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National Park Service  
Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
2010



White Grass Ranch  
Grand Teton National Park

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# White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory

## Inventory Unit Summary and Site Plan

### Inventory Unit

Cultural Landscape Inventory Name: White Grass Ranch  
Cultural Landscape Inventory Number: 850491  
Parent Cultural Landscape Inventory Name: Grand Teton NP landscape  
Parent Cultural Landscape Inventory Number: 890193  
Park Name: Grand Teton National Park  
Park Alpha Code: GRTE  
Park Org Code: 1460

**Landscape/Component Landscape Description:** White Grass Ranch occupies roughly 320 acres of land in the upper Snake River Valley, the area known as Jackson Hole, Teton County, Wyoming. The ranch is an important vernacular cultural landscape as the third dude ranch established in what is now Grand Teton National Park.

Harold Hammond, a westerner, began to develop the ranch in 1913, when he filed a 160-acre homestead within the boundary of the Teton National Forest. Between 1913 and 1923, he and his partner, George Tucker Bispham, a transplant from Philadelphia, made improvements to their adjacent homestead claims, receiving their patents in 1920 and 1923 respectively. By 1919, or possibly earlier, they had begun accepting paying guests to their ranches, accommodating them in three log houses.

The first two decades of the ranch operation were supplemented through other endeavors, including a silver fox farm. Between 1923 and 1928, Hammond and Bispham deeded their claims to Bar BC Ranches, Inc., a partnership consisting of themselves, Struthers Burt and Horace Carncross (founders of the Bar BC Ranch), and Irving Corse and Sinclair Armstrong. During this partnership, White Grass was designated the White Grass Ranch for Boys; Hammond and Armstrong were identified as the directors of the ranch. Thirteen more cabins were added to the site as well as a swimming pool during this era. In 1928, both Hammond and Bispham withdrew from the partnership, and the property was deeded back to the original patentees. Almost immediately thereafter Hammond bought out Bispham, including all of the real property, buildings and furnishings. For the next decade Hammond owned and operated the 320-acre dude ranch, with the help of his first and second wives. During that time, agricultural operations at the ranch, included about fifty head of cattle, irrigating and haying. Improvements to the ranch included the construction of a separate bathhouse, and, eventually, bathroom additions to some of the dude cabins.

After Hammond's death in 1939, his stepson, Frank Galey, assumed management of the ranch. Galey continued the operation until his death in 1985, making it the longest-lived active dude ranch in Jackson Hole. During Galey's era he continued to make improvements at the ranch, including multiple frame additions on the cabins. In 1956, Frank and his wife Inge Galey sold White Grass Ranch to the National Park Service, reserving a lifetime estate that allowed use of the property for residential and guest ranch purposes.

When Galey died in July 1985, the National Park Service began planning for future management of the site. The initial response toward management of the property was to restore the site to its natural conditions. The site was inventoried in the mid-1980s, which provided an assessment of

## **White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory**

the site features including irrigation ditches, horse-trails, fields, pond, and buildings. Between the late 1980s and early 1990s, the park sold several of the cabins, removed the constructed water features and ranch fencing, and boarded up remaining buildings. The ranch was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.

In 2003, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service entered into an agreement to rehabilitate the White Grass Dude Ranch for use as a regional preservation training center. Preservation work began in 2005 to adaptively reuse the ranch for the Western Center for Historic Preservation—a center in which National Park Service employees and volunteers learn techniques for the preservation, stabilization, and rehabilitation of historic structures. The buildings and structures of the site offer trainees hands-on preservation experience. Because of the ongoing stabilization and rehabilitation measures, the condition of the landscape is fair.

The White Grass Dude Ranch is significant under Criteria A because as a dude ranch it helped define and set the standards for the local Jackson Hole industry along with the Bar BC and JY ranches and as a district it exemplifies the local development of dude ranches from cattle ranches in the area. The White Grass Ranch is associated with the Dude Ranching and Tourism context of the Grand Teton National Park Multiple Property form. Overall, the site retains its integrity and landscape features and patterns that were developed in the early and mid-twentieth century.

It is also important to note that while the existing landscape features date to the twentieth century, the site was used prehistorically by native peoples. Prehistoric use of the landscape, such as the meadow, has not been well documented.

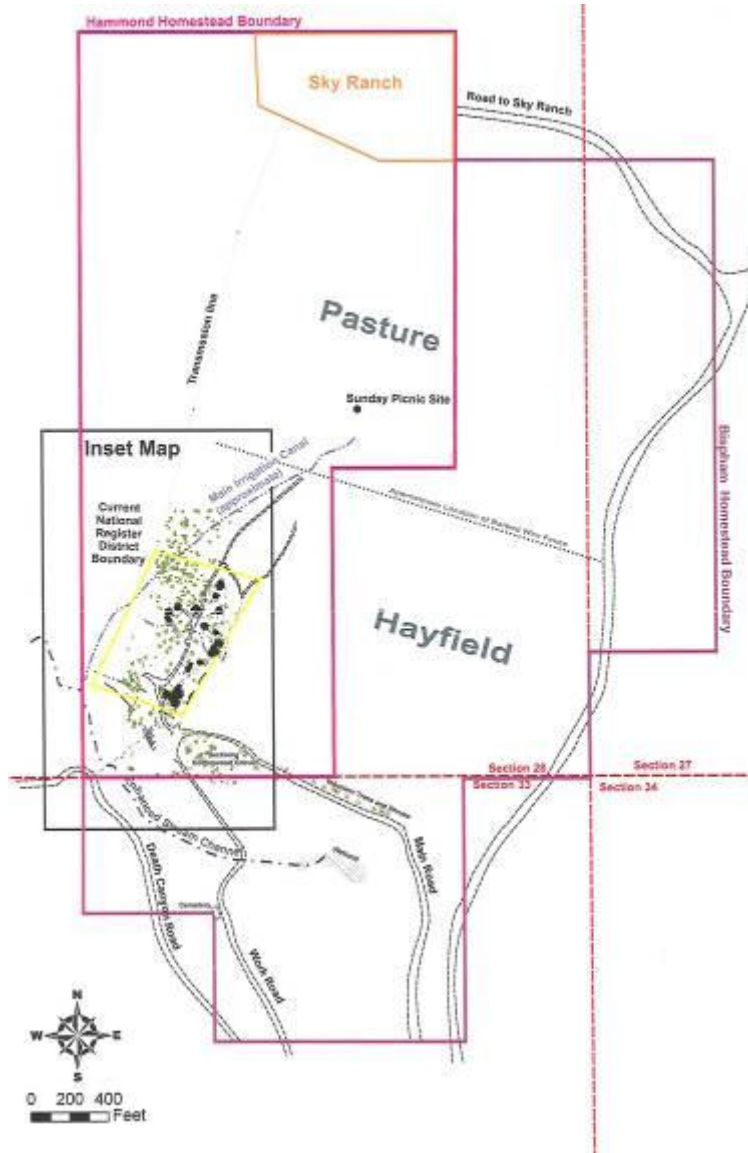
Inventory Unit Size (Acres): 320

Property Level: Component Landscape

CLI Hierarchy Description: White Grass Ranch is one of fifteen component landscapes within the larger Grand Teton National Park parent landscape.

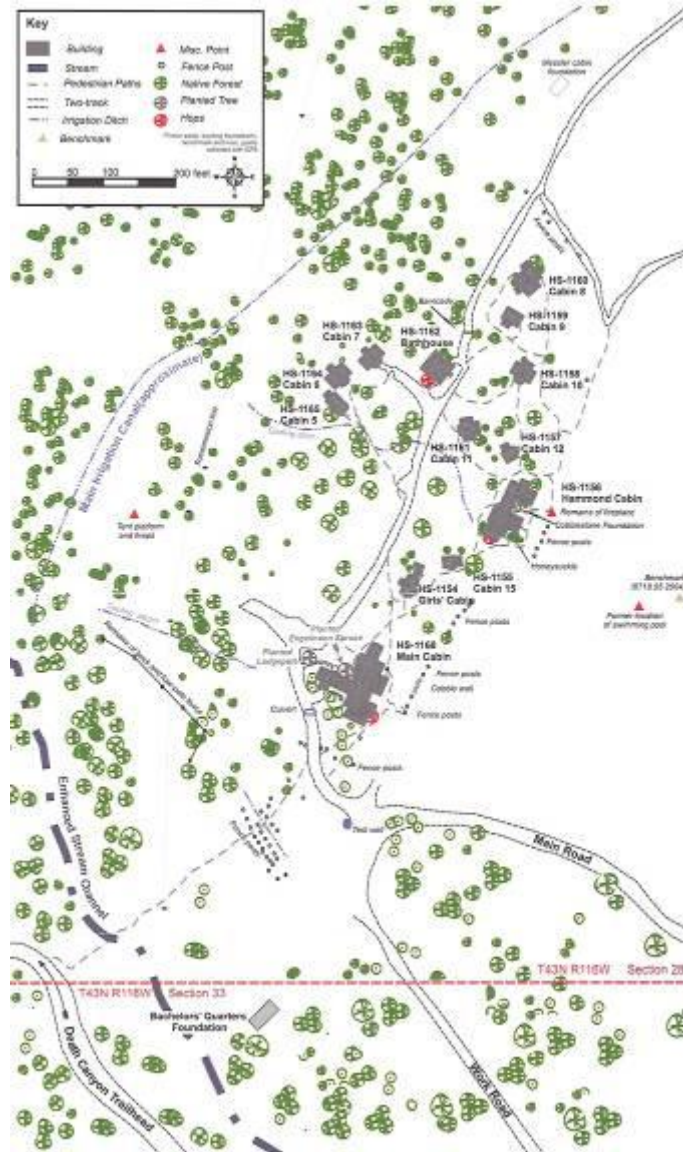
# White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory

## Site Plan Graphic Information



Caption: Existing Conditions within White Grass Ranch. Source CLR, Historical Research Associates, Inc. 2006.

# White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory



Caption: Detail of the existing conditions within the White Grass Ranch building cluster. Source CLR, Historical Research Associates, Inc. 2006.

# White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory

## Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Incomplete

Hide Inventory Unit: NA

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative: This CLI has been adapted from the White Ranch Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape / Historic Structure Report, completed in August 2008.

Park Superintendent Concurrence: (Will be filled in upon Supt. concurrence.)

Date of Superintendent Concurrence (Will be filled in upon Supt. concurrence.)

National Register Eligibility: (Will be filled in upon SHPO concurrence.)

National Register Eligibility Concurrence Date (SHPO/Keeper): (Will be filled in upon SHPO concurrence.)

National Register Concurrence Explanatory Narrative: (Will be filled in upon SHPO concurrence.)

**Concurrence Graphic Information** (Will be filled in upon Supt/SHPO concurrence.)

## Geographic Information and Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The boundary of the White Grass Ranch landscape follows the former property lines of the Hammond and Bispham homestead claims, roughly including 320 acres. Within the boundaries of the original claims are the extant historic buildings, adjacent areas that formerly contained buildings, an irrigated hayfield, and pasture east and north of the extant building cluster.

The boundary extends south of the Bispham homestead claim boundary to include the primary access roads into the site. This southern portion incorporates roughly 12-16 feet of land centered over the approximate centerline of the two roads, between the point where they leave the homestead boundary and the point where they converge just north of the Death Canyon Road.

Outlying infrastructure, such as the segments of the irrigation ditches that lie outside the homestead claim boundaries, and noncontiguous pastures and other areas with evidence of historical land use, such as the system of bridle trails developed by White Grass employees on park lands, were excluded from the inventory. Also excluded was the 13.44-acre parcel of land and the development therein associated with the Sky Ranch, which was developed as a summer retreat in 1953. The resources located there are not historically associated with White Grass Ranch.

## Counties and States

State: Wyoming  
County: Teton

# White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory

## Location Map Graphic Information



Caption: Project area map, showing the location of White Grass Ranch within Grand Teton National Park and the State of Wyoming. Source CLR, Historical Research Associates, Inc. 2005.

## Boundary UTM

Boundary UTM Source	Boundary UTM Type	Boundary UTM Datum	Boundary UTM Zone	Boundary UTM Easting	Boundary UTM Northing	Boundary Datum Other
Other Digital Source	Point	NAD 83	12	518080.952	4834845.427	GRTE GIS Files obtained from park
Other Digital Source	Point	NAD 83	12	518376.388	4834846.852	GRTE GIS Files obtained from park
Other Digital Source	Point	NAD 83	12	518376.661	4834769.425	GRTE GIS Files obtained from park
Other Digital Source	Point	NAD 83	12	518514.645	4834646.457	GRTE GIS Files obtained from park



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Other Digital Source	Point	NAD 83	12	519086.59	4834648.221	GRTE GIS Files obtained from park
Other Digital Source	Point	NAD 83	12	519089.318	4833844.229	GRTE GIS Files obtained from park
Other Digital Source	Point	NAD 83	12	518886.927	4833844.379	GRTE GIS Files obtained from park
Other Digital Source	Point	NAD 83	12	518887.554	4833643.39	GRTE GIS Files obtained from park
Other Digital Source	Point	NAD 83	12	518687.13	4833642.141	GRTE GIS Files obtained from park
Other Digital Source	Point	NAD 83	12	518692.026	4833237.183	GRTE GIS Files obtained from park
Other Digital Source	Point	NAD 83	12	518290.356	4833235.2	GRTE GIS Files obtained from park
Other Digital Source	Point	NAD 83	12	518288.308	4833437.419	GRTE GIS Files obtained from park
Other Digital Source	Point	NAD 83	12	518087.681	4833436.299	GRTE GIS Files obtained from park

### Regional Landscape Context

#### Physiographic:

White Grass Ranch is located near the southwestern end of the physiographic area known as Jackson Hole, a 400 square-mile intermontane basin on the lee side of the Teton Range. Formed by uplift of the range and subsidence of the valley floor, it is bounded to the north by the Yellowstone Plateau, to the east by the Absaroka Mountains, and to the southeast by the Gros Ventre Mountains. Elevations range from 6,000 to 7,000 feet above sea level at the basin floor to 13,770 feet at the summit of the Grand Teton.<sup>88</sup> The Snake River flows through the valley floor, southeast of the ranch. The closest natural live stream is the channel that flows through Stewart Draw, which originally provided the ranch with water for both irrigation and domestic use. There is no natural surface water within the boundaries of the two homestead claims.

Of the three mountain ranges surrounding Jackson Hole, the Teton Range is the most spectacular in terms of scenery. The current topography and appearance of this mountain range

## **White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory**

results from a variety of geologic processes, perhaps the most important of which is glaciation. Sculpted glacial horns, aretes, glacial replacement lakes, cirque lakes, and U-shaped valleys in the mountains attest to the power of glacial ice. Similarly, the numerous terminal and lateral moraines at the margin of the valley floor result from glacial activity during the Pleistocene Epoch, the most recent occurring between 15,000 and 20,000 years ago.<sup>89</sup>

Tineman association soils predominate the lower elevation meadows, and, where undisturbed, support sagebrush and other native shrubs and grasses. These gravely loam soils exhibit moderate permeability and are known historically for their use as pastures and hayfields, such as those at White Grass. Soils of the higher-elevation, forested hill slopes are Taglake-Sebud association soils. These deep, well-drained sandy loams typically occur on glacial moraines. Generally, Taglake soils are forested while Sebud soils support grass-shrub vegetation.<sup>90</sup>

The Jackson Hole climate is marked by mild summers and cold winters, with low to moderate amounts of precipitation. Most of the precipitation comes as snow between the months of October and March averaging 80 inches in the city of Jackson and 300 inches in the upper peaks of the Teton Range.<sup>9</sup> Summers are characterized by relatively mild days and cool nights, with average maximum daytime temperatures averaging 70-80° F and averaging 40° F at night. July is usually the warmest month. In the higher elevations, it is not uncommon for temperatures to dip below freezing even during the summer. The growing season in the basin floor is short, rarely exceeding 60 frost-free days. As a result, cattle-ranching, which is less dependent on the vicissitudes of the weather than crop farming, dominates Jackson Hole agriculture. Historically, farmers were able to grow the more cold-hardy varieties of vegetables, including root crops such as potatoes and turnips, as well as beans and peas, in their household gardens.

### **Management Information**

Management Category: Should be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 04/23/1990

Management Category Explanatory Narrative: The White Grass Ranch was entered into the National Register of Historic Places on 04/23/1990, and therefore should be preserved and maintained.

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?: No.

Adjacent Lands Description: Adjacent lands do not contain any landscape features associated with the White Grass Ranch.

### **Management Agreement**

Management Agreement: None

Management Agreement Expiration Date: NA

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative: There is no management agreement in place for White Grass Ranch.

Other Management Agreement: NA

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### NPS Legal Interest

Type of Legal Interest:	Fee Simple.
Fee Simple Reservation for Life:	NA
Fee Simple Reservation Expiration Date:	NA
Other Organization/Agency:	NA
NPS Legal Interest Explanatory Narrative:	The National Park Service owns White Grass Ranch outright, with no encumbrances.

### Public Access to Site

Public Access: Other Restrictions.

Public Access Explanatory Narrative: Access to the ranch is somewhat restricted as there is seasonal vehicular access. Although the property is open to the public, the vehicular roads into the site are gated, requiring people to walk from the old entrance at the south end of the property, or from an informal parking area adjacent to the Death Canyon Road. The public is allowed to visit the property. As of early 2010, the park is fabricating interpretive signage which will be installed later in the year.

### National Register Information

National Register Landscape Documentation: Entered-Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

White Grass Ranch was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on 04/23/1990; however, the resulting National Register property boundary was drawn arbitrarily to enclose the remaining buildings that dated to the period of significance, as defined in the nomination, 1919 to 1938. Additional research and study of the ranch has found the current boundary and the 1919 to 1938 period of significance limited, largely focusing only on the buildings of the site, leaving out important landscape features of the ranch.

Although some of the historic character-defining landscape features that typified White Grass Ranch during the period of significance have been removed, other cultural and biotic landscape resources and features, including those associated with large-scale land use patterns, access and circulation, and vegetation, as well as the already-listed buildings, retain integrity and contribute to the historical significance of the historic district. As currently drawn the National Register boundary excludes much of the area associated with historical agricultural operations and circulation.

Upon the completion of a Cultural Landscape Report for the ranch in August 2008, SHPO concurrence was sought to incorporate additional contributing features within the historic district and expand the period of significance from 1919 to 1970—the point at which the operation of dude ranching changed from participation in the dude ranch lifestyle to recreation and entertainment. Additional contributing features to the district included the agricultural and remnant ornamental vegetation, hayfield, pasture, work road, and cooling ditches. SHPO concurrence was received on January 20, 2009.

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Despite SHPO concurrence on the new contributing features and the expanded period of significance, concurrence was not sought on expanding the boundary of the historic district. As a result, this CLI recommends expanding the boundary of the district to include the majority of the land and landscape features within the 320-acre Hammond and Bispham homestead claims and segments of the two access roads (the main road and the work road). This expanded boundary, addressed in this CLI, includes agricultural and natural features important to the historic district.

National Register Eligibility: (To be filled in upon SHPO concurrence)

National Register Eligibility Concurrence Date: (To be filled in upon SHPO concurrence)

National Register Concurrence  
Explanatory Narrative: (To be filled in upon SHPO concurrence)

National Register Significance Level: Local  
National Register Significance  
Contributing/Individual: Individual  
National Register Classification: District

National Historic Landmark Status: No  
National Historic Landmark Date: NA  
National Historic Landmark Theme: NA

World Heritage Site Status: No  
World Heritage Site Date: NA  
World Heritage Category: NA

### Statement of Significance:

The following statement of significance is quoted from the National Register Nomination Form prepared for the site in 1990.

The White Grass Dude Ranch Historic District is significant under Criteria A because as a dude ranch it helped define and set the standards for the local Jackson Hole industry along with the Bar BC and JY ranches and as a district it exemplifies the local development of dude ranches from cattle ranches in the area. The White Grass Ranch is associated with the Dude Ranching and Tourism context of the Grand Teton National Park Multiple Property form.

