

5. Ute Learning and Ethnobotany Garden

Mentors: [Susan Carter](#), [Doreen Martinez](#)

Location: Grand Junction, Colorado

1. *Lead Mentor and Garden Director:* Susan Carter, Horticulture and Natural Resource Agent, CSUE TRA, 2775 Hwy 50, Grand Junction, CO 81503, 970-244-1850, susan.carter@colostate.edu
2. *Where:* Mesa County, Tri River Area, Western Region, Colorado
3. *Goals, scope and objective:* CSU Extension, Tri River Area- Mesa office would like to have an intern to assist with visitation and improvements of the Ute Learning and Ethnobotany Garden. The student will learn the intricacies of working with the Ute Tribes as well as how to collaborate with partners such as BLM, National Forest Service, Mesa County employees and surrounding school districts. This garden is a place of remembrance and re-learning for the Ute Tribes as well as a teaching opportunity of Colorado History and ethnobotany of the local area. Research will include plant uses of the Ute people and other visitors of the garden. General signage, posters, plant signage, supportive written materials and advertising methods as well as replanting and care of garden will be the focus of the intern. A document recording the ethnobotany uses of the plants found in the area, arranged by life zone can be shared throughout CSU and beyond. Stories will be posted in the garden and in our conference “museum” room.
4. *Which PRU activities are included in the scope of this internship?* Natural Resources, Horticulture PRU with possibly some stem involved.
5. *What student learning outcomes do you anticipate and are there opportunities for professional development?* Colorado history, plant identification and uses, plant common and latin names, marketing, working with diverse groups, working with Extension personnel and volunteers, time management, self motivation, organizational skills and marketing. The student will have to research Ute history and plant uses.
6. *How does this internship support identified stakeholder needs in your county/region?* This will support the Ute Tribes by maintaining and improving the garden so they can return “home” to visit and learn the plants they may have forgotten, so essentially preserving history. Providing an opportunity for students, retirees and anyone that wants to visit the garden to learn about the Ute Tribes and Colorado history, the native flora and fauna and uses of plants beyond landscaping. Support the use of native plants in the landscape and green industry.
7. *What is your experience with mentorship?* In less than 100 words, please describe your experience with and approach to mentorship. I currently mentor two Extension personnel and co-sponsored an intern last year. I talk about what the position includes what Extension does and can offer. From there I check in with them, see if they need help with

anything and let them know I am here to help them. If an event or activity was coming up, I would check in, see if they knew everything they needed to know and answer questions. With the intern last year, I would give him a project and then let him come to me when it was complete or when he had questions.

8. *Are there on-going connections with CSU faculty associated with this project, or is there identified faculty interest?* Doreen Martinez, a professor of Native American/Indigenous Studies has expressed an interest. Other faculty that would be of assistance would be someone in marketing and someone with natural resources / plant history background.
9. *Are travel funds available? Opportunities to provide student assistance with housing?* Yes, I have funds thru a BLM grant for the Ute Learning Garden. These funds are mainly for the improvement and visitation of the garden but travel is included in the grant. There may be housing at the Orchard Mesa Research Station or in my own home. If needed, the grant may be able to cover housing. I would need to confirm with BLM.