps.gov/subjects/centennial/index.htm>. You can also visit the Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS website at www.nps.gov/grko or link to the park Facebook page.

The News Letter

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Experience Your Park It's All in the Name

By Lori Jensen

As winter begins to fade into spring, there are many things to see and do at Grant-Kohrs Ranch.

Walk – Come out, stretch your legs, and enjoy the fresh air.

Bird Watching – You can see many different species of birds at the ranch, from chickadees to great blue heron to bald eagles.

Photography – With 88 historic structures, livestock, wildlife and about 1500 acres to enjoy, you are sure to find that perfect shot.

Wildlife Watching – The ranch provides a natural habitat for many different species of wildlife, from moose to muskrats. Who can you find today?

House Tours – Take a ranger-led tour of the historic ranch house. Learn how Johnny Grant and Conrad Kohrs made a living on the open range.

See Livestock – Lucky morning visitors can see the draft horses hard at work as staff uses them to feed the cattle from the loose hay stack.

New beginnings inspire new ideas. The next century of the National Park Service is one of those occasions. A new layout, new editor and a new title are all part of embracing the future.

Grant-Kohrs Ranch is taking the opportunity to honor history as well, by adopting a historic title for this publication. What better way to begin the next century of taking care of one of Montana's historic places?

There were many early newspapers in what would become Montana. "The News Letter" was originally published in 1873 by Lee Travis. He was one of the youngest editors in the old west at the age of 14. "By no means was it a crude publication. It was a full-fledged newspaper¹."

Travis established several other newspapers, including the Helena Morning Capital, before he died of acute bronchitis in 1882.

¹historyresource.org

From the Collection

by Austin Bousquet

For the working cowboy, chaps were an absolute necessity. Made of heavy leather, they protected a rider's legs not only from thick brush but also from the elements. Many different styles evolved depending on what the cowboy needed to accomplish and where he worked. Armitas, meaning, "little armor," were developed by vaqueros working the California haciendas in the 1700s. Batwings, with their short, open legs, became popular after the close of the open range. Woolies, made from Angora fleece or hair-on cattle or bison hide, provided warmth during winter on the northern Plains. These chaps, however, were one of the most popular designs used during the open range era. Known as "shotgun" chaps, this style featured a closed-leg design with clasps. This made putting them on or taking them off much easier than the



NPS Photo
Conrad Kohrs' Chaps

pant-like armitas. They were slightly close-fitting, which helped trap in heat in colder climates and also kept out rain and snow. With a slight flare at the bottom they fit snugly over boots. This particular pair of chaps was produced sometime between 1873-1881 by the E.L. Gallatin & Company of

Cheyenne, Wyoming. Stamped onto the pocket flap is, "Con," indicating that these chaps belonged to Conrad Kohrs. Exactly when they were purchased or how long they were worn is not known, but they bear the weathering of a sturdy utility that served their purpose well.

Window Preservation

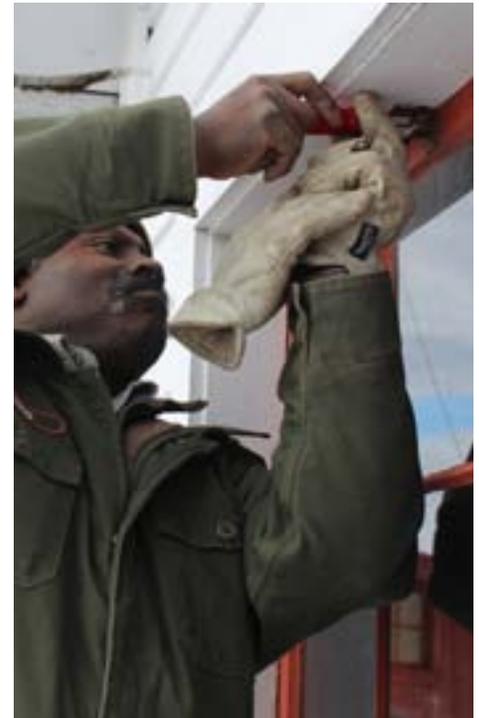
by Mike Oestreich

There's never a lull in maintenance duties on a ranch dating back to the 1860's with over 80 historic structures. When it gets cold and the snow starts flying, work that can be done indoors becomes a higher priority.

This winter the maintenance staff was hard at work refinishing window frames. The windows in many buildings were repaired. Buildings included the ranch house and conservatory, the old blacksmith shop, the present blacksmith shop/garage, and the big red barn. Windows were removed several at a time, so that they could be repaired and repainted before being reinstalled in their respective places. Any broken glass panes were replaced, and the glass was cleaned and polished. The damaged wood was repaired with special filler, following proper historic preservation techniques. While the windows were in the maintenance shop receiving much-needed TLC, plywood panels filled the openings to keep weather and the occasional wayward cat out of the buildings.