The ranch was built during World War I as a cattle ranch, but by 1919 its owners, Hammond and Bispham, converted it to a dude ranch. As such, the White Grass represents a cattle ranch converted to a dude ranch as identified in the multiple property form. After the conversion, control of the property passed to Hammond's son-in-law Frank Dalley (sic) who continued the operation until his death in 1985, making it the longest-lived active dude ranch in Jackson Hole. Throughout the period of significance, the ranch functioned as a dude ranch. The district was built to convey the western feeling that constituted much of the attraction of dude ranches. The log buildings and horizontal emphasis of the buildings in the complex follow the accepted practices of local dude ranches. The buildings considered contributing within the White Grass Ranch Historic District fulfill the registration requirements set forth in the multiple property documentation in that they are in their original location, are fifty years old, and are of primarily log material and convey their design, materials, workmanship and function/character individually and within the district. The alterations have not impaired the historic fabric of the buildings or the district. The interiors of the buildings have been stripped of furnishings and rebuilt, altering their character and are not significant. The two non-contributing resources do not meet the integrity requirements. The setting is similar to what it was during the period of significance so the feeling of a dude ranch is still present (Mehls, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1988).

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The period of significance for White Grass Ranch begins in 1919 when Harold Hammond and George Tucker Bispham began housing summer dudes, and ends in 1970 when use and operation of the dude ranch changed. Prior to 1970, dudes stayed at the ranch for three to four weeks with the intention and expectation of experiencing the rugged dude ranch lifestyle, including participation in multi-day pack trips or fishing trips. After 1970, dudes stayed at the ranch for three days to two weeks, and they were less interested in experiencing the dude ranch lifestyle and more interested in being entertained. Instead of the multi-day pack or fishing trips, they went on short horseback rides of an hour or two or quick fishing trips. Management of the ranch changed as well. The managers were more concerned about making a profit. They crowded dudes into cabins and they stopped putting money into the infrastructure, especially the buildings (Peck and Woodin, 2006). 108 This shift in tourism was felt across the West during this time. Western tourism was becoming more lucrative and taking on "corporate and institutional characteristics." (Rothman 1996, 525-557).

### NRIS Information

Park Alpha Code/ NRIS Name (Number): GRTE 90000613 White Grass Ranch  
Primary Certification Date: 04/23/1990

### National Register Significance Criteria

National Register Significance Criteria:

- A – X
- B –
- C -
- D -

### National Register Period of Significance

Start Year: 1919 AD  
End Year: 1970 AD

### Historic Context Theme

Historic Context Theme: Creating Social Institutions and Movements  
Historic Context Subtheme: Ways of Life  
Historic Context Facet: Ranching Communities

Historic Context Theme: Creating Social Institutions and Movements  
Historic Context Subtheme: Recreation  
Historic Context Facet: Tourism

Historic Context Theme: Expressing Cultural Values  
Historic Context Subtheme: Architecture  
Historic Context Facet: Rustic Architecture

Historic Context Theme: Developing the American Economy  
Historic Context Subtheme: The Cattle Frontier  
Historic Context Facet: Ranches

Historic Context Theme: Developing the American Economy  
Historic Context Subtheme: The Service Industry  
Historic Context Facet: Tourism

# White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory

## National Register Areas of Significance

Area of Significance Category: Entertainment/Recreation

## Chronology and Physical History

Primary Historic Function - Major Category: Recreation/Culture  
Primary Historic Function - Category: Recreation - Other  
Primary Historic Function: Dude Ranch

Primary Current Use - Major Category: Government  
Primary Current Use - Category: Government - Other  
Primary Current Use: Training Center

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No  
Ethnographic Significance Description: NA

## Cultural Landscape Types

Cultural Landscape Type: Vernacular Landscape

## Other Current and Historic Uses/Functions

Other Historic Function - Major Category: Domestic  
Other Historic Function - Category: Hotel  
Other Historic Function: Lodge (Inn, Cabin)

Other Historic Function - Major Category: Domestic  
Other Historic Function - Category: Domestic Residential - Other  
Other Historic Function: Dude Ranch

Other Historic Function - Major Category: Funerary  
Other Historic Function - Category: Cemetery

Other Historic Function - Major Category: Agriculture/Subsistence  
Other Historic Function - Category: Agricultural Field

Other Historic Function - Major Category: Agriculture/Subsistence  
Other Historic Function - Category: Agricultural Outbuilding  
Other Historic Function: Barn

Other Current Function - Major Category: Landscape  
Other Current Function - Category: Landscape - Other  
Other Current Function: National Park

## Ethnographic Associated Groups

Ethnographic Associated Group Name: NA  
Association Historic, Current or Both: NA

## White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory

### Current and Historic Names

Current and Historic Name	Type of Current and Historic Name	Display Sequence
White Grass Ranch	Both	1
White Grass Ranch for Boys	Historic	2
White Grass Dude Ranch	Historic	3
White Grass Ranch Historic District	Current	4
Western Center for Historic Preservation	Current	5

### Chronology

<a href="#">Start Year of Major Event</a>	<a href="#">Start Era of Major Event AD/BC</a>	<a href="#">End Year of Major Event</a>	<a href="#">End Era of Major Event AD/BC</a>	<a href="#">Major Event</a>	<a href="#">Major Event Description</a>
1900	AD			Moved	Circa. Harold Hammond, born in Idaho, comes to Jackson Hole as a child around the turn of the twentieth century.
1906	AD			Established	The Forest Homestead Act of 1906 extends the right of individuals to establish homestead claims on agricultural lands inside forest boundaries. The Act allows individuals to claim up to 160 acres of land, a portion of which had to be agricultural.
1907	AD	1908	AD	Built	The first dude ranch in Jackson Hole starts as a collaborative effort between Louis Joy and Maxwell Struthers Burt. They operate the JY Ranch on land patented by Joy in 1907.
1908	AD			Established	Teton National Forest is established from parts of the Teton and Yellowstone forest reserves. The land of the future White Grass Ranch is included in the Teton National Forest.
1912	AD			Built	Maxwell Struthers Burt establishes a new ranch on the banks of the Snake River -- the Bar BC. He partners with Horace Carncross.
1912	AD			Maintained	Harold Hammond works at the newly established Bar BC Dude Ranch, which caters to wealthy Easterners. Hammond likely meets dude George Tucker Bispham, during his tenure at Bar BC.

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1913	AD			Homesteaded	April. Harold Hammond files a claim in the Evanston, Wyoming, land office to 160 acres of land in the area referred to by locals as White Grass Flats, in Section 28 of Township 43 North, Range 116 West [T43N/R116W]. The land includes a sheltered, sagebrush-covered flat on the southeastern flank of Buck Mountain, a perennial water source Stewart Creek, and an open area intended for cultivation surrounded by stands of timber. Hammond's original intention in filing his homestead claim appears to have been to establish a working cattle ranch.
1913	AD			Built	August. Hammond builds a log house (28 x 48 feet) on the property and begins residing on the claim the following month. The house is sited in the SW 1/4 SE 1/4 of Section 28, at the base of the hill slope at the margin of the timber, overlooking the area suitable for cultivation. The front of the house faced southeast, with a view of Blacktail Butte and the Gros Ventre Mountains beyond the Snake River.
1913	AD			Inhabited	Winter. Hammond likely spends the winter at his newly established homestead.
1914	AD			Abandoned	May and October. Hammond is absent from his claim "working 4 miles from home," possibly at the Bar BC.
1915	AD			Farmed/Harvested	Hammond plows and plants sixteen acres of oats, from which he harvested thirty tons of hay.
1915	AD			Homesteaded	Tucker Bispham begins improving land adjoining Hammond's claim. He plows and plants ten acres of barley.
1916	AD			Farmed/Harvested	Hammond increases the cultivated area to forty acres, planting oats and barley and harvesting seventy tons of hay.
1916	AD			Built	Bispham builds a house and cultivates an additional five acres. Bispham's building site in the NW 1/4 NE 1/4 of Section 33 is directly adjacent to Hammond's buildings.
1917	AD			Farmed/Harvested	Bispham adds five more acres of cultivation to his claim.
1917	AD			Farmed/Harvested	Hammond cultivates fifty-six acres, planted in oats and barley, which yielded fifty tons of hay.
1917	AD			Established	The General Land Office plat for T43N/R116W shows a fenced cultivated area of roughly fifty acres mostly within Hammond's claim.



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1917	AD	1919	AD	Abandoned	Hammond leaves for two years for military service with the U.S. Army 20th Engineers. Bispham, may have been responsible for the agricultural workings at the ranch while Hammond deployed to Europe.
1918	AD			Homesteaded	Hammond claims seventy acres under cultivation, although absent from the ranch.
1918	AD			Farmed/Harvested	Bispham adds another five more acres of cultivation to his claim.
1919	AD			Inhabited	June. Hammond returns to Jackson Hole.
1919	AD			Established	Circa. Hammond and Bispham collaborate and create a dude ranch named White Grass Ranch, reportedly after the English translation of an American Indian name for the sagebrush that covered the valley floor. They chose H quarter circle B as their brand, which they used both for their livestock and for promotional purposes in their advertisements.
1919	AD			Established	The practice of housing summer dudes begins at White Grass Ranch. An early advertisement indicates the ranch could accommodate as many as ten people, in three cabins (possibly the log houses declared by Bispham) and a wall tent. The undated brochure further stated that the cabins were well separated from the ranch buildings where the owners and ranch hands lived.
1920	AD			Farmed/Harvested	Hammond has eighty cultivated acres, including twenty acres in "seeded meadow," and sixty acres in grain. He also declared 800 rods (roughly 2.5 miles) of buck and four-pole fence, and a mile-long ditch. By 1920 Hammond had three additional log buildings; a barn (30 x 50 feet), a store house (16 x 48 feet), and a log bunk house (14 x 48 feet), as well as three corrals consisting of 120 panels of eight poles to the panel. Collectively, he estimated that he had made \$10,000 worth of improvements to the claim.
1920	AD			Farmed/Harvested	Bispham nearly doubles his total cultivated land to forty-five acres and seeds it all to alfalfa.
1921	AD			Homesteaded	March 3. Nearly eight years after filing his claim, Hammond received his homestead patent.
1921	AD			Homesteaded	Bispham files his claim for a 160-acre homestead claim adjoining the east and

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					south sides of Hammond's claim.
1921	AD			Inhabited	May. Bispham begins residing year-round on the claim. Prior to that, he left during the winter months, possibly returning home to Philadelphia.
1922	AD			Built	December. Bispham declares he has three log houses located on the claim, one 12 x 28 feet, one 14 x 26 feet, and one 36 x 36 feet. Also, he has 640 rods of buck and four-pole fence. With the agricultural improvements, Bispham states the total value of his improvements to be \$5,000.
1922	AD			Altered	January. Hammond and Bispham appropriate water from Stewart Creek. Hammond claims to be irrigating 92.13 acres of land in the S1/2 NE1/4" of Section 28, while Bispham claims to be irrigating 155 acres, nearly the balance of the land in his homestead claim, distributed throughout Sections 27, 28 and 33.
1923	AD			Homesteaded	April 9. Bispham receives his homestead patent, roughly two years after Hammond, and eight years after establishing his residency.
1923	AD			Maintained	A White Grass Ranch brochure describes the ranch as a former cattle ranch.
1923	AD			Land Transfer	Prior to Summer. Hammond and Bispham enter into a partnership with Struthers Burt and Horace Carncross (owners of the Bar BC Ranch), Irving Corse (future Bar BC partner) and Sinclair Armstrong (another Princeton graduate), to form Bar BC Ranches, Inc. Both Hammond and Bispham deeded their homestead properties to the corporation. Under this arrangement, the partners operated three ranches, the Upper and Lower Bar BC and the White Grass, the designation of the latter changed to the White Grass Ranch for Boys. Hammond and Armstrong served as White Grass directors, while Burt, Carncross and Corse took care of the Upper and Lower Bar BC ranches. Parents of White Grass boys who wanted to come west for the summer were encouraged to stay at the Upper Bar BC.

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1923	AD			Maintained	A brochure prepared for the 1923 season described White Grass facilities as consisting of a "large main cabin, with three living rooms, dining room, and kitchen; bam, corrals, and storehouses; and sleeping cabins and tents with wooden floors, sufficient to accommodate forty." The brochure also mentioned that the ranch supplied vegetables from its own garden, milk from its own cows, and was regularly supplied with fresh meat.
1923	AD			Maintained	Photos in the 1923 brochure show that by the early 1920s a cross-braced fence separated the main cabin from the hayfield in front (east) of the building. In addition, three log cabins were shown inside the tree line toward the north end of the building cluster, likely the same three described in the earlier typewritten brochure. <sup>39</sup> The balance of the sleeping cabins (which would total eighteen in 1930), were added during the Bar BC partnership period. <sup>40</sup> In addition, Hammond may have initiated construction of a cabin for his own use. Referred during the later dude ranching period as the Hammond Cabin, this building was modified several times. An improvement presumably built specifically to accommodate the boys was a concrete swimming pool, located in the hayfield east of the building cluster.
1925	AD			Altered	Hammond diversifies his interests by importing six pairs of silver fox as breeding stock for a fox farm. He builds fox pens, consisting of frame cages enclosed with chicken wire, slightly northwest of the cabins.
1925	AD			Established	Hammond and Bispham receive their Certificate of Appropriation of Water for purposes of irrigation and domestic use.
1928	AD			Land Transfer	Hammond and Bispham withdraw from the Bar BC Ranches, Inc. partnership, and their homestead claims are deeded back to them.
1928	AD			Purchased/Sold	December. Hammond and his first wife, Marie, buy out Bispham's interest in the ranch for the sum of \$12,500. The property transferred included Bispham's 160-acre homestead claim and all buildings and water rights. After this purchase, the Hammonds became the sole proprietors of the ranch.

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1929	AD			Altered	October. Wall Street crashes, and fewer dudes travel West from New York, Chicago and Philadelphia.
1929	AD			Established	Grand Teton National Park (formerly known as Jackson Hole National Monument) is established.
1929	AD			Altered	Circa. Besides the Main Cabin (HS-1168), which contained living and dining areas, a library and a card room for the dudes, the Hammonds have eighteen cabins (presumably the three built during the homestead era and an additional fifteen built during the Bar BC partnership), as well as buildings to shelter livestock, house the cooks and store supplies. They also keep fifty head of "choice horses" to provide trail rides to the dudes.
1929	AD	1939	AD	Altered	During this period, Harold Hammond takes out a total of three mortgages totaling \$27,000, all from private individuals. The money was likely used to cover operating expenses and make new improvements.
1930	AD			Altered	A newspaper article notes a card room in the Main Cabin (HS-1168) that may have been added after the end of the Boys' Ranch era.
1930	AD			Altered	July 17. An article in the Jackson Hole Courier, indicates Hammond's cattle ranch was converted to dude ranching, necessitated by the "low prices and panics" experienced by the cattle industry after the end of World War I.
1930	AD	1939	AD	Maintained	Hammond owns about fifty head of cattle, which graze on his own land and on lands leased from Grand Teton National Park. Hay cut from the field in front of the building cluster is stored on the ranch for winter use.
1935	AD			Altered	Hammond adds a central bathhouse that contained showers, indoor toilets and a laundry. Prior to this time dudes bathed in tin tubs in their rooms with water hauled to the cabins by the ranch staff, and they used outhouses strategically placed in the trees near the sleeping cabins.
1935	AD			Established	Circa. Photographs in a White Grass Ranch brochure show that hops were planted to grow on the east (front) wall of the Main Cabin (HS-1168). In addition, a mowed grass lawn extended from the east wall of that building to the pasture fence.

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1935	AD			Altered	Marie Hammond dies.
1936	AD			Altered	Hammond begins to add bathrooms, complete with tubs and toilets, to the dude cabins. He also expands his own small cabin (HS-1156) by building another wing on the north side of the original building.
1936	AD			Altered	Harold Hammond marries Marian Galey, who he had met in 1919 when she was a guest at the Bar BC. Marian moves to the ranch, and her son, Francis (Frank) Holt Galey Jr., begins working as a hired hand.
1939	AD			Land Transfer	July 18. Harold R. Hammond dies. Marian inherits the ranch and most of its contents from her husband. Unable to operate the ranch by herself, Marian's son, Frank, takes over supervision of ranch operations. Distressed over the loss of her husband, Marian moves back to her home in Philadelphia and does not return to the ranch for at least a couple of years.
1940	AD	1959	AD	Altered	1940s and 1950s. Returning dude families occupy the same cabin year after year. Consequently, the ranch staff begin to refer to specific buildings by the name of its occupants. Cabin 4 (now removed from the site) was referred to as the Laidlaw Cabin after the family that is believed to have constructed and repeatedly occupied it during the 1940s. Cabin 14 (HS-1156) was known as the Hammond Cabin, and Cabin 9 (HS-1159) was known as the Matthew Cabin during the 1950s. The Messler Cabin (now demolished), located north of the main building cluster, was named after the Messler family and Cabin 8 (HS-1160), known as the Winsor Cabin, was usually occupied by the Winsor family during the 1950s.
1940	AD	1959	AD	Maintained	Mid-20th Century. Male employees occupy three small buildings located southeast of the barnyard (referred to as the bachelors' quarters), and the women employees occupy one of two buildings near the Main Cabin (HS-1168). A separate cabin for the cook, a springhouse, and the icehouse (known as the "walk-in"), were located in a loose cluster behind (west) the Main Cabin. Also present was a generator house and platform tents to west of the Bathhouse.

