

# **WHITE GRASS STABLIZATION**

## **Phase I Report**



## **GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK**

### **MOOSE, WYOMING**

#### **FY-06**

**HISTORIC STRUCTURES RECORD OF TREATMENT**  
**National Park Service**  
**Western Center for Historic Preservation**  
**Grand Teton National Park**  
**P.O. Drawer 170**  
**Moose, Wyoming 83012**

# Youth Conservation Corp

## White Grass Vegetation Abatement

July 19-21, 2006

A new program was instituted in Grand Teton (GRTE) the summer of 2006 that brought a group of students to work on trail maintenance throughout the park. The Youth Corp spent three days working at the ranch on various vegetation removal projects.

White Grass had not been inhabited since the ranch was turned over to the Park Service in the 1980's. As a result, grass, weeds and small shrubs had been allowed to grow consistently for years creating a hazardous work space for WCHP employees and volunteers who would need to move unencumbered around the job site. After three days work, the crew of 15-20 youths and 3 supervisors had accomplished more than had been expected. They were able to not only clean the grounds around the main structures, but also to assist with general clean-up of the main lodge and help stabilize a porch on one of the cabins.



Grounds between buildings at White Grass prior to vegetation clean-up

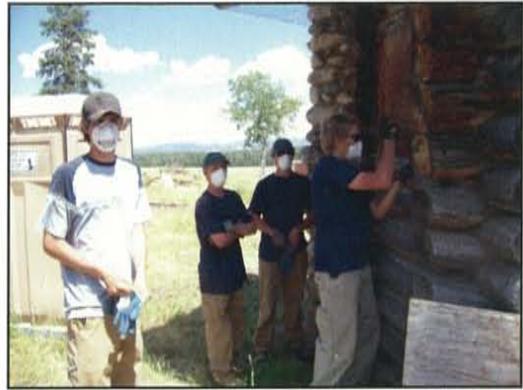


Grounds between buildings at White Grass after vegetation clean-up



The above two photos show a porch on Cabin 1159 in need of stabilization before the winter season. Two YCC group members took the initiative to correct this problem.

## White Grass-Main Lodge



Removing the window coverings for air circulation throughout the building during the clean up of the main lodge.



Before clean-up work began



Kitchen addition after clean-up



Clean-up efforts taking place in the Main Cabin



Clean-up efforts in progress

# Record of Treatment: Phase I

## Cabin 1154

### Summer 2006

#### Narrative

This report is a statement of preservation work completed on cabin 1154 at White Grass Ranch by the Western Center for Historic Preservation (WCHP) between July and August 2006. Included as part of this record are a narrative and project photographs.

#### Description

The first large project to be undertaken at White Grass was the phase one preparation of cabin 1154 which will be used as a temporary office during the rehabilitation of the ranch. Cabin 1154 is one of thirteen structures being rehabilitated for use as a preservation center by the park service. Originally the cabin was used to house the female employees of the dude ranch. It consists of two small rooms with a bath attached. The cabin stands near the main lodge and within a short distance from the remaining structures. Since the main lodge is going to be a major focal point of the project, the location of cabin 1154 made it a convenient place to set up a temporary office.

Cabin 1154 is one of three small cabins on the site. Like the rest of the structures, it had been sitting vacant for the past 20 years and was in need of repair. When WCHP employees arrived on site to assess the work to be done, the following objectives were laid out to be completed on the structure during the 2006 summer season.

1. Repair/Replace roof with in-kind material
2. Clean interior of structure
3. Remove non-historic bathroom addition
4. Repair/Replace porch steps

#### Summary

Project work began on site the week of July 10<sup>th</sup> to repair the roof of 1154. The existing roofing material was removed to expose the decking. In most places, the decking remained in relatively good condition and was left in place. In areas where it had deteriorated, the decking was cut at the first purlin and replaced in-kind. With two employees on site, the decking replacement went quickly. One person worked on the roof while the other was on the ground cutting boards. By the end of the second day, the decking was complete.

Before work could continue on the roof an inventory of supplies had to be made, so the crew turned their attention to the bathroom addition. Due to the fact that the bathroom was a non-historic part of this cabin, the crew began to disassemble the addition. At some point, the roof had caved into the room at this end and the entire addition was filled with boards and roofing material. Most of the debris was taken to a burn pile on the east or west elevation of the cabin and what could not be burned was thrown in the trash. Once enough debris had been removed to allow a person to enter the addition, disassembly of the bathroom walls began.

It took a two person crew a week to complete the removal of the bath addition. A qualified craftsman arrived on site toward the end of the week to remove the asbestos tile. After the job was complete, the team spent an additional four days removing the concrete foundation that had supported the addition. On July 19<sup>th</sup>, the vegetation abatement crew arrived and while some started on vegetation, others helped load the broken concrete to be taken off site.

