

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Understanding Visitor Experiences at the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument

Type of Project: Research

Project Discipline: Social

Funding Agency: Bureau of Land Management

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana

Effective Dates: 8/1/2014 - 9/30/2015

Funding Amount: \$14,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

Agency Contact: David Lefevre, Montana State Office, Invasive Species and Restoration Manager, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, MT, 59101; 406-896-5037; dlefevre@blm.gov

Investigator: Elizabeth Covelli Metcalf, 32 Campus Drive, Wilderness Institute, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812; 406-243-4448; Elizabeth.metcalf@umontana.edu

Project Abstract:

The purpose of this study is to assess the breadth of visitor experiences on the Missouri River at the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. Visitor's experiences are complex and can be influenced by new management regulations, perceived conflict, and crowding which can impact overall user satisfaction. This study will assess visitors' and stakeholders' satisfaction of management of the UMRBNM using mixed method qualitative approaches. Two qualitative methods will be employed: Key Informant (KIs) interviews with members of the UMRBNM Resource Advisory Council and others to gain valuable perspective on current management of the Missouri River. KIs will be followed by facilitated discussion groups with a diverse set of users and stakeholders in the four counties surrounding the UMRBNM. Results will provide managers with baseline data to help inform future management decisions.

Outcomes with completion dates: 9/30/2015

Keywords: Upper Missouri Breaks National Monument, recreation, visitor experience, management plan, Wild and Scenic River, BLM, University of Montana