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1940	AD	1959	AD	Altered	Mid-20th Century. The main distribution canal is used and altered by dudes and staff. Some dudes excavate small ditches to divert water from the main canal eastward to their cabins. Dams at strategic points pool the water in areas where dudes and staff can place their cans and bottles to be cooled.
1941	AD			Abandoned	Frank Galey leaves the ranch for two years while serving in the military in World War II. Accordingly, White Grass Ranch ceased most operations during the war years, mainly because of gasoline rationing and other shortages. The dude ranch component of the operation was temporarily closed, but the fox farming operation continued under the auspices of a caretaker.
1945	AD			Altered	Frank Galey returns to the ranch with his wife, Ingeborg Freitag Galey, and their daughter, Cynthia. Upon his return, the buildings are in poor condition, and he has difficulty obtaining materials to fix them. Only ten horses remained on the ranch.
1945	AD	1956	AD	Maintained	Galey continues to irrigate and cut hay from the field east of the building cluster. He periodically reseeds the area with orchard grass, timothy and alfalfa, and spreads manure over it as needed. He begins irrigating about mid-July and cuts the hay in August, with the use of a horse-drawn conveyance and stacked it with a beaver slide, a process which formed large, loaf-shaped haystacks.
1946	AD			Inhabited	About thirty dudes occupy the ranch for the season, some of whom stay up to two months.
1946	AD	1950	AD	Established	The Galeys rebuild their clientele, to approximately fifty-five guests.
1946	AD	1985	AD	Altered	Galey makes improvements to the ranch using frame construction techniques, including the frame addition to the Girls' Cabin (HS-1154), and some frame bathroom additions to several of the dude cabins. Galey is also known to have buried a rock-filled car body in front of Cabin 6 (HS-1164) for use as a drain field.
1949	AD			Built	Circa. Galey builds a new log house for his family. The selected site is on the south side of the main road leading to the building cluster, slightly east of the barn.
1950	AD			Established	Grand Teton National Park expands,

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					encompassing most of the remaining dude ranches inside the park boundary.
1950	AD	1955	AD	Altered	Early 1950s. Galey buys a second-hand baler. He also plows the irrigated pasture in order to keep the sagebrush from encroaching on it.
1950	AD	1955	AD	Altered	Early 1950s. Galey begins negotiating with William Balderston II, another Philadelphia native and occasional White Grass dude, to sell a small parcel of White Grass Ranch land.
1953	AD			Purchased/Sold	Galey sells Balderston 13.64 acres of land in Section 28, located at the north boundary of Harold Hammond's original homestead claim, where the family built a summer retreat that they named Sky Ranch.
1953	AD			Built	Circa. Frank Galey builds a swimming/fishing pond, and named it Lake Ingeborg. He built the basin for the pond by enlarging and deepening a natural wetland or depression; the lake was filled with runoff channeled from a spring in Stewart Draw west of the building cluster.
1954	AD	1957	AD	Planted	Mid-1950s. Inge Galey transplants wildflowers into the narrow flowerbed inside a fenced area east of the Main Cabin (HS-1168), which also contained exotics such as iris and lilies. A lodgepole pine is transplanted to the north elevation of the Main Cabin's west wing, opposite the kitchen door. Inge also transplants an Engelmann spruce seedling to the area behind the Main Cabin, which previously lacked trees.
1950	AD	1959	AD	Altered	1950s. Galey hires someone to re-cut the field ditches originally built by Harold Hammond. The main distribution canal for the irrigation system (roughly 2,500 feet long) comes out of Stewart Draw and contours along the base of the timbered hill slope west of the building cluster. Several field ditches divert from the main canal, one running east through the barnyard south of the barn to provide water for the horses. Another located slightly farther north, extends east past the Main Cabin (HS-1168) making a turn to the north, running along the outside edge of the fence that separated the buildings from the hayfield and a two-track road that led to the irrigated pasture. A drainage ditch along the south edge of the hayfield,

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					north of the main road, received water from the field ditches. It was not uncommon for the drainage ditch to overflow, flooding the main road.
1950	AD	1959	AD	Established	1950s. Galey has five to six pairs of Hereford cattle, milk cows, chickens and pigs. Some meat was stored in a freezer located in one of the outbuildings, and some was stored at the Jackson Cold Storage in Jackson, Wyoming.
1950	AD	1959	AD	Maintained	Frank Galey's daughter, Cynthia, remembers details about ranch activities throughout the mid-20th century. Spring chores included clearing downed trees along the miles of horse trails, which were widened game trails that lead to Buck Mountain and Phelps Lake. Ranch hands mended and reconstructed fences, cut firewood to fuel the stoves and fireplaces in the cabins, and repaired the "walk-in," the old icehouse that contained freezers. They also mowed the lawn east of the Main Cabin (HS-1168) when necessary.
1950	AD	1959	AD	Maintained	Cynthia Galey Peck remembers daily activities included rounding up the horses from the ranch and surrounding land, and placing them in the corral next to the barn, where they would be available for use by the dudes. At the end of each day, the wranglers turned the horses out to pasture. Other dude activities included swimming and fishing in Lake Ingeborg, and use of the ranch library and card room. Dudes and staff ate separately, except on Sunday evenings, when both participated in a barbeque, usually at the ranch barbeque pit, located just inside the tree line on the west edge of the pasture, about a quarter mile north of the building cluster.
1954	AD	1957	AD	Altered	Mid-1950s. Electricity comes to the ranch, and the site is tied to a transmission line built through the timbered area west of the building cluster. Water for domestic purposes comes from a spring in Stewart Draw, which also fed Lake Ingeborg and the Bathhouse. The flow from the spring was trapped in a series of manmade catchment basins, and then piped to the Bathhouse. From there buried pipes carried the water to individual buildings. Garbage was disposed of in an excavated pit southwest from Lake



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					Ingeborg, and in several natural depressions in the area southeast of the building cluster.
1956	AD			Purchased/Sold	The Galeys sell most of the remaining White Grass acreage to the United States government for \$165,000. They reserve a lifetime lease that allows them to continue to reside on the property and to operate the dude ranch until Frank's death. The sale excludes the thirteen-odd acres already sold to Balderston, and a six-acre parcel that included the Galey's house. One of the provisions of the sale to the park was that the Galeys could not construct new buildings or make substantial improvements to any existing buildings without the written permission of the Director of the National Park Service.
1956	AD			Altered	Post-1956. The Galeys spend summers at White Grass Ranch, and their winters in the Caribbean. As a result, Galey sold the remaining cows, and sent all of the saddle horses to winter in the vicinity of Lander, Wyoming. Consequently, Galey stopped putting up hay for winter feed. He continued to irrigate both the hayfield and the pasture in order to improve the quality of the forage for the roughly sixty head of horses that he kept on the ranch during the summer.
1970	AD	1975	AD	Built	Early 1970s. Galey constructs a deck on the southeast end of the Main Cabin (HS-1168). He also moves a couple of cabins in from Cooke City, Montana, placing them in the area south of the Homestead Cabin.
1970	AD	1979	AD	Altered	1970s. Galey encloses a small area within the hayfield north of the Galey house, which he used as a stud horse corral. He also replaces the remaining buck and pole fencing adjacent to the main road with a new fence, the latter made with poles stacked one on top of the other in a zigzag pattern.
1970	AD			Destroyed	1970s. Both the Messler Cabin (located at the north end of the building cluster near the fox pens) and the Homestead Cabin burned to the ground.
1983	AD			Purchased/Sold	Galey sells the six acres reserved from the 1956 sale to the National Park Service. As part of the 1983 agreement, Frank's widow, his second wife, Nona, has the right to the use of the five acres

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					and two cabins for ten years and would be able to use the main house until her death.
1985	AD			Altered	July 5. Frank Galey dies, thus terminating the lifetime lease negotiated in the original sale to the NPS. Galey's ashes are buried on the ranch in a small cemetery plot located southeast of the Homestead Cabin.
1985	AD			Purchased/Sold	September. Nona Galey auctions off the ranch assets. Nearly all of the cabin furnishings, ranch equipment, livestock, and horse tack were sold to former dudes and employees.
1985	AD			Destroyed	October. Fire destroys the Galey house and all of its contents. Nona Galey resided in another cabin for a brief period, but did not return to live at the ranch after 1985. With Nona's departure, the Department of the Interior assumed management of the remaining infrastructure.
1985	AD			Planned	Grand Teton National Park personnel begin inventorying the ranch and adjacent lands to identify "alterations of the natural environment" and to make recommendations for "returning the altered areas to their original natural condition." The report recommended removing the ranch fencing, horse trails and utility and irrigation systems, as well as water features, such as the swimming pool and lake Ingeborg.
1985	AD	1989	AD	Removed	The park implements most of the recommendations specific to the ranch infrastructure. All of the internal fencing, including the post and barbed wire fences that defined the hayfield and the pasture, as well as the pole fencing adjacent to the main access road, is removed. The posts of the corral fence and the fence that separated the hayfield from the building cluster are cut off at ground level, and the irrigation system, swimming pool, and lake Ingeborg were backfilled with dirt. The only recommendations not implemented were the relocation of the White Grass Ranger Station buildings to White Grass Ranch and the removal of all White Grass Ranch buildings.
1990	AD			Established	White Grass Ranch is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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1985	AD	1989	AD	Planned	Late 1980s. Grand Teton National Park includes White Grass Ranch in a cultural resource inventory and evaluation of historical properties throughout the park. After the completion of the inventory, the park removed the noncontributing buildings. The door and window openings on the remaining buildings were boarded shut.
1989	AD	1990	AD	Removed	The park sells several of the small buildings formerly located south of the barn (perhaps the bachelors' quarters).
1991	AD			Removed	The park sells the barn, which was dismantled and removed from the ranch.
1993	AD	1994	AD	Altered	The park allows the Forbes family to move Cabin 4, also known as the Laidlaw Cabin, from White Grass to its property off Meadow Road, north of the airport junction.
1993	AD	1996	AD	Stabilized	Mid-1990s. Volunteers place new rolled roofing on three of the cabins. Heavy snow loads during the 1990s also prompt the park to brace the insides of some of the buildings.
2000	AD			Altered	Inge Freitag Galey's ashes are interred in the small ranch cemetery.
2003	AD			Planned	The NPS makes plans to rehabilitate the White Grass Ranch for the creation of the Western Center for Historic Preservation (formerly known as the Western Center for Preservation Training and Technology, WCPTT). The Center is aimed to teach NPS employees and volunteers how to preserve, rehabilitate, and find new uses for historic buildings in national parks in the Intermountain Region.
2003	AD	2004	AD	Stabilized	Heavy snowfalls again prompt park staff to brace the interiors of some of the buildings to prevent the roofs from collapsing under the weight of accumulated snow.
2003	AD	2005	AD	Stabilized	Maintenance personnel apply plastic secured by wooden lath to all but three of the building roofs to prevent further deterioration from water leakage.
2003	AD			Planned	The Department of the Interior and the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) sign an agreement to create a partnership in which the NTHP would fundraise up to \$1 million for the rehabilitation of White Grass Ranch buildings.

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2004	AD			Planned	Grand Teton National Park completes an environmental assessment/assessment of effect for the rehabilitation project. The preferred alternative is the phased development alternative under which three of the White Grass Ranch buildings (the Main Cabin (HS-1168), the Hammond Cabin (HS-1156), and the shower/laundry building - referred to as the Bathhouse (HS-1162)) are rehabilitated first, and full utilities (electric, phone, water, and sewer) are provided for the site. The remainder of the White Grass Ranch cabins will be rehabilitated over a five-year period, after which they will be used for seasonal housing.
2005	AD	2010	AD	Rehabilitated	Buildings of the ranch begin to be rehabilitated as part of the Western Center for Historic Preservation.
2008	AD			Established	August. A Cultural Landscape and Historic Structures Report (CLR and HSR) is completed for the White Grass Ranch.
2010	AD			Established	The CLR is converted into a Cultural Landscape Inventory for the ranch.

### Physical History

#### General Context: Dude Ranching and Tourism, 1908-1948

The beginning of Western tourism dates to the years before the Civil War as visitors such as Rufus Sage and Sir George Gore traveled through the American West. However, it was not until after the construction of the transcontinental railroads and the development of networks of stage lines and trails during the 1870s and 1880s that Western vacations became more popular with the growing American middle and upper classes. During the late nineteenth century, visitors began to filter into Jackson Hole, where they beheld the spectacular scenery of the Tetons. In 1883, President Chester A. Arthur toured Yellowstone National Park and the future Grand Teton National Park (GTNP), followed four years later by Owen Wister, author of *The Virginian*. By 1900, a few local settlers had begun to house guests and had built small lodges for paying guest sportsmen. Dude ranching within the current GTNP, evolved during the early years of the twentieth century, when area ranchers, unable to make a living at raising livestock, began to accept paying guests.

In 1842, Rufus Sage battled intemperate weather, rough roads and poor food for the sake of spectacular scenery, to make what is reported to be the first "travel-for-pleasure" trip in the American West. However, those travelers suffering poor transportation and limited facilities were the exception. Wealthy easterners, in search of proof that the wilderness had been civilized, dominated travel to the Western states in the later decades of the nineteenth century. Patrons of coastal or lake resorts arrived in luxurious Pullman cars, described the Rocky Mountains as "America's Alps" and the California coast as "American's Riviera," and stayed in hotels mirroring the grand hotels of Saratoga, Newport, and Europe. The hunter-tourist, though obviously drawn to the less urban mountain areas, was often equally insistent upon eastern comforts; probably the extreme example is the Englishman, Sir George Gore, who toured the western states with a retinue of forty men to serve him, six wagons and twenty-one carts.

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At a less extreme level, the hunter-tourist phenomenon and associated respect for the undeveloped reaches of the West, and for the skills of marksmanship and horsemanship, were important precursors to the second wave of Western tourism. By the early 1900s, Americans confronted with the "closing of the frontier" and with the sobering realities of industrialization and urbanization, embraced an idealized version of wilderness and of the Old West. The cowboy, the open range (once vilified as the Great American Desert), and belief in the morally uplifting qualities inherent in discipline and in nature, were all critical components of this version of the West, which fostered Western tourism and travel, especially to the nation's national parks.

Historians generally attribute the establishment of the first dude ranch to North Dakota rancher, Howard Eaton. Faced with a deluge of non-paying hunters on this Medora ranch, and with economic hardship generated by a range fire, in 1882 Eaton broke the "code of Western hospitality" and accepted payment for accommodations from Bert Ramsay. The hard winter of 1886-1887 and the ensuing demise of the open-range cattle industry solidified Eaton's commitment to the development of a Western ranch "attractive to easterners of the better and more influential classes." Eaton's ranch offered participation in America's cowboy heritage, solitude, communion with nature, isolation from immoral urban temptations, and the physical and emotional satisfaction of manual labor. In 1904, Eaton moved his operation from the range country of North Dakota to the scenic splendor of Wolf, Wyoming.

The first dude ranch in Jackson Hole was a collaborative effort between Westerner, Louis Joy and Easterner, Maxwell Struthers Burt. Princeton University graduate, author, and poet, Struthers Burt came to Jackson in about 1908, to enter into a partnership with Louis Joy to operate the JY Ranch, on land patented by Joy in 1907. Difficulties in this partnership prompted Burt to withdraw and, in 1912, to establish a new ranch on the banks of the Snake River -- the Bar BC. In order to accomplish this, Burt and his new partner, Horace Carncross, a medical doctor from Pennsylvania, filed homestead and desert land claims with the stated goal of acquiring the land for the use of wrangling dudes, not cattle. Although Burt and Carncross' ultimate goal had originally been to transform the operation into a working cattle ranch, that hope was never realized, and the success of the Bar BC would be acknowledged in the newly developing, western tourist industry, not in cattle ranching. The dude ranching operation at the Bar BC catered to wealthy easterners, with recruitment beginning in Burt's home city of Philadelphia. One of the first dudes at the Bar BC was George Tucker Bispham, son of a prominent Philadelphia attorney, and an eventual partner in establishing White Grass Ranch.

Despite the early example of Eaton and Burt, the "golden age" of American dude ranching did not begin until the 1920s when an unprecedented number of working ranches began accepting dudes to counteract the effects of the farm depression. Nostalgic interest in the American West was at a peak and the American middle class, possessing leisure time and discretionary income, was both growing and traveling. In addition, automobile ownership and the Western road network remained limited, creating a class of "captive clientele" who generally traveled by rail and who committed to a two-week or longer stay at destination resorts (Borne 1983, 19-22).

All early phases of the Western tourist industry, especially the development of lodging facilities in the western national parks, depended upon the railroads. Corporate interests that operated national park hotel and transportation systems were often owned or subsidized by railroad interests, who used the attraction of park vacations to boost rail passenger travel. By the mid-1920s, the American middle class had embraced private car-camping and lower-cost accommodations. Rail passenger travel had decreased sufficiently that railroads were cultivating a partnership with the growing dude ranch industry:

*[Dude ranchers] kept saying what the railroad liked to hear, that ranchers in the dude business didn't care for sagebrushers [campers], who were inclined to drive on the next day. What they liked ... were guests who'd leave family cars at home, buy rail tickets, and stay awhile .... A wishful statistician could calculate that 50 or more nice ranches along the Northern Pacific*

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*between the Badlands and Cascades could add accommodations for about 2500 dudes via rail. Turn 'em over three or four times a season and you generate a half million dollars in rail revenue (Goodsill 1982, 46).*

In anticipation of that revenue, Western railroads, including the Union Pacific (UP), promised dude ranchers the support of the railroad's advertising division. The Dude Ranch Association pledged to establish cooperation and acquaintances among resort owners and railroad officials, resulted from this newly articulated mutual interest (Bozeman Daily Chronicle –Dude Ranches," 1926).

In September of 1926, the Dude Ranch Association held its first annual convention, with the owners of twenty-six Montana and Wyoming ranches, the governors of both states, and passenger agents for the Northern Pacific and Union Pacific railroads in attendance. The guest list reflected both the increasing importance of tourism in the Rocky Mountain economy and the havoc being played upon the railroads' passenger-travel trade by the automobile. The formal acknowledgement of the dude ranch industry and the delineation of industry standards marked the coming of age of what had been an informal individualistic enterprise fostered by the economic hardship experience by Western ranchers and by changes in the American social and cultural scene.

The association formally defined dude ranches as either working ranches of large acreage, generally located in the plains country or the foothills, or mountain ranches set in places of scenic beauty. Montana's Dick Randall is credited with successfully arguing at this first meeting for the continued use of the word "dude." Randall contended that the term was not derogatory, simply meaning "someone from outside the Rocky Mountain states," and was more picturesque than the term "guest"(Bozeman Daily Chronicle –Dude Ranches," 1926).

With stations at Victor, Idaho, West Yellowstone, Montana, and Rock Springs, Wyoming, the Union Pacific Railroad provided the primary access to Jackson Hole dude ranches, and its publication, *Dude Ranches Out West*, provided the primary advertising forum for the ranches. The UP described Jackson Hole as "one of the best fishing and hunting regions, and one of the most beautiful, scenically, in the country." The amenities offered by the ranches varied from cabins with hot running water and private bath, to cabins with pitcher and basin and "private" outhouse. Ranch activities varied from "rugged outdoor exercise" to "quiet relaxation" and included the annual Jackson Hole rodeo and Sunday morning church service at the Chapel of the Transfiguration at Moose, Wyoming. Historically, client lists were always "exclusive," and exclusively Caucasian. For a relatively short period of time, some Jackson Hole dude ranches catered to boys from the East, sent west by their parents to spend a summer away from the pavement and noise of city life and to learn the simple skills of Western living.

The character of the buildings and accommodations offered by dude ranches followed a Western theme. Max Goodsill, advisor to the Dude Ranch Association, warned dude ranchers to "keep their ranches real, a genuinely Western spot," and cautioned them against the mistake of having improvements that did not "look Western" ("Montana Charms Dudes" 1940).

In Jackson Hole this led to the construction of log buildings consciously made to look like pioneer buildings, long after the economic and environmental rationale for this vernacular style had waned.

Brochures for Jackson Hole dude ranches reveal remarkable similarity in architectural style and services offered. Buildings were described exclusively as log and variously as "rambling," "well furnished," "rustic, but comfortable," with "unobstructed views of the mountains." Amenities often included private outdoor toilets and hot and cold water at the main ranch house. By the mid-1930s, some ranches advertised indoor plumbing. Meals were served family-style in a central lodge or dining hall, and consisted of home-grown vegetables, beef, poultry, and dairy products. Although the language differed, all ranches emphasized the degree to which the character of the

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buildings, furnishings, and meals "conformed to ranch life as a whole." The stables, barns, corrals, saddle horses, and wranglers in full Western regalia served as integral accessories to this self-conscious Western style.

The emphasis on appearance and seasonal use often led to the employment of less labor-intensive log construction styles, including box cornering and false-comer timbering. Cabin foundations were often shallow and insubstantial, reflecting seasonal habitation and the ease with which the small and easily constructed buildings could be replaced. Seasonal vacation use was also reflected in the front porches (most often created by extending the gable end or eave), which mimicked the Western trapper cabin and provided a semi-private outdoor room for guests. Duplex cabins generally had symmetrical fenestration, with each cabin mirroring its neighbor. Cabins were arranged around the central lodge or dining hall, with privies tucked in the woods behind each cabin. Usually, livestock facilities such as barns and corrals were isolated from the dudes' cabins.

The end of the expansion of the dude ranch industry in Jackson Hole was brought about by a number of economic and political factors. Primary among these was the establishment of Grand Teton National Park, and the beginning of the Great Depression, both of which occurred in 1929. The former initiated the process of land acquisition that would later result in the establishment of Jackson Hole National Monument, and eventually, the current Grand Teton National Park, which incorporates many of the early ranches and dude ranches in Jackson Hole. The latter had a profound economic effect on the dude ranch industry as a whole, including those located in Jackson Hole. Fortunes lost in New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia translated into fewer paying dudes out West. Many of the cattle and dude ranch operators sold out to John D. Rockefeller Jr.'s Snake River Land Company, which was purchasing ranch land in the vicinity of Jackson Hole for eventual inclusion in the then-proposed National Monument. Those who did not sell immediately relied on other income to make it through the depression.

A third factor that contributed to the decline in dude ranching was the expansion and improvement of the vehicular road system. During the 1920s, miles and miles of new highways were planned and constructed. These new roads encouraged vacationers to rethink their definitions of a vacation. Extended stays at one location no longer held the fascination that they once had. Rather, trips to include visits to as many sites as possible became more popular, especially for the growing number of middle class Americans who owned their own automobiles. In response to this new tourist market, entrepreneurs began to build facilities designed specifically to accommodate self-contained automobile travelers, who usually required simple accommodations where they could prepare their own meals and be sheltered from the weather.

After establishment of the expanded Grand Teton National Park in 1950, most of the remaining dude ranchers found their properties inside the park boundary, and subject to National Park Service regulation. Eventually, all sold their property to the Department of the Interior, with a few continuing to operate under lease agreements and lifetime tenancies.