During the week of July 24<sup>th</sup> roofing work continued on the structure. The addition had been completely removed and the interior of the structure was clean. By the end of the week, the roof had been completed with the added support of plywood and ice and water shield to protect the historic fabric from weather damage.

In the three weeks a crew worked on this cabin, three of the four objectives had been met. Time constraints prevented the repair of stairs on the south elevation and a temporary set of stairs was placed on the north elevation to allow for less hazardous entry into the structure. Work on Cabin 1154 will continue in the 2007 season.

### Selected Photographs



Office Cabin prior to the addition removal and completed roof work



Addition showing the roof caved in and the room filled with debris



WCHP employee using saw-zall to disconnect wall from main structure



Partially finished addition removal



WCHP employee removing tile from bathroom area



Remaining foundation

# PAST Program

## August 22-31, 2006

### **Summary**

In August, the Western Center for Historic Preservation hosted its first training workshop. Attendees included the 2007 PAST class and WCHP employees. PAST stands for Preservation and Skills Training and its participants are National Park Service employees who have an interest in learning about Historic Preservation. Many of the PAST participants are maintenance employees who deal with historic structures on a daily basis.

Instructors at the workshop included architect Jim McDonald and log structure restoration expert Harrison Goodall. Additionally, Barb Paul from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Cari Goetcheus, a university professor studying cost effectiveness in government funded projects attended the workshop for several days to share their professional expertise with the program participants.

For weeks leading up to the event, WCHP employees worked on getting the shop in Moose ready for the arrival of the PAST group. In addition to general clean-up activity, the bathrooms were finished, kitchen counter laid, and supplies purchased. WCHP manager worked on a schedule and consulted with his team to finalize the ten day training program. When completed, the schedule allowed for three days of training activities and four days of work on structures at White Grass. The group was divided into 4 teams and made responsible for completing roof work on a section of the Main Lodge or Hammond by the end of the week.

### **DAY 1**

The PAST Program participants arrived on site and spent the day in the JY Shop conference room. Morning activities included introductions, paperwork and a brief overview of the project. Presentations continued after lunch and a site visit was conducted at the end of the day.

### **DAY 2**

The groups met at White Grass and with their mentor, developed a plan for their section of the building. The goal for all groups was to have the entire roof completely done on both the Hammond and Main Lodge cabins before they left on August 31<sup>st</sup>. In addition to roof work, porches and additions needed to be removed and groups were asked to label and remove windows and doors to be taken back to the JY shop for winter restoration.

### **DAY 3-9 (Weekend Included)**

General labor on the structures at White Grass continued on days three and four before the weekend break. Monday started with a presentation by Harrison Goodall and the teams returned to their stations mid morning. In addition to working on the structure, each group had the opportunity to spend a day learning how to do log notching and a day in the JY Shop working on window glazing and knife grinding. During the week, the crew ran into several unanticipated setbacks which, in the case of one group, stopped work for several hours while the problem had to be assessed. While waiting, crew members not able to work on their assigned tasks joined other teams who were also trying to finish their roof before the end of the week.

### **DAY 10**

The last day of the program was essentially a clean-up day. The teams arrived on site to complete any tasks that they had started and cleaned their work area. When they left at 3:00pm to return to the shop for wrap-up, porches had been removed on the Main Lodge, windows had been taken out of the Hammond Cabin and two roofs were partially finished.

Selected Photographs



1.



2.

PAST Program participants in conference room of JY Shop receiving instruction



3.

Stripping roof off porch on Main Lodge



4.



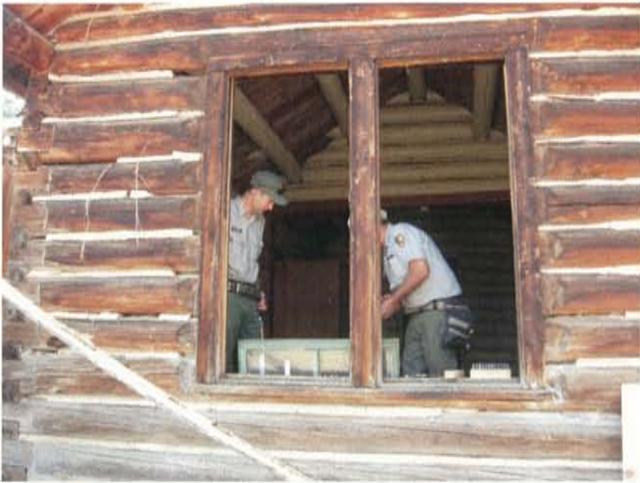
5.

Throwing debris from the Main Lodge into a burn pile



6.

Replacing deteriorated roof decking



7.

Exhibit Specialist Sterling Holdorf assists with the removal and glazing of windows from the Main Lodge at White Grass



8.



9.

Cabin 1157 gets a new log fabricated and installed by the PAST participants



10.



11.

Bob Williams instructs participants on how to use the grinding wheels



12.

A group works on window glazing while in the JY Shop