The park's vehicles received the attention they needed to keep running smoothly for another year, as well. Maintenance staff also kept the snow plows and sanding equipment busy during the relatively brief snowy season this year.

With the window restoration complete and more projects planned for the spring, the historic buildings will continue to stand the test of time.



NPS Photo
Ron Knudson, left and Willie King, right restoring historic windows.

Superfund Update

By Jeffrey Johnson

The federal Superfund cleanup is continuing on the Clark Fork River. Phases 15 and 16 of the Clark Fork River Operable Unit are located within Grant-Kohrs Ranch.

Montana Department of Environmental Quality is the lead agency and therefore, has the responsibility to manage, design, and implement remedial actions for the Clark Fork Site. Department of Environmental Quality has been working with Grant-Kohrs Ranch to complete the Preliminary Design Plan. The plan explains the work that will be completed to remove the contaminated soil, restore the damage and plant new trees and shrubs.

Many conditions and factors specific to Grant-Kohrs Ranch needed to be considered while developing the Preliminary Design Plan. Considerations included groundwater, vegeta-

tion, landscape stability, contaminant sampling, ownership, infrastructure, land use and certain site-specific remedy requirements. The plan presents pertinent information on site-specific conditions, the basis of the design approach (design components), and the desired outcomes for the proposed design. The plan also includes a preliminary design drawing set showing, among other things, property specific floodplain grading and proposed streambank treatments.

Montana Department of Environmental Quality is preparing a bid package based on the Preliminary Design Plan. The bid package will be used to hire a contractor to complete the remediation and restoration. It is expected that remediation work at Grant-Kohrs Ranch will begin in 2016, and take approximately two years to complete. The remediation at Grant-Kohrs Ranch will be followed by up to 15 years of monitoring.



Education Corner

by Lori Jensen

Grant-Kohrs Ranch is partnering with Deer Lodge third, fourth and fifth grade classes for a special education program. The Nature Trail project is now in the 2nd year of the 3 year program. Students are helping Grant-Kohrs Ranch improve the nature trail through curriculum based lessons provided in the classroom and at the ranch by park staff. The fifth grade recently researched birds that could be seen on the nature trail. Students each chose a bird to research and sketch, as seen in the pictures.

The outreach education program is continuing to expand into new schools. Education Technician, Chance Reynolds, will be traveling to Butte West Elementary School in early March. He will present programs to the fifth and sixth grade classes.

Students have increased opportunity to visit the ranch this year as well. In recognition of the NPS Centennial,



Red-Tailed Hawk by Rachel Galloway
Sketched in Mrs. Witt's 5th Grade

the Glacier National Park Conservancy and private donors are generously providing funds to assist with getting Montana students to public lands. Each grant is for \$500 and field trips can take place any time in 2016. The application deadline is March 23, 2016. Grant-Kohrs Ranch, along with several



Pine Siskin by Hunter
Sketched in Mrs. O'Hara's 5th Grade

other sites, has partnered to administer these travel grants.

The annual teacher workshop will be held June 13th-17th, 2016. Area teachers can earn continuing education credits through this course: "New Perspectives on Water Resources."

Environmental Assessment Progress

by Staff

The City of Deer Lodge requested to move part of a service road that is located within a deeded easement at Grant-Kohrs Ranch. The road needs to be changed so that it can be used by the large trucks needed to build the new waste water treatment facility. In considering the request, the park maintenance and cultural resource staff worked closely with NPS staff in Denver to draft an environmental assessment.

The public comment period of the environmental assessment ended February 8, 2016. The NPS preferred alternative would use as much of the existing road corridor as possible and insert one "S" curve to allow large vehicles to navigate the tight turns. The design is intended to reduce impacts to the surrounding Front Field and historic road alignment. The City of

Deer Lodge would widen the existing road within the current easement. The easement would be widened for part of the road, to allow for the "S" curve.

In exchange for the additional easement, the city would trade land with the NPS. The combined total of approximately 1.2 acres of City land would be provided to the NPS in exchange for approximately 0.5 needed by the City for the Service Road. The land exchange process will take several months to complete.

When the environmental compliance is completed, the park can issue a Special Use Permit so the city can begin construction of the waste water treatment facility.

More information is available to the public at www.parkplanning.nps.gov.

On the Horizon

April 16 - Junior Ranger Day

Saturday, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

For National Junior Ranger Day, Grant-Kohrs Ranch has fun NPS Centennial activities planned for kids.

April 30 - Wellness Walk

Saturday, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Come enjoy a walk in the park.

July 2 - Historic Mowing

Saturday, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

See a demonstration of mowing with horse-drawn equipment.

July 7 - Cattle Branding

Thursday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Come watch us brand our calves and enjoy many family friendly activities throughout the day.

www.nps.gov/grko/events