### **Establishment and Development of White Grass Ranch**

White Grass Ranch occupies roughly 320 acres of land in the upper Snake River Valley, the area known as Jackson Hole, Teton County, Wyoming. Currently part of Grand Teton National Park, when the two founders of the ranch, Harold Hammond and George Tucker Bispham, filed their homestead claims, the land lay within the boundary of the Teton National Forest, established in 1908 from parts of the Teton and Yellowstone forest reserves (Lands Staff 1997). Although the creation of the forest reserves restricted some private uses, the Forest Homestead Act of 1906 extended the right of individuals to establish homestead claims on agricultural lands inside forest boundaries. The provisions of the 1906 act were similar to those of the 1862 Homestead Act, which allowed individuals to claim up to 160 acres of land, a portion of which had to be agricultural.

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Homesteaders were required to establish residency on their claims and to make improvements, which could include buildings and fencing as well as cultivation. The two principals involved in the establishment of White Grass Ranch, Harold Hammond and Tucker Bispham, acquired the land base for their dude ranch through the provisions of the Forest Homestead Act.

Harold Hammond and Tucker Bispham came from vastly different backgrounds. Hammond was a westerner, born in Idaho, who came to Jackson Hole as a child around the turn of the twentieth century. During the winter of 1910-1911, when he was in his early twenties, he worked as a horse wrangler for the construction crews building Jackson Lake Dam (*-A Place Called Jackson Hole*" 237). After work at the dam ended, Hammond found employment at the newly established Bar BC Dude Ranch, which would eventually be made famous by the literary efforts of one of its founders, Maxwell Struthers Burt.

A Philadelphia native, Princeton University graduate, author and poet, Burt came to Jackson in about 1908 to enter into a partnership with Louis Joy to operate the JY Ranch on land patented by Joy in 1907. Difficulties in this partnership prompted Burt to withdraw and, in 1912, establish a new dude ranch on the banks of the Snake River, called the Bar BC. In order to accomplish this, Burt and his new partner, Horace Carncross, a medical doctor from Pennsylvania, filed homestead and desert land claims, with the stated goal of acquiring the land for the use of wrangling dudes not cattle. Although Burt and Carncross' ultimate goal had originally been to transform the operation into a working cattle ranch, that hope was never realized, and the success of Bar BC would be acknowledged in the newly developing western tourist industry, not in cattle ranching.

The dude ranching operation at Bar BC catered to wealthy Easterners, with recruitment beginning in Burt's home city of Philadelphia. One of the first dudes at the Bar BC was George Tucker Bispham, son of a prominent Philadelphia attorney. Although not documented in the historical record, it is likely that Bispham met Hammond during his tenure at Bar BC, when he was a dude and Hammond an employee.

Harold Hammond's original intention when filing his homestead claim appears to have been to establish a working cattle ranch. A White Grass Ranch brochure, prepared for the 1923 season describes the ranch as a former cattle ranch. Similarly, an article in the July 17, 1930, edition of the *Jackson's Hole Courier*, indicates the conversion from cattle ranching to dude ranching was necessitated by the "low prices and panics" experienced by the cattle industry after the end of World War I ("*White Grass Forging Ahead*" 1930). Whatever Hammond's original intentions, however, the practice of housing summer dudes began early at White Grass Ranch, possibly as early as 1919, several years before his homestead claim and that of his partner Bispham, went to patent.

### **1913-1922: Proving-Up, Initial Ranch Development**

In April of 1913, Harold Hammond filed a claim in the Evanston, Wyoming, land office to 160 acres of land in the area referred to by locals as White Grass Flats, in Section 28 of Township 43 North, Range 116 West [T43N/R116W]. The lands that he selected occupied a sheltered, sagebrush-covered flat on the southeastern flank of Buck Mountain. Stewart Creek (currently noted as Stewart Draw), a perennial water source and tributary to the Snake River, flowed by the southwestern side of the claim and could be tapped for domestic water. The open area intended for cultivation was ringed in all directions by stands of timber that provided the construction materials for ranch buildings and fencing.

According to declarations in his final Testimony of Claimant form, filed in 1920, Hammond built a log house (28 x 48 feet) on the property in August of 1913 and began residing on the claim the following month. Hammond selected a building site in the SW1/4 SE1/4 of Section 28, at the base of the hill slope at the margin of the timber, overlooking the area suitable for cultivation. The front



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of the house faced southeast, with a view of Blacktail Butte and the Gros Ventre Mountains beyond the Snake River.

Hammond may have spent the winter of 1913 at his newly established homestead. However, the following summer he was absent from the claim between May and October "working 4 miles from home," possibly at the Bar BC (Homestead Entry Final Proof Testimony of Claimant July 23, 1920). In 1915, Hammond plowed and planted sixteen acres of oats, from which he harvested thirty tons of hay. In 1916, he increased the cultivated area to forty acres, planting oats and barley and harvesting seventy tons of hay. In 1917, Hammond claimed to have cultivated fifty-six acres, planted in oats and barley, which yielded fifty tons of hay. This corresponds fairly well with information derived from a review of the General Land Office plat for T43N/R116W, surveyed in 1917, which shows a fenced cultivated area of roughly fifty acres mostly within Hammond's claim (General Land Office Survey Plat for T43N/R116W).

In October 1917, Hammond left for military service with the U.S. Army 20th Engineers. Although absent from the ranch for nearly two years, Hammond claimed seventy acres under cultivation in 1918. His partner, Bispham, may have been responsible for the agricultural workings at the ranch while Hammond deployed to Europe. Hammond returned to Jackson Hole in June 1919, and by 1920, he had eighty cultivated acres, including twenty acres in "seeded meadow," and sixty acres in grain. He also declared 800 rods (roughly 2.5 miles) of buck and four-pole fence, and a mile-long ditch. In addition to the house built in 1913, by 1920 Hammond had 3 additional log buildings; a barn (30 x 50 feet), a store house (16 x 48 feet), and a log bunk house (14 x 48 feet), as well as 3 corrals consisting of 120 panels of eight poles to the panel (-A Place Called Jackson Hole" 236). Collectively, he estimated that he had made \$10,000 worth of improvements to the claim. Nearly eight years after filing his claim, Hammond received his homestead patent on March 3, 1921. He was thirty years old and single (Homestead Entry Final Proof Testimony of Claimant, July 23, 1920).

Bispham's 160-acre homestead claim adjoined the east and south sides of Hammond's claim. Although Bispham waited to file his claim until 1921, he stated that he began improving the land in 1915, when he plowed and planted ten acres of barley. The following year he claimed to have built a house and cultivated an additional five acres. In both 1917 and 1918, he added five more acres of cultivation, and, in 1920, he nearly doubled the total cultivated land to forty-five acres and seeded it all to alfalfa. Based upon information derived from his Testimony of Claimant form, Bispham did not begin residing year-round on the claim until May of 1921. Prior to that, he left during the winter months, possibly returning home to Philadelphia (Homestead Entry Final Proof Testimony of Claimant, December 15, 1922).

Bispham's building site in the NW1/4 NE1/4 of Section 33 was directly adjacent to Hammond's buildings. By December 1922, Bispham declared he had three log houses located on the claim, one 12 x 28 feet, one 14 x 26 feet, and one 36 x 36 feet. In addition, he had 640 rods of buck and four-pole fence. With the agricultural improvements, Bispham stated the total value of his improvements to be \$5,000. He received his homestead patent on April 9, 1923, roughly two years after Hammond, and eight years after establishing his residency. He was forty-one years old, and, like Hammond, he was single (Homestead Entry Final Proof Testimony of Claimant, December 15, 1922).

Hammond and Bispham named their ranch White Grass, reportedly after the English translation of an American Indian name for the sagebrush that covered the valley floor. They chose H quarter circle B as their brand, which they used both for their livestock and for promotional purposes in their advertisements.

An early typewritten advertisement circulated through the community of Philadelphia (Bispham's home city), indicated the ranch could accommodate as many as ten people, in three cabins (possibly the log houses declared by Bispham) and a wall tent. The undated brochure further

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stated that the cabins were well separated from the ranch buildings where the owners and ranch hands lived ("White Grass Ranch celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup>").

The period plan for initial ranch development, shows the locations of the ranch improvements known to have been present at the end of the period. Both Hammond's homestead house [referred to as the Main Cabin (HS-1168) from roughly the 1940s onward] and the barn are known to date to this period. The three cabins identified on the plan (all located within Hammond's claim) are included because they have the same type of square notches as found in the Main Cabin and are similar to those shown in a ranch brochure prepared for the 1923 season. However, it is impossible to determine with any certainty the location of the earliest dude cabins. The location of Bispham's homestead house (referred to as the Homestead Cabin from roughly the 1940s onward) is approximated. The locations of Bispham's other log houses are not known. The location of the cultivated areas and the access road are taken from the 1917 General Land Office plat, and should be considered approximations only.

### **1923-1928: Bar BC Ranches, Inc. Partnership**

Sometime prior to the 1923 summer season, Hammond and Bispham entered into a partnership with Struthers Burt and Horace Carncross (owners of the Bar BC Ranch), Irving Corse (future Bar BC partner) and Sinclair Armstrong (another Princeton graduate), to form Bar BC Ranches, Inc. Both Hammond and Bispham deeded their homestead properties to the corporation. Under this arrangement, the partners operated three ranches, the Upper and Lower Bar BC and the White Grass, the designation of the latter changed to the White Grass Ranch for Boys. Hammond and Armstrong served as White Grass directors, while Burt, Carncross and Corse took care of the Upper and Lower Bar BC ranches. Parents of White Grass boys who wanted to come west for the summer were encouraged to stay at the Upper Bar BC ("The Bar BC Ranches" 3).

The White Grass boys were to travel west from New York under the supervision of counselors from eastern universities. Once at the ranch the boys were to learn traditional skills associated with a simpler life. The ranch partners expressed their philosophy as follows:

*The spirit of the west is essentially one of independence and self-reliance. The native, from boyhood, has had to learn for himself and to serve himself, unaided. Moreover, the life of the west makes the strongest appeal to boys, and it has been the experience on the Bar B. C. Ranches that the enjoyment and benefit derived by eastern boys from summers in the west depends on their share in the life and activities of the ranches.*

*The conviction has therefore grown that an experience of western life, engrafted upon the ordinary eastern training, would be ideal in its developing influence; and it has been determined to start a boys' ranch, where boys, coming for the summer, may catch some of the western spirit, without sacrificing the control most desirable for their complete development.*

*The boys will be encouraged to learn through experience the practical things necessary to a simpler life, and will also have opportunity to learn certain elements of ranching ("The Bar BC Ranches" 3).*

The cost of learning the skills for a simple life was \$900, including railroad fare from New York, meals, housing, and activities (including a tour of Yellowstone National Park) for a typical eight-week stay. A brochure prepared for the 1923 season described White Grass facilities as consisting of a "large main cabin, with three living rooms, dining room, and kitchen; barn, corrals, and storehouses; and sleeping cabins and tents with wooden floors, sufficient to accommodate forty." The brochure also mentioned that the ranch supplied vegetables from its own garden, milk from its own cows, and was regularly supplied with fresh meat ("The Bar BC Ranches" 12).

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Photos in the 1923 brochure show that by the early 1920s a cross-braced fence separated the main cabin from the hayfield in front (east) of the building. In addition, three log cabins were shown inside the tree line toward the north end of the building cluster, likely the same three described in the earlier typewritten brochure (*White Grass Ranch celebrates its 60th* and Galey interview 1983). The balance of the sleeping cabins (which would total eighteen in 1930), were added during the Bar BC partnership period (*White Grass Forging Ahead*). In addition, Hammond may have initiated construction of a cabin for his own use. Referred during the later dude ranching period as the Hammond Cabin, this building was modified several times. An improvement presumably built specifically to accommodate the boys was a concrete swimming pool, located in the hayfield east of the building cluster.

The success of the Bar BC Ranches Inc. partnership is difficult to gauge. Although the brochure advertised that the ranch could accommodate forty guests, there is little historical evidence to indicate the ranch ever reached capacity (*A Place Called Jackson Hole* 237). Perhaps because of this, in 1925, Hammond diversified his interests by importing six pairs of silver fox as breeding stock for a fox farm. Silver fox fur was popular in fashions of the day, and several area ranchers added fox farming to their list of economic endeavors (*A Place Called Jackson Hole* 237).

Hammond built fox pens, consisting of frame cages enclosed with chicken wire, slightly northwest of the cabins. Although he eventually took on partners in the fox-farming endeavor, Bispham was not one of them. Harold Hammond would later comment that it was only the furs that kept "body and soul together during the depression." (*White Grass Ranch Celebrates Its 60th*)

In 1925, Hammond and Bispham received their Certificate of Appropriation of Water for purposes of irrigation and domestic use. Both men listed dates in January 1922 as the date of appropriation of water from Stewart Creek. Hammond claimed to be irrigating 92.13 acres of land in the S1/2 NE1/4" of Section 28, while Bispham claimed to be irrigating 155 acres, nearly the balance of the land in his homestead claim, distributed throughout Sections 27, 28 and 33 (Certificate Nos. 841 and 842, Office of the Clerk and Recorder, Teton County).

In 1928, Hammond and Bispham withdrew from the Bar BC Ranches, Inc. partnership, and their homestead claims were deeded back to them. In December of 1928, Hammond and his first wife, Marie, bought out Bispham's interest in the ranch for the sum of \$12,500. The property transferred included Bispham's 160-acre homestead claim and all buildings and water rights. After this purchase, the Hammonds became the sole proprietors of the ranch (Warranty Deed, Bispham to Hammond, December 19, 1928).

The Period Plan for 1923-1928 shows the infrastructure extant during that time. The locations of the buildings, the hayfield, and the pasture are well documented. The date of establishment of the main road has not been determined, although it is believed to have occurred fairly early. It is important to note that none of the circulation features was constructed in the usual sense. Rather, roads and paths were established through use over time.

### **1929-1939: Hammond's Tenure**

The timing of the Hammonds' purchase of Bispham's interest may have been unfortunate in that they had only one operating season prior to the Wall Street crash in October 1929. Fortunes lost in New York, Chicago and Philadelphia translated into fewer paying dudes out West.

Nevertheless, Harold and Marie had most of the needed infrastructure in place by the time they became sole proprietors of the ranch. Besides the Main Cabin, which contained living and dining areas, a library and a card room for the dudes, they had eighteen cabins (presumably the three built during the homestead era and an additional fifteen built during the Bar BC partnership), as well as buildings to shelter livestock, house the cooks and store supplies (Rachel Trahern, telephone conversation with Pam Holtman, December 1, 2005). They also kept fifty head of "choice horses" to provide trail rides to the dudes (*White Grass Forging Ahead*)

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During this period, Harold Hammond took out three mortgages totaling \$27,000, all from private individuals (Mortgage Deeds, Office of the Clerk and Recorder). Although part of the money may have been used to cover operating expenses, Hammond also made new improvements. A card room in the Main Cabin, described in a 1930 newspaper article, may have been added after the end of the Boys' Ranch era. In 1935, he added a central bathhouse that contained showers, indoor toilets and a laundry. Prior to this time dudes bathed in tin tubs in their rooms with water hauled to the cabins by the ranch staff, and they used outhouses strategically placed in the trees near the sleeping cabins. In 1936, Hammond began to add bathrooms, complete with tubs and toilets, to the dude cabins ("A Place Called Jackson Hole," 237). He also expanded his own small cabin (HS-1156) by building another wing on the north side of the original building.

Harold and Marie shared ranch duties and responsibilities. He was responsible for all of the ranch work (presumably irrigating and handling the stock) and for guiding the hunting and fishing trips, while Marie supervised the housekeeping and domestic staff (including Filipino cooks), as she had done during the Bar BC partnership years. Besides the horses used at the dude ranch, Hammond also ran cattle on his property. In the 1930s, he had about fifty head, which he grazed on his own land and on lands leased from the park (Frank Galey interview, 4). Hay cut from the field in front of the building cluster was stored on the ranch for winter use.

Photographs from a *circa* 1935 White Grass Ranch brochure show that by this time, the Hammonds had planted hops to grow on the east (front) wall of the Main Cabin. In addition, a mowed grass lawn extended from the east wall of that building to the pasture fence ("The White Grass Ranch," *circa* 1930 brochure).

Marie Hammond died in 1935. A year later, Harold married Marian Galey, who he had met in 1919 when she was a guest at the Bar BC. Marian moved to the ranch, and her son, Francis (Frank) Holt Galey Jr., a student at Princeton University, began working as a hired hand during the 1936 season ("A Place Called Jackson Hole," 237).

Harold R. Hammond died on July 18, 1939. Marian inherited the ranch and most of its contents from her husband. Unable to operate the ranch by herself, Marian's son, Frank, left Princeton for good to take over supervision of ranch operations. Distressed over the loss of her husband, Marian moved back to her home in Philadelphia and did not return to the ranch for at least a couple of years (Frank Galey interview, 5).

The period plan for this era shows ranch improvements at the end of Harold Hammond's tenure. Improvements attributed to Hammond include the bathhouse, the bathroom additions to some of the dude cabins, and additions to the Main Cabin and the Hammond Cabin. Again, note that the existence of the pedestrian paths is conjectural. There is no indication in the historical record, either written or oral, that the White Grass Ranch ever had formal pedestrian paths. Rather, the paths consisted simply of dirt trails worn through the native vegetation.

### **1939-1985: Galey Tenure**

Frank Galey's tenure at the ranch was interrupted almost as soon as it began by the outbreak of World War II. In 1941, only two years after moving to the ranch full time, he left for military service. According to Galey, White Grass Ranch ceased most operations during the war years, mainly because of gasoline rationing and other shortages. He indicated that a few long-time dudes made the trek to Jackson Hole to help out, but the dude ranch component of the operation was temporarily closed. The fox farming operation continued under the auspices of a caretaker (Frank Galey interview, 5).

In 1945, Frank Galey returned from the war with his wife, Ingeborg Freitag Galey, and their daughter, Cynthia. In an interview conducted in 1983, Galey remembered that most of the buildings were in poor condition, and he had difficulty obtaining materials to fix them. Only ten horses remained on the ranch when Frank returned. During the 1946 season, they had about

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thirty dudes, some of whom stayed up to two months (Frank Galey interview, 9). Over the next decade, the Galey family rebuilt their clientele, to approximately fifty-five guests. In a 1983 interview, Galey indicated that he had never wanted the business to become too large (Frank Galey interview, 9).

The improvements that characterize Frank Galey's tenure at the ranch do not equal the quality of earlier improvements, in terms of design or execution. All of the building components attributed to Frank are of frame rather than log construction, including the frame addition to the Girls' Cabin (HS-1154), and some frame bathroom additions to several of the dude cabins. Galey is also known to have buried a rock-filled car body in front of Cabin 6 for use as a drain field (Cynthia Galey Peck, interview with Janene Caywood, September 2004)

The most substantial improvement added during the Galey tenure was a new log house for his family. They selected a site on the south side of the main road leading to the building cluster, slightly east of the barn. Cynthia Galey Peck estimated they had the house built in 1949; the builder is unknown. In about 1953 Frank Galey built a swimming/fishing pond, and named it Lake Ingeborg (Frank Galey Fox, interview with Janene Caywood, May 2006). He built the basin for the pond by enlarging and deepening a natural wetland or depression; the lake was filled with runoff channeled from a spring in Stewart Draw west of the building cluster (Cynthia Galey Peck interview 2004).

Inge Galey contributed to the ornamental vegetation at the ranch by transplanting wildflowers into the narrow flowerbed inside a fenced area east of the Main Cabin, which also contained exotics such as iris and lilies. Inge and Rachel Trahern, manager of the dude operation from 1953-1964, transplanted a lodgepole pine in the mid 1950s to the north elevation of the Main Cabin's west wing, opposite the kitchen door. Inge also transplanted an Engelmann spruce seedling to the area behind the Main Cabin, which previously lacked trees (Cynthia Galey Peck interview 2004).

The agricultural operations during the early years of Frank Galey's tenure were not substantially different from during the period when Harold Hammond operated the property. Between 1945 and 1956, Frank continued to irrigate and cut hay from the field east of the building cluster. He reseeded periodically with orchard grass, timothy and alfalfa, and spread manure over it in the spring as needed. He began irrigating about mid-July, cut the hay in August, with the use of a horse-drawn conveyance, and stacked it with a beaver slide, a process that formed large, loaf-shaped haystacks. In the early 1950s Galey bought a second-hand baler, an unpopular purchase with the hired help, as it continually broke down. In order to keep the sagebrush from encroaching on the adjacent irrigated pasture, he occasionally plowed it deep, but did not reseed it (Cynthia Galey Peck interview 2004).

During the 1950s, Galey hired someone to re-cut the field ditches originally built by Harold Hammond (Cynthia Galey Peck interview 2004). The main distribution canal for the irrigation system (roughly 2,500 feet long) came out of Stewart Draw and contoured along the base of the timbered hill slope west of the building cluster. Several field ditches diverted from the main canal, one running east through the barnyard south of the barn to provide water for the horses. Another located slightly farther north, extended east past the Main Cabin then made a turn to the north, running along the outside edge of the fence that separated the buildings from the hayfield and a two-track road that led to the irrigated pasture. A drainage ditch along the south edge of the hayfield, north of the main road, received water from the field ditches. It was not uncommon for the drainage ditch to overflow, flooding the main road (Alterations and Recommendations Document 1985, 3).

Galey's cattle operation was smaller than Hammond's. Cynthia Galey Peck remembers her parents running only five to six pairs of Hereford cattle on the place. They also kept milk cows, chickens and pigs. The cook used eggs produced by the chickens, and the pigs, chickens and cattle were usually slaughtered at year's end, after all the dudes had left the ranch, to be served at barbecues for the ranch employees. Some meat was stored in a freezer located in one of the

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outbuildings, and some was stored at the Jackson Cold Storage in Jackson, Wyoming (Rachel Trahern interview with Pam Holtman. December 1, 2005). As a final chore in the fall, most of the saddle horses were trucked to their wintering grounds near Lander, Wyoming.

Activities associated with housing, feeding and entertaining the dudes continued along historical patterns. For a couple of weeks in the spring, the horses would be kept in the hayfield in front of the building cluster, after which time they would be turned out to graze on White Grass land and Galey's grazing allotment (Frank Galey interview, 4). Spring chores included clearing downed trees along the miles of horse trails. The horse trails were simply game trails widened and cleared to accommodate a horse and rider. They extended far beyond the deeded ranch lands into the park, mostly west up the slope of Buck Mountain and southwest to Phelps Lake. Ranch hands mended and reconstructed fences, cut firewood to fuel the stoves and fireplaces in the cabins, and repaired the "walk-in," the old icehouse that contained freezers. Invariably, bears broke into the icehouse as well as the kitchen of the Main Cabin during the off-season and summer. Besides their regular duties with the stock, wranglers sometimes were required to mow the lawn in front (east of) the Main Cabin (Cynthia Galey Peck interview 2004).

Early each morning the wranglers rounded up the horses from the ranch and surrounding land, and placed them in the corral next to the barn, where they would be available for use by the dudes. Dudes could ride mornings and afternoons, Monday through Saturday, and Sunday morning. At the end of each day, the wranglers turned the horses out to pasture. Other activities included swimming and fishing in Lake Ingeborg, and use of the ranch library and card room. Dudes and staff ate separately, except on Sunday evenings, when both participated in a barbeque, usually at the ranch barbeque pit, located just inside the tree line on the west edge of the pasture, about a quarter mile north of the building cluster (Cynthia Galey Peck interview 2004).

Staff lived at the ranch during the dude season. Male employees occupied three small buildings located southeast of the barnyard (referred to as the bachelors' quarters), and the women occupied one of two buildings near the Main Cabin. A separate cabin for the cook, a springhouse, and the icehouse (known as the "walk-in"), were located in a loose cluster behind (west) the Main Cabin. A generator house was located slightly farther north from these buildings. During the height of the season (usually August), as many as six employees lived in three platform tents west of the Bathhouse. The ranch employees used the Bathhouse. All of the linens used in the cabins and the dining room placemats were sent to town for laundering, the clean linens were then stored in the west end of the Bathhouse (Cynthia Galey Peck interview 2004). During the winter, the linens were stored in mouse-proof cupboards in the Bathhouse.

It was not uncommon for returning dude families to occupy the same cabin year after year. Consequently, the ranch staff began to refer to specific buildings by the name of its occupants. Cabin 4 was referred to as the Laidlaw Cabin after the family that is believed to have constructed and repeatedly occupied it during the 1940s. Cabin 14 was known as the Hammond Cabin, and Cabin 9 was known as the Matthew cabin during the 1950s. The Messler Cabin, located north of the main building cluster, was named after the Messler family and Cabin 8, known as the Winsor Cabin, was usually occupied by the Winsor family during the 1950s.

Dudes and staff made use of water in the main distribution canal that ran behind the building cluster. In order to keep their drinks cold, some dudes excavated small ditches to divert water from the main canal eastward past their cabins. Dams constructed at strategic points pooled the water where they placed their cans and bottles to be cooled (Cynthia Galey Peck interview 2004).

During the first part of Galey's tenure, electricity for the ranch was powered by a fuel oil generator. The fuel was stored in a tank buried behind the barn. Electricity came to the ranch in the mid-1950s, and the site was tied to a transmission line built through the timbered area west of the building cluster. Water for domestic purposes came from a spring in Stewart Draw, which also fed Lake Ingeborg and the Bathhouse. The flow from the spring was trapped in a series of

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manmade catchment basins, and then piped to the Bathhouse. From there buried pipes carried the water to individual buildings (Cynthia Galey Peck interview 2004). Garbage was disposed of in an excavated pit southwest from Lake Ingeborg, and in several natural depressions in the area southeast of the building cluster (Alterations and Recommendations Document, 4-6).

In the early 1950s, Galey began negotiating with William Balderston II, another Philadelphia native and occasional White Grass dude, to sell a small parcel of White Grass Ranch land. In 1953, Galey sold Balderston 13.64 acres of land in Section 28, located at the north boundary of Harold Hammond's original homestead claim, where the family built a summer retreat that they named Sky Ranch.

In 1956, Frank and Inge Galey sold most of the remaining White Grass acreage to the United States government for \$165,000. They reserved a lifetime lease that allowed them to continue to reside on the property and to operate the dude ranch until Frank's death. The sale excluded the thirteen-odd acres already sold to Balderston, and a six-acre parcel that included the Galey's house. With money from the sale of the ranch, the Galey family purchased a resort hotel on the island of Nevis in the West Indies. They spent their winters running the Nevis resort, and returned to White Grass for the summer season.

This new schedule resulted in some changes to the agricultural operations at White Grass. Frank Galey sold the remaining cows, and sent all of the saddle horses to winter near Lander, Wyoming. Consequently, Galey stopped putting up hay for winter feed. He continued to irrigate both the hayfield and the pasture in order to improve the quality of the forage for the roughly sixty head of horses that he kept on the ranch during the summer (Cynthia Galey Peck interview 2004).

One of the provisions of the sale to the park was that the Galey family could not construct new buildings or make substantial improvements to any existing buildings without the written permission of the Director of the National Park Service. In the 1970s, Galey enclosed a small area within the hayfield north of the Galey house, which he used as a stud horse corral. He also replaced the remaining buck and pole fencing adjacent to the main road with a new fence, the latter made with poles stacked one on top of the other in a zigzag pattern (Cynthia Galey Peck interview 2004). Other changes dating to the later period of Galey's tenure include the construction of a deck on the southeast end of the Main Cabin (HS-1168) in the early 1970s. According to Rachel Trahern, he also moved a couple of cabins in from Cooke City, Montana, placing them in the area south of the Homestead Cabin (Cynthia Galey Peck interview 2004; Rachel Trahern interview).

The absence of a permanent presence at the ranch during the winter months led to the loss of several ranch buildings. According to Cynthia Peck, both the Messler cabin (located at the north end of the building cluster near the fox pens) and the Homestead Cabin burned as a result of cross-country skiers using the buildings for shelter. Skiers started fires in the fireplaces not realizing the chimneys were capped with coffee cans (part of the winterizing process), and left without putting the fires out. As a result, both cabins burned to the ground (Cynthia Galey Peck interview 2004).

Frank Galey died of a heart attack on July 5, 1985, thus terminating the lifetime lease negotiated in the original sale to the park service. Galey's ashes were buried on the ranch in a small cemetery plot located southeast of the Homestead Cabin. Two years previously, in 1983, he sold the six acres reserved from the 1956 sale to the National Park Service. As part of the 1983 agreement, Frank's widow, his second wife, Nona, had the right to the use of the five acres and two cabins for ten years and would be able to use the main house until her death (Alterations and Recommendations document, 1).

At the end of the 1985 dude season, Nona Galey auctioned the ranch assets. Over a two-day period during the third week in September, virtually all of the cabin furnishings, ranch equipment,

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livestock and horse tack were sold to 760 registered bidders, many of whom were former dudes and employees. The rustic lodgepole pine furnishings and antique guns brought the best prices, as did the horses, which included sixty-seven mature horses, ten two-to-three-year olds, five yearlings, a stallion and two colts. Other livestock included a registered Longhorn bull, two miniature mules and other cattle ("White Grass Ranch auction big event, September 18, 1985). Little more than a month after the auction, fire destroyed the Galey house and all of its contents. Nona Galey resided in another cabin for a brief period, but did not return to live at the ranch after 1985 ("Fire Culminates Tragic Year," November 6, 1985). With Nona's departure, the Department of the Interior assumed management of the remaining infrastructure.

### **1985-2005: National Park Service Management**

After Frank Galey's death, GTNP personnel began inventorying the ranch and adjacent lands to identify "alterations of the natural environment" and to make recommendations for "returning the altered areas to their original natural condition." (Alterations and Recommendations document, 1). It is worth noting that the inventory area exceeded the boundary of the two homestead claims to include the White Grass Ranger Station, Sky Ranch and the lower hill slopes of Buck Mountain west of the building cluster. The park report recommended removing the ranch fencing, horse trails and utility and irrigation systems, as well as water features, such as the swimming pool and lake Ingeborg. In addition, the park's inventory report advised:

*The closure of the White Grass Ranch operation provides the Park with several options for cleaning up the area and consolidating visitor use.*

*One option is to rehabilitate the last .4 miles of road, remove the structures and create .4 miles of trail from the main area of the White Grass Ranch.*

*Depending upon which access road is determined to be the most appropriate for the remaining White Grass and Sky Ranch inholdings, various options are open for restoration of the roadways, Ranger Station placement, and parking for visitor use. Two good possibilities are available:*

- 1. Place the Ranger Station and parking in the current corral/barn area; or,*
  - 2. Place the Ranger Station and parking near the entrance gate of the White Grass Ranch."*
- (Alterations and Recommendations document, 15)

During the late 1980s, the park implemented most of the recommendations specific to the ranch infrastructure. All of the internal fencing, including the post and barbed wire fences that defined the hayfield and the pasture, as well as the pole fencing adjacent to the main access road, was removed. The posts of the corral fence and the fence that separated the hayfield from the building cluster were cut off at ground level, and the irrigation system, swimming pool, and lake Ingeborg were backfilled with dirt. The only recommendations not implemented were the relocation of the White Grass Ranger Station buildings to White Grass Ranch and the removal of all White Grass Ranch buildings.

In the late 1980s, GTNP included White Grass Ranch in a cultural resource inventory and evaluation of historical properties throughout the park, the purpose of which was to determine National Register eligibility. Because of that inventory, White Grass Ranch was recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; it was formally listed in 1990. The original inventory concluded that the barn, a focal point of ranch life for nearly eighty years, possessed insufficient historic integrity to be a contributing resource in the historic district (Steven F. Mehls, National Register Nomination Form, March 20, 1988).

After the completion of the inventory, Grand Teton National Park removed the noncontributing buildings. The door and window openings on the remaining buildings were boarded shut.



## **White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory**

Between 1989 and 1990, the park sold several of the small buildings formerly located south of the barn (perhaps the bachelors' quarters). In 1991, the park sold the barn, which was dismantled and removed from the ranch. In 1993 or 1994, the park allowed the Forbes family to move Cabin 4, also known as the Laidlaw cabin, from White Grass to its property off Meadow Road, north of the airport junction, in GTNP (Telephone interview with Thayne O'Brien, June 22, 2005).

In the mid-1990s, volunteers placed new rolled roofing on three of the cabins. Heavy snow loads during the 1990s, 2003, and 2004, prompted the park to brace the insides of some of the buildings to prevent the roofs from collapsing under the weight of accumulated snow. In 2003, 2004, and 2005, park maintenance personnel applied plastic secured by wooden lath to all but three of the roofs to prevent further deterioration from water leakage. In addition, maintenance personnel now shovel the roofs periodically during the winter months.

In 2000, Inge Freitag Galey's ashes were interred in the small ranch cemetery.

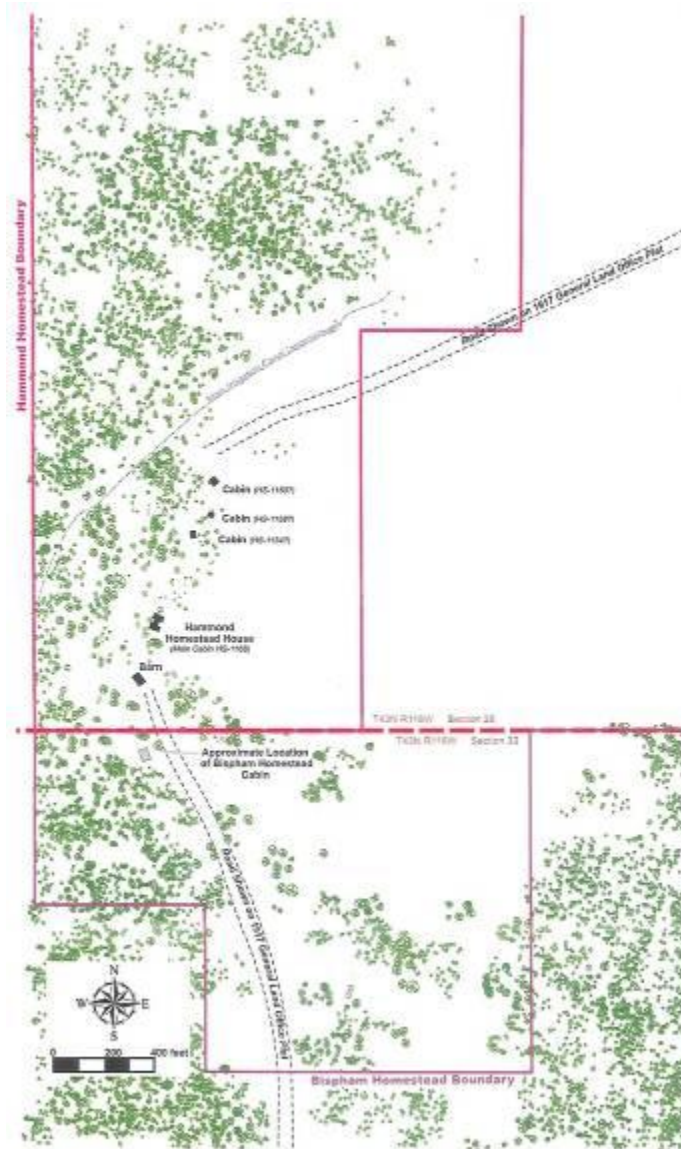
At the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the National Park Service (NPS) began exploring preservation and reuse options for White Grass Ranch, deciding to create a Western Center for Historic Preservation. The proposed purpose of the Center would be to teach NPS employees and volunteers how to preserve, rehabilitate, and find new uses for historic buildings in national parks in the Intermountain Region. In 2003, plans for the Center began to take place with a signed agreement between the Department of the Interior and the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP), in which the NTHP agreed to fundraise up to \$1 million for the rehabilitation of White Grass Ranch buildings.

The following year in 2004, an environmental assessment/assessment of effect was undertaken for the rehabilitation project. The preferred alternative outlined phased development under which three of the White Grass Ranch buildings (the Main Cabin, the Hammond Cabin, and the shower/laundry building - referred to as the Bathhouse) be rehabilitated first. Additionally, full utilities (electric, phone, water, and sewer) would be provided for the site, and the remainder of the White Grass Ranch cabins would be rehabilitated over a five-year period.

To aid in the rehabilitation process, a Cultural Landscape and Historic Structures Report was completed in August 2008 for White Grass Ranch. The document addressed treatment options for both the landscape and the buildings. Shortly thereafter, the Center opened a year-round facility in Moose and the buildings of White Grass Ranch began to be rehabilitated with the eventual purpose of being a seasonal training center. Rehabilitation efforts continue today.

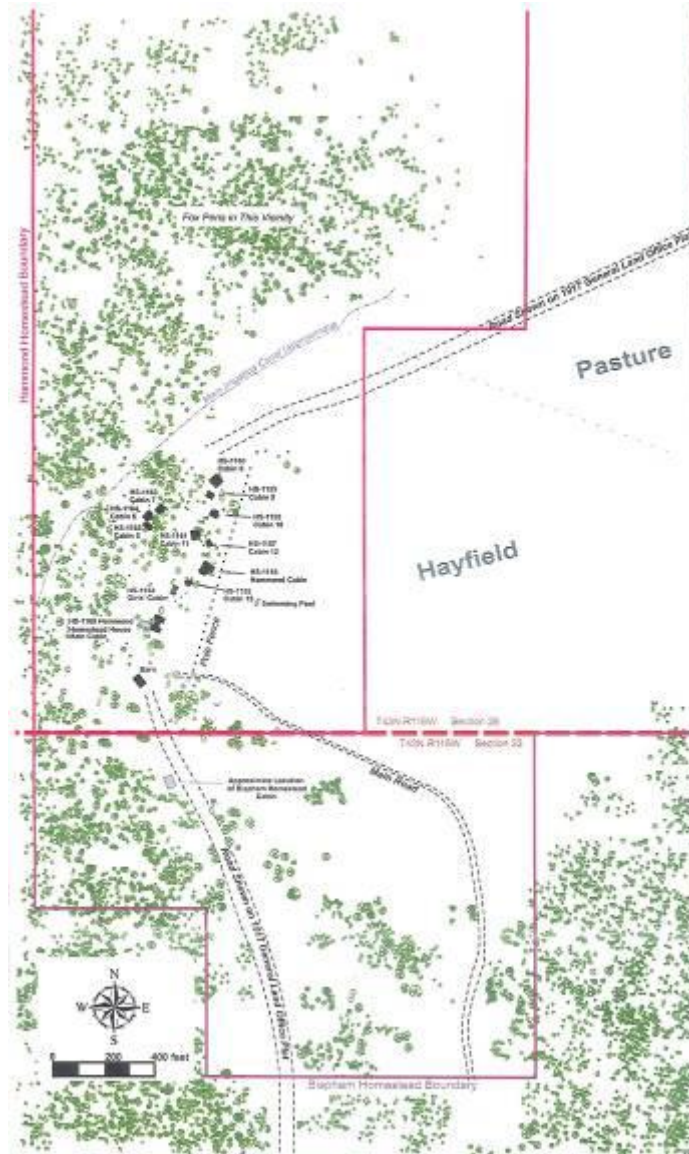
### **History Graphic Information**

# White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory



Caption: Period Plan showing initial site development, 1913-1922. Source CLR.

# White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory



Caption: Period Plan showing development from 1923-1928.

## White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory

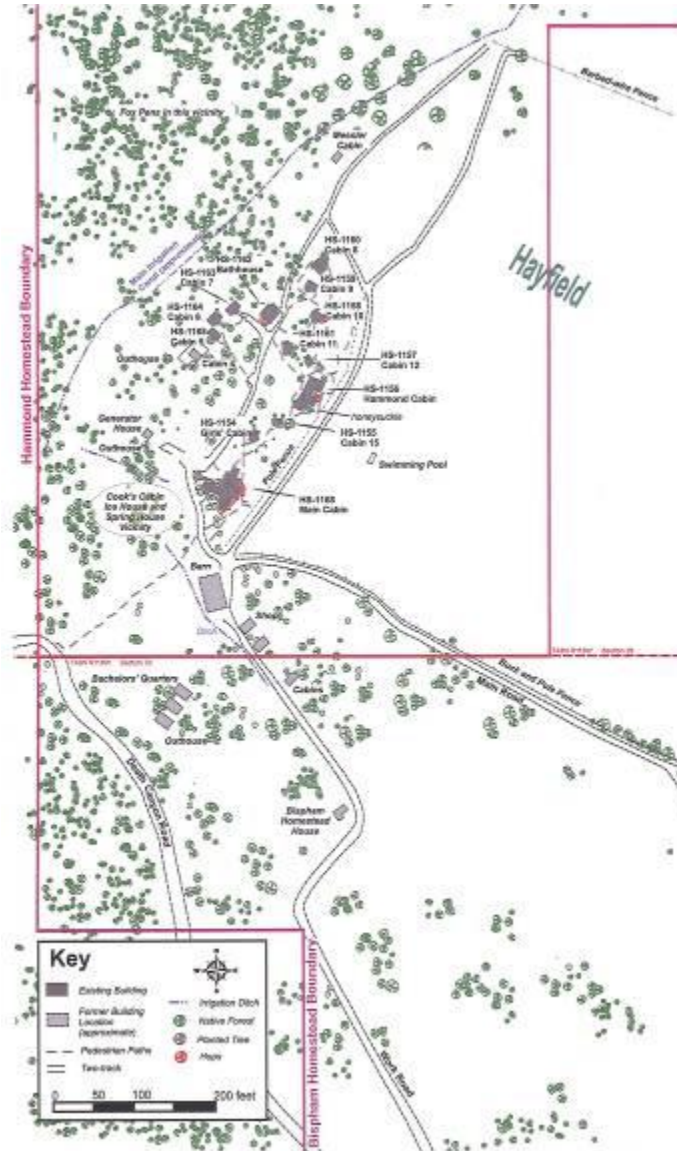


Caption: Circa 1925 photograph of the south and east walls of the building known during the dude ranch era as the Main Cabin, HS-1168. This is believed to be Harold Hammond's original homestead house. Source CLR.



Caption: Hammond Cabin, HS-1156, *circa* 1925, prior to additions. Source CLR.

# White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory



Caption: Period plan for the Harold Hammond's tenure 1929-1939.

## White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory



Caption: Circa 1940 photo of the hayfield taken from the front of the Main Cabin. Source CLR.



Caption: Fox pens at White Grass Ranch, *circa* 1940. Source CLR.

## White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory



Caption: *Circa* 1945 photograph of the White Grass barn, prior to modifications, a focal point of ranch life for nearly 80 years. Source CLR.



Caption: Haying at White Grass Ranch, *circa* 1950. Source CLR.

## White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory



Caption: Looking west along the main road from the vicinity of the Galey house, circa 1950.  
Source CLR.



Caption: Circa 1955 aerial photo of the ranch core showing the number of large, mature trees within the building cluster. Source CLR.



## White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory

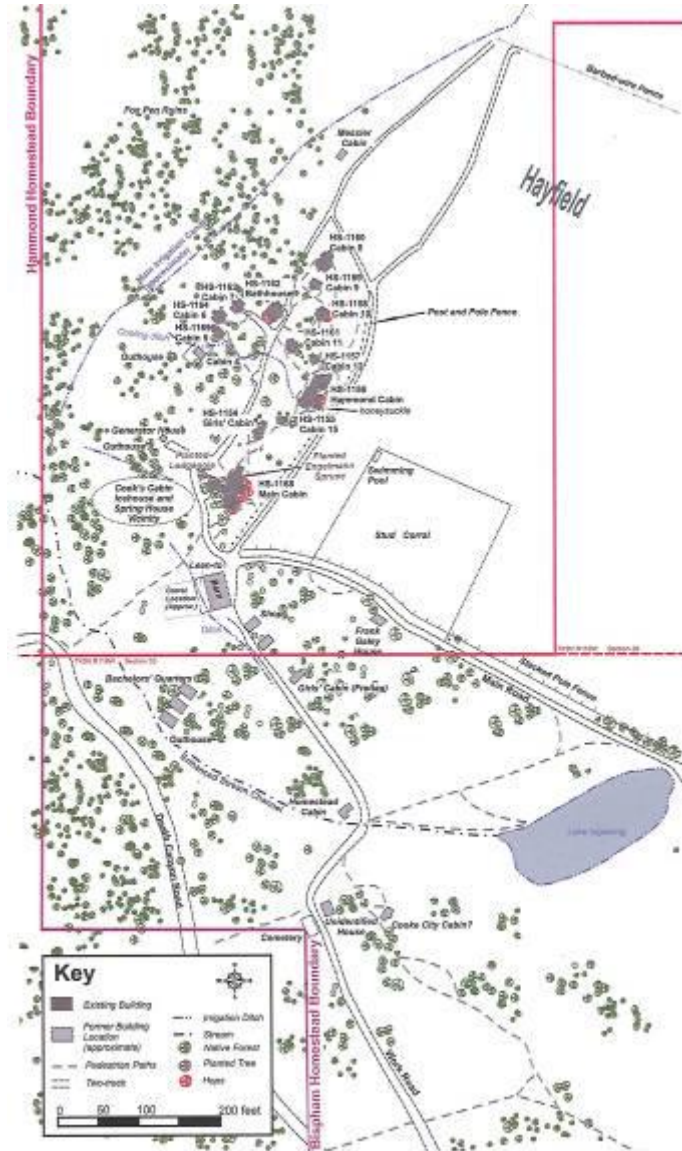


Caption: Looking west across Lake Ingeborg. The building in the background is the one referred to as the "Homestead Cabin," which burned in the 1970s. Source CLR.



Caption: Aerial view of the ranch *circa* 1970. Note that the stud corral enclosed the empty swimming pool. Source CLR.

# White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory



Caption: 1939-1985 Period Plan. Source CLR.

## Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity

### Analysis and Evaluation Summary:

#### Spatial Organization

The overall pattern of spatial organization that characterized White Grass Ranch during the period of significance is still discernible within the landscape. Although all agricultural and commercial land uses historically associated with White Grass Ranch ceased in 1985, the cultivated hayfield and pasture are readily identifiable, with edges marked by both natural and cultural features. Both the hayfield and the pasture retain sufficient integrity to be counted as contributing features. The building cluster remains but is much diminished in complexity in that all of the buildings associated with the work of the ranch (the barn, cook's cabin, icehouse, generator building, garages, and most of the staff and owners' housing) have been removed. Only 13 historic cabins remain today.

# White Grass Ranch

## Cultural Landscape Inventory

### Cultural Traditions

Some aspects of the cultural traditions of dude ranching, such as the vernacular character of the buildings and their placement within the site, retain integrity and contribute to the historical significance of the property. Conversely, all active agricultural activities, including irrigation practices and the keeping and handling of domestic livestock, have been eliminated.

### Natural Features

The large-scale landforms (topography) and natural systems (native forests, surface water and springs) that sustained the cattle and dude ranch operations remain unchanged and contribute to the integrity of setting, feeling, and association of the White Grass Ranch cultural landscape.

### Views and Vistas

The panoramic views that characterize the period of significance retain integrity and contribute to the significance of the property. The vista through the main road corridor, as well as the shorter-range views within the building cluster have been altered since the period of significance and no longer contribute to the significance of the historic district.

### Vegetation

The composition of grasses in the hayfield and adjacent pasture consists of a mixture of native and introduced species. Although neither has been irrigated for twenty-five years, the character of these aggregate vegetative features remains distinctively cultural, in contrast to the adjacent native forest and the remnant of the sagebrush flat. The agricultural and remnant ornamental vegetation (hops, honeysuckle, planted lodgepole and Engelmann spruce, and iris), dates to the period of significance, and contributes to the historical scene of White Grass Ranch.

### Circulation

The most significant change to the ranch's circulation system is the deterioration of the main road, which served as the primary access for all vehicular traffic, possibly as early as the 1920s. The work road is in better condition, and will, through modest improvements, be used as the primary access to the building cluster. Footpaths were present within the building cluster in 2008, though it was difficult to determine whether they were the result of modern visitation or historical uses, or both. However, infrastructure improvements around the cabin cluster from 2009-2010 have removed most of the footpaths, although remnants of them may remain in some areas.

### Constructed Water Features

Most of the constructed water features historically associated with White Grass Ranch, including the canal and distribution ditches associated with the irrigation system and the recreation features have been removed or rendered unusable. Although isolated segments of the irrigation system are present, as a whole, the system lacks integrity. However, remaining remnants and fragments of the system continue to contribute to the significance of the historic property. The cooling ditches that remain possess integrity and contribute to the historical character of the building cluster.

### Buildings and Structures

In terms of design, construction materials, and site layout, the character of the extant buildings at White Grass matches exactly the qualities of dude ranch infrastructure described by Struthers Burt in 1928. The dude cabins, especially, reflect the practice of providing basic accommodations that reflected traditional building skills and that allowed dudes to experience the simple and healthful Western lifestyle. Three cabins are in good condition, while the remaining buildings have yet to be stabilized. With a few exceptions, the buildings retain integrity of location, materials, workmanship and design from the period of significance, and contribute to the significance of the historic district. In contrast, virtually all of the fencing present in 1985 has been removed, including all of the perimeter and field fencing as well as the fences surrounding the building cluster and the Messler Cabin.

# White Grass Ranch

## Cultural Landscape Inventory

### Small-scale Features

While some small-scale features such as the rustic benches no longer remain, other small-scale features that characterized the property during the period of significance (barbeque and fountain) are extant today in remnant form. Other features present today (building foundations, cobblestone flowerbed borders, and the remains of fence posts) serve as place-markers for former buildings and structures; as such, they contribute information regarding the former organization of space within the historic district.

### Aspects of Integrity

Overall, the White Grass Ranch retains aspects of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

### Landscape Characteristics

1. ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES: NA
2. BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES:

The vernacular buildings that characterize White Grass Ranch are typical of the rural ranch buildings of the homestead era found throughout the Western states. In remote areas such as Jackson Hole, settlers used locally available materials to construct simple buildings to satisfy the basic need for shelter, for themselves and their livestock. All of the homestead buildings were constructed with logs, with board or wood shingle roofs. The trend of building with logs continued during the dude ranching era, possibly because of the local availability of building materials, but also because of an awareness that dudes, most from Eastern cities, expected rustic buildings.

The majority of the extant buildings are one-story log buildings with simple rectangular or square plans. The variation in notching and daubing styles suggests at least three builders contributed to the construction of the White Grass buildings, one of which may have been Harold Hammond. None of the buildings has complete design or material integrity from the original construction period; all have been modified through the years. Modifications have included the application of rolled asphalt roofing to buildings that originally had board or wood shingle roofs, and more substantial modifications such as the log and frame bathroom additions. Though modifications have been made to the buildings since the original construction, many of the modifications date to the period of significance

Thirteen historic buildings remain at White Grass Ranch, located in a loose cluster at the west edge of the hayfield, in the southwest corner of the property, mostly within the tree line at the forest margin. The thirteen remaining buildings include the Hammond Cabin (HS-1156), Main Cabin (HS-1168), Girls' Cabin (HS-1154), Bathhouse (HS-1162), Cabin 5 (HS-1165), Cabin 6 (HS-1164), Cabin 7 (HS-1163), Cabin 8 (HS-1160), Cabin 9 (HS-1159), Cabin 11 (HS-1161), Cabin 12 (HS-1157), and Cabin 15 (HS-1155). All buildings are of log construction, although some have frame porches and a few have frame additions. For the most part, they have simple floor plans with gable roofs. However, additions to some buildings, including the Main Cabin and the Hammond Cabin, have created complicated, irregular plans.

The Hammond Cabin is the most complex; beginning as a simple L-shaped plan, there are at least four additions to the building. With the exception of the frame bathroom additions, all are of log construction and date to the period of significance. Modifications made to the Main Cabin during the period of significance include construction of the five-sided additions on the north and south ends of the building, which increased the interior public space for ranch guests. In addition, the current component described as the west wing replaced an earlier multivolume component. Modifications of the 1960s and 1970s include: extending the wall of the living room in the original

## **White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory**

component and the installation of French doors in the new wall. Conversion of the southernmost room to a bar, complete with a new, sliding door and exterior deck, reflects modern expectations and design applications.

In addition to the ranch buildings, during the period of significance the ranch contained a wide variety of fence structures, including buck and pole, post and pole, and post and barbed wire fencing. The buck and pole fencing was the first style used by Hammond and Bispham to enclose their cultivated fields. Later, barbed wire fences, with wood and, later, metal posts, were used to fence outlying areas, especially those not frequented or seen by dudes, such as the perimeter of the pasture and the fence that separated the hayfield from the pasture. Late in his tenure at the property, Frank Galey replaced the remaining buck and pole fence that paralleled the main road with sections of stacked pole fence.

Besides the fencing used to enclose the hayfield and the pasture, the building cluster was also fenced, apparently to keep livestock from around the buildings. The fencing enclosed the area between the irrigation canal west of the buildings and the hayfield on the east, and from the south end of the Main Cabin north to include Cabin 8. For most of the period of significance, the fencing consisted of a post and two-rail fence along the eastern perimeter of the buildings, with barbed wire fencing along the west, south and north sides of the complex. The Messler Cabin, located slightly north of the extant building cluster, had its own perimeter fence to keep livestock away from the building. Today, limited remnants of these fences remain.

### **CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:**

Simple, rustic buildings constructed with locally available materials

Log construction with frame additions

Hammond Cabin (HS-1156)

Main Cabin (HS-1168)

Girls' Cabin (HS-1154)

Bathhouse (HS-1162)

Cabin 5 (HS-1165)

Cabin 6 (HS-1164)

Cabin 7 (HS-1163)

Cabin 8 (HS-1160)

Cabin 9 (HS-1159)

Cabin 11 (HS-1161)

Cabin 12 (HS-1157)

Cabin 15 (HS-1155)

### **NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:**

Contemporary pump house (constructed circa 2005)

### **MISSING FEATURES:**

Laidlaw Cabin

Messler Cabin

Homestead Cabin

Barn

Corrals

Variety of fencing types enclosing the pasture, hayfield, and building clusters

Buck and pole fencing around cultivated fields

Post and pole fencing

Post and barbed wire fencing around outlying areas

Post and two-rail fence along eastern perimeter of buildings

Stacked pole fencing along main road

## White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory

### 3. CIRCULATION:

Like other ranch infrastructure, the circulation systems, which include both vehicular roads and pedestrian paths, appear to have been established early and changed little over time. Unfortunately, there is little documentary evidence to indicate when the vehicular roads were built, and none for the pedestrian paths. Both systems were informal, in that they incorporated few designed structural components. The vehicular roads were simple two-tracks, hardly modified other than the periodic application of gravel to fill ruts, and the footpaths were simply trails through native vegetation established over time.

The original road to the building cluster is believed to be the one referred to later as the work road, because its location approximates that of the access road shown on the 1917 General Land Office plat for *T43N/R116W*. From the 1950s onward, however, this road was used mainly for traveling to one of several dumpsites located in the area south of Lake Ingeborg. Most people, including dudes and staff, used the main road that paralleled the south edge of the hayfield to access the building cluster. The main road was subject to washouts, caused by overflow from the irrigation system drainage ditch that flowed adjacent to its north side. The date of construction of the main road is unknown, but it does appear in photographs estimated to date to the 1920s or early 1930s.

Historically, pedestrian circulation within the building cluster was also informal. A maze of footpaths linked the various buildings. Established through use along desire lines, the paths represented the shortest distance between two points-usually building entities. These were not constructed trails, but simply paths worn clear of vegetation by repeated use. It is likely that the exact location of the trails varied from year to year - especially during periods when new buildings were added to the site (such as the Bathhouse and individual bathroom additions to the cabins).

Currently, the vehicular access point for the ranch is about an eighth of a mile south of the southern boundary of Tucker Bispham's homestead claim, where a two-track road diverts from the Death Canyon Road. Immediately past the diversion point, the road splits again; the eastern branch heads north and provides access to Sky Ranch. The road segment that branches west heads north for a short distance to another fork in the road. From the second fork, the road known to White Grass employees as the "work road" leads northwest to the former location of the barns and corrals, southeast of the main cabin. The road known referred to as the "main road," heads straight north then northwest along the south edge of the hayfield to the south side of the Main Cabin.

Of these two roads, only the work road remains passable to vehicles, and currently provides the primary access to the building cluster. It appears as a distinct set of parallel tracks through the rocky ground. In the vicinity of the barnyard, it is less distinct because of disturbance associated with removal of the barn and corrals. There, native and exotic grasses and forbs regenerate in the treads. In comparison, the main road has been obstructed in several areas by vegetation. In particular, in the area southeast of the building cluster, where post-abandonment disturbance destroyed a portion of the grade, lodgepole pines almost completely obscure the road corridor. Revegetation of the main road has also actively occurred through park management.

Similarly, the system of internal vehicular roads that once provided access to various areas within the building cluster is indistinct but still visible. The most prominent of these internal roads is the one that extends from the north end of the barnyard, behind the Main Cabin, and then northeast through the middle of the cabin group to the Bathhouse. Just south of the Bathhouse the road branches, with a short segment leading northwest to the vicinity of Cabin 7. The second branch leads northeast past Cabins 8, 9 and 10. In some areas, the park has erected vehicle barriers across the road to facilitate re-vegetation within the two-track. Toward the north end of the building cluster, a remnant of the two-track road that formerly led to the pasture is visible at the east edge of a remnant stand of sagebrush.

## **White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory**

Today, GTNP employees driving government vehicles are allowed to drive via the work road to the building cluster, while the public must access the buildings on foot. Most visitors choose to park their vehicles in the informal parking areas adjacent to the Death Canyon Road, from which point they walk northeast roughly 300 yards to the building cluster and to enjoy the views over the field and pasture. This pedestrian access has created a series of narrow footpaths through the vegetation. The path between the Death Canyon Road and the barnyard, and the path in front of the Main Cabin, are perhaps the most distinct.

### **CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:**

- Work road alignment and materials (parallel earth tracks, some gravel)
- Main road alignment and materials (parallel earth tracks, some gravel)
- Historic internal vehicular roads
- Internal road leading from barn to Bathhouse and Cabins 7-10
- Two-track road that formerly led to the pasture
- Informal pedestrian paths between buildings

### **NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:**

- Obstructed portions of main road by vegetation
- Vehicular barriers erected by NPS
- Parking lot adjacent to the contemporary pump house

### **4. CLUSTER ARRANGEMENT:**

Based upon the cultural landscape characteristics and associated resources and features, White Grass Ranch can be divided into four clusters. These include the roughly ten-acre historic building cluster, the lands improved for agricultural uses (the hayfield and the pasture), the access road corridors, and the unimproved timbered areas. Together, the four areas comprise the 306 acres remaining in the combined Hammond and Bispham homestead claims after the sale of the Sky Ranch parcel.

The building cluster contains all of the extant historical buildings. Although most are in only fair condition, for the most part, they retain integrity of location, materials, workmanship and design. Individually, and as a group, the buildings represent an important character-defining feature of the cultural landscape, whose architectural qualities and placement within the cluster must be preserved.

Like the building cluster the historic agricultural lands, including the hayfield and the pasture, represent important character-defining landscape features. Intensively manipulated throughout the period of significance, these aggregate vegetation features are the most tangible reminder of the agricultural aspects of dude ranching operations at White Grass Ranch. Like the building cluster, retention of these two landscape features is critical to the integrity and significance of the cultural landscape.

The historic access roads include the main road and the work road. Both connect the building cluster with Death Canyon Road. Neither of these roads was engineered, rather each was simply established through repeated use, developing a set of two parallel tracks through the native vegetation. Of the two, the work road retains integrity, and remains passable to vehicular traffic. This road is believed to have been the first road constructed into the area during the homestead era, although from roughly the 1940s through the end of the period of significance it was used primarily for accessing the ranch trash dump. In comparison, the main road lacks integrity, principally because of post-abandonment disturbance that has obscured the parallel tracks and facilitated re-vegetation with volunteer native and noxious plants.

The balance of the land within the ranch consists of native forest (the source of much of the building material for ranch infrastructure), and areas reclaimed of their historical improvements

## **White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory**

(including the area that formerly contained Lake Ingeborg, and owner and staff housing areas such as the bachelors' quarters). The native forest and the reclaimed lands are important to understanding the organization of space and land use during the period of significance.

### **CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:**

Historic building cluster  
Cluster of lands improved for agricultural uses (hayfield and pasture)  
Cluster of access road corridors  
Unimproved timbered areas

### **NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:**

Parking lot adjacent to the contemporary pump house

### **5. CONSTRUCTED WATER FEATURES:**

Historically, White Grass Ranch contained a variety of constructed water features, designed for utilitarian and recreation or aesthetic purposes. The earliest of these was the irrigation system, which consisted of the main canal that diverted water from Stewart Creek to the hill slope behind the building cluster. From various points along the canal, lateral ditches transferred the water to the hayfield and pasture, where contoured field ditches distributed water across the cultivated acreage. Another diversion ditch channeled water through the corral for watering the horses. After the closure of the dude ranch operation in 1985, the park removed the diversion works in Stewart Creek (outside the historic district) and also filled in portions of the main canal and diversion ditches. Several short, discontinuous sections of the main canal remain discernible in the timber behind the building cluster. In addition, the field ditches are visible in aerial photographs of the hayfield and pasture, but are not generally visible on the ground because of duff, tree throws and post abandonment activities.

Similarly, in the late 1980s park personnel filled in all of the features built specifically for recreation, including the swimming pool and Lake Ingeborg. Today, the only evidence of the former location of the lake is a wet meadow, where the water that formerly fed the pond spreads across the area. The location of the swimming pool is marked by the presence of a dead conifer that formerly grew at its northwest corner.

Two segments of the cooling ditches built by the dudes and employees can be found near the cabin cluster. One is adjacent to the south side of Cabin 5 and one is west of the Main Cabin. Both of these ditches consist of narrow channels, heavily overgrown with brush and trees, which have been marked by the park in hopes of future reconstruction.

### **CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:**

Remnants of diversion ditches  
Remnants of Main canal  
Remnants of field ditches  
Wet meadow indicating location of former Lake Ingeborg  
Location of former swimming pool marked by dead conifer  
Remnants of cooling ditches

### **NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES: NA**

### **MISSING FEATURES:**

Entire integrated irrigation system  
Swimming pool  
Lake Ingeborg



## White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory

### 6. CULTURAL TRADITIONS:

Traditions of dude ranch architecture and site organization are manifest within the developed core of White Grass Ranch. In terms of the two types of dude ranches recognized by the Dude Ranch Association, White Grass Ranch fits the description of a mountain ranch of scenic beauty. The vernacular architectural character of the buildings evokes a Western feeling, having been built with materials from the surrounding landscape, including logs, willow stems, and stone. Most of the buildings had simple plans and few amenities.

The siting of the dude cabins also evokes the tradition of dude ranches. As noted by Struthers Burt in *The Diary of a Dude-Rangler*, dude cabins should be separated from each other in order to provide privacy and a sense of isolation for their occupants. In many dude ranches, the screening was accomplished by siting cabins in timbered areas (away from barns and other outbuildings), where native vegetation obscured the view from one cabin to the next. Historically, this was achieved at White Grass by building dude cabins inside the tree line at the edge of the hayfield, with enough open space to incorporate views to the east. For the most part cabins faced east, with porches placed to incorporate the panoramic views of Black tail Butte and the Gros Ventre Mountains.

Because of the agricultural aspects of the White Grass operation, the ranch also included a large irrigated hayfield and a pasture, which provided forage for the ranch livestock. Hammond and Bispham established the hayfield and pasture within a level sagebrush covered flat in the approximate center of the 320-acre property. Other than the initial clearing and planting of the hayfield and pasture (initially seeded with oats and barley, followed by timothy and orchard grass during Galey tenure), neither the Hammonds nor Galeys invested much in the planting of ornamental vegetation while operating the dude ranch.

Although the character of the pasture and hayfield continues to reflect dude ranch traditions, other important elements, such as the presence of the saddle horses and other ranch livestock are missing. Horseback riding and pack trips were an important aspect of the White Grass experience, and the absence of livestock, especially the saddle horses, diminishes the degree to which the ranch can represent the cultural traditions of dude ranching. Similarly, the elimination of irrigation from the site, which formerly was an important summer activity, diminishes the degree to which the property can represent the important agricultural aspects of the ranch.

Today, traditions associated with the dude ranch industry are reflected in the simple rustic style and materials of the extant buildings, and in the placing of dude cabins within the site, which are arranged in a loose, roughly circular pattern, all facing towards the hayfield and the view east to the Gros Ventre Mountains.

#### CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:

Dude ranch typology of mountain ranch of scenic beauty  
Simple, rustic dude ranch architecture, using local materials and vernacular architectural character to evoke a Western feeling  
Site organization and siting of dude cabins for privacy and expansive views  
Hayfield and a pasture to support dude ranch operations

NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES: NA

#### MISSING FEATURES:

Presence of the saddle horses and other ranch livestock  
Elimination of irrigation practices

7. LAND USE: See Spatial Organization.

## **White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory**

### **8. NATURAL SYSTEMS AND FEATURES:**

The parcels of land selected by Hammond and Bispham for their homestead claims possessed three natural attributes necessary for an agricultural venture: tillable acreage, access to a reliable water source, and materials for construction of ranch buildings and other improvements. With regard to the first requirement, White Grass Flats (as the area was known to early residents), provided a level expanse of ground that could be used for either cultivated fields or pasture. Over a period of roughly ten years, Hammond and Bispham transformed the flats by removing the native vegetation (believed to have consisted of a dry meadow/sagebrush community) through cultivation and by planting a variety of crops generally selected for livestock feed. The hayfield and pasture created by the original founders of the ranch continued to support the agricultural operations associated with the dude ranch throughout the period of significance.

Water for agricultural and domestic purposes was located nearby, but not directly within the boundary of the ranch. Hammond and Bispham diverted water from Stewart Creek, from a point south of the deeded ranch boundary to the vicinity of the buildings, the hayfield and the pasture. Later, ranch operators piped water from a spring on the slope of Buck Mountain, to the building cluster to be used for domestic purposes, but continued to use the irrigation system for agricultural purposes. Beginning in the early 1920s, water from the irrigation system was used to fill the swimming pool. Later still, Frank Galey tapped the spring water to fill the Lake Ingeborg, the manmade fishing and swimming hole.

Besides the agricultural potential of the flats, the surrounding native forest provided with most of the construction materials necessary for ranch buildings and fencing. Logs cut from the forest within and adjacent to the homestead claims provided materials for the White Grass buildings. Although more modern materials were gradually integrated into the fencing, during the homestead era and afterwards the forest continued to provide replacement materials for the ranch fences, and a visually unlimited supply of firewood for both heating and cooking stoves, and for the fireplaces in some of the dude cabins.

#### **CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:**

White Grass Flats  
Access to water sources  
Native forest and timbered lands  
Flat areas of tillable acreage

**NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES: NA**

### **9. SMALL SCALE FEATURES:**

Given the lack of documentary evidence, it is difficult to gauge the character and extent of small-scale features and their relative importance during the period of significance. Site furnishings were probably the most important feature in this category, and would include the pine-log benches that formerly sat on either side of the gate leading from the lawn east of the Main Cabin to the hayfield, as well as a small fountain and the stone barbeque located adjacent to the Hammond Cabin. The cobble base for the decorative fountain is located in a sheltered area formed by a wing of the Hammond Cabin; a porch adjacent to the north contains two built-in lodgepole benches. In the same vicinity are the remains of a stone barbeque, which formerly stood at the edge of the hayfield field opposite the Hammond Cabin. While limited evidence of these features are extant today, the locations of the fountain and barbeque are discernible on the ground as indicated through piles of rubble or stone foundations. These features may have additional below ground remnants.

Other small-scale features include remnants of garden and agricultural spaces. A row of cobbles east of the Main Cabin, marks the edge of the flower garden formerly located along the west side of the fence separating the hayfield from the Main Cabin. The remains of fence posts, cut flush

## **White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory**

with the ground, mark the location of the most recent iteration of the yard fence. A short segment of buck and pole fencing is located west of the barnyard.

The concrete foundation of the Messler Cabin is located north of Cabin 8. Similarly, a cobblestone platform, in the vicinity of the former bachelors' quarters, southeast of the barnyard, may mark the location of one of the three small cabins where the male employees lived. An elevated and leveled tent pad is located in the forested area west of the building cluster, near the former location of the main irrigation canal.

A number of contemporary features have been added to the landscape more recently, including signs and utilities.

### **CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:**

- Cobble base and stone remnants of decorative fountain
- Stone barbeque remnants
- Cobbles marking the flower garden edge
- Cut fence posts
- Segment of buck and pole fencing
- Concrete foundation of the Messler Cabin
- Stone foundation of bachelors' quarters
- Elevated tent pad
- Lodgepole benches at Hammond Cabin porch

### **NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:**

- Contemporary signs and utilities

### **MISSING FEATURES:**

- Pine-log benches
- Wood fence and gate at hayfield
- Hitches
- Corrals

### **10. SPATIAL ORGANIZATION:**

The overall land use and associated spatial organization that characterized the ranch were established early during the homestead and early dude ranching periods. By 1925, the cultivated hayfield and pasture occupied the largest percentage of the land base within the combined homesteads (247 acres or 68 percent), while the balance of the acreage included largely unmodified timbered hill slopes, west, south and east of the ranch improvements. Ranch roads skirted the edges of the agricultural lands. Ranch buildings were confined to a single cluster (or ranch core) of roughly ten acres at the forest/field margin near the southwest boundary of the claims. Although the number of buildings gradually increased over time, the new buildings were added adjacent to those built during the homestead era.

Within the cluster, the buildings associated with ranch work were separated from those used principally by the dudes. The White Grass barn was the center of the working ranch. Surrounded by a series of corrals, which were continually added onto, it was used to shelter the milk cows (when cows were kept at the ranch) and to store hay and horse tack. Buildings for the staff, including a cabin for the cook, an icehouse, a generator building and a storehouse, were located north of the barnyard, west of the Main Cabin (HS-1168). Other support buildings, including three small cabins and an outhouse for use by the male ranch staff (referred to as bachelors' quarters), were located southeast of the barnyard south of the work road. A shop, several garages and another cabin, known as the Freitag Cabin, were located adjacent to the north side of the work road southeast of the barn; the Homestead Cabin was located slightly farther southeast, on the south side of the work road. Dudes did not stay in this building; rather, the various owners of the ranch, including Marian Hammond, resided there at different times. The house that Frank Galey

## **White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory**

built for his family's use was also southeast of the barn, immediately south of the main road.

Besides the Main Cabin, the buildings used by the dudes were distributed in two irregular rows inside the tree line north of the Main Cabin. The Main Cabin served as the social center for the dudes, and contained their dining room, library, card room, and a living room, one of which was later converted to a bar. The kitchen, storage rooms, and the staff dining room were located in the west wing of the Main Cabin. The dude cabins were all located north of the Main Cabin; most were oriented east, to take in the view of the hayfield and the Gros Ventre Mountains beyond.

### **CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:**

Cultivated hayfield and pasture

Ranch building cluster

Unmodified timbered hill slopes, west, south and east of the ranch buildings

Ranch roads at the edges of the agricultural lands

Separation of buildings associated with ranch work and those associated with dudes

Main Cabin as the social center for dudes

Location of dude cabins north of Main Cabin

Orienting buildings to face east for views of hayfield and Gros Ventre Mountains

### **NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:**

Addition of new buildings to the historic ranch building cluster (compatible)

11. TOPOGRAPHY: See Natural Systems and Features.

### **12. VEGETATION:**

Both natural and cultural factors have influenced the character and condition of the native, agricultural, and ornamental vegetation within White Grass Ranch. In general, the various owners of the ranch modified the native forest very little; they cut logs and poles as needed from the forested areas within and adjacent to the ranch boundary, but never cut timber for commercial sale. In the vicinity of the dude and staff housing, they allowed the native vegetation to grow close around the buildings, especially aspen trees and shrubs near the dude cabins, which provided occupants with the requisite feeling of isolation. The many mature evergreen trees that characterized the building cluster provided further privacy.

A beetle infestation in the 1970s killed many of the larger evergreen trees (fir and pines) within the building cluster, a change noted by a number of former ranch employees. In addition, as part of a fire management fuels reduction project, park employees limbed many of the remaining mature trees and removed some of the shrubs located close to the remaining buildings, something that was never done during the entirety of the dude ranching era. Between the loss of trees due to the beetle infestation and subsequent fuels reduction project, the overall character of the native vegetation within the building cluster is much less dense than during the period of significance.

During the entirety of the ranch operation, the main agricultural crop was hay, grown to feed horses and a few cows, and incidentally, the local elk herds. The ranch irrigation system watered the large hayfield located immediately east of the building cluster, as well as the cultivated and planted pasture to the north (both established prior to 1925). After the ranch operators quit cutting hay from the hayfield, it was used as an additional pasture. Other than the cessation of irrigation, little has been done to the field or pasture since 1985. The field contains mostly introduced grasses (including the orchard grass favored by Frank Galey) and continues to attract local elk herds. These non-native grasses include smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), and Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*). Some native grasses and forbs are also present, though to a lesser degree, and include Nelson's needlegrass (*Stipa nelsonii*), slender wheatgrass (*Elymus trachycaulus*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), and Pacific aster.

## White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory

Besides sustaining the hayfield and pasture, the ranch's irrigation system influenced the establishment and expansion of native vegetation near the ranch core. The discharge from a drainage ditch diverted through the corral to water the stock, also watered a stand of black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*) and lodgepole pine, located southeast of the barnyard. Irrigation water also led to the establishment of a row of volunteer aspen and black hawthorns (*Crataegus douglasii*) adjacent to the drainage ditch that ran along the south edge of the hayfield on the north side of the main road, opposite the former location of Lake Ingeborg. These trees were likely established as a result of favorable conditions caused by elevated water levels from the drainage ditch. It appears that the loss of irrigation water has led to a decline in the health of the cottonwood stand and of some of the volunteer aspen. Additionally, small pine trees have become established in the unused bed of the main road. Similarly, a small wet meadow has reestablished where the channeled spring discharge that formerly filled Lake Ingeborg terminates in level ground.

Historically, vegetation planted for purely ornamental purposes was mostly limited to the areas in proximity to the buildings used by the dudes, such as the Main Cabin and various sleeping cabins. Ornamental plantings included the lawn and flowerbed in front (east) of the Main Cabin. Also counted as ornamentals, are the hops planted adjacent to the east walls of the Main Cabin, the Hammond Cabin, the Bathhouse and Cabin 8. These draught-resistant perennial vines shaded the east walls of the buildings. They occur in photographs dating to the 1930s and 1940s, during the period that Harold and Marie Hammond operated the ranch. Other historic ornamental vegetation included a honeysuckle bush, reportedly planted by Marian Hammond adjacent to the Hammond Cabin. During her time at the ranch, Inge Galey transferred native wildflowers to the flowerbed in front of the Main Cabin, and planted the two native trees near the rear of the building. These trees included a lodgepole pine adjacent to the north elevation of the west wing, and an Engelmann spruce, located adjacent to the junction of the west wing with the original building.

The elimination of irrigation from the site has resulted in the loss of much of the ornamental vegetation including the lawn and most of the contents of the flowerbed east of the Main Cabin. Today, only a few hardy iris and a row of cobblestones mark the location of the flowerbed, daffodils grow around the porch on the east side of the Main Cabin. The former lawn consists of a mixture of native grasses and forbs, pasture grasses and noxious weeds. A few hop vines continue to grow adjacent to the Main Cabin, the Hammond Cabin and the Bathhouse. Similarly, the honeysuckle planted by Marian Hammond is now overgrown, and the two native trees transplanted by Inge Galey adjacent to the main cabin, continue to thrive.

Existing vegetation within the ranch represents a mosaic of native plant communities and species introduced during the period of significance. The native forest that frames the White Grass field and pasture on all sides consists predominately of lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*). Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*), and quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) also occur. At the forest margin, understory vegetation in the area adjacent to the buildings consists of a mixture of introduced and native grasses and forbs. Native herbaceous species include western coneflower (*Rudbeckia occidentalis*), Pacific aster (*Aster adscendens*), sticky geranium (*Geranium viscosissimum*), sulfur buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*) and mountain snowberry (*Symphoricarpos oreophilus*). Four types of noxious weeds have also been identified around the ranch buildings and in adjacent disturbed areas including: musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*), ox-eye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and yellow toad flax (*Linaria vulgaris*).

A few remnant patches of native sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) are also present in uncultivated areas at the forest/field margins, especially north of the building cluster. The margin between the sagebrush and the adjacent hayfield is still distinct, likely because of a two-track road that may provide a barrier to the sagebrush encroaching in the hayfield.

## White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory

### CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:

Native forest (Overstory species include lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*), quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). Understory species include western coneflower (*Rudbeckia occidentalis*), Pacific aster (*Aster adscendens*), sticky geranium (*Geranium viscosissimum*), sulfur buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*) and mountain snowberry (*Symphoricarpos oreophilus*.)

Hayfield and Pasture (Species include smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), Nelson's needlegrass (*Stipa nelsonii*), slender wheatgrass (*Elymus trachycaulus*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), and Pacific aster.)

Native sagebrush

Wet meadow in location of former Lake Ingeborg

Cottonwood stand southeast of the barnyard

Volunteer aspen and black hawthorns on the south edge of the hayfield and along main road, adjacent to the drainage ditch

Lawn in front (east) of the Main Cabin.

Flowerbed and native wildflowers in front (east) of the Main Cabin.

Hops along east walls of the Main Cabin, Hammond Cabin, Bathhouse and Cabin 8

Honeysuckle bush adjacent to the Hammond Cabin

Lodgepole pine in rear of Main Cabin

Engelmann spruce in rear of Main Cabin

Iris along the fence line between the yard in front of the Main Cabin and the hayfield

Daffodils around the east side of the Main Cabin porch

### NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:

—~~in~~bed up” remaining mature trees for fire management (compatible)

Noxious weeds (Species include musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*), ox-eye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and yellow toad flax (*Linaria vulgaris*))

Re-vegetation along main road alignment

### MISSING FEATURES:

Density of aspens, evergreens, and shrubs around dude cabins

Density of vegetation throughout building cluster

### 13. VIEWS AND VISTAS:

The scenic qualities of Hammond and Bispham's land base contributed to the ambiance of the dude ranch operation. In particular, views west and north across the hayfield and the pasture from the main road incorporated the building cluster nestled within the timber at the base of the mountains, with the peaks of the Teton Range filling the horizon beyond. Particularly striking is the view toward Death Canyon, which defines the ranch and separates it from other dude ranches within Grand Teton. Although some of the historic buildings and fencing have been removed, the key cultural components of the view (including the building cluster and the hayfield) as well as the natural systems and features remain unchanged.

Similarly, the roughly 180 degree view from the buildings eastward incorporated the sweeping expanse of the hayfield, the boundary of which was enhanced by the densely timbered hill slope at its east edge, and the Gros Ventre Mountains, Blacktail Butte and the Sleeping Indian visible on the horizon in the distance. The cultural and natural components of this view remain intact. Looking west across the hayfield, the building cluster is visible at the edge of the timber line; the peaks of the Tetons form a backdrop to this view.

Besides the expansive views into and out of the ranch core, the vista through the main road corridor was an important character-defining feature of the ranch. Man-made features and vegetation defined the edges of the corridor, and channeled the view into and out of the building

## **White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory**

cluster. For most of the period of significance, the north edge of the corridor was defined by a buck and pole fence; in areas inundated by the drainage ditch, volunteer trees and shrubs (consisting predominantly of aspen, pine and black hawthorn), established themselves in a linear fashion adjacent to the ditch. Farther west, the south edge of the mixed stand of cottonwood, aspen and pine east of the barnyard defined the south side edge of the road. Constant traffic on the road created two parallel tracks and kept shrubs and trees from regenerating in the tracks or in the center grassy strip. Since cessation of the dude ranching operation in 1985, however, the edges of the road corridor have become obscured as a result of both natural and cultural processes. GTNP removed the fence along the north side of the road, and disassembled the irrigation system, which in turn has led to the decline of the volunteer trees. In addition, the west end of the road near the barnyard has been disturbed as a result of prior reclamation efforts, which in turn has resulted in lodgepole pine becoming established in the disturbed ground. At the west and east ends of the road, these trees completely restrict the view.

The character of the views within the building cluster also has been altered since the end of the period of significance. Historically, large conifers (Engelmann spruce and Douglas fir) screened the views from the Main Cabin north towards the Hammond Cabin and the dude cabins located farther north. When these mature trees died as a result of beetle infestation, the cabins lost much of their screening. Today, views within the building cluster are fairly open, so that it is possible to see from one building to another.

### **CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:**

View toward Death Canyon

Views west and north from the main road across the hayfield and pasture with the building cluster nestled at the base of the mountains and Teton Range beyond

180 degree view from the buildings east to the hayfield, Gros Ventre Mountains, Blacktail Butte and Sleeping Indian

Views west across the hayfield to the building cluster and Tetons

Uninterrupted and expansive scenic views into and out of the ranch core

### **NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:**

Altered views from the main road corridor obscured by successional vegetation

Open views between the Main Cabin and other cabins

### **MISSING FEATURES:**

Linear vista along the main road corridor defined by buck and pole fence, drainage ditch, volunteer vegetation

Screened the views from the Main Cabin north to other cabins

## **Landscape Characteristics and Features Graphic Information**

## White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory



Caption: Looking north across the White Grass hayfield to the pasture beyond, 2004. Source CLR.



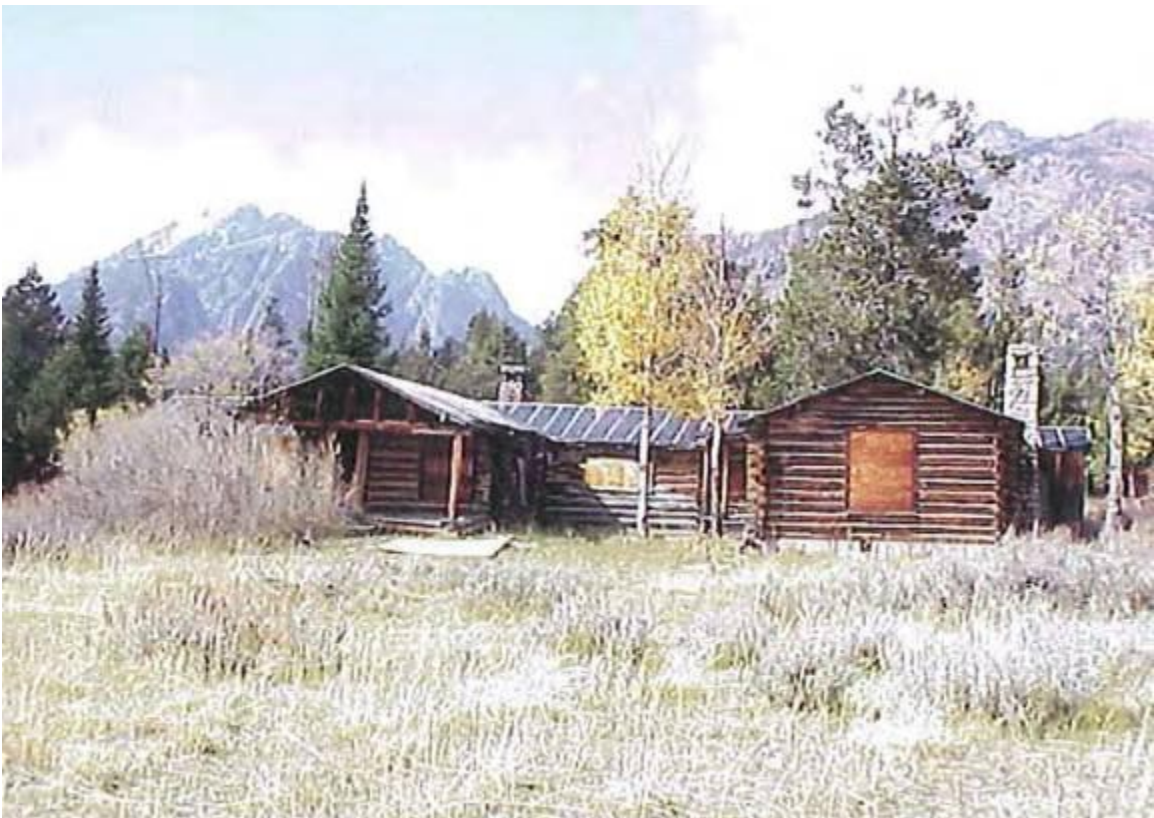
Caption: Looking south along the forest/meadow margin at the west side of the hayfield, toward the building cluster, 2004. Source CLR.



**White Grass Ranch  
Cultural Landscape Inventory**



Caption: East (front) wall of HS-1168, the Main Cabin, 2004. Source CLR.



Caption: Front (east) wall of HS-1156, Hammond Cabin, 2004. Source CLR.

## White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory



Caption: Looking north, the concrete foundation wall marking the site of the Messler Cabin, north of Cabin 8, 2004. Source CLR.



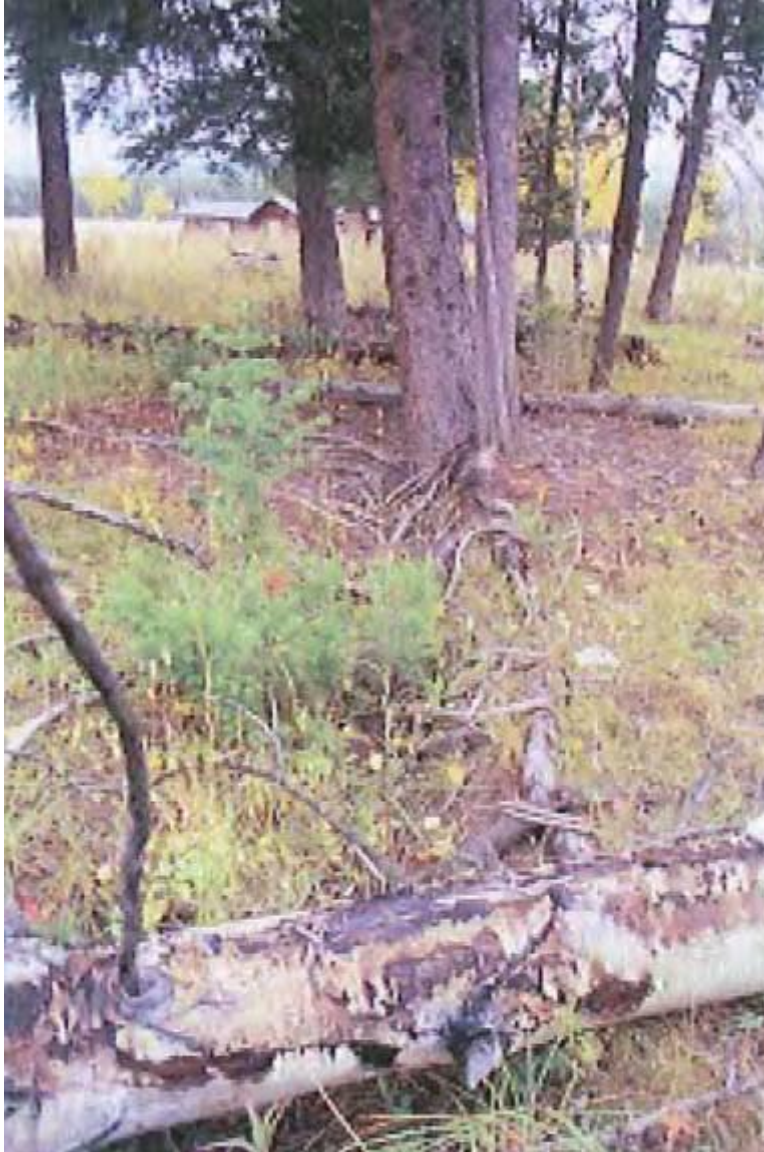
Caption: Looking northeast to the stone foundation for one of the bachelors' cabins, 2004. Source CLR.

**White Grass Ranch  
Cultural Landscape Inventory**



Caption: Looking east, remnant section of buck and pole fencing, west of the Main Cabin, 2004.  
Source: CLR.

**White Grass Ranch  
Cultural Landscape Inventory**



Caption: Looking east along a small cooling ditch west of the Main Cabin, in the vicinity of the site of the Cook's Cabin, 2004. Source CLR.

## White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory



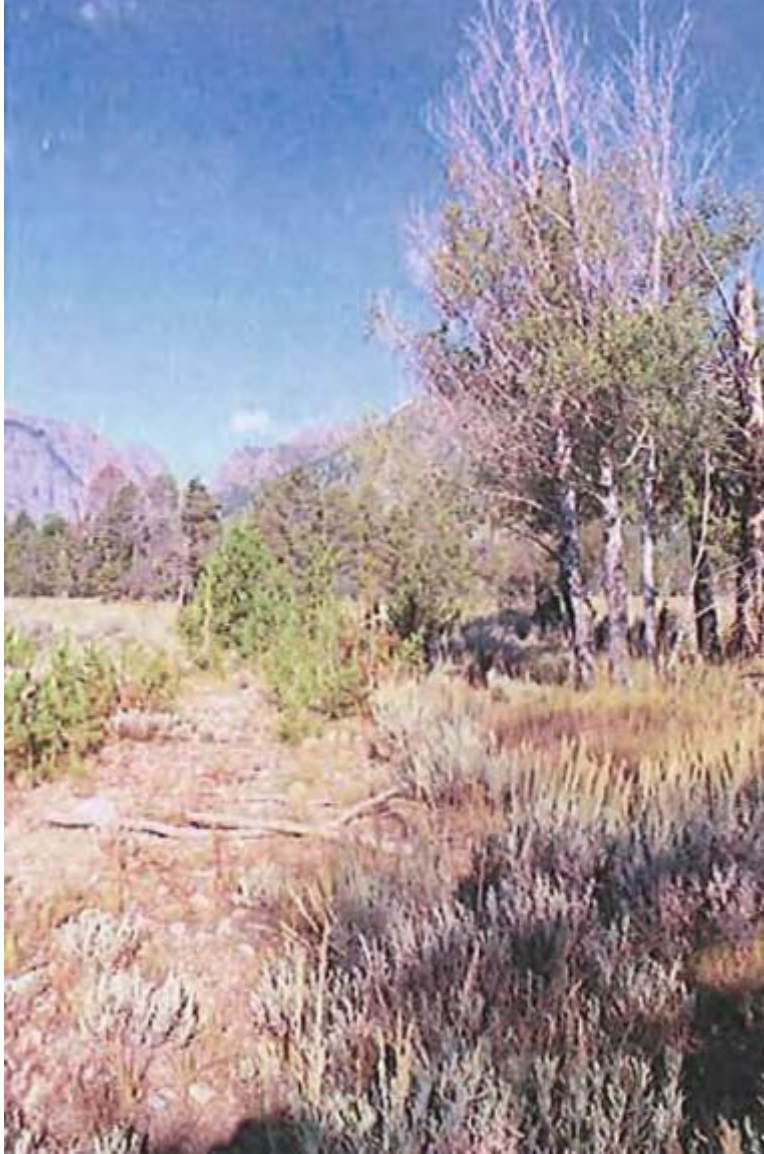
Caption: Looking north along the row of cobbles marking the edge of the flower garden in front of the Main Cabin, 2004. Source CLR.

## White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory



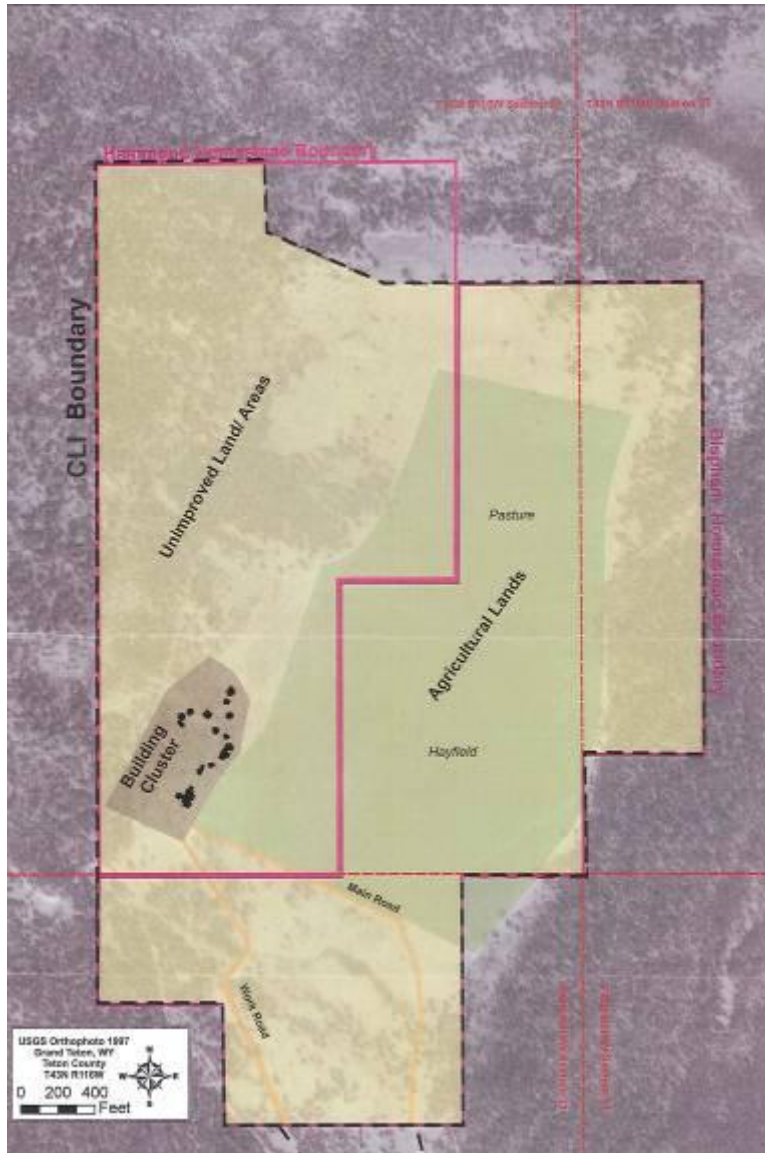
Caption: Looking west along the work road. Note that the parallel tracks are still quite distinct, and have not been encroached upon by trees or shrubs, 2004. Source CLR.

## White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory



Caption: Looking west along the main road. Note the small lodgepole pine trees and sagebrush in the disturbed surface of the grade, 2004. Source CLR.

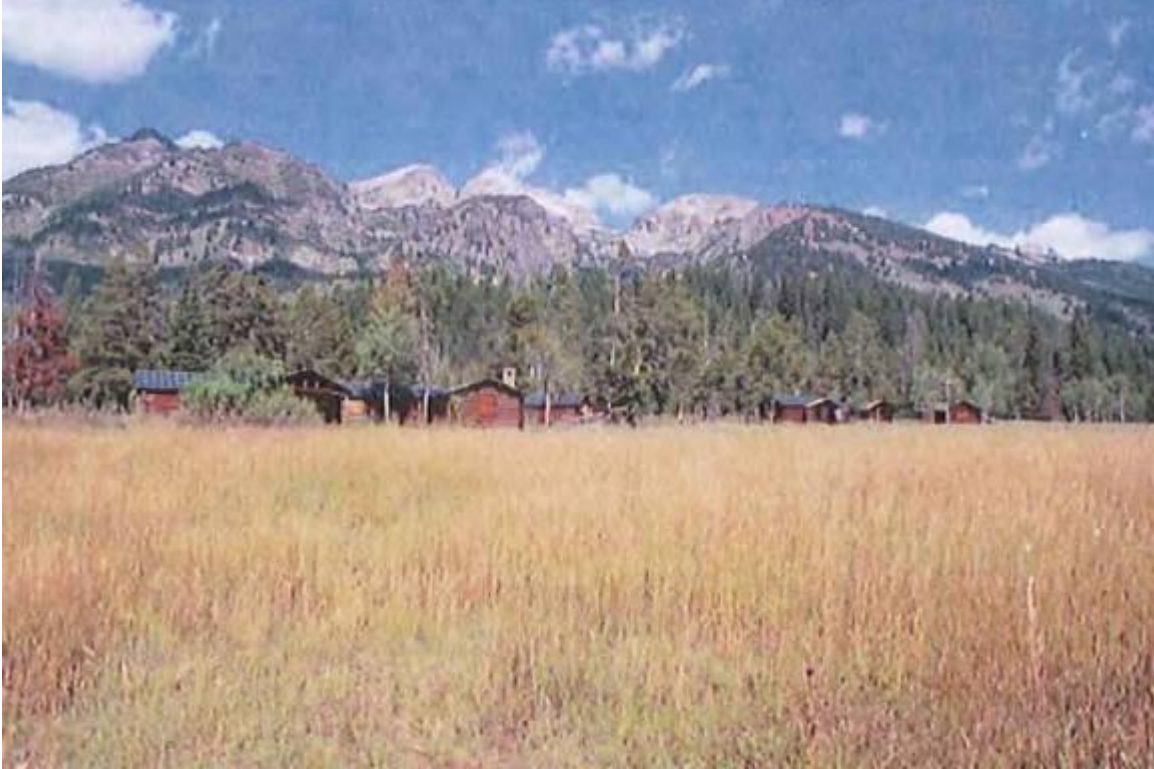
# White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory



Caption: Four clusters within the CLI boundary of White Grass Ranch, 2004. Source CLR.



## White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory



Caption: Looking northwest to the north part of the building cluster, 2004. Source CLR.



Caption: Looking south along the internal access road that leads to the Bathhouse, 2005. Source CLR.

# White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory

## Condition Assessment

Condition Assessment Fair

Assessment Date April 2010

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative: The landscape of the ranch is in fair condition as many of the remaining elements have been altered and/or destroyed during construction and utility installation. Additionally, natural processes have impacted the condition such as dying trees that cover the historic entrance road, growth of voluntary native and non-native plant species, and erosion of former irrigation ditches.

## Impacts to Inventory Unit

Impact Type: Deferred Maintenance  
External/Internal: Internal  
Impact Explanatory Narrative: Maintenance to the buildings and landscape has been deferred for several years, resulting in deterioration of structures and landscape features. However, current rehabilitation efforts are working toward stabilizing and rehabilitating the structures.

Impact Type: Exposure to Elements  
External/Internal: Internal  
Impact Explanatory Narrative: Exposure to the elements over the past several years without proper maintenance has deteriorated landscape features and buildings.

Impact Type: Neglect  
External/Internal: Internal  
Impact Explanatory Narrative: Neglect to both buildings and the landscape over the past several years has deteriorated landscape features.

Impact Type: Operations on site  
External/Internal: Internal  
Impact Explanatory Narrative: The rehabilitation of the 13 structures at White Grass for use as the training headquarters for the Western Center for Historic Preservation has disturbed the landscape as machinery, vehicles, and trenching have removed or altered small scale features, circulation, and vegetation.

Impact Type: Vegetation/Invasive Plants  
External/Internal: Internal  
Impact Explanatory Narrative: Historic vegetation is in decline, and some historic trees dating to the period of significance have been removed as a result of utility upgrades and rehabilitation efforts. Bark beetle infestations have also caused decline of some trees. The cottonwoods along the entrance drive have declined from a lack of water in historic irrigation ditches.

## White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory

### Treatment

Approved Landscape Treatment: Rehabilitation, Preservation

Approved Landscape Treatment Completed: No

Approved Landscape Treatment Explanatory Narrative: A comprehensive treatment plan was laid out as part of the White Grass Ranch Cultural Landscape and Historic Structure Report, completed in 2008. The CLR recommended both preservation and rehabilitation treatments.

Approved Landscape Treatment Document: Cultural Landscape Report

Approved Landscape Treatment Document Date: August 2008

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Cultural Landscape Inventory**

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Telephone interview with Rachel Trahern	Caywood, Janene	August 5, 2005.	
Telephone interview with Rachel Trahern	Holtman, Pam	December I, 2005.	
Telephone interviews with Elizabeth "Beth" Thomas Woodin	Caywood, Janene	August 1,2005 and May 12, 2006.